

**MINUTES OF THE
JACKSONVILLE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
RETREAT SERIES: SESSION V
SEPTEMBER 18, 2020**

The JTA Board of Directors held a Retreat Series: Session V on September 18, 2020. Board of Directors and Staff attended virtually. The Retreat Series included updates by the Board Committee(s).

BOARD ATTENDEES: Kevin Holzendorf, Ari Jolly, Debbie Buckland, and Ray Driver

JTA STAFF ATTENDEES: Nathaniel P. Ford Sr., Cleveland Ferguson III, Bonnie Todd, Bernard Schmidt, Greg Hayes, Greer Gillis, Andy Rodgers, Kelli O’Leary, Katie Smith, Jessica Shepler, Michael Corbitt, Khisha Dukes, Monique Thompson, Richard Clark and Alexander Traversa.

OTHER ATTENDEES: Larry Parks, FDOT and Richard Milian, General Counsel

WELCOME: Chairman Holzendorf Jolly called the Retreat Series: Session IV to order at 11:03 a.m. and welcomed the Board Members, JTA staff and guests.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Chairman Holzendorf asked for public comments. There were no public comments.

CEO REMARKS: Mr. Ford stated this is the last session of the Retreat Series. He wanted to thank the Board for being a part of the Retreat Meetings. The Board gave a lot of feedback and guidance. Mr. Ford stated that he feels this has been the key to the JTA’s success in the past. He added it is definitely the key to the JTA’s success going into the future.

Mr. Ford provided a recap of the Retreat Series, which provided updates, insight and details from all six of the JTA Divisions. He stated the series of meetings started on September 12, 2020 with our finances. Greg Hayes, CFO and Investment Consultants provided the Board with a look into the Authority’s Financials. They provided information on where the JTA currently stands and looked at the future of our investments. Mr. Ford stated something that is important is the investment JTA making in environmental, social and governance. He stated Mr. Hayes also gave an update on the impact of COVID-19, the impact it had on our FY2020 budget and preparations that needed to be made for our Fiscal Year 2021 budget. We also shared the good news that all of the CARES Act Funding, \$42.6 million has been approved and awarded to the JTA.

Mr. Ford thanked the Board for their time, providing guidance and governance that they have given the organization being seen as one of the best transportation agencies in the nation.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Mr. Ferguson stated there is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes. He stated Richard Clark, Capital Projects Officer and Project Lead will give a presentation on the Economic Development along with Alexandra Traversa. Both helped shape the comprehensive plan amendments successfully with the Jacksonville City Council. It is now before the State of Florida. None of this would be possible without the stewardship of Jessica Shepler,

Assistant Vice President of Public Affairs and Ivan Rodriguez, and Director of Government & Industry Affairs, both of which fall under Mr. Ferguson's Administration Division.

Mr. Clark gave a presentation on the First Coast Commuter Rail. He stated we have a great partnership with FEC and Virgin Brightline to date. They are 100 percent supportive of our plan. Mr. Clark stated rail work, because of reliability is critical to our economic push in Northeast Florida. We looked at this as a way for JTA to help continue to drive the economic development of the entire region.

Mr. Clark stated the system will be approximately 24 miles of new track. There will be 30 minute peak trips and 60 minute off peak. The rough order of magnitude costs is about \$395 million total capital costs to do the construction.

Director Driver stated it makes a lot of sense to get this done. He inquired about how, with high-level thoughts, on how we get this to the airport and the Northside in the future, or East/West. How do we get to Cecil and Baker County. Director Driver stated as the City continues to grow he believes those two areas will continue to grow with it. He stated there has been a focus on the Northwest quadrant with the Chamber. Mr. Clark stated in previous studies the North and West were looked at. It is all CSX and a different railroad we will need to work with. Mr. Clark stated the routes do have to run through CSX. There are some corridor issues going north but none we cannot overcome.

Mr. Ford stated because of the ridership richness, it makes it much more viable than some of the other segments at this moment. He stated that by making this segment successful it clearly leads to the connection to the airport. Chairman Holzendorf has tapped me on the shoulder a number of times about because it is a complete system and not one segment. The origins and destinations from Jacksonville to St. Augustine ridership level supports not as rich ridership level as from downtown to the airport. Mr. Ford stated from a system prospective, we start with the most productive one and that will allow us to build subsequent phases particularly the northwest definitely connecting Cecil Field. It is similar to what we have done with the First Coast Flyer in terms of its design and how you look at it in multiple phases and build upon the ridership base. Chairman Holzendorf stated this is the right move. Director Buckland asked about the corridor issues and how many years will it take to have this in place. Mr. Clark stated the existing north corridor routes through some neighborhoods. He stated the straighter line was abandoned a long time ago. It is more about the route and not impacting the community. CSX will need to be a partner with this. Ms. Shepler stated the presentation to the Board is the first step in rolling this out. She stated staff had conversations with officials in Duval and St. Johns Counties and staff will begin to present to the local public officials, community leaders and stakeholders in Jacksonville and St. Johns County, as well as in Tallahassee and Washington, DC. Ms. Shepler stated the City Council President requested a meeting. The City Council President would like to bring the train station back downtown. This would give us an opportunity to brief him on how to accomplish that goal. Ms. Shepler stated we now want to take the presentation to the City's Chief Administration Officer and Chief of Staff to get their initial thoughts and buy in on the next steps. She stated there is a similar situation in St. Johns County. Ms. Shepler stated follow-up meetings will be set-up with St. Augustine Mayor Regan and an initial briefing with the new County Manager Hunter Conrad. She stated our Legislative Delegation will be key to support this multi-county project.

Ms. Shepler stated CSX has opposed passenger rail within their right-of-way and on their tracks. She stated Daniel Davis, the Chamber of Commerce President will be very helpful in moving forward with our conversations with CSX. She stated in addition we will have to develop a funding strategy that includes Duval, St. Johns, State and Federal Partners in order to share in the cost. Once the initial vision of the project is presented then we will have to come up with how to fund the project. Director Buckland asked about socializing it with the community. Ms. Shepler stated having community input will be another key. She stated there has been community input just through the studies that were taken over the years. Mr. Ford stated there has been a number of surveys of St. Johns and Duval County residents. We will need to have a similar public outreach process. Mr. Ford stated we did not want to start the public outreach process before we spoke to the influential stakeholders to make sure they were comfortable. He asked Mr. Clark what was the timeline of construction schedule. Mr. Clark stated the construction schedule is 18 months to 2 years. Director Jolly stated we have to ensure we have the bandwidth and resources. Mr. Ford stated we do have to have a discussion on staff capacity and financial investment. At this point, all of this has been done on JTA. Mr. Ford stated he thinks we are very capable of doing this maybe even more but we do want to have that conversation with the Board in terms of prioritizing, budgets, and projects and what we want to do going into the future.

Director Jolly shared her agreement with the approach. She stated that when speaking with stakeholders it is important to have the data. Director Buckland stated it might be the right time to deal with the airport piece and CSX. She stated I hope we do not forget about that because this is too hard or this is too easy. Mr. Ferguson stated that is something we are internally processing because there is a community CRA in and around the airport. There are federal aviation dollars that could potentially help support the project. He stated, based on some preliminary conversation there is some positive energy coming from Aviation Authority. Director Parks stated this is a good plan. He stated there has always been a component to bring rail back to the Prime Osborne.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Ms. Shepler stated they anticipate a planning work session meeting of the Legislator after the election. She stated Committee meetings could potentially begin in December. This upcoming year the session will begin in March. There is a lot of discussion of how the Legislator will handle coming back to session due to the pandemic. They are discussing whether the House and Senate will stagger their Committee meetings. There is discussion of not allowing public to the Capitol. We anticipate a lot of meetings will take place virtually.

Ms. Shepler stated we will be working on several policy issues, one is to increase our ground lease authority from 40 years, which is currently in our state statute, to 99 years. This initiative was pursued half-way through the session and wanted to place this amendment in the overall transportation bill. As COVID-19 ramped up, a lot of the policy bills did not go through. This year it will be put in as a standalone bill and not have to wait for the transportation bill. By having this amendment, it puts us on equal footing with the allowance that is made for the FDOT and fellow agencies around the state.

Ms. Shepler stated they will also be looking at the possible amendments for Procurement Relief under the Consultant Competitive Negotiation Act (CCNA) for AV projects. This would give us relief as it relates to the mandate that requires three responses to be submitted from potential bidders. The reason we are looking at this relief is because we are looking at a newer technology.

Ms. Shepler stated they continue to monitor the Volkswagen settlement. The State is still working on the plan to award the funding. Right now, the focus for the funding is on School Buses. Ms. Shepler stated they reached out to JTA with interest in supporting funding for some of our vehicles and potentially a new motor for the Ferry. This is just an initial conversation that happened this past week. Director Buckland asked how much funding. Director Jolly asked would it be appropriate to share the information at this time. Mr. Ford stated it was tied to some projects and can be shared with the Board. He stated you have to file a grant with others who were impacted in the State.

Mr. Ferguson stated as we begin to socialize these, the real estate is going to start going up in and around the footprint we are undertaking. He stated in order to keep cost down we may have to extend our risk tolerance to secure some of the real estate holdings and partnership with the private sector. Chairman Holzendorf ask about NDAs in the public sector. Mr. Ferguson stated with the Public Records laws in Florida and to have the exact Procurement process it can be difficult.

ROUNDTABLE: Chairman Holzendorf stated JTA does a lot. He appreciates the time and dedication of all the Board Members.

Director Driver stated he cannot wait to ride a commuter train in Jacksonville.

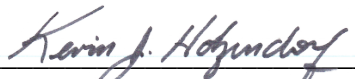
Director Jolly stated that what we do, can have a profound impact on our community years later.


ACTION ITEMS/NEXT STEPS: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURN: Chairman Holzendorf stated that the Board Work Session is 12:00 p.m. and the Board Meeting will be held on September 24, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

There being no more discussion, the Retreat Session adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

SEAL


Kevin J. Holzendorf, Chairman


Debbie Buckland, Secretary