

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JACKSONVILLE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026**

The regular Board meeting of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) was held on Thursday, February 26, 2026 at JRTC, 100 LaVilla Center Drive, Jacksonville, Florida 32204.

BOARD MEMBERS

Aundra Wallace, Chair
Patricia Sams, Vice Chair
Max Glober, Secretary
Elaine Brown, Treasurer
Alan Hopkins
Madelen Salter
Daniel Vallencourt

JTA EXECUTIVE STAFF

Nathaniel P. Ford Sr., CEO
Cleveland Ferguson, EVP Administration
Jeffery Smith, SVP Operations
Jessica Shepler, SVP Public Affairs
Heather Obora, CFO

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

OTHERS PRESENT

Katie Smith, Board Administrator
Richard Milian, General Counsel
Rahman Johnson, Council Liaison

A. **CALL TO ORDER** – Vice Chair Wallace called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and thanked the Board for attending the meeting.

Director Sams led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Smith provided roll call to confirm a quorum.

Chair Wallace welcomed and introduced the new Board members, Alan Hopkins, Madelen Salter and Daniel Vallencourt. Mr. Ford shared details of the in-depth orientations that were held with each of the new board members and the legal orientation that was held prior to the Board work session

Chair Wallace thanked the board members for attending the work session held prior to the Board meeting. He shared that work session allowed staff to present information on: Transportation Bonds, Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Amendment, the Contact Amendment for supervening events and the overview of the community meetings that are being held to share the alternatives for the Ultimate Urban Circulator (U2C) Phase II.

For the Board to discuss and ask staff questions.

Chair Wallace shared the Safety Message for the Month of February: “Safety isn’t just a slogan, it a way of life.”

B. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 26, 2026 BOARD WORK SESSION AND BOARD MEETING**

MOTION (Brown/Sams) to approve the minutes from February 26, 2026. Motion Approved (7-0).

C. **COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISON** –

comments at the end of the meeting.

D. **AUTHORITY RECOGNITIONS**

February Bus Operator: Theodore Jordan

February Maintenance Employee: Jerald Clark

to continue to ride Connexion Plus, which will increase by 291 percent. The JTA and the Board need to consider the financial outlook for the community, not just the JTA. There are not any Board members with a disability, so how can they understand what the needs of disabled are.

F. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT:** Mr. Ford thanked the Board members for spending so much time with him and JTA staff over the last few weeks. He welcomed the new Board members, congratulated Max Globber on his reappointment. He also shared his appreciation of past Board member Donnie Horner for his service to the JTA Board over the past year.

Mr. Ford stated that JTA has had many positive developments and activities this past month. He shared that he had the opportunity to represent the JTA and as chairman of the American Public Transportation Association's new Automated Vehicles (AV) and Innovation Committee on a panel titled "Automated Vehicles 101: What Public Transportation Agencies Need to Know"

On January 18, 2026, the JTA's community relations and outreach team participated in the Active After 50 seniors expo to share how to ride our system and showcase a wide range of services we offer, like Connexion, ReadIRide, and NAVI.

On February 3, 2026, the community relations and public outreach team organized a visit with Campus Towers, a senior living apartment complex near College Park. This was an opportunity to introduce the community to JTA services.

On Friday, February 13, 2026, there were 1,870 customers that rode the Skyway service, which is more than double the average daily ridership. The JTA partnered with the City of Jacksonville (City) to provide transportation to the Tim Tebow Foundation's 'Night to Shine' gala at the Prime Osborn Convention Center.

The JTA had the opportunity to host James Keel, Executive Director, Greenville Transit Authority and John Slipke, Vice Chair, Greenville Transit Authority Board of Directors from Greenville, South Carolina who came here to Jacksonville to learn about America's first public mobility system powered by autonomous vehicles.

Mr. Ford provided an update on the "Better Together" campaign that launched in December 2025. He then provided an update on the Fare Modification Pilot which kicked off on February 1, 2026. However, at the Board's direction, the fare changes to Connexion Plus were suspended to allow for more discussion to come to an agreeable solution. He shared that over the last four weeks, JTA assembled paratransit community leaders, stakeholders, local non-profit executives, and members of the Mayor's staff and others to work to develop a mutually agreeable solution that will sustain the Connexion Plus service into the future with the most affordable fare possible for customers while also improving the traditional Connexion service. He thanked those that came together over the last four weeks to discuss options and come to a solution. A thank you to Councilman Johnson for attending a stakeholder meeting.

He shared that after several hours of deliberation, the advisory committee reached a consensus. The fare structure will be a \$10 base fare for the first twelve miles and \$2.50 for each mile thereafter. Staff will continue to work with the community to identify opportunities to sustain the service beyond Fiscal Year 2027. This new fare structure has been included in the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget that the Board will consider later in the meeting. These fares will stay in effect until September 30, 2026 while the advisory committee continues to meet in March and April to gather additional data and information to share with the Board.

On February 25, 2026, the first of eight 8 public meetings was as part of the U²C Phase II – Skyway Rehabilitation & Downtown Service Expansion Project Development and Environment

(PD&E) Study, to review project alternatives, and gain valuable input from the community that will ultimately help guide the next phase of development. The goal of the U²C program is to modernize the Skyway system, integrate new technologies, and strengthen mobility in and around Downtown Jacksonville.

Mr. Ford concluded his report with a video of activities over the last month.

H. CONSENT AGENDA

No items under consent.

I. ADOPTION AGENDA

1. RESOLUTION 2026-05: AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND FISCAL YEAR 2026

OPERATING BUDGET: Ms. Obara stated that staff recommends the Board approve and adopt Resolution 2026-05 to amend the Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget as discussed at the work session held before the Board Meeting. This amendment reduces the Authority's Budget by \$14,197,590 based on lower anticipated sales tax, passenger fares and interest earnings for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2026. The budget amendment does include the recent adjustment to Connexion Plus Fares.

Chair Wallace shared that the Board and Staff discussed this item at length during the work session. He stated that the JTA will not be the only agency that will need to make these adjustments, as other agencies will see a reduction in sales revenue as well. He noted that this is one of the first times over the last twelve or thirteen years that there has been such a significant drop and revenue from sales tax. There was also discussion on grant reimbursements that are still pending that will have a positive impact on the Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget.

MOTION (Sams/Brown) to adopt Resolution 2026-05 Authorizing the amendment of Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget. Motion Approved (7-0).

2. RESOLUTION 2026-06: AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND FISCAL YEAR 2026

CAPITAL BUDGET: Item was deferred

J. SAFETY, AUDIT AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE (Vacant, Committee Chair)

No items under Safety, Audit and Compliance.

K. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (Brown, Committee Chair)

Director Brown thanked Mr. Ford and staff for meeting with her to discuss matters under the Finance and Administration Committee. It is important that the public understand the time this Board and JTA staff take to discuss the items that come before this Board for action. Also, the It is amazing to see the work that JTA does to help solve problems now and for in the future.

1. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AMENDMENT FOR MICROSOFT LICENSING

RENEWAL (B-26-004): Ms. Obora stated that staff recommends that the Board authorize the CEO to execute an amendment with Microsoft licensing for twelve months. The total value of this amendment shall not exceed \$496,056.70. The JTA utilizes various Microsoft product licenses through an Enterprise Agreement (EA) with Microsoft reseller. Staff are requesting a one-year contract extension to ensure uninterrupted access to these mission-critical products and services. The Microsoft licenses cover various projects including Office 365, SQL Server, Windows Server, Visio and Microsoft Project Planner. Microsoft licensing supports JTA's ability to operate reliably and securely on a daily basis.

MOTION (Glober/Brown) to approve the contract amendment for Microsoft licensing renewal. Motion Approved (7-0).

L. SERVICE DELIVERY (Glober, Committee Chair)

There were no items under Service Delivery. However, Director Glober provided the Board with an update on the Service Delivery Committee and the ad hoc committee related to the Fare Modification Pilot. He shared that there has been an increase in ridership across the services, which is a promising start to this pilot program. Director Glober stated that he provided some direction to staff regarding the reporting of metrics and frequency and looks forward to meeting with staff as the program progresses. He thanked Mr. Ford and JTA staff for their diligence and passion.

M. LONG RANGE PLANNING AND SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT (Sams, Committee Chair)

Director Sams provided a verbal report on the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Meeting that was held on February 12, 2026 Board meeting and shared details of the items that were discussed and took up for approval. At the meeting, Jeff Sheffield, CEO of the TPO presented a resolution for Board adoption to donate \$10,000 annually for five years to the James Benett Scholarship that was established by the University of North Florida. The Board adopted the resolution unanimously.

1. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AMENDMENT FOR SUPERVENING EVENTS

– BAY STREET INNOVATION CORRIDOR PHASING AGREEMENT II: Mr. Milian stated that staff recommends the Board authorize the CEO to execute a Monetary Contract Amendment with Balfour Beatty Construction, LLC for supervening event claims pursuant to Section 16 of the original P-21-008 U²C Program Phase I: BSIC Progressive Project Delivery Agreement dated January 27, 2022. Staff further recommends that such amendment extend the original agreement's term with respect to Balfour Beatty to align with an extension of the Federal

Transit Administration Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development Grant. He added that this item was discussed at length in the work session, but he is happy to answer any questions the Board may have.

Director Vallencourt asked what happens if the Board does not approve this amendment today. Mr. Milian responded that it may lead to litigation. Not approving may also create operational difficulties due to this being a design, build, operate and maintain contract should this be litigated. Mr. Ford added that the funds for this amendment are part of the capital budget, not the operating budget that was approved earlier in the meeting.

MOTION (Sams/Brown) to approve the contract amendment for supervening events for BSIC phasing agreement II. Motion Approved (7-0).

Chair Wallace turned the floor over to Councilman Johnson.

Councilman Johnson thanked Chair Wallace and the Board for their service and taking their job as a Board Member seriously. He also thanked Mr. Ford for his leadership. The work that JTA is doing to move the City forward. The Councilman shared that he Chairs the City Council Transportation Committee. He appreciates the collaboration between City Council, the disabled community and the JTA to come to a solution for the Connexion Plus Service.

Councilman Johnson shared that he receives news alerts from Google, and it seems everytime he turns around he sees Nat Ford's name. He also shared his appreciation for the JTA visiting Campus Towers, he received a lot of positive feedback from the residents.

G. DIVISION REPORTS

1. **ADMINISTRATION MONTHLY REPORT** – Mr. Ferguson stated the Administration Report was provided and he is available for any questions.

2. **FINANCE MONTHLY REPORTS** – Ms. Obara provided the financial report to the Board through January 2026.

3. **OPERATIONS MONTHLY REPORT** – Mr. Smith provided the Board with the Operations Report through January 2026.

Director Vallencourt inquired about rolling stock, how is the Authority on buses, as was not aware that the amendment to the Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Budget was being deferred. Mr. Smith responded and shared that the JTA has purchased 53 buses over the las 5 years. The average age of buses is 7.5 years, which is below the industry average of 8 years. The JTA is in a good place. Director Vallencourt asked if buses are needed this year and Mr. Smith responded that there will be bus purchases this year. Mr. Ford stated that the staff is still discussing what adjustments need to be made to the Capital budget so more time is needed.

Director Salter asked about the data points for Connexion and Connexion Plus and what may have caused the shift in ridership. Mr. Smith stated that staff's working theory is that the outreach that has been taking place that is asking for the community to give Connexion another try. A lot of customers have not rode the service since 2019 and there have been a lot of improvements to the service since that time. Some of the services that Connexion Plus offers, which attracted ridership is now available on Connexion. Mr. Smith confirmed with Director Salter that feedback is positive.

Chair Wallace stated this it is safe to say that the report that Director Globber provided related to a reduction of fares has assisted with people using the system

4. PUBLIC AFFAIRS MONTHLY REPORT - Mrs. Shepler shared the Real Estate and Economic Development Report for January.

5. SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT MONTHLY REPORT – Mr. Smith on behalf of Mrs. Gillis provided the System Development Report through January 2026.

N. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business


O. NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

SEAL


Max Globber, Secretary
Patricia Gillum Sams, Vice Chair


Aundra Wallace, Chair