

**MINUTES OF THE
JACKSONVILLE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
BOARD WORK SESSION
SEPTEMBER 28, 2021**

The JTA Board of Directors held a Work Session on September 28, 2021 at the Jacksonville Regional Transportation Center, 100 LaVilla Center Drive, Jacksonville, FL. There was a virtual option for staff and the public to join the meeting.

BOARD ATTENDEES: Ari Jolly, Ray Driver, Debbie Buckland, Nicole Padgett, Abel Harding and Kevin Holzendorf.

JTA STAFF ATTENDEES: Nathaniel P. Ford Sr., Cleveland Ferguson III, Lisa Darnall, Bernard Schmidt, Greg Hayes, Greer Gillis, Jacquie Gibbs and Katie Smith.

OTHER ATTENDEES: Richard Milian, General Counsel

I. **WELCOME:** Chair Jolly called the work session to order at 2:04 p.m. and welcomed Board Members, JTA Staff and guests.

II. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** There were no public comments.

III. **PARATRANSIT SERVICE CONTRACT:** Ms. Darnall provided the Board with the background of the MV contract for Paratransit Service. She explained status of the current contract, the terms therein and challenges MV is facing related to driver recruitment and retention.

Ms. Darnall presented the proposed contract amendment that would temporarily suspend operational liquidated damages so the contractor can use those funds for driver wages to aid in retention and recruitment through the term of the contract. A snapshot of the current and proposed wages for drivers and dispatchers was provided as well for the Board's information.

Mr. Hayes shared expenses and projections for paratransit services contract with MV.

Chair Jolly inquired about how this increase will assist with the deficit of drivers. Director Holzendorf asked if the Authority plans to continue to contract the service or if it will be brought in-house. Ms. Darnall responded that the increase should certainly help with driver retention and recruitment. She added that staff completed an analysis a few years ago that found that it much more cost effective to continue with an outside contractor for the service. Mr. Ford added that when this contract expires, staff will do their due diligence which will include an updated analysis before issuing a procurement for paratransit services.

Director Harding asked for clarification on how staff will continue to monitor and control expectations when the liquidated damages are not being required. Ms. Darnall explained that there will still be repercussions. The amendment gives MV four months of relief, but after that the liquidated damages will be in effect. MV will be required to provide JTA staff with regular reports related to their services. Mr. Ford added that the JTA is in the service business not the liquidated damages business. Staff feels that providing this relief for four months will allow MV to improve on-time performance.

Director Holzendorf shared that paratransit drivers are good so the problems are not with them. He suggested that MV Management be asked to come in front of the Board and explain why they are not meeting standards.

Ms. Darnall concluded by confirming that this contract amendment will come to the Board for action at the meeting following the work session.

IV. UNION NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE: Mr. Ferguson provided the Board with an overview of how the Unions for the Bus Operators and Maintenance staff were created and how they are managed and operate. He advised the reason the Unions were created was due to the need to provide the right to strike, but fortunately, the JTM Union contracts do include a no-strike clause.

Ms. Darnall then provided the background on the negotiations for Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) and the timeline that began in April 2021.

Mr. Ford added that the ATU was required to provide the JTA with notice in Fall 2020 of its intent to negotiate, but failed to do so. JTA staff did approach the ATU in April of 2021 to begin discussions for the ATU contract, as it is in the best interest of the operators, customers, and the JTA.

Ms. Darnall presented the Board with the effects and impacts of the terms in the ATU contract, and an overview of the wages and their fiscal impact.

The Board and staff discussed briefly how different areas of the contract were negotiated back and forth. Chair Jolly thanked staff for their work and dedication to get the contract to the table.

Staff concluded with a snapshot of the steps that are being taken to recruit operators.

V. FY22 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: Mr. Ferguson provided the Board with an update to the Fiscal Year 2022 Goals and Objectives based on the input from the Board during discussions at the Board Strategic Retreat held in August 2021. He stated that the matter will come before the Board for action at the meeting following the work session.

VI. ROUNDTABLE: Mr. Ferguson advised the Board that staff will bring two additional items to the Board at the meeting under new business. They are both for sponsorships for the Authority's

partners and non-profits in the Jacksonville community; The Sulzbacher Center and the Lift Every Voice and Sing Park.

Director Buckland and Director Holzendorf inquired about the timeline and any impacts or precedent being set. Mr. Ferguson responded that it is a fiduciary issue for the non-profits, but also allows the Authority to issue payment in Fiscal Year 2021.

Director Harding asked what entity is collecting the dollars and who the funds will be paid to directly. Mr. Ferguson advised that Sulzbacher Center will be paid directly and that the DuPont Foundation has created an entity to receive funds for the Lift Every Voice and Sing Park.

Chair Jolly advised members of the Board who were not on the Board a few years back, that the Board was involved in drafting and creating a policy on sponsorships to ensure there is a robust review of sponsorship requests.

There being no more discussion, the Work Session adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

SEAL



G. Ray Driver, Secretary


Ari Jolly, Chair

**MINUTES OF THE
JACKSONVILLE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
BOARD WORK SESSION
SEPTEMBER 28, 2021**

The JTA Board of Directors held a Work Session on September 28, 2021 at the Jacksonville Regional Transportation Center, 100 LaVilla Center Drive, Jacksonville, FL. There was a virtual option for staff and the public to join the meeting.

BOARD ATTENDEES: Ari Jolly, Ray Driver, Debbie Buckland, Nicole Padgett, Abel Harding and Kevin Holzendorf.

JTA STAFF ATTENDEES: Nathaniel P. Ford Sr., Cleveland Ferguson III, Lisa Darnall, Bernard Schmidt, Greg Hayes, Greer Gillis, Jacquie Gibbs and Katie Smith.

OTHER ATTENDEES: Richard Milian, General Counsel

I. WELCOME: Chair Jolly called the work session to order at 2:04 p.m. and welcomed Board Members, JTA Staff and guests.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no public comments.

III. PARATRANSIT SERVICE CONTRACT: Ms. Darnall provided the Board with the background of the MV contract for Paratransit Service. She explained status of the current contract, the terms therein and challenges MV is facing related to driver recruitment and retention.

Ms. Darnall presented the proposed contract amendment that would temporarily suspend operational liquidated damages so the contractor can use those funds for driver wages to aid in retention and recruitment through the term of the contract. A snapshot of the current and proposed wages for drivers and dispatchers was provided as well for the Board's information.

Mr. Hayes shared expenses and projections for paratransit services contract with MV.

Chair Jolly inquired about how this increase will assist with the deficit of drivers. Director Holzendorf asked if the Authority plans to continue to contract the service or if it will be brought in-house. Ms. Darnall responded that the increase should certainly help with driver retention and recruitment. She added that staff completed an analysis a few years ago that found that it much more cost effective to continue with an outside contractor for the service. Mr. Ford added that when this contract expires, staff will do their due diligence which will include an updated analysis before issuing a procurement for paratransit services.