

**MINUTES  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
JACKSONVILLE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2026**

The regular Board meeting of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) was held on Thursday, April 30, 2026 at JRTC, 100 LaVilla Center Drive, Jacksonville, Florida 32204.

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Patricia Sams, Vice Chair  
Max Glober, Secretary  
Elaine Brown, Treasurer  
Alan Hopkins  
Daniel Vallencourt

**JTA EXECUTIVE STAFF**

Nathaniel P. Ford Sr., CEO  
Cleveland Ferguson, EVP Administration  
Greer Gillis, SVP System Development  
Jeffery Smith, SVP Operations  
Jessica Shepler, SVP Public Affairs  
Heather Obora, SVP Finance

**BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Aundra Wallace, Chair  
Madelen Salter

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Katie Smith, Board Administrator  
Rahman Johnson, Council Liaison

**A. CALL TO ORDER** – Vice Chair Sams called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m. and thanked the Board for attending the meeting. She stated that she would lead the meeting on behalf of Chair Wallace, as he was unable to attend.

Director Vallencourt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Smith provided roll call to confirm a quorum.

Vice Chair Sams thanked the board members for attending the three committee meetings that were held prior to the Board meeting. She stated that the committee chairs would provide information on those meetings as the board works through the agenda.

Chair Wallace shared the Safety Message for the Month of April: “Safety is the Engine – You are the Key that Starts It.”

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

**MOTION** (Brown/Vallencourt) to approve the minutes from March 26, 2026. Motion Approved (5-0).

**C. COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISON** – Councilman Johnson was not in attendance but will be given the opportunity to speak when he arrives.

**D. AUTHORITY RECOGNITIONS**

Mr. Ford then recognized the employees for the of April 2026.

Monthly Recognitions: Bus Operator: Henry Griffin

March Maintenance Employee: Carlton Rivers

March Administrative Employee: Brandon Mack

E. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** There was one public comment.

1. **Tina Savage:** Ms. Savage shared that she would like for the JTA to join in with her to offer Hop On – Hop Off Trolley's to allow visitors to the area to see everything Jacksonville has to offer.

F. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT:** Mr. Ford thanked the Board members for taking time to meet with him and staff to prepare for Board Day, as well as attending the committee meetings.

He stated that connecting directly with our community remains at the heart of our work. In April, JTA hosted a senior outreach event at Carver Recreation Center in partnership with First Coast Senior Living. This engagement provided an opportunity to listen, learn, and better understand how we can support independence and mobility for older adults in our community.

During the first two months of our Fare Pilot Program, overall ridership increased by approximately 5 percent, with March ridership up 14 percent, over March of last year. This early performance reflects a strong and encouraging response to improving affordability and expanding access to JTA's services. A new Connexion Uber Opt-In Program was launched, which provides an additional, customer-driven mobility option. This program was developed directly from feedback through the Connexion Advisory Committee meetings, and more than 160 customers have already opted in, with positive early feedback.

The JTA remains deeply committed to serving our community, especially in moments that matter most. Staff were honored to provide transportation support for the 2026 JSO Memorial Service, ensuring that families of fallen officers could attend and be supported. It is a privilege to stand alongside our public safety partners and contribute, in our own way, to honoring the service and sacrifice of those who serve our community.

Mr. Ford stated that the JTA is equally focused on inspiring and preparing the next generation. In April, staff welcomed students from Foundation Academy to the Autonomous Innovation Center (AIC) following their participation in the Ultimate Urban Circulator (U<sup>2</sup>C) Phase II public meetings. Seeing the students' curiosity and engagement, especially as they experienced NAVI firsthand, underscores the importance of exposing students to the future of mobility today.

He added that staff also participated in Career Day at Greenland Pines Elementary, continuing to connect young people with the opportunities that exist within transportation. These efforts are not just outreach; they are investments in the workforce that will shape the future of this industry.

Mr. Ford then shared an update on the U<sup>2</sup>C Phase II public engagement efforts, which demonstrate strong and meaningful community interest. Through a combination of media outreach and direct engagement, including a televised segment featuring SVP Greer Johnson Gillis, JTA saw more than 200 community members attend in person and hundreds more participate online. This level of engagement reflects both the significance of the project and the community's desire to help shape the future of mobility in Jacksonville. He added that he continues to hold smaller group sessions with community leaders and stakeholders to gain their input and feedback to continue to evaluate the next phase of the U<sup>2</sup>C program.

The JTA continues to strengthen its partnerships across the region. Staff welcomed Leadership Nassau to the JRTC, where we shared updates on the Nassau Transit Study and U<sup>2</sup>C Phase II initiatives. Their visit included a tour of our AIC, offering a firsthand look at how innovation is being applied in real-world operations. These conversations are essential to build a more connected and coordinated regional mobility network.

The JTA's leadership continues to extend well beyond our region, shaping the national conversation on the future of mobility. At the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., Board Vice Chair Pat Sams and Directors Alan Hopkins and Madelen Salter joined Mr. Ford in engaging directly with federal leaders, elected officials and industry peers to help advance policies and investments that will define the next generation of mobility. He thanked the Board members that attended for their time, leadership, engagement, and strong representation of the JTA at the national level.

Mr. Ford concluded his report with a video of activities over the last month and turned the floor over to Director Sams and Hopkins to share their experience of the APTA Legislative Conference.

Director Sams shared that she is honored to represent the JTA and the Jacksonville Community at the national level. It is a privilege to serve on the APTA Executive Committee and stay connected with the industry.

Director Hopkins thanked the community for the opportunity to attend the conference. He shared that he saw JTA as an industry leader and that JTA punches well above its weight – other agencies only hope to be doing what the JTA is doing. He added that he appreciates the support of the elected officials who continue to work with the JTA.

## **G. DIVISION REPORTS**

1. **ADMINISTRATION MONTHLY REPORT** – Mr. Ferguson shared activities for the Administration Division.

2. **FINANCE MONTHLY REPORTS** – Ms. Obara provided the financial report to the

Board through March 2026.

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

4. **PUBLIC AFFAIRS MONTHLY REPORT** - Mrs. Shepler shared the Real Estate and Economic Development Report for March 2026.

Director Vallencourt inquired about Kings Avenue Redevelopment group and if they are paying for the garage. Mrs. Shepler confirmed they are paying for the garage.

5. **SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT MONTHLY REPORT** – Mrs. Gillis provided the System Development Report through March 2026.

H. **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. **DISPOSITION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY**

MOTION (Brown/Vallencourt) to approve the consent agenda as staff recommends. Motion Approved (5-0).

I. **ADOPTION AGENDA**

1. **RESOLUTION 2026-06: AUTHORIZATION TO FILE LOCAL AGENCY PROGRAM FOR SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL – HOGAN SPRING GLEN ELEMENTARY**

2. **RESOLUTION 2026-07: AUTHORIZATION TO FILE LOCAL AGENCY PROGRAM FOR SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL – SAN JOSE ELEMENTARY**

Ms. Obora stated that staff recommends the Board adopt Resolution 2026-06, authorizing the CEO to execute a Local Agency Program (LAP) Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for the construction, construction engineering, and inspection services for Nathan Drive, Renee Terrace, and Ryar Road Safe Routes to School sidewalk project near Hogan Spring Glen Elementary. The estimated cost of the project is \$693,738. This amount includes Federal-Aid Highway Program funds in the total amount of this agreement. There is no local match for this agreement.

Ms. Obora stated that staff also recommends the Board adopt Resolution 2026-07, authorizing the CEO to execute a LAP Agreement with the FDOT for oversight of the design for Orangewood Road, Graywood Road, Nettie Road, Brownwood Road, St. Augustine Road Safe Routes to School sidewalk project near San Jose Elementary. Funding for this action is available through federal funds administered by FDOT, with no local match required. The estimated cost of the LAP project is \$3,219.

Director Vallencourt asked who maintains the routes after they are built. Mr. Ford confirmed the City of Jacksonville (City) takes care of the maintenance.

**MOTION** (Brown/Vallencourt) to adopt Resolution 2026-06 for Hogan Spring Glen Elementary and Resolution 2026-07 for San Jose Elementary - the LAPs for Safe Routes to School. Motion Approved (5-0).

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

Director Hopkins stated that there are no items for the Safety, Audit and Compliance (SAC) Committee, but would like to give a committee update.

The SAC Committee recognizes the JTA's participation in JaxReady Fest 2026, held April 17-18 at the Prime F. Osborn Convention Center. In partnership with the City and regional emergency response agencies, JTA supported this important community preparedness initiative at a critical time, just weeks ahead of hurricane season. This effort directly aligns with JTA's responsibility to provide safe, reliable, and resilient mobility before, during, and after emergencies. It reflects a continued commitment to protecting riders and employees, strengthening regional coordination, and supporting continuity of service. While hurricane season begins June 1, preparedness starts now. Efforts like this help build a more informed, resilient Northeast Florida.

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

Director Brown thanked Mr. Ford and staff for the Finance and Administration Committee meeting held in advance of the Board meeting to provide updates and kick-off discussions for the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget. She stated that Mr. Ford and Ms. Obora will meet with each of the Board members over the next few weeks to allow for in-depth discussions and answer any questions related to the budget.

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

Director Glober stated there is one item under the Service Delivery Committee for consideration today. However, he wanted to provide a recap of the Service Delivery Committee meeting that was held prior to the Board meeting. Thank you to the Board members for attending the meeting and getting the staff updates on the Fare Modification Pilot, NAVI Operations and an analysis of the system's routes and on fares.

**1. APPROVAL PARATRANSIT AND MOBILITY SERVICES OPERATIONS PLATFORM PURCHASE (B-26-11)**: Mr. Smith stated that staff recommends the Board

authorize the CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with Spare Labs Inc. for the Paratransit and Mobility Services Operations Platform. The JTA's participation under this Piggyback Agreement shall be for a five-year term beginning May 1, 2026, ending April 30, 2031, which aligns with the

active term of the master agreement. The total not-to-exceed amount for this contract is \$4,374,492. Approval of this item will improve upon the inherent operational inefficiencies of an on-demand service by commingling paratransit and micro-transit using an expanded fleet of vehicles. Additionally, this Paratransit and Mobility Services Operations Platform will allow trip allocation based on the most economical provider.

The JTA has utilized Trapeze PASS since 2001. However, this legacy software presents several limitations in abilities to proactively optimize and schedule trips, as it does not have the capability to effectively manage true microtransit systems or support future needs and enhancements to minimize cost. This agreement is funded by local operating funds proposed in the Fiscal Year 2027 budget, with potential grant funding in subsequent fiscal years.

Director Vallencourt inquired about the current cost and need for this software. Mr. Smith provided details of how the process works for the software to comeingle services, as well as explaining the piggyback process to procure services and or contracts.

Director Globber stated that it would be prudent for staff to provide a 90-day performance review after roll-out. Director Vallencourt amended his motion to include the 90-day performance review and the financial outlook.

**MOTION** (Vallencourt/Brown) to approve the purchase of paratransit and mobility services operations platform purchase and for staff to provide the Board with a 90-day performance and financial review. Motion Approved (5-0).

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

Director Sams shared that the Long Range Planning and System Development Committee met prior to the Board meeting. She added that staff provided information from the System Development Division, which included the U<sup>2</sup>C PD&E and the MVP2050 updates. There were also presentations from Economic Development that provided information and updates on the lease agreements with Cinotti's and ARTEA.

She also shared that the April TPO meeting was cancelled; therefore, she does not have any updates related to that.

**1. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AMENDMENT OF LEASE AGREEMENT – CINOTTI'S:** Mrs. Shepler stated that staff recommends the Board approve the CEO to execute an amendment to the Lease Agreement with Cinotti's JTA, LLC (Cinotti's), to adjust the monthly rental payments by reducing the rent by \$400 per month. The lease is for café space on the first floor of the JRTC. The JTA executed a contract with Cinotti's and Grounds of Grace, LLC

(Grounds of Grace) in August 2024. On March 27, 2026, Grounds of Grace vacated the premises. Grounds of Grace was paying \$400 of the total monthly rent. Cinotti's has requested the JTA lower the monthly rent by the amount Grounds of Grace contributed each month.

Director Vallencourt stated that it would be nice to help Cinotti's; however, he would like Cinotti's to extend the lease for another three years if their current agreement is modified to reduce the monthly rent.

Director Hopkins stated that he wants to do what is right for the community, but the JTA cannot give things away. He agrees to an extension.

**MOTION** (Vallencourt/Hopkins) to empower the CEO to negotiate an extension with Cinotti's for up to three years at the month rate of \$1,550. Motion Approved (5-0).

**N. OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Ferguson provided a report from the Shade session that the Board had on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, to discuss the litigation associated with the Kings Avenue Redevelopment and JTA.

**O. NEW BUSINESS**

1. **APPROVAL OF ESTABLISHING THIS VOLUNTARY AMENDMENT TO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT TO SUPPORT FRONTLINE WORKFORCE STABILITY AND SERVICE DELIVERY PRIORITIES:** Mr. Ferguson stated that staff recommends the Board approve the attached Voluntary Amendment to the Fourth Amended Executive Director Employment Agreement, which will be known as the Fifth Amendment. He shared that at the February 2026 Board Meeting, the JTA Board of Directors accepted the recommendation of staff to amend the 2026 Fiscal Year Budget due to state sales tax revenue shortfalls. As part of that recommendation, staff presented certain expense reductions related to the remaining JTA administrative personnel. Because the JTA CEO/Executive Director is the only employee covered by a contractual agreement, the Authority has identified the need to maintain contractual continuity and to support the temporary Administrative Furlough program for the 2026 Fiscal Year. Because this action complies with agreement requirements and formalizes changes to the CEO's employment contract, Board approval is required at this time.

The CEO/Executive Director has voluntarily agreed to: participate in this furlough program—taking one week of unpaid furlough per month from June through September 2026; waive eligibility for the 2026 Fiscal Year contractual entitlement of a Cost-of-Living Adjustment; and waive eligibility for the 2026 Fiscal Year contractual entitlement of an annual bonus.

**MOTION** (Hopkins/Brown) to approve the Voluntary Amendment to Executive Director Employment Agreement. Motion Approved (5-0).

Councilman Johnson arrived at the meeting and shared remarks. He thanked the Board and staff for their service and hard work. He shared that he has been working with the council auditor about JTA budget amendments. City Council, General Council and Council Auditor are working together to update the process and policy.

Councilman Johnson also shared his appreciation of JTA keeping him informed to keep the City moving forward. He appreciates having information before the media reports it.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

51 V



Max Gløber, Secretary



Aundra Wallace, Chair