

**MINUTES  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
JACKSONVILLE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025**

The regular Board meeting of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) was held on Thursday, January 23, 2025.

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Deborah Buckland, Chair  
Aundra Wallace, Vice Chair  
Patricia Sams, Secretary  
Megan Hayward, Treasurer  
Ari Jolly, Immediate Past Chair

**JTA EXECUTIVE STAFF**

Nathaniel P. Ford Sr., CEO  
Greer Gillis, SVP System Development  
Raj Srinath, SVP Finance and Technology  
Jeffery Smith, SVP Operations

**BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Greg Evans, FDOT

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Katie Smith, Board Administrator  
Jessica Shepler, VP Government Affairs  
Richard Milian, General Counsel  
Rahman Johnson, Council Liaison  
Doreen Myers, FDOT Representative

**A. CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Buckland called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. and thanked the Board for attending the meeting and the work session held in advance of the meeting.

Director Wallace led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Buckland shared her sadness on the passing of Sam Mousa and held a moment of silence in his honor. Mr. Ford also shared some words of appreciation for Mr. Mousa and what he has meant to the JTA and the City of Jacksonville (City) for so many years.

Mrs. Smith completed roll call.

Chair Buckland then provided the safety message for the month of January. “Safety Starts with Awareness – Stay Vigilant!”

Chair Buckland announced the Chairs for the Board’s Committees as:

Aundra Wallace – Long Range Planning and System Development Committee

Patricia Sams – Finance and Administration Committee

Megan Hayward – Safety, Audit and Compliance Committee

Ari Jolly – Service Delivery Committee - Interim

**A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 11, 2024 BOARD MEETING**

**MOTION** (Sams/Hayward) to approve the minutes from December 11, 2024. Motion Approved (5-0).

**C. COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISON** – Councilman Johnson shared his condolences for the passing of Mr. Mousa and shared the impact Mr. Mousa had on the community.

He congratulated the Board members on their new Committee Chair positions. Councilman Johnson shared his excitement on all of the work JTA is doing and he is looking for way to integrate and connect other agencies to work closely with JTA.

**D. AUTHORITY RECOGNITION AWARDS**

January Employee Recognitions

Bus Operator: Kenneth Kirkland

Maintenance: Willie Nabritt

Administrative: Christopher Bedgood

Special Recognitions

Bus Operator: Janice Thompson

Customer Spotlight: Russ Davis

Mr. Ford also shared that former JTA Bus Operator and ATU President, Jacques Frere, Sr. had passed away. He served at the JTA for over 40 years. The JTA staff has communicated with the family and are sending condolences. He stated that Mr. Frere's son, Jacques Jr. is a member of the JTA family and has been with the Authority since 2013 in the Skyway Maintenance area.

**E. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** There were no public comments.

**F. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT:** Mr. Ford stated that the JTA had another successful month, with lots to share, but will keep it brief.

He began with a Happy New Year to everyone and that the JTA is looking forward to 2025 which will be a year of seeing many projects reach completion, with the Autonomous Innovation Center (AIC) and Phase 1 of the Ultimate Urban Circulator (U<sup>2</sup>C) program, the Bay Street Innovation Corridor (BSIC). This could not have happened without the support of the JTA Board and thanked the Board.

Mr. Ford shared that in December the JTA held its annual year-end Town Hall to bring everyone together. The theme was Around Duval, and employees had the opportunity to engage with their colleagues and JTA Leadership to celebrate all of the successes in 2024 and look ahead to JTA's 2025 goals and objectives. Employees were provided opportunities for education on employee benefits, professional development and other employee resource opportunities in the year ahead. They also had a chance to hear from their peers with words of advice and inspiration as they continue their work at the JTA.

Also, JTA's Human Resources and bus operator training team recently honored JTA's newest crop of professional bus operators to the Authority. These new drivers completed weeks of classroom and behind the wheel training to become part of Florida's best transportation authority.

He stated that JTA closed December with what's become an annual tradition, JTA's fully decorated holiday bus, driven by Santa Claus himself, Kendarius Fitzpatrick, picked up a group of

kids and their families from the Sulzbacher Village, and along with the police escort, delivered them to the Walmart on 103rd Street for some Christmas shopping.

Mr. Ford then shared that the JTA kicked off 2025 with a ribbon cutting for the San Pablo Road reconstruction project, the final project of the original Mobility Works 1.0 initiative, which completed the full schedule of projects two years ahead of schedule. He took the opportunity to recognize the key stakeholders that made this project and the overall program a success: The JTA Board of Directors; City of Jacksonville (City); Jacksonville City Council; the City's Public Works Department; JEA; the various contractors throughout the program... and on this project; and finally, the JTA team, led by Senior Vice President Greer Gillis

He then stated that now the Authority will begin a New Year and turn the page to the next chapter, JTA's MobilityWorks 2.0 which includes 17 JTA projects, encompassing another tranche of road, infrastructure and mobility improvements and enhancements, currently underway, in partnership with the City. Also, 2025 will be one of the most monumental years in JTA history, in large part because of the launch of the BSIC, phase one of the U<sup>2</sup>C program this summer. And of course, the construction on the AIC, the new state-of-the-art command and control center for the U<sup>2</sup>C, continues.

Mr. Ford concluded the Chief Executive Officer's (CEO) report by sharing a video highlighting all of the activities over the last month.

#### **G. DIVISION REPORTS**

1. **ADMINISTRATION MONTHLY REPORTS** – Mrs. Shepler provided the Administration Report to the Board and provided highlights of the Real Estate and Economic Development Report and the Procurement Report through December 2024.

2. **FINANCE MONTHLY REPORTS** – Mr. Srinath provided the financial report to the Board through December 2024, as well as the processed invoices report and the agency sponsorship and membership report. He also provided the quarterly investment report.

3. **OPERATIONS MONTHLY REPORT** – Mr. Smith provided the Board the Operations Report through December 2024.

4. **SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT MONTHLY REPORT** – Ms. Gillis provided highlights of the System Development Report through December 2024.

#### **H. CONSENT AGENDA**

##### **1. APPROVAL OF TOW TRUCK VEHICLE PURCHASE (B-25-006)**

**MOTION** (Sams/Wallace) to approve Consent Agenda item H.1 as staff recommends.  
Motion Approved (5-0).

**I. ADOPTION AGENDA**

**1. RESOLUTION 2025-01: AUTHORIZATION TO FILE FISCAL YEAR 2025 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION GRANT FOR NASSAU COUNTY 5311 RURAL TRANSIT PROGRAM:**

Mr. Srinath stated that staff recommends the Board adopt Resolution 2025-01 authorizing the CEO to enter into a Public Transportation Grant Agreement (PTGA) with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for the Fiscal Year 2025 Nassau County Formula Grants for Rural Areas – Section 5311 with funds totaling \$500,000. Funding for this project is divided between FDOT (50 percent) and Nassau County (50 percent).

**2. RESOLUTION 2025-02: AUTHORIZATION TO FILE FISCAL YEAR 2025 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION GRANT FOR NASSAU COUNTY 5339 BUSES AND BUS FACILITIES FORMULA PROGRAM:**

Mr. Srinath stated that staff recommends the Board adopt Resolution 2025-02 authorizing the CEO to enter into a PTGA with the FDOT for the Fiscal Year 2025 Nassau County Grants for Buses & Bus Facilities – Section 5339 with funds totaling \$795,210 and to be fully funded by FDOT. This grant is acquire buses for Nassau County.

**3. RESOLUTION 2025-03: AUTHORIZATION TO FILE FISCAL YEAR 2025 NASSAU COUNTY RURAL TRANSIT PROGRAM – SAFETY AND SECURITY:**

Mr. Srinath stated that staff recommends the Board adopt Resolution 2025-03 authorizing the CEO to enter into a PTGA with the FDOT for the Fiscal Year 2025 Nassau County Formula Grants for Rural Areas – Section 5311 with funds totaling \$300,000. Funding will be divided by \$240,000 from FDOT and \$60,000 from Nassau County for Safety and Security.

**4. RESOLUTION 2025-04: AUTHORIZATION TO FILE FISCAL YEAR 2025 SECTION 5310 VEHICLE PURCHASE GRANT – NASSAU TRANSIT:**

Mr. Srinath stated that staff recommends the Board adopt Resolution 2025-04 authorizing the CEO to execute the documents necessary to file a grant application not-to-exceed \$516,662 with the FDOT for the purchase of three paratransit vehicles for Nassau Transit service, which is operated by the Authority. Funding will be provided by \$413,330 in federal funding and \$51,666 in state funding with a local match of \$51,666 provided by Nassau County.

**5. RESOLUTION 2025-05: AUTHORIZATION TO FILE FISCAL YEARS 2026 THROUGH 2028 SECTION 5311 NASSAU COUNTY RURAL AREAS – OPERATING ASSISTANCE:**

Mr. Srinath stated that staff recommends the Board adopt Resolution 2025-05 authorizing the CEO to execute the documents necessary to file section 5311 grant application in

the amount of \$1,122,080 for Fiscal Years 2026 – 2028 with FDOT for operating funding for Nassau Transit. Funding will be 50 percent from FTA and 50 percent from Nassau County.

**MOTION** (Hayward/Sams) to adopt Resolutions 2024-23 through 2024-26 authorizing the filing for grant funds and the execution thereof for Nassau County. Motion Approved (4-0).

**6. RESOLUTION 2025-06: AUTHORIZATION TO FILE FISCAL YEAR 2025 SURFACE TRANSPORTATION GRANT**: Mr. Srinath stated that staff recommends the Board adopt Resolution 2025-06 authorizing the CEO to file and enter into an agreement with the United States Department of Transportation FTA for Fiscal Year 2025 under the FTA Section 5307 Federal Highway Administration Transfer of Surface Transportation Program in the amount of \$1,250,000, of which \$1,000,000 will come from the FTA and \$250,000 from FDOT.

**MOTION** (Hayward/Sams) to adopt Resolutions 2025-06 authorizing the filing of Fiscal Year 2025 Surface Transportation Grant. Motion Approved (5-0).

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

Director Hayward announced that the annual Audit and Compliance is being provided to each of the Board members on behalf of JTA staff.

**K. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE** (Sams, Committee Chair)

Director Sams provided a report out from the Transit Research Board Annual Conference that she attended January 5 – 9, 2025 in Washington, DC.

**L. SERVICE DELIVERY** (Jolly, Committee Chair)

**1. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD FOR EXPRESS SELECT SERVICES**

**(P-25-009)**: Mr. Smith stated that staff recommends the Board approve the ranked shortlist and authorize the CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with the highest ranked proposer, WHC Jax, LLC dba Z-Trip to provide express select services. This is a five-year-based contract with one five-year extension option. The five-year-based contract compensation is not-to-exceed \$8,742,360 and any extension will need to be approved by the Board.

The JTA has partnered with surrounding counties Nassau, Clay, and St. Johns to build regional express commuter services. These services create synergies between the JTA and neighboring counties to increase accessibility to jobs, education, healthcare, and recreation.

All three Express Select Services are 100 percent grant funded by FDOT and any overages will be funded by the respective county.

**MOTION** (Jolly/Wallace) to approve the contract award for express select services. Motion Approved (5-0)

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

**ACTION ITEMS**

**1. APPROVAL OF REAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION – 910 WEST 44<sup>TH</sup> STREET:**

Mrs. Shepler stated that staff recommends that the Board authorize the CEO to negotiate and execute a Purchase Sale Agreement with Global Building, LLC for the purchase of the property located at 910 West 44<sup>th</sup> Street, Jacksonville, FL 32208 up to an amount of \$2,107,500. The subject parcel is identified as a portion of Duval County Property Appraiser's Real Estate Number 030031-0030 comprised of roughly 2.30 acres inclusive of a 7,900 square foot free standing building.

The property will be used as a training facility for bus operators, as well as other training needs that arise. The property has the building and the parking lot surrounding the building.

**MOTION** (Sams/Wallace) to approve the real property acquisition of 910 West 44<sup>th</sup> Street. Motion Approved (5-0)

Chair Buckland turned the gavel over to Director Wallace and she departed the meeting.

**N. OLD BUSINESS**

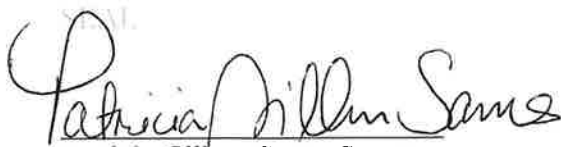
Mr. Srinath shared details of one item under old business related to Resolution 2024-21 that was adopted by the Board at the December 2024 Board meeting. The resolution was to amend the Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget and submit it to the City Council Auditors. After Board adoption and submission to the auditors, it was determined that additional information was needed. Therefore, staff requests the Board to approve updating the schedule that was attached to the original resolution. No changes were made to the actual Resolution 2024-21.

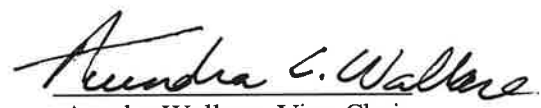
**MOTION** (Hayward/Jolly) to approve the updated schedule for Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget that is part of Resolution 2024-21 that the Board approved and adopted on December 11, 2024. Motion Approved (4-0).

**O. NEW BUSINESS**

No new business.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

  
Patricia Gillum Sams, Secretary

  
Aundra Wallace, Vice-Chair