

**MINUTES OF THE
JACKSONVILLE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
BOARD WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2023**

The Jacksonville Transportation Authority Board of Directors held a Work Session on Tuesday, January 31, 2023 in the Conference Room of Building 1 of the Myrtle Avenue Operations Campus located at 100 North Myrtle Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida 32204.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Arezou Jolly, Debbie Buckland, Ray Driver, Abel Harding, and Stephanie Burch.

JTA STAFF PRESENT: Nathaniel P. Ford Sr., Cleveland Ferguson, Greer Gillis, Charles Frazier and Katie Smith.

OTHERS PRESENT: Richard Milian, General Counsel

I. WELCOME: Chair Buckland called the Work Session to order at 12:37 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT: The Chair called for Public Comment. There were no requests by the public to comment.

III. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE:

a. Briefing – Declaration of Surplus: Mr. Ferguson presented the Board with an overview of the process to surplus property and asset disposal. He stated that the Board agenda for the meeting following the work session includes Board approval for Declaration of Surplus.

He also provided the life cycle and the process is governs the rules for surplus and disposal. He explained the criteria to dispose which is to give it back to manufacturer, sell the property through public auction, transfer to another FTA direct recipient or Non-Profit, or donation. He informed the Board that in addition to the Declaration of Surplus, there is also two requests for donations on the Board agenda for action.

Mr. Ferguson stated that JTA does donate vehicles and buses to non-profits to the extent the Authority can. The Board has set forth a process by which awardees of these donated vehicles must meet specific criteria to ensure the property will be used for legitimate purposes and continue to benefit the community.

Director Burch inquired about the determination of donation versus sale. Mr. Ferguson provided the process staff uses when there are requests property.

IV. SAFETY, AUDIT AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE:

a. **Briefing – Video Surveillance Systems:** Mr. Ferguson presented the Board with staff's request for action by the Board for approval of the Video Surveillance System. He then shared the scope of the contract, the cost, and how the system will be used across JTA properties and facilities. He advised the Board that there are limits on what can be monitored – FDOT does allow cameras to be pointed on their right of way for state liability purposes.

Mr. Ferguson stated that this contract would ensure the JTA will be able to meet the needs now and in future for the entire footprint of the Authority.

Chair Buckland asked for clarification on FDOT right of way (ROW). Mr. Ferguson explained that there cannot be recordings for safety and security, which is what JTA's camera do. She also inquired about how the public is notified of cameras. Mr. Ferguson responded that location of the cameras is not shared rather a notice is posted that informs people they are subject to being videotaped.

V. SERVICE DELIVERY COMMITTEE: Director Burch advised the Board that several of the items under Service Delivery would come to the Board for action at the meeting following the work session.

a. **Briefing – Yard Management System:** Mr. Frazier shared staff's recommendation for the contract for the Yard Management System. He stated that this system meets several areas of the MOVE2027 Plan, but this about Innovation Works. The system will snap into the current Clever Device System. It will allow staff to monitor the needs for any services as well as show the location of each bus while in the yard. This is particularly helpful at night when all 300 buses are onsite and during pullout for effective location.

b. **Briefing – CNG Bus Procurement:** Mr. Frazier shared staff's recommendation for the Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) bus purchase – 14 35-foot buses and 11 40-foot buses. He then provided the background and history around CNG bus purchases and that these buses will replace 36 diesel buses that have exceed their useful life.

Mr. Frazier shared that the approval for this purchase is to lock in the current price for these buses. The buses will be delivered over the next couple of years.

Director Buckland asked what the current mix of diesel and alternative fuels buses is. Mr. Frazier stated that there are currently 61 and this purchase will bring it down to 25 once all of the new buses are delivered.

c. Briefing – Clever Contract Amendment: Mr. Frazier shared staff's recommendation for the Board to approve the contract amendment with Clever Devices to cover various projects for 2023 and 2024. Also included in this action is for the Board to approve and authorize the CEO to negotiate and award a sole source contract to Clever Devices for enhancement for the Ferry and Skyway to have consistency in the system for all modes of transportation.

Mr. Frazier explained what all of the components and costs for each of the items under the Clever Device contract. Some of these updates are to allow all modes to have access to the MyJTA app.

Director Burch asked about the justification for the Sole Source. Mr. Frazier responded that the Authority looks to the market to see if there any other providers that could bring the same thing. In addition to finding a company that can provide what we need, they also need to be able to integrate to the existing system. After review and the investment over the last ten years with Clever Devices it was determined that, a sole source would ensure the integration needed.

Mr. Milian advised the Board that often Sole Sources related to the Skyway as the system is antiquated and needs specialized services and parts.

Chair Buckland asked if this would bring the MyJTA app end-to-end. Mr. Frazier advised that it would bring it end-to-end.

d. St. Johns River Ferry Update: Mr. Frazier provided the Board with an update on the St. Johns River Ferry. The Ferry has been taken out of service and is at BAE Systems to begin the needed work. The last haul-out of the Ferry was in 2021, which lasted from January 6 to April 2.

Mr. Frazier then provided an overview of the improvements that have been made to the Ferry service since the JTA took over the service. He stated that with the current haul-out the total JTA investment to date will be nearly \$30 million. He also provided a snapshot of the Procurement process and timeline for the Ferry haul-out, as well as the planned maintenance work. He also provided that there might be some supply chain issues and the impact to the schedule.

There was also discussion on options to provide some type of service while the Ferry is out of the water. One option was to rent or lease a Ferry; however, it was found this was not an option as the infrastructure for the docks was customized for the Jean Ribault.

Councilwoman Pittman inquired if there has been any research on other locations to dock the Ferry. She also about the life of a Ferry and the cost of a new Ferry. Mr. Ford responded with the history of the Ferry and next steps. With the recent gas tax, the purchase of a new Ferry is planned. Staff is now also discussing what options there are to have other trips from different locations along the river.

Director Driver asked if the Ferry is ever at capacity. Mr. Frazier said it is - the busiest times are in the morning and afternoon. He added that a breakdown of ridership is being reviewed, the peak hours as well as the breakdown of cars, bikers, walkers. There was also discussion on the speed of the boat to travel downtown.

Mr. Frazier then moved discussion toward the purchase of a new Ferry. The LOGT funding will provide \$16.2 million for the new vessel and docking facilities. He shared information on what the feasibility study, that will be underway soon, looks like and its deliverables. Mr. Frazier also shared the possibility of receiving a RAISE grant and looking at other grant options from the Department of Energy.

Chair Buckland asked to clarify if the \$16.2 million is what the new Ferry will cost or if that is the allocation from the gas tax. Mr. Frazier confirmed that is the amount of the allocation. There was further discussion about what the estimated cost will be for the purchase of a new Ferry.

e. Electric Bus Procurement: Mr. Frazier advised the Board that the Electric Bus Purchase will come to the Board for action at the February Board Meeting. This procurement will be for \$7.2 million dollars for six electric buses. These buses will replace six diesel buses that have reached their useful life.

VI. ROUNDTABLE: Mr. Ford advised the Board that members of the Board are getting questions about the Bay Street Innovation Corridor (BSIC). He wanted to bring the discussion back to the Board for further discussion related to the current alignment of the BSIC that was determined with the input by the City of Jacksonville (City). The JTA requested dedicated lanes along Bay Street but could never get consensus and agreement due to the impact on parking. He shared the background of how the plan was determined, with the input of the Board in May of 2020 for the vehicles to operate in mixed-use traffic - with reservations and agreed to revisit the

dedicated lanes. He added that at this juncture of the project, it could be beneficial to revisit the possibility of dedicated lanes. He then turned the floor over the Mr. Schmidt to provide additional details.

Mr. Schmidt provided some details of the discussions with DIA and stakeholders from the beginning of these conversations. One of the main concerns was parking, particularly on the north side of Bay Street. Greer added that there was some concern by FDOT as well – they own the ROE. Mr. Milian shared that getting this approval is difficult because it is not just a City issue, it is a FDOT issue, making it a multi-jurisdictional discussion.

Mr. Schmidt went on to share that since the Hart Bridge project became the FDOT released its ROW to the City, giving it 100 percent jurisdiction. Mr. Milian stated that this would certainly be a good time to revisit this option and agreed with Mrs. Gillis that FDOT still needs to be invited to the table for discussions.

Director Jolly stated that the benefit of dedicated lanes, in terms of acceleration travel and not being stuck in the mixed traffic. With that, can staff give some thought on how to ensure that these lanes “stay” dedicated and have a discussion on those thoughts at the February Work Session, particularly to violators using dedicated lanes as is happening in the Bus Only lanes around downtown.

Director Burch inquired about the timeline for the grant. Mr. Ford responded that if we move forward with discussions now, the impact would be minimal to the timeline.

There being no further business, the work session adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

SEAL.



Abel Harding, Secretary



Debbie Buckland, Chair