

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JACKSONVILLE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2025**

The regular Board meeting of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) was held on Monday, October 27, 2025 at JRTC, 100 LaVilla Center Drive, Jacksonville, Florida 32204.

BOARD MEMBERS

Aundra Wallace, Vice Chair
Patricia Sams, Secretary
Elaine Brown
Max Guber
Donald Horner

JTA EXECUTIVE STAFF

Nathaniel P. Ford Sr., CEO
Greer Gillis, SVP System Development
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 2:01 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.

Vice Chair Wallace shared the Safety Message for the Month of September: “Put Safety First, Prevent the Worst.”

Vice Chair Wallace recognized the special guests from the Highway Industry Development Organization (HIDO) Delegation from Japan and the leadership from Holon, USA.

Mr. Ford welcomed the HIDO Delegation and stated the 13 members of the delegation travelled over 7,100 miles just to be in Jacksonville and learn about JTA’s Neighborhood Autonomous Vehicle Innovation (NAVI) system, and how JTA is doing it. He added that he is confident that the JTA Board of Directors shares his sense of pride in knowing that when we invest in the JTA and the people of Jacksonville, great things happen.

Mr. Ford introduced the Honorary Counsel of Japan, Mr. Roy Schleicher, and Mr. Manabu Watanabe, Executive Director of the Japanese HIDO and Head of the Tokyo Delegation. Both gentlemen made remarks and thanked the JTA for hosting the delegation.

Vice Chair Wallace welcomed the Holon leadership and turned the floor over to Mr. Ford.

Mr. Ford stated that today marks a defining moment—not just for Jacksonville, not just for the Jacksonville Transportation Authority, but for the future of mobility in America. He welcomed JTA partners from Holon to join him to celebrate a truly transformative investment in the region: a \$100 million commitment to establish a new state-of-the-art autonomous vehicle (AV)

manufacturing facility in Jacksonville. This is more than a facility. It's a bold step into the future, a future that brings hundreds of high-quality jobs, creates new opportunities for the skilled workforce, enables the dreams of college students at Florida State College Jacksonville and Jacksonville University. These institutions are creating a pipeline for young people who are eager to begin a career in AVs, and of course, a projected multi-billion-dollar economic impact for Northeast Florida.

Clemens Rengier, the Chief Financial Officer for Holon took the floor and shared his appreciation and excitement for the future of Jacksonville and AVs.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 3 AND 4, 2025 ANNUAL STRATEGIC RETREAT AND SEPTEMBER 4, 2025 BOARD MEETING

MOTION (Sams/Brown) to approve the minutes from September 3 and 4, 2025 Board Retreat and the September 4, 2025 Board Meeting. Motion Approved (5-0).

C. COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISON – Councilman Johnson deferred his comments to the end of the meeting.

D. AUTHORITY RECOGNITIONS

August Recognitions: Bus Operator: Anthony Hatten, Maintenance Employee: George McGarry and Administrative Employee: Joyce Payad

September Recognitions: Bus Operator: David Grant, Maintenance Employee: Ralph Gibson and Administrative Employee: Carmen Emory

October Recognitions: Bus Operator: Shiree Anderson, Maintenance Employee: Lonnie Collins and Administrative Employee: Augustine Kaiwa

Mr. Ford also recognized the following for their recent awards at the Florida Public Transportation Associations annual meeting:

JTA Marketing & Communications Team led by Lynn Opperman won the Best in Class, Ridership-Sales Marketing award for last year's Skyway Social event.

Maintenance Technician Michael Paskanik took home 1st Place Bus Technician.

Operator Kenneth Kirkland was awarded Operator of the Year.

He then recognized Mr. Kirkland again, as he just marked 45 years with the JTA and Jessica Shepler for marking 10 years with the JTA.

E. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: There was one public comments.

1. **John Nooney:** Mr. Nooney shared his position on a land acquisition that he is sharing with all of the community boards and committees. He also requested the Board adopt a resolution recognizing his work.

F. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT: Mr. Ford stated that JTA has had many positive developments and activities this past month which he believes demonstrates the

tremendous amount of energy, capacity, and dedication to the community that everyone at the JTA has. He then thanked Director Elaine Brown for attending the Fall 2025 Local Roadeo. The winners of the local roadeo will be invited to attend the next meeting to be recognized.

Mr. Ford shared that the JTA is increasingly serving as the region's mobility integrator by connecting communities, economies, and partners across Northeast Florida. With commuting, commerce, and population growth now extending well beyond Duval County, a Vice President of Regional Mobility is essential to unify planning, service delivery, and technology integration across jurisdictions. This leadership role would strengthen coordination with regional stakeholders such as the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), and adjacent counties, ensuring that initiatives like ReadIRide, Nassau Express Select, the Ultimate Urban Circulator (U²C), and MobilityWorks 2.0 align to create a seamless, multimodal network. He then introduced the new Vice President of Regional Mobility, Richard Clark.

Mr. Ford shared a few key updates since the last Board meeting.

In September 2025, he and some of the JTA's Executive Leadership Team joined national transportation leaders at the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) annual conference in Boston where the JTA was the talk of the conference, particularly the AV program. Participants got to see the next-generation AV, the HOLON urban, which was on display. JTA also had the opportunity to speak on multiple panels to share their expertise.

Mr. Ford recognized Director Pat Sams selection to the ATPA Executive Committee and his appointment to serve as Chair of APTA's AV Innovation Committee which has been established to advance the understanding, education, and the adoption of automated vehicle technologies in public transportation. He extended a thank you to Director Brown for attending her first APTA conference.

He stated that while members of the JTA team were showcasing the Authority's work to all of America, staff was also hard at work here in Jacksonville, working with community partners who depend on the JTA each and every day. In the last month, the Authority hosted the staff of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, the Jacksonville Housing Authority, the Urban League, a group of Clay County Students, Team Florida, and a delegation from the Shreveport, Louisiana Area Transit System (aka SporTran) to tour the Autonomous Innovation Center (AIC), learn what we are doing here at the JTA, to see how we operate the system, and experience the NAVI service. The JTA truly is a blueprint, not just for Florida, but for America and the world.

Mr. Ford then shared that he recently joined members of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce and JAXUSA on a fact-finding mission to Germany and the U.K. where the delegation continued to deepen the partnership with AV partners. As this technology is constantly evolving, it is vital that we continue to deepen these partnerships to bring to market the best, most efficient and cost-effective technology to enhance the U²C and NAVI program.

He then provided an update on NAVI. The 90-day fare-free service just concluded, but during that period the JTA welcomed thousands of customers to be the first people in the United States to experience a public transportation service powered by AVs. Smart transportation planning requires vision, discipline, and foresight, the very qualities that have guided the JTA Board and leadership team, alongside the 45th Administration and the State of Florida, in advancing the NAVI corridor and the broader U²C program. Building the infrastructure before the full wave of development isn't a mistake; it's the strategy. By positioning the technology and mobility backbone now, before density and traffic surge, the JTA ensures that when the corridor's new housing, entertainment, and commercial spaces come online, the transportation network will already be in place to serve them. This is precisely how high-performing regions plan for growth rather than react to it.

He shared that the NAVI corridor represents a deliberate investment in Jacksonville's future and a testament to the strong partnership between the JTA, the City, and the State of Florida. As development along Bay Street accelerates, the infrastructure and innovation already deployed will pay dividends for decades, validating the forward-thinking leadership that built first so the region could grow smarter, safer, and stronger together. The free trial ended on September 30, 2025 and on October 1, 2025 we launched a new contact-less "Tap & Pay" system to make it easy for customers to ride NAVI for the same low fare as a fixed route bus, which you will see in the video recap shortly.

He also shared that over the next several months, the JTA team will be focused on "Moving Forward while going Back to Basics". This means that staff will continue to make great strides in mobility, innovation, and service, but are doing so by reminding ourselves that it is some of the basic things in our lives and in our work that we can't overlook or take for granted. Safety First. Our People. Being Dependable. Working Compassionately. And Caring for one another.

Mr. Ford concluded his report with a recap video of the last month and offered to answer any questions from the Board. He also asked Directors Brown and Sams if they would like to report out on their experience at the APTA Annual Transform Conference.

Director Sams shared her experiences while at APTA Annual and recognized the role that Mr. Ford and the JTA play in the transportation industry. The JTA is known by everyone and they are looking at what we are doing.

Director Brown shared that she was glad she was able to attend the conference. She said it was a wonderful experience and very exciting to learn so much about the industry. She added that from the time she arrived, attendees began asking about what the JTA is doing and how we are succeeding.

F. DIVISION REPORTS

1. ADMINISTRATION MONTHLY REPORTS – Mr. Ferguson provided the Administration Report and provided highlights related to the Compliance, Workforce Development and Small Business Enterprise.

2. FINANCE MONTHLY REPORTS – Ms. Obora provided the financial report to the Board through August and provided highlights from the processed invoices report, the agency sponsorship and membership report and procurement report.

3. OPERATIONS MONTHLY REPORT – Mr. Smith provided the Board with a few highlights of the Operations Report through September 2025. He also shared that staff spoke with Ms. Harkness that made a public comment at the September Board meeting and assisted her with the issues she shared related to crossing traffic to catch her bus. She was provided other options that does not require her crossing traffic.

4. PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Mrs. Shepler shared highlights of the Real Estate and Economic Development Report for September.

5. SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT MONTHLY REPORT – Ms. Gillis provided a snapshot of the System Development Report through September 2025.

Director Brown inquired about payment for use of the NAVI service. Mrs. Gillis shared that fares for the NAVI service began on October 1, 2025.

H. CONSENT AGENDA

No items under consent.

I. ADOPTION AGENDA

1. RESOLUTION 2025-21: AUTHORIZATION TO FILE FISCAL YEAR 2026 PUBLIC TRANSIT STATE BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM: Ms. Obora stated that staff recommends the Board adopt Resolution 2025-21 authorizing the CEO to enter into Public Transportation Grant Agreement with the FDOT for Fiscal Year 2026 Public Transit State Block

Grant Program funds totaling \$10,452,758. The FDOT will provide funding of 50 percent (\$5,226,379) and the JTA will provide a 50 percent local match (\$5,226,379).

2. RESOLUTION 2025-22: AUTHORIZATION TO FILE FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION FISCAL YEAR 2026 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION GRANT - TRANSIT CORRIDOR CLAY COUNTY RED FLEX LINE: Ms. Obora stated that staff recommends the Board adopt Resolution 2025-22 authorizing the CEO to enter into a Public Transportation Grant Agreement (PTGA) with the FDOT for the Clay County Red Line flex route with funds totaling \$220,000. The FDOT will provide 100 percent funding through October 31, 2028.

3. RESOLUTION 2025-23: AUTHORIZATION TO FILE FISCAL YEAR 2026 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION GRANT – NASSAU COUNTY EXPRESS SELECT: Ms. Obora stated that staff recommends the Board adopt Resolution 2025-23 authorizing the CEO to enter into a PTGA with the FDOT for the Fiscal Year 2026 Nassau Express Select route with funds totaling \$200,000. The FDOT will fund 100 percent.

4. RESOLUTION 2025-24: AUTHORIZATION TO FILE FISCAL YEAR 2026 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION GRANT – CLAY COUNTY EXPRESS SELECT: Ms. Obora stated that staff recommends the Board adopt Resolution 2025-24 authorizing the CEO to enter into a PTGA with the FDOT for Fiscal Year 2026 Clay County Express Select route with funds totaling \$274,500. Funding will provide operating assistance to facilitate the Fiscal Year 2026 Clay County Express Select. This grant will be funded 100 percent by the FDOT in Fiscal Year 2026.

5. RESOLUTION 2025-25: AUTHORIZATION TO FILE FISCAL YEAR 2026 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION GRANT – CLAY COUNTY BLUE FLEX LINE: Ms. Obora stated that staff recommends the Board adopt Resolution 2025-25 authorizing the CEO to enter into a PTGA with the FDOT for the Clay County Blue Line flex route with funds totaling \$194,000. The FDOT will provide 100 percent funding. No costs are expected to be incurred by JTA.

6. RESOLUTION 2025-26: AUTHORIZATION TO FILE FISCAL YEAR 2026 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION GRANT – ST. JOHNS COUNTY EXPRESS SELECT: Ms. Obora stated that staff recommends the Board adopt Resolution 2025-26 authorizing the CEO to enter into a PTGA with the FDOT for the Fiscal Year 2026 St. Johns Express Select route with funds totaling \$490,000 and to be fully funded by FDOT.

MOTION (Sams/Brown) to adopt Resolutions 2025-21 through 2025-26 for Fiscal Year 2026 Grants through the FDOT. Motion Approved (5-0).

1. **APPROVAL OF TRANSIT ASSET MANAGEMENT TIER 1 PLAN (P-25-033-F)**: Ms. Obora stated that staff recommends that the Board approve the ranked shortlist and authorize the CEO to award, negotiate and execute a contract with GFT Infrastructure, Inc., the highest ranked proposer for the Transit Asset Management (TAM) Consultant Services for the FTA mandated 2026 Tier I Plan and related continuity plan. The total cost of consulting services is not to exceed \$625,000, to be paid in installments over the course of Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027. The final TAM will be presented to the Board in September 2026 for approval.

MOTION (Sams/Brown) to approve the TAM Tier 1 Plan. Motion Approved (5-0).

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

There were no items under Service Delivery Committee.

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

1. **APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD FOR SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING (P-25-030)**: Mrs. Gillis stated that staff recommends the Board approve the short list and authorize the CEO to enter into a contract with Waste Management Services, the highest ranked responsive and responsible firm to remove solid and recycled waste from all JTA facilities. The annual cost is estimated to be \$232,083.08. The total contract value is not to exceed \$1,160,415.40 over the total five-year base period of performance with the Authority having the option to renew for additional five successive one-year periods based on available budget. Funding is available through the Local Operating Funds Fiscal Years 2026 – 2030.

Director Brown asked what company did have the contract. Mrs. Gillis responded that it was Waste Management.

MOTION (Sams/Brown) to approve the contract award for Solid Waste and Recycling. Motion Approved (5-0).

2. **DECLARATION OF SURPLUS REAL PROPERTY AND APPROVAL OF REAL PROPERTY DISPOSITION – 2751 KINGS ROAD**: Mrs. Shepler stated that staff recommends the Board officially declare certain real property as surplus and eligible for disposal through public sale or transfer to other governmental agencies. The property to be declared surplus is 2751 Kings Road, Real estate number 048204-0000 and is comprised of .11 acres. Staff also recommends the Board authorize the CEO to negotiate and execute a Purchase Sale Agreement with Abeba Admassu in the amount of \$20,000.

MOTION (Sams/Brown) to Declare the surplus of real property and approve the disposition – 2751 Kings Road. Motion Approved (5-0).

3. APPROVAL OF REAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION – 0 AVENUES WALK

BOULEVARD: Mrs. Shepler stated that staff recommends the Board authorize the CEO to negotiate and execute a Purchase Sale Agreement with UG2 Avenues Walk FL L P for the purchase of the property located at 0 Avenues Walk Boulevard, Jacksonville, Florida in the amount of \$500,000. The subject parcel is identified as Duval County Property Appraiser's Real Estate Number 155541-0514 comprised of roughly 1.06 acres. Funding for the property acquisition is through the operating contingency budget. The property is next to JTA's Avenues Walk Hub and will be used for parking in the future for park and ride events.

Director Sams inquired about the timeline to have the lot ready for use. Mrs. Shepler responded that staff plan to have it ready for use by the start of the next game day season.

MOTION (Brown/Sams) to approve the real property acquisition of 0 Avenues Walk.
Motion Approved (5-0).

N. OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business.

O. NEW BUSINESS

No New Business

Mr. Ford stated that the APTA annual report has been provided to each of the Board members.

Mr. Milian stated that the Board Nominating Committee met prior to the Board meeting. The committee will meet again before the December 2025 Board meeting.

Councilman Johnson stated he has some wonderful gifts from the City to give to the guests that have been visiting JTA and the City. He shared that he is looking forward to the JTA attending some of the City Council's Committee meetings in the next couple of weeks so his counsel colleagues can hear about the great work JTA is doing.

Councilman Johnson acknowledged all the excitement at the Jaguars game with the NAVI vehicles and Holon's AV being on-site for the public to see.

He congratulated Mr. Ford and Director Sams on their appointments with APTA, as well as Director Sams for being named a Woman with Valor this year. He also thanked Mr. Ford and the JTA team for all of the work they are doing to connect the community.

Councilman Johnson then shared his thoughts on some recent statements he read that the NAVI order should be cancelled. He does not agree with this statement as this project sets Jacksonville apart, which can be seen by all of the delegations that come to visit Jacksonville and

learn about NAVI. He closed by saying thank you to the JTA for bringing Jacksonville into the future.

Director Brown shared her appreciation of having Councilman Johnson as the JTA Council Liaison. She also shared her appreciation of the vision and enthusiasm he has for the JTA.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m.


Patricia Gillum Sams, Secretary


Aundra Wallace, Vice-Chair