

**MINUTES OF THE
JACKSONVILLE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
BOARD WORK SESSION
THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2024**

The Jacksonville Transportation Authority Board of Directors held a Work Session Thursday, March 28, 2024 in the Board Room of the Jacksonville Regional Transportation Center located at 100 LaVilla Center Drive, Jacksonville, Florida 32204.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Debbie Buckland, Arezou Jolly, Ray Driver, Megan Hayward, and Patricia Sams.

JTA STAFF PRESENT: Cleveland Ferguson, Greer Gillis, Raj Srinath, Jeffery Smith and Katie Smith. Nathaniel Ford attended virtually.

OTHERS PRESENT: Richard Milian, General Counsel

I. WELCOME: Chair Buckland called the Work Session to order at 2:08 p.m.

Chair Buckland recognized Doreen Joyner-Howard from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) was in attendance and thanked her for being there and JTA and FDOT's partnership.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT: The Chair called for Public Comment. There were three requests by the public to comment.

1. John Nooney – He shared that he and his wife live at Pottsburg Creek. Mr. Nooney is reaching out to public entities regarding making the landing at Pottsburg Creek private. His ask of the JTA is charging stations in his area and there is funding coming from the government that would improve the green space in that area. Adding charging stations to the park would allow for golf carts, bikes and cars to be charged.

2. David Stone – Mr. Stone shared he has several concerns. The first is toddlers on the bus platform and parents/guardians not watching them, as he saw a child about to run in front of a bus. His second concern is passengers taking up seats with their personal belongings which makes other passengers ride standing. Lastly, the charging plugs in the JRTC lobby are not working properly.

3. Cornell Oliver – Mr. Oliver stated he wanted to address the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the state transportation agency and what they can do to invest in public transportation. He shared that there should be smaller bus hubs and that there should be a

streamlined process to optimize the role and work of each county in the state. Mr. Oliver concluded by asking for the Authority to look at the 1975 report to create more efficient transportation. There should be study to add more lights, particularly in the underserved communities and that the minority communities need to be put first as that is the main base for service.

III. FARE POLICY MODIFICATION/CASH FARE CAPPING: Mr. Srinath stated that the presentation is regarding two modifications to the Fare Policy.

First is to implement “Best Fare” by fare capping, which would reward passengers with free rides after they meet the fare equivalent of a daily, three day, weekly or monthly pass.

Second, to now accept Florida Driver’s license and Florida issued state IDs in addition to the seniors StarCard for passengers aged 65 or older. This change will simplify Senior’s access to free fares.

Mr. Srinath then provided examples of how fare capping works and shared the calculations to reflect savings to the customers. The MyJTA App tracks the passengers purchase and automatically credits any savings on a daily, weekly or monthly basis for each passenger.

He then shared the FTA requirements and that JTA did conduct a Title VI analysis to ensure the changes do not have a disparate impact of burden someone disproportionately. Staff also asked for input from the community through the website and phone calls, and at the six public meetings that have been held. There will be a public hearing as required on April 4, 2024.

Director Hayward inquired if there will be an issue with scanning IDs if they are not the new Real ID version. Mr. Srinath responded that he did not believe it would be an issue, but if he learns anything different, he will be sure the Board is aware.

Chair Buckland asked if staff are aware of what percent of customers do not have access to a mobile device. Mr. Ferguson stated that the Origin and Destination Study showed that 87 percent of riders have a smart device.

IV. EMERALD TRAIL UPDATE: Mrs. Gillis began with the background on applying for the \$147 million Reconnecting Communities Pilot and Neighborhood Access Discretionary Grant that would fund 5 of the remaining segments of the Emerald Trail. She added all of the advocacy with elected officials, by traveling to Washington, DC to meet with Jacksonville’s congressional delegation. White House Office of Inner Governmental Affairs, Nuria Fernandez of the FTA, among others.

Mrs. Gillis then stated as a reminder that the JTA will deliver on several of the segments of the Emerald Trail through the MobilityWorks 2.0 Program, funded by the Local Option Gas Tax (LOGT). She then went on to outline the five segments under MobilityWorks 2.0 that are included in the \$147 million grant.

There was then information provided on the history of the Emerald Trail Grant activity. Mrs. Gillis shared the breakdown of the project costs, as well as why the grant award is so significant, particularly how this accelerates the delivery of the five segments. She provided a timeline of the project delivery and the next steps. The presentation concluded by Mrs. Gillis stating that the accelerated delivery plan will be shared with the Board in May, after JTA, the City of Jacksonville (City) and GroundWork have consulted on the plan.

Chair Buckland asked if JTA would be responsible for the upfront funding for the project, or if it would come from the City. Mrs. Gillis responded that it would come from the LOGT funds, as drawdowns will be done monthly so it will not be significant amounts of money upfront. She then confirmed with the Chair that yes, the JTA has reserve funds should the need arise.

Director Hayward inquired about the various uses of the remaining LOGT funds and if JTA would be required to go back in front of the City Council. Mr. Gillis stated that she did not want to misspeak and would check into that before providing the Board with a response.

Mrs. Gillis confirmed Director Jolly's inquiry of the distance of segments the five segments.

Director Sams shared how proud she is to the JTA moving this project forward. She asked for the timeline. Mrs. Gillis stated that the completion of these five segments is 2034; however, before the grant award the completion date was 2045. She added that work continues to be done to see if the project can be accelerated any faster.

There was also discussion on the procurement process, which is a large part of the timeline.

Mr. Srinath shared that in reference to Director Hayward's earlier inquiry about the version of ID need, the older versions of the Florida Drivers Licenses were tested and there were no issues.

V. ROUNDTABLE: LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE: Mr. Ferguson provided an overview of the Florida Legislative Session that began in January 2024, and the role that JTA

played in the proposed bills. There were five bills that he shared details on and what that potential impact would be to the JTA on each of those bills.

There being no further business, the work session adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

Debbie Buckland, Chair

SEAL

Aundra Wallace, Secretary