

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JACKSONVILLE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026**

The regular Board meeting of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) was held on Thursday, January 22, 2026 at JRTC, 100 LaVilla Center Drive, Jacksonville, Florida 32204.

BOARD MEMBERS

Aundra Wallace, Chair
Patricia Sams, Vice Chair
Max Globber, Secretary
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

Elaine Brown, Treasurer

OTHERS PRESENT

Katie Smith, Board Administrator
Chris Geraci,
VP Safety and Security
Richard Milian, General Counsel
Rahman Johnson, Council Liaison

A. **CALL TO ORDER** – Vice Chair Wallace called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. and thanked the Board for attending the meeting.

Director Globber led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Smith provided roll call to confirm a quorum.

Chair Wallace recognized the successful State of the Authority (SOTA) that the JTA held the day before the Board meeting. He shared his appreciation of keynote speaker, Former Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Administrator Jane Williams and special guest from the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Seval Oz, senior advisor for the Office of Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology.

Chair Wallace thanked the board members for attending the work session held prior to the Board meeting. He shared his appreciation of staff presenting on topics such as: First Coard Rail Study, updates on the Fare Modification Pilot and Connexion Plus, which will come to the Board for consideration later in the meeting. There was also information presented on an item that is on the meeting agenda related to the design and environmental study for the Ultimate Urban Circulator (U²C) Phase III neighborhood extensions. This provided an opportunity for in-depth discussion and for Board members to have their questions answered. The Board will defer this item (M.2 on the agenda) to a later date.

Chair Wallace shared the Safety Message for the Month of January: “When Safety is First, You Last.”

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 22, 2026 BOARD WORK SESSION AND BOARD MEETING

MOTION (Glober/Sams) to approve the minutes from January 22, 2026. Motion Approved (4-0).

C. COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISON – Councilman Johnson will make his comments at the end of the meeting.

D. AUTHORITY RECOGNITIONS

January Bus Operator: Shawn Anderson

January Maintenance Employee: Trampas Lee

January Administrative Employee: LaRoy Covington

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

1. **Jose Morales:** Mr. Morales thanked the JTA leadership for considering to keep Connexion Plus and listening to the community. The service allows for independence. He offered assistance to find a solution to make the service sustainable.

2. **Eduardo Gonzalez:** Mr. Gonzalez shared his concerns related to cutting Connexion Plus service.

3. **Ross Davis:** Mr. Davis stated he is Chair of the JTAC and thanked the JTA for partnering with JTAC to provide paratransit services. He shared that he enjoys sharing the great services JTA provides with others across the country. He understands that losing money on the Connexion Plus service is not sustainable, but worries that cutting service will push customers away. Mr. Davis asked that the JTA continue to work with JTAC to find a solution.

4. **Sherry Mafnas-Molengraft:** Ms. Molengraft stated that she is a long-time Connexion passenger and feels that she is a voice for others. She inquired about those that are not eligible for paratransit, but are using the service. This is fraud and they should be investigated.

5. **Shelyna Mafnas:** Ms. Mafnas stated that she has been riding JTA since 2016. She is looking for a contact to discuss employment opportunities at the JTA.

6. **John Nooney:** Mr. Nooney shared details of community meetings he recently attended. He added his concerns about the City's Office of General Counsel not being represented in the community meetings. Mr. Nooney would like to see more staff ride the system and not use their personal vehicles.

7. **Debra Davis:** Ms. Davis stated that she has resided in Jacksonville for the last 19 years and serves as an access committee member for the Jacksonville Counsel for the Blind. One of the discussions their committee is having is how they can help JTA provide transportation

services to everyone, not just those with disabilities. She appreciates that JTA brought the services to the community and that it shows JTA cares. She shared her appreciation that JTA has reconsidered ending the Connexion Plus service. Ms. Davis offered ways to help subsidize the cost increase for Connexion Plus.

8. **Adrian Keve**: Ms. Keve thanked the JTA for working with the community to find a solution for the Connexion Plus service. Those in the disability community are problem solvers and could offer suggestions to come to a solution on paratransit services. She shared she does use both Connexion and Connexion Plus service. However, using the regular Connexion service for work is not dependable. She also shared her concerns on what it will cost her to travel to medical appointments.

9. **Angela Walker**: Ms. Walker wanted to echo what the rest of the community is sharing related to not eliminating Connexion Plus service. She then provided information on the cost difference for service using the new fare and that it will not be sustainable. She also suggested some other solutions to improve On Time Performance on Connexion to cut the usage of Connexion Plus.

10. **Travis Brown**: Mr. Brown shared his experience with Connexion Plus and the flexibility of the service. He asked that the JTA look at options for funding such as grants and community partnership. He would appreciate any efforts the JTA makes to come to a positive solution.

11. **Linda Levin**: Ms. Levin stated that she is the CEO of ElderSource. She shares the same concerns that have been shared, as most seniors are on a fixed income and an increase for the cost of transportation will limit opportunities and cause seniors to live in isolation and impact their quality of life. She would like to assist with finding solutions.

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

He shared that the JTA and its Union partners reached a successful resolution and finalized the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTSAP), which will be submitted to the FTA on schedule. This will ensure the continued flow of critical federal funding that supports JTA operations.

Earlier this month, Mr. Ford joined industry leaders at the Mobility Global Forum in Detroit, Michigan on a panel entitled "Public Transit, Modern Mobility, and Building Thriving Regions". As the CEO of the JTA and Chair of the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) inaugural Autonomous Vehicle (AV) and Innovation Committee, he was able to discuss the status of public transportation in America today, how new technologies like AVs reduce traffic accidents

and fatalities and reduce costs. Also, this past month, the JTA's "Safety on the Move" Bus teamed up with Drug Free Duval at the Winston Family YMCA in Riverside to offer free opioid prevention training and Narcan doses to the community. The "Safety on the Move" bus participates in several health and safety events throughout the year and it's just one of many ways the JTA is dedicated to the health, safety, and wellbeing of the people of Jacksonville.

The JTA was also proud to support the City of Jacksonville (City) in providing free transportation to the City's warming centers over these last two weeks. Believe it or not, there are many people in the City without access to heat and comfortable shelter.

Mr. Ford also shared that the national attraction of AVs and the Ultimate Urban Circulator (U²C) project show no signs of abating. Since the last Board meeting, JTA hosted delegations from the USDOT, Delta Airlines, Cobb County Georgia, and former FTA Administrator Jane Williams to tour the Automation and Innovation Center (AIC) and experience a ride on the NAVI shuttle.

He stated that the JTA is honored to be selected by America Forward as one of three recipients of their 2026 technical assistance award. This support will help advance the Emerald Trail. Through collaboration with peers nationwide, JTA is strengthening its ability to deliver critical infrastructure that reflects community needs and creates lasting impact. America Forward bills itself as a new national initiative with local DNA, realigning America's infrastructure investments with the lived realities of everyday people by providing playbooks and technical support necessary to turn policy into progress.

As was shared in the work session, JTA kicked off the year with a series of public input meetings to share with the community the service and operations updates, as well as information on the Fare Modification Pilot program that begins on February 1, 2026. The JTA team held eight public meetings across the City at different times of the day and evening to reach as many people as possible. A virtual option was also available throughout for anyone unable to attend in-person. There were approximately 150 people that attended and staff received over 300 comments and emails from the community, giving their feedback, expressing what they like about JTAs services, what their concerns are, and what they would like to see improve.

On January 21, 2026, JTA held its annual State of the Authority (SOTA) and were pleased to have several honorable officials in attendance. A clip of the remarks from keynote speaker Jane Williams, Former Administrator for the FTA was shown. Mr. Ford added that the Authority was also excited to have a surprise guest join virtually from Washington, D.C. Seval Oz, USDOT Senior Advisor for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology. Her attendance, and words of support and encouragement of the JTA are appreciated. She also highlighted the impact

of JTA's innovation. Mr. Ford shared that his remarks at the SOTA focused on some of the major milestones from 2025, such as the opening of the AIC and the launch of the NAVI service, America's first, permanent, public transportation system powered by AVs. He added that his remarks included details of Jacksonville's Mobility Vision Plan (MVP) 2050. The MVP 2050 is more than a transportation study, it's a comprehensive blueprint for how the community can build a safer, smarter, and more accessible mobility system over the next 25 years. It recognizes that Jacksonville is changing, the population is growing, the economy is diversifying and the expectations of how Jacksonville is evolving. This plan is being co-led by the JTA and the City, in collaboration with the Florida Department of Transportation, the North Florida TPO, the JAX Chamber, JEA, JAXPORT, the airport, and dozens of community partners. It's a once-in-a-generation collaboration, where government, business, education, healthcare, and residents come together with a shared goal. He thanked Chairman Wallace for providing the opening remarks and Director Sams for attending.

Mr. Ford concluded his CEO report by sharing that the JTA will be hosting a recognition ceremony for 23 employees who retired over the last year. These dedicated public servants represent over 500 years of combined tenure to the JTA and their commitment to the people of Northeast Florida. Staff looks forward to celebrating their careers and accomplishments.

N. OLD BUSINESS

Chair Wallace announced that he will begin actions for the board with old business. The board will consider approval of next steps for the Connexion Plus portion of the Fare Modification Pilot. He turned the floor over to Mrs. Shepler who provided details on the Pilot program and what happens after the pilot period. She also shared details of the public meetings that were held in January 2026 and the feedback provided by the community. After the meetings, staff and the Board discussed options to keep the Connexion Plus service.

Mrs. Shepler stated that the decision was made that Connexion Plus service will remain. She then shared a summary of services and costs associated with Connexion Plus service.

Mrs. Shepler stated that staff recommends the Board amend the Fare Modification Pilot to keep Connexion Plus and beginning March 1, 2026 adjust the fare for customers to be \$10 for the eight-mile base cost with a cost of \$3.50 per mile thereafter. This comes to the customer paying an additional .85.

Chair Wallace acknowledged those that made public comment earlier in the meeting and that the Board and staff heard them. He asked that staff push the start of the Connexion Plus pilot to April 2, 2026 to allow additional time to look at more options to be more palatable for everyone.

He also recognized Director Glober and his agreement to Chair the Ad Hoc Committee related to the Fare Modification Pilot. This Ad Hoc Committee will fall under the Service Delivery Committee that Director Glober chairs.

Director Horner shared his appreciation of the civic engagement related to this complex situation. He thanked staff for working with City and bringing findings back to the Board. He agrees with extending the date to begin the pilot for Connexion Plus.

Director Sams stated that in the work session she applauded staff and Mr. Ford's leadership for continuing the work to come to a suitable solution. She added that the Board hears the public's concerns and will continue to work with the community on this service.

Director Glober stated that he is honored to lead the Ad Hoc Committee and is excited about the program. He thanked the public for coming to the meeting and sharing their thoughts. He is optimistic that with an extension to April there will be a solution that works best for everyone.

Chair Wallace stated that the other portions of the Fare Modification Pilot not related to Connexion Plus will move forward on February 1, 2026.

Mr. Ford shared his appreciation of the Board's input and the feedback from the community and their willingness to assist with coming to a solution that works for all.

MOTION (Sams/Horner) to resend the elimination of Connexion Plus and approve the extension of the implementation of the changes to Connexion Plus fares until April 2, 2026. Motion Approved (4-0).

H. CONSENT AGENDA

No items under consent.

I. ADOPTION AGENDA

1. RESOLUTION 2026-01: ADOPTION OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AGENCY SAFETY PLAN FOR 2025 REVISION: Mr. Geraci stated that staff recommends the Board approve and adopt Resolution 2026-01, the 2025 annual revision of the JTA Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) (Revision 5, dated December 2024).

2. RESOLUTION 2026-02: ADOPTION OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AGENCY SAFETY PLAN FOR 2026 REVISION: Mr. Geraci stated that staff recommends the Board approve and adopt Resolution 202602, the 2026 annual revision of the JTA PTASP (Revision 6, dated December 2025).

MOTION (Sams/Horner) to adopt Resolutions 2026-01 and 2026-02 for Revisions to the PTSAP for 2025 and 2026. Motion Approved (4-0).

3. RESOLUTION 2026-03: CERTIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS REQUIRED BY 2024-57 LAWS OF FLORIDA: Ms. Obara stated that staff recommends the Board adopt Resolution 2026-03 certifying the JTA's general administrative costs are below the state average. Pursuant to Chapter 2024-57, Laws of Florida (LOF), each public transit provider must annually certify that its budgeted and actual general administrative costs are no greater than 20 percent above the state average administrative costs.

MOTION (Sams/Brown) to adopt Resolution 2026-03 for Certification of Administrative Costs required by 2024-57 LOF. Motion Approved (4-0).

4. RESOLUTION 2026-04: AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND FISCAL YEAR 2025 OPERATING BUDGET: Ms. Obara stated that staff recommends that Board adopt Resolution 2026-04 to authorize amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget. Pursuant to Chapter 349, Florida Statutes, the JTA budget is approved by the JTA Board of Directors. Under the Ordinance, any expenses not included in the annual budget cannot be spent by independent agencies without City Council approval. To comply with this, the Authority will submit a budget amendment to the Jacksonville City Council, along with explanations for any variances.

MOTION (Sams/Horner) to adopt Resolution 2026-04 for Authorization to Amend Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget. Motion Approved (4-0).

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

No items under Safety, Audit and Compliance (SAC), but Director Horner announced that the SAC Committee will be meeting the week after the Board meeting.

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

1. APPROVAL OF BULK FUEL PURCHASE (B-26-002): Ms. Obara stated that staff recommends that the Board authorize the CEO to award and execute a contract with Mansfield Oil Company of Gainesville, Inc., the lowest reasonable bid for the purchase of Diesel and Unleaded Fuel. The Piggyback contract was sourced under Sourcewell Contract 121522-MNF. The Contract is for a one-year base with a one-year renewal option. The total contract value for the base year is \$4,000,000 for a total contract of 8,000,000 upon exercise of the renewal option contingent upon available approved budget in that fiscal year.

MOTION (Sams/Horner) to approve the Bulk Fuel Purchase. Motion Approved (4-0).

L. SERVICE DELIVERY (Glober, Committee Chair)

1. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD FOR UNIFORM PURCHASES (P-25-024): Mr. Smith stated that staff recommends the Board to approve the ranked shortlist and authorize the CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with the top ranked firm, Galls, LLC to

supply uniforms for all eligible staff. The contract term is for a base term of five years with no option to renew. Total compensation for the base term of five years is not-to-exceed \$1,700,000. Approval of this item will allow for the purchase of staff uniforms for various job classifications, including but not limited to Operators, Operations Supervisors, Maintenance Technicians, Utility Personnel, Maintenance Supervisors, as well as personnel from Customer Service, Revenue, and Safety and Security. Executing a single contract inclusive of all required uniform types increases efficiencies and reduces overall pricing.

MOTION (Sams/Horner) to approve the Contract Award for Uniform Purchase. Motion Approved (4-0).

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

1. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD FOR DESIGN SERVICES FOR NEW ST. JOHNS RIVER FERRY VESSEL (P-26-005): Mrs. Gillis stated that staff recommends the Board authorize the CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with Elliott Bay Design Group, LLC, the highest-ranked proposer, for Design Services for a new St. Johns River Ferry Vessel. The current ferry vessel, the Jean Ribault was constructed in 1995 with an expected useful life of 30-40 years. When the Jean Ribault is taken out of service for maintenance, ferry operations must be suspended entirely. During these suspensions, motorists must detour approximately 24 miles via I-295. The purchase of a second ferry vessel will avoid ferry service being disrupted for required maintenance on the Jean Ribault.

MOTION (Sams/Horner) to approve the contract award for Design Services for new St. Johns River Ferry Vessel. Motion Approved (4-0).

2. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD FOR DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY – ULTIMATE URBAN CIRCULATOR PHASE III NEIGHBORHOOD EXTENSION (P-25-013): DEFERRED

3. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AMENDMENT FOR SUPPLEMENTAL PHASING AGREEMENT II – PHASE 1 BAY STREET INNOVATION CORRIDOR: Mrs. Gillis stated that staff recommends the Board review and approve the amendment for an extension to the JTA's Amendment for Supplemental Phasing Agreement II for Phase I BSIC with Balfour Beatty Construction, LLC. The contract amendment will extend the contract term by six months, from December 30, 2025 to June 30, 2026. An amendment to the Supplemental Phasing Agreement II for the U²C Phase I BSIC is required to align the project schedule with the updated federal grant timeline. The FTA has approved an extension of the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage

Development Grant period of performance through June 30, 2026. To maintain compliance with the grant and ensure continuity of contracted work, the period of performance for the Balfour Beatty Construction, LLC agreement must be extended accordingly.

MOTION (Sams/Horner) to approve the contract amendment for supplemental phasing agreement II for Phase I of BSIC. Motion Approved (4-0).

G. DIVISION REPORTS

1. **ADMINISTRATION MONTHLY REPORT** – Mr. Geraci in Mr. Ferguson’s absence provided the Administration Report.

2. **FINANCE MONTHLY REPORTS** – Ms. Obora provided the financial report to the Board through December 2025.

3. **OPERATIONS MONTHLY REPORT** – Mr. Smith provided the Board with the Operations Report through December 2025.

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

5. **SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT MONTHLY REPORT** – Ms. Gillis provided the System Development Report through December 2025.

O. NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business.

Councilman Johnson stated he appreciates Mr. Ford and JTA staff accepting his invitation to attend the Council’s Transportation Committee to provide information related to the Connexion Plus service. He stated that the JTA executive team presented to the committee factually with elegance, sophistication and dignity. Councilman Johnson shared his concerns related to comments that were made by a council member questioning what is being done at the JTA, and he will continue to address those comments. The majority of the City Council is behind the JTA. He added that everyone needs to work together and “that it does not have to be this or that. It can be this and...”

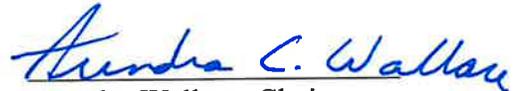
He encouraged the JTA to continue their communication and work with the community and thanked staff for their work. When there is growth, there is pain, but keep moving.

Chair Wallace thanked Councilman Johnson for his comments, and the Board feels the same and takes their role very seriously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Max Guber', written over a horizontal line.

Max Guber, Secretary

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Aundra C. Wallace', written over a horizontal line.
Aundra Wallace, Chair