

**MINUTES OF THE  
JACKSONVILLE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
BOARD WORK SESSION  
TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2025**

The Jacksonville Transportation Authority Board of Directors held a Work Session on Tuesday, July 1, 2025.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Aundra Wallace, Patricia Sams, Elaine Brown, Max Globler and Donald Horner.

**JTA STAFF PRESENT:** Nathaniel Ford, Greer Gillis, Raj Srinath, Jeffery Smith, Jessica Shepler, Heather Obora, Katie Smith, and Alexander Traversa.

**I. WELCOME:** Vice Chair Wallace called the Work Session to order at 1:09 p.m. and welcomed the Board, Staff and public.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT:** There were no requests to speak.

**III. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

a. **AFSCME Collective Bargaining Agreement:** Mr. Smith provided the Board with the history of the AFSCME that includes Road and Platform Supervisors and Dispatcher Supervisors. He then shared details of the contract and the breakdown of wages during the four-year contract term. The staff does look at peer agencies to ensure wages are competitive for JTA employees.

Director Brown asked where JTA wages fall compared to peer agencies. Mr. Smith responded that JTA is just above the middle range. Mr. Ford advised the Board that the AFSCME contract will be presented to them at the Board meeting following the work session for consideration.

**IV. LONG RANGE PLANNING AND SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT**

a. **Rosa Parks Ground Lease:** Mrs. Shepler began by recognizing Kathleen Smith for her work for JTA's economic development. She then provided details and the timeline of how the Authority got to this position for Rosa Parks and the Board's approval in September 2024 for staff to negotiate and execute the lease agreement.

Mrs. Shepler shared the terms of the 99-year ground lease. The 250-unit multi-family development will have 15 percent workforce housing, with retail on the ground floor. She then shared details of the deposit, construction period and performance bond that will be staggered as construction becomes complete. An overview of the rent that will increase by 2 percent each year

was provided.

Director Brown inquired about where the other TOD is located. Mrs. Shepler replied that it is the Artea Development connected to the Kings Avenue Station.

Vice-Chair Wallace stated that the 15 percent workforce housing will provide 37 of the 250 units for workforce. He then stated that with new members on the Board that this lease agreement will be added to the Board meeting agenda for the full Board's consideration and approval. Mr. Milian also provided some background as information for the new Board members.

**V. ROUNDTABLE:** Mr. Ford stated that NAVI service began on June 30, 2025. He thanked the Board and Vice-Chair Wallace for their support and guidance to get to the launch, which is the first of its kind in the United States. He then turned the floor over to Mrs. Gillis.

Mrs. Gillis provided the Board with details of the NAVI launch, and positive feedback from passengers. She also explained the changes that were made during the launch due to flooding along the route and how the vehicles will be rotating rapidly to ensure the batteries in the vehicles operate efficiently. As this service relies heavily on technology so adjustments and updates will continue to evolve.

Director Sams shared her excitement about the launch of this service and inquired about how information on the service and fares are being shared to ensure the public has the particulars. Mrs. Gillis stated that staff are being intentional on pushing information out using the JTA website, social media and a dedicated customer service team to meet with all of the businesses along the corridor and how JTA can serve them, their employees and customers.

Vice-Chair asked about the flooding along Water Street and Independent Drive and how it will impact the vehicles and their technology. Mrs. Gillis responded by sharing how conditions are monitored by flood sensors and the cameras along the entire corridor. She added that the vehicles can operate in a few inches of water; however, should the water get to four inches, detours in those areas will be put in place.

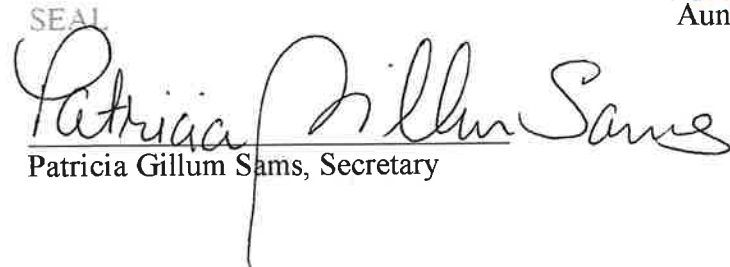
Mr. Ford added that staff has been working with City of Jacksonville on the construction that is taking place downtown so that detours can be mapped out in advance, this process is the same for flooding.

Director Brown asked how staff was getting feedback from customers. Mrs. Gillis shared that there is a QR code on the vehicles for customers to complete a survey to share their feedback, as well as the ambassadors on board the vehicles asking customers what they think of the service.

Mrs. Shepler also provided details of the lease agreement with Holon that will come to the Board for consideration at the meeting following the work session. The property is located at the JRTC. The Board and staff discussed the terms of the agreement and the history of the property.

Mr. Milian responded to inquires about any conflicts of interest for Vice-Chair Wallace or the JTA as a whole and that he does not see any conflicts.

**VI. ADJOURN:** There being no further business, the work session adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

SEAL  
  
Patricia Gillum Sams, Secretary

  
Aundra Wallace, Vice Chair