MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JACKSONVILLE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2026

The regular Board meeting of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) was held on Wednesday, July 29, 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
Greer Johnson Gillis, SVP System Development
Jeffery Smith, SVP Operations
Jessica Shepler, SVP Public Affairs
Randall Barnes, SVP Finance

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

OTHERS PRESENT
Katie Smith, Board Administrator
Richard Milian, General Counsel
Rory Diamond, Council Liaison

A. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Wallace called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m. and thanked the Board for attending the meeting and the work session that was held prior to the Board meeting.

He also thanked the Board for the in-depth discussion related to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) search process, the proposed Liquidity Management Facility and the Transit Development Plan (TDP) annual update at the work session.

Director Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Smith provided roll call to confirm a quorum.

Chair Wallace shared the Safety Message for the Month of July: "Be the Reason Someone Else Stays Safe Today."

Chair Wallace turned the floor over to Mr. Ford who stated: "Today is a day filled with mixed emotions. While I am excited about the opportunity to serve as President and CEO of Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), it is difficult to say goodbye to an organization, a city, and a community that have become such an important part of my life. When I accepted the privilege of leading the JTA, I knew we had tremendous opportunities ahead of us. What I could not have imagined was how much we would accomplish together.

None of our successes belong to one individual. They belong to this Board, whose vision, trust, and willingness to embrace innovation allowed JTA to think differently. They belong to our executive leadership team and every employee—from our bus operators, maintenance technicians, customer service representatives, and safety professionals to our planners, engineers, administrative staff, and everyone who works tirelessly every day to keep this organization moving.

Transportation is ultimately about people. It is about connecting someone to a job, a doctor's appointment, an education, their family, or an opportunity that changes the trajectory of their life. We are in the business of creating opportunity."

He shared an overview of the challenges that the Authority faced as well as the numerous successes during his tenure. He also thanked the JTA employees who have inspired him every day, and serving as their CEO has been one of the greatest honors of his professional life. To this Board, thank you for your confidence, your guidance, and your partnership. Leadership requires trust, and you gave me the opportunity to lead boldly.

Mr. Ford stated: "While I am excited about the opportunity to lead DART, my commitment to JTA remains unwavering through my final day of service. I am fully committed to ensuring a smooth, thoughtful, and seamless transition for this Board, our employees, our customers, and our community. Working closely with the Board, I will continue to focus on the needs of this organization through October 21, ensuring that key initiatives continue moving forward and that my successor inherits an organization positioned for continued success. Leadership is not simply about beginning new chapters—it is also about ending them well." And "Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving this remarkable community. It has truly been the honor of a lifetime. May God continue to bless each of you, the JTA, the City of Jacksonville (City), and the important work that lies ahead."

Members of the Board shared their appreciation of Mr. Ford and his impact on the community over the last 13 plus years, his mentorship and that his shoes will be hard to fill. They wished him luck as he moves on DART and know that he will do great work.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 28, 2026 BOARD WORK SESSION AND BOARD MEETING

MOTION (Brown/Sams) to approve the minutes from May 28, 2026. Motion Approved (7-0).

C. COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISON – Chair Wallace welcomed Councilman Diamond and stated the Board and JTA look forward to working with him. Councilman Diamond acknowledged the big changes the JTA has in the next couple of months. There is massive structural deficit, but JTA is not alone in the deficits. He shared that the councilmembers are assessing the option to reopen the projects connected to the Local Option Gas Tax (LOGT) to renegotiate the current contract and open up money to fill gaps. On behalf of the full council, the Connexion Service is important and there is opportunity to work with the citizens and his elected colleagues to find funding to ensure to assistance with service for the disabled community. Councilman Diamond also wished his good friend and Leadership Jacksonville 2014 classmate, Nat Ford the absolute best in Dallas.

D. AUTHORITY RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Ford then recognized the employees for the months of June and July 2026.

June Operator: Felius Nelson

July Operator: Chantel Daniels Jones

June Maintenance Employee: Wilfredo Chavez

July Maintenance Employee: Tonio Lindsey

June Administrative Employee: Mary Bledsoe

July Administrative Employee: Christopher Herring

E. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: There were three public comments.

1. **Jose Morales:** Mr. Morales stated that he is the Vice Chair of the Jacksonville Transportation Advisory Council (JTAC). He thanked Mr. Ford, the Board and staff, for all the innovation that has been created in the last seven years. He then shared that although he has concerns related to paratransit and transparency, he does appreciate the stakeholder meeting group meetings with JTA staff to help during the changes with Connexion and Connexion Plus, as well as the new Uber option – which is working amazing. He would appreciate more collaboration to engage the customers before making any changes to allow the community to plan for it.

Director Vallencourt inquired about how many public meetings were held related to service or fare changes and how many attendees. Mrs. Shepler responded there were a total of 6 with 60 attendees.

2. **Jeramie Rayner:** Mr. Rayner stated that while the JTA is transitioning to potentially reduced service, he wanted to address technology. The real time data does not seem to be working properly and that needs to be tightened up because any changes that are made to services, may cause longer wait times for customers – the information needs to be accurate. There is also an issue with the app and actual schedule book, a they do not match and asked that it be corrected.

3. **Cornell Oliver:** Mr. Oliver shared his concerns that were provided to him related to money being misspent since COVID, as well as allowing operators to give courtesy rights. The JTA is now planning to cut service because of a decision made at the top and feels that everyone needs to held accountable for their own decisions. He added that JTA needs to get away from FDOT and that tolls need to be brought back.

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 and stated that over the last month we've had many positive developments, engagements and activities which demonstrate the energy, capacity, and dedication that all of us have here at the JTA each day.

He shared some highlights since the last Board meeting.

The JTA is pleased to welcome Randall Barnes as our new Chief Financial Officer. Randall brings extensive experience in public sector finance, including the City and the JEA, and I am confident his expertise will strengthen the Authority's financial stewardship and support our long-term strategic objectives.

He also welcomed Councilman Rory Diamond as the newly appointed Council Liaison. We are looking forward to you joining us and everything you will bring to the team. He added that the JTA wants to recognize Council Member Rahman Johnson who served as the JTA liaison for the last two years. The Board and staff will do a proper recognition of Councilman Johnson at the next Board meeting to honor his service to the JTA through the presentation of a Board approved resolution.

Mr. Ford stated that he was honored to join Vice Chair Patricia Gillum Sams and Director Alan Hopkins at the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Transit Board Members (TBM) and Transit Board Administrators (TBA) Seminar. The conference brought together transit executives and governing board members from across North America to discuss governance, best practices, federal transportation policy, workforce development, innovation, and the future of public transportation. He added highlights from the seminar and shared the importance of JTA being engaged in the national association and attending APTA events, seminars and conferences.

He also recognized and congratulated Vice Chair Sams on her appointment as Campaign Chair for the American Cancer Society, in executive leadership with the American Heart Association.

The JTA continued investing in the next generation of transportation leaders through several educational and community engagement initiatives. Staff welcomed students from Abyssinia R.E.A.C.H. Academy to the Armsdale Test & Learn Facility for hands-on STEM activities and demonstrations of emerging mobility technologies. The Authority also partnered with SHINE, LLC and Sanctuary on 8th Street to introduce students to autonomous mobility, while Girl Scouts participating in the Gateway Council STEM Camp explored transportation innovation through interactive learning activities aboard the Mobile Command Center.

The JTA also had the opportunity to engage residents at Fleet Landing WELLInspired Living, sharing how autonomous transportation technologies can improve accessibility, independence, and mobility for people of all ages. These outreach efforts continue to reinforce the Authoriy's commitment to education, innovation, and meaningful community engagement.

Mr. Ford announced that the JTA continues to receive national and international recognition for its leadership in autonomous mobility and advanced transportation technologies. The Neighborhood Autonomous Vehicle Innovation (NAVI) service continues operating successfully within the Bay Street Innovation Corridor (BSIC) while planning activities for future phases of the Ultimate Urban Circulator (U^2C) Program continue advancing. Interest in Jacksonville's autonomous mobility ecosystem remains exceptionally strong as transportation agencies, technology companies, elected officials, and industry leaders continue visiting the Authority to learn from our implementation experience. He shared highlights of the many tours that were provided to those that came to Jacksonville to learn about the autonomous program.

The JTA was recognized by the Florida Public Transportation Association with the 2026 Best Workforce Development Marketing Award for the "Better Together" campaign. This recognition reflects the outstanding work of our Marketing, Communications, and Community Engagement teams in highlighting the dedicated employees who deliver exceptional service every day and reinforces JTA's commitment to strengthening workforce recruitment, community engagement, and organizational culture.

He shared that the JTA welcomed its 2026 Summer Intern Class. These talented students will spend the coming weeks working alongside employees, gaining firsthand experience in public transportation while contributing to projects across the organization. Investing in the next generation of transportation professionals is an important part of JTA's commitment to workforce development and appreciates the many employees who have volunteered their time to mentor and support these future leaders.

Mr. Ford shared a video of activities over the last month.

He then turned the floor over to Vice Chair Sams and Director Hopkins to share their experience or take away from the TBM/TBA Seminar.

Director Sams thanked the JTA for her opportunity to represent the Board at the annual TBM/TBA Seminar. It was a chance to meet will fellow TBMs from the across the county and it was an honor to join Mr. Ford for the session as well as joining a session as a panelist to share the reasons she serves the Authority.

Director Hopkins concurred with Director Sams. One thing he realized that agencies across the country are facing the same challenges – no one has a growing budget. It was an opportunity to continue to learn about the industry.

H. CONSENT AGENDA

1. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD FOR OVERHEAD DOOR REPLACEMENT – MYRTLE AVENUE OPERATIONS CAMPUS (P-26-006)

MOTION (Sams/Brown) to approve the Consent Agenda as staff recommends. Motion Approved (7-0).

I. ADOPTION AGENDA

1. RESOLUTION 2026-10: AUTHORIZATION TO FILE FISCAL YEAR 2027 TRANSIT DISADVANTAGED TRIP AND EQUIPMENT GRANT – CLAY COUNTY: Mr. Ferguson stated that staff recommends the Board adopt Resolution 2026-10 authorizing the CEO to file and execute the application documents required by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (FCTD) for the Fiscal Year 2027 Trip and Equipment Grant Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Program in the amount of $483,035 for services in Clay County.

2. RESOLUTION 2026-11: AUTHORIZATION TO FILE FISCAL YEAR 2027 TRANSIT DISADVANTAGED TRIP AND EQUIPMENT GRANT – DUVAL COUNTY: Mr. Ferguson stated that staff recommends the Board adopt Resolution 2026-11 authorizing the CEO to file and execute the application documents required by the FCTD for the Fiscal Year 2027 Trip and Equipment Grant TD Program in the amount of $1,522,994 for services in Duval County.

3. RESOLUTION 2026-12: AUTHORIZATION TO FILE FISCAL YEAR 2027 TRANSIT DISADVANTAGED TRIP AND EQUIPMENT GRANT – NASSAU COUNTY: Mr. Ferguson stated that staff recommends the Board adopt Resolution 2026-12 authorizing the CEO to file and execute the application documents required by the FCTD for the Fiscal Year 2027 Trip and Equipment Grant TD Program in the amount of $827,841 for services in Nassau County.

The JTA is the Community Transportation Coordinator for Clay, Duval and Nassau Counties and is applying for TD Trust Fund grants from the FCTD. These grants will be used to provide reimbursement for non-sponsored trips in the respective county based on an agreement between the JTA and FCTD.

MOTION (Vallencourt/Sams) to adopt Resolutions 2026-10 (Clay County), 2026-11 (Duval County) and 2026-12 (Nassau County) for TD Trip and Equipment Grants. Motion Approved (7-0).

J. SAFETY, AUDIT AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

(Hopkins, Committee Chair)

Director Hopkins stated that there was a story about the JTA's safety record compared to other cities and transit authorities and he wanted to make it clear that it is safer on a bus in Jacksonville than on the street, and Jacksonville is a safe city.

He shared that the Safety, Audit and Compliance Committee joined the Service Delivery Committee in recent meetings because safety and security deserve clear oversight and direct accountability. The important point is that management continues to be vigilant about where the risks are, what is causing them, and what needs to be done about them. The issues are not the same across every service. Fixed-route buses face one set of operating risks, while Connexion faces another. Management is looking at those differences instead of relying on a one-size-fits-all response. That matters because good safety management should be practical. We should identify the problem, address the cause, hold people accountable for the things within their control, and make sure the resources are going toward actions that actually reduce risk.

Current efforts are focused on areas such as fixed-object collisions, pedestrian and e-bike awareness, curb and clearance awareness, mobility-device securement, fatigue management, and human trafficking prevention. We also have to keep these events in proper perspective. Every incident matters and deserves review, but the responsibility is to understand both frequency and severity, learn from what happened, and avoid overstating or understating the risk. The goal is not more bureaucracy - The goal is safer service.

That means using the information we have, correcting problems when we find them, reinforcing individual and management accountability, and making sure lessons learned translate into better operations. This partnership between the committees has been an excellent one. As we prepare for the August Board Retreat, we look forward to discussing how these trends will shape the Authority's Safety, Security, and Safety Management System priorities for the coming fiscal year.

K. <u>FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE</u>

(Brown, Committee Chair)

Director Brown stated that there are three items under the Finance and Administration Committee, but first let me thank staff for the information that was provided under the Finance and Administration Committee portion of the work session, as well as the meetings that were held individually with Board Members at the end of June and early July related to the Liquidity Management Facility.

Beginning in mid-August, the Finance and Administration will start meeting twice a month. Mid-month virtually and then in person on Board Day. I hope my fellow Board members will be able to attend these meetings as we continue to work through the Fiscal Year 2026 and Fiscal Year 2027 budgets.

1. **APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD FOR TELEPHONY SYSTEM (B-26-012):** Mr. Barnes stated that staff recommends the Board authorize the CEO to award and execute a contract with Hayes E-Government Resources through a piggyback procurement utilizing GSA Contract Number GS-35F-0156V for the purchase of Unified Communications and Contact Center solution services. The contract term is five years with no renewal options for a total cost not to exceed $1,084,871.46.

This project is funded through Fiscal Year 2020 5307 Federal Funds in the amount of $903,604 and Fiscal Year 2026 Local Operating Funds in the amount of $181,267.46.

MOTION (Brown/Sams) to approve the contract award for telephony system. Motion Approved (7-0).

2. **APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AMENDMENT FOR ENGINES AND ENGINE PARTS:** Mr. Barnes stated that staff recommends the Board authorize the CEO to execute a contract amendment to Cummins Inc, doing business as Cummins Sales and Service in the amount of $1.55M to increase compensation for the additional purchase of engines and engine parts until the expiration of contract on June 1, 2028. The amended total contract value is not-to-exceed $4.55M over the base period of the performance.

This contract utilizes local operating funds in the fiscal year the purchase orders are initiated and issued. All future purchases are contingent upon approved available budget in the respective fiscal year through the period of performance.

Mr. Smith confirmed yes to Director Vallencourt's inquiry that there is still approximately 18 months left the contract and the approved contract amount will be maxed out without the additional funds.

MOTION (Brown/Sams) to approve the contract amendment for engines and engine parts. Motion Approved (7-0).

3. **RESOLUTION 2026-13: APPROVAL OF LIQUIDITY MANAGEMENT FACILITY:** Mr. Barens stated that staff recommends the Board adopt Resolution 2026-13 authorizing the CEO, or designee, to negotiate and execute a credit agreement and related financing documents with Fifth Third Bank for a liquidity management facility in the form of a $40 million revolving Line of Credit (LOC) secured by a subordinate lien on Transportation Sales Tax (TST) revenues, on substantially the same terms summarized in this memorandum. The JTA seeks Board approval to enter into a $40 million hybrid revolving line of credit facility with Fifth Third Bank to

provide operational and capital liquidity to address typical mismatches between cash inflows and expenditure requirements. The facility is sized to provide adequate liquidity support, allowing JTA to maintain uninterrupted operations and capital project delivery over time. The revolving structure provides flexibility to draw and repay funds as needed, minimizing borrowing costs while strengthening JTA's overall liquidity.

The direct costs are minimal, consisting of a one-time $20,000 upfront fee. Interest on drawn funds is variable, tied to Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) at the time of drawing (Taxable: SOFR + 0.75 percent and Tax-Exempt: 79 percent of SOFR + 0.78 percent), and a 0.25 percent -unused capacity fee on undrawn committed funds.

This will provide operational and capital liquidity to address typical mismatches between cash inflow and expenditure requirements. The facility for approval is a $30 million tax bill, has a $30 million taxable revolving charge, supporting operating cash flow requirements and $10 million tax exempt revolving to support capital grant programs.

Chair Wallace asked for confirmation that the information discussed at the work session that to other independent agencies have LOC's in place and that the interest rate on JTA's LOC is at market or below. Mr. Barnes confirmed that other agencies, including those in the City do have a LOC and this LOC is at market. Chair Wallace stated that the rates are competitive based.

MOTION (Hopkins/Brown) to adopt Resolution 2026-13, approving the liquidity management facility. Motion Approved (7-0).

L. SERVICE DELIVERY COMMITTEE

(Glober, Committee Chair)

Director Glober stated there are no items for the Service Delivery Committee but did share that the Service Delivery Committee met prior to the work session that took place before this Boad meeting. Staff provided updates on the Fare Modification Pilot that is currently in effect, but will end on July 31, 2026. The staff held community meetings in July 2026 in locations around Duval County, with virtual options to join those meetings. Staff also provided updates on Service Delivery showing that ridership continues to grow and is well ahead of the prior year and customer metric are improving on both fixed route and Connexion. He acknowledged the work by staff on the matter with Connexion versus Connexion Plus. The team is delivering on a commitment that this Board made in the spring where it elected to listen to the community and have staff and the community work together to come to a solution for the paratransit service.

M. LONG RANGE PLANNING AND SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

(Sams, Committee Chair)

Director Sams shared that there was one item for the committee. She then provided a summary of the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization meeting that was held in June 2026.

1. **APPROVAL OF 2026 ANNUAL TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE:** Mrs. Gillis stated that staff recommends that the Board approve the proposed updates associated with the 2026 TDP. As discussed at the work session, the JTA is mandated by state statutes to conduct a major update of its TDP every five years with annual updates occurring in the interim to reflect minor changes and progress. The 2026 TDP annual update follows the Florida Department of Transportation guidance and serves as a progress report for the on-going operational adjustments, as well as new investments in the overall transit system following the adoption of the 2025 TDP major update in June 2025. This document, covering the years 2026–2035, serves as a strategic roadmap for improving and expanding public transportation across the Northeast Florida region.

The budget for the development of the Plan was $50,340.32. This project was funded using Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 funds received and allocated by the JTA for planning studies. The project is funded at an 80 percent federal share with a 20 percent local match.

MOTION (Vallencourt/Sams) to approve the annual TDP Update. Motion Approved (7-0).

N. OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business.

O. NEW BUSINESS

There were two items under new business.

1. **RESOLUTION 2026-14: RECOGNITION OF RAHMAN JOHNSON**

MOTION (Brown/Vallencourt) to adopt Resolution 2026-14. Motion Approved (7-0).

2. **CREATION OF CEO SELECTION COMMITTEE:** Mr. Milian stated that based on the discussion at the work session that will create a CEO Selection Committee, which will be a committee of the whole.

The Board agreed that all Board members will attend these meeting. Mr. Milian confirmed that a Board member can only vote if they are in attendance, per Florida Statute.

MOTION (Sams/Vallencourt) to approve the creation of the CEO Selection Committee. Motion Approved (7-0).

G. DIVISION REPORTS

The Division Reports were provided to the Board.

1. **ADMINISTRATION MONTHLY REPORT:** Mr. Ferguson provided an update on the Administration Division, including standing up the Continuity of Operations Plan as the Authority works through reduced workforce and furloughs.

2. **FINANCE MONTHLY REPORTS:** Mr. Barnes provided the Board with an update and overview of the financials through June 2026.

3. **OPERATIONS MONTHLY REPORT:** Mr. Smith shared highlights of the Operations Division through June, including On Time Performance and Ridership.

Director Vallencourt asked how much money has been saved with the addition of Uber Opt-in. Mr. Smith stated that in the last month the cost avoidance was approximately $250,000.

4. **PUBLIC AFFAIRS MONTHLY REPORT:** Mrs. Shepler shared details of the Public Affairs Report and Customer Service. She also provided updates on the recent community meetings and on Economic Development related to the ongoing negotiations with Corner Lot for the Artea Ground Lease.

5. **SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT MONTHLY REPORT:** Mrs. Gillis provided information related to System Development and the respective projects under the division including updates on NAVI service.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

Aundra C. Wallace

Aundra Wallace, Chair

SEAL

Max Glober, Secretary