

**MINUTES  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
JACKSONVILLE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2025**

The regular Board meeting of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) was held on Thursday, May 29, 2025.

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Aundra Wallace, Vice Chair  
Patricia Sams, Secretary  
Max Guber  
Elaine Brown

**JTA EXECUTIVE STAFF**

Nathaniel P. Ford Sr., CEO  
Cleveland Ferguson, EVP Administration  
Greer Gillis, SVP System Development  
Raj Srinath, SVP Finance and Technology  
Jeffery Smith, SVP Operations  
Jessica Shepler, SVP Public Affairs

**BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Greg Evans, FDOT

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Katie Smith, Board Administrator  
Richard Milian, General Counsel  
Geanelly Reveron, FDOT Representative

A. **CALL TO ORDER** – Vice Chair Wallace called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and thanked the Board for attending the meeting and the work session held before the meeting.

Director Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Smith provided roll call to confirm a quorum.

Vice Chair Wallace shared the Safety Message for the Month of May: “Lead the Way with Safety Today.”

B. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 15, 2025 BOARD MEETING AND APRIL 23, 2025 WORK SESSION**

**MOTION** (Brown/Sams) to approve the minutes from April 15, 2025 and April 23, 2025. Motion Approved (4-0).

C. **COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISON** – Councilman Johnson shared that he had just come from a meeting with City Council members where there were discussions around the future of Downtown Jacksonville, where the Autonomous Innovation Center (AIC) sits. He stated on behalf Council President White, President-elect Carrico, and Vice President-elect Howland, thank you for all the work that the JTA is doing. He then shared his excitement about the opening of the AIC and everyone wants a piece of Jacksonville now, due to the work of the JTA. Councilman Johnson shared the Atlanta Mayor Dickens came to Jacksonville with a delegation to learn more about what the JTA is doing. He provided an overview of what else has been happening in Jacksonville and appreciates the JTA involvement and engagement in these events, meetings and conferences. He concluded by thanking operators and congratulating the Rodeo team on their win.

**D. AUTHORITY RECOGNITIONS**

April Employee Recognitions

Bus Operator: Jeffery Robinson

Maintenance: James McKinney

Administrative: Ramy Tawadrous

May Employee Recognitions

Bus Operator: Daven Myers

Maintenance: Kenneth Fenwick

Administrative: Eddie Shaw

There was also a special recognition of the International Rodeo Team: Ramon Farfan, George McGarry, Rudy Wells and Jarrod Morales. The team finished as the second runner up with 43 teams competing. Congratulations to the team.

Mr. Ford then shared that the JTA won the APTA Gold Safety Award for the work that Chris Geraci and his team did for the Safety on the Move bus.

**E. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** There were three public comments.

1. **Ivan Redman:** Mr. Redman thanked two of the customer service representatives that assisted him with his concerns with his bus being on time. He then shared his concerns with operators attitudes and that he would like for them to have more training if they will be working with the public.

2. **Sharon Dykes:** Mrs. Dykes shared that she is a member of the JTAC and shared her appreciation of Greer Gillis for all of her assistance. She then shared her concerns about transportation for Duval County School Students for projects. She also stated that it is taking too long to answer complaints, if they are answered at all. Also, what investigations are taking place to ensure responses to complaints are handled correctly. Mrs. Dykes shared concerns and issues with the services provided by UZURV.

3. **John Nooney:** Mr. Nooney requested the April 15, 2025 minutes. He stated that he is seeking a JTA Board Resolution recognizing Mr. Nooney, as well as resolutions from other organizations. Mr. Nooney shared information from his attendance at the JEA Board meeting, as well as several other organizations where he shared his concerns about land acquisitions.

**F. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT:** Mr. Ford stated that he will be providing updates and highlights from the last month. The JTA was proud to celebrate the recent opening of our AIC with a ribbon cutting attended by over a hundred people. We released the name of our service: NAVI, which stands for Neighborhood Autonomous Vehicle Innovation. This marks a critical step toward the official launch on June 30, 2025.

This past month, we had the privilege of celebrating our largest graduation class of 32 newly trained Bus Operators. These individuals completed an intensive training program and demonstrated exceptional commitment, professionalism, and perseverance. We are proud to

welcome them into the JTA family as they begin their careers serving our community with skill and care.

He congratulated Angela Hamilton, who works with EVP Cleveland Ferguson, on her graduation from Syracuse University College of Law. Also, Congratulations to JTA Toastmasters Club, “The Authority Speakers,” on their newly appointed President’s Distinguished status. JTA’s Toastmasters Club, which was chartered February 1, 2024 has 30 members.

In support of community safety and emergency preparedness, the JTA participated in the *Jax Ready Fest*. Our team showcased a specially outfitted bus designed to engage, educate, and inform the public about emergency planning and JTA’s role during critical events, including hurricane season.

The week of May 19, 2025, staff and I attended APTA legislative conference in D.C. and had the opportunity to meet with Acting Administrator Tariq Bokhari of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration. This meeting allowed Mr. Ford to share Jacksonville’s vision and progress with the Ultimate Urban Circulator and extended a formal invitation for Acting Administrator Bokhari to attend the upcoming launch of the NAVI service.

While at the conference, Mr. Ford was asked to lead the American Public Transportation Association’s Committee on Autonomous Vehicles. This is a significant responsibility and a reflection of Jacksonville’s emerging role as a national leader in autonomous mobility. As cities and agencies across the country look to the JTA as a model for innovation, we remain committed to sharing our expertise and advancing the industry.

Also, while in DC staff had productive meetings with Congressman Aaron Bean and with Congressman John Rutherford’s Chief of Staff. These conversations centered on securing continued support for public transportation funding. I provided key updates on the U2C program and the Emerald Trail, and we are working closely with Congress to complete the final steps needed to obligate federal funding for these transformative projects.

Also, the week of May 19, 2025, IAM Local President Melvin Nesmith, Training Senior Manager, Dr. Sandy Beaumont, and Mary Smith, from the Human Resources and Organizational Development were the featured panelists for the Transit Workforce Center Bus Maintenance Apprenticeship webinar, which attracted over 100 attendees. The panelists shared the importances of labor and management relations in support of collaborations such as JTA’s apprenticeship program. The event was sponsored by the Federal Transit Administration and the International Transportation Learning Center.

Mr. Ford shared that Mr. Ferguson had the opportunity to lead a BOARDtalk LIVE session for the APTA Transit Board Members (TBM) Committee on April 28, 2025 focusing on the roles and responsibilities of TBMs. The presentation offered a comprehensive framework for understanding what it means to be an effective board member, using the JTA and other agencies as case studies. Special thanks as well to Director Sams and Director Brown for joining the session and supporting the conversation.

On Monday, June 23, 2025, JTA will be hosting National Autonomous Vehicle Day at the Prime Osborn. This conference will bring together experts and policymakers in the autonomous vehicle space to discuss and learn more about the industry.

Then he shared that at the end of that week, on Friday, June 27, 2025, the Authority will cut the ribbon on the NAVI service on Bay Street. The event will take place at the Jumbo Shrimp Baseball Stadium stop, with official service beginning, Monday, June 30, 2025.

Mr. Ford concluded the Chief Executive Officer's (CEO) report by sharing a video highlighting all of the activities over the last month.

Director Sams took the opportunity to share her thoughts and take aways from the trip to DC, from meetings with USDOT and local officials to share what is happening in Jacksonville and in the community. She also had the opportunity to share the great things the Authority is doing with the APTA Executive Committee. She then thanked Mr. Ford and his team for all of the work to move the Authority and Jacksonville forward.

**E. DIVISION REPORTS**

**1. ADMINISTRATION MONTHLY REPORTS** – Mr. Ferguson provided the Administration Report highlighting the Procurement Report for April and the quarterly SBE report. Mr. Ferguson asked the Board to let Mrs. Smith if there are any topics you would like to be included in the annual retreat, as staff will work over the summer to draft the agenda to be share with the Board.

**2. FINANCE MONTHLY REPORTS** – Mr. Srinath provided the financial report to the Board through April, as well as the processed invoices report and the agency sponsorship and membership report.

**3. OPERATIONS MONTHLY REPORT** – Mr. Smith provided the Board with a few highlights of the Operations Report through April 2025. He announced that the Ferry will return to service by the end of June 2025.

**4. PUBLIC AFFAIRS** - Mrs. Shepler shared highlights of the Real Estate and Economic Development Report for April. She also shared that staff is meeting with council members to brief

them on NAVI and offer opportunities for them to ride the vehicles in advance of the launch.

5. **SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT MONTHLY REPORT** – Ms. Gillis provided a snapshot of the System Development Report through April 2025.

Vice Chair Wallace that staff for expediting the return of service for the St. Johns River Ferry. He also asked that staff pushes out information to the whole community on the services and hours of operation for NAVI.

#### **H. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. **APPROVAL OF DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEARS 2026 – 2028**

2. **APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD FOR ARMSDALE SOLAR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION (P-25-008)**

3. **APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD FOR FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENTS (P-25-019)**

**MOTION** (Sams/Brown) to approve Consent Agenda items H.1 – H.3 as staff recommends. Motion Approved (4-0).

#### **I. ADOPTION AGENDA**

1. **RESOLUTION 2025-10: AUTHORIZATION TO FILE FISCAL YEAR 2025 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION GRANT AGREEMENT – ST. JOHNS COUNTY EXPRESS SELECT**

2. **RESOLUTION 2025-11: AUTHORIZATION TO FILE FISCAL YEAR 2025 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION GRANT AGREEMENT - CLAY COUNTY EXPRESS SELECT**

Mr. Srinath shared staff's recommendation that the Board adopt Resolutions authorizing the CEO to enter into a Public Transportation Grant Agreement (PTGA) with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for Express Select Service in St. Johns County for \$210,000 (Resolution 2025-10) and in Clay County for \$317,124 (Resolution 2025-11).

**MOTION** (Brown/Sams) to adopt Resolutions 2025-10 (St. Johns County) and 2025-11 (Clay County) authorizing the CEO to enter into a PTGA with FDOT. Motion Approved (4-0).

3. **RESOLUTION 2025-12: AUTHORIZATION TO FILE FISCAL YEAR 2026 TRIP AND EQUIPMENT GRANT – DUVAL COUNTY**

4. **RESOLUTION 2025-13: AUTHORIZATION TO FILE FISCAL YEAR 2026 TRIP AND EQUIPMENT GRANT – CLAY COUNTY**

**5. RESOLUTION 2025-14: AUTHORIZATION TO FILE FISCAL YEAR 2026 TRIP AND EQUIPMENT GRANT – NASSAU COUNTY**

Mr. Srinath shared staff's recommendation that the Board adopt Resolutions authorizing the CEO to file and execute the application documents required by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) for Fiscal Year 2026 Trip and Equipment Grant TD Program for paratransit services for Duval County for \$1,428,028 (2025-12), for Clay County for \$468,515 (2025-13) and Nassau County for \$854,708 (2025-14).

**MOTION** (Sams/Brown) to adopt Resolutions authorizing the filing of the Fiscal Year 2026 Trip and Equipment Grants for Transportation Disadvantaged Program. Resolution 2025-12 for Duval County 2025-13, for Clay County, and 2025-14 for Nassau County. Motion Approved (4-0).

**6. RESOLUTION 2025-15: AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Mr. Ferguson shared staff's recommendation to adopt Resolution 2025-15 authorizing the CEO to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University of Florida (UF) Board of Trustees on behalf of the College of Design, Construction, and Planning. The MOU will be for the period commencing April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2028.

**MOTION** (Sams/Brown) to adopt Resolution 2025-15 authorizing the MOU with the UF Board of Trustees. Motion Approved (4-0).

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

There were no items under Safety, Audit and Compliance Committee.

**K. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE** (Sams, Committee Chair)

**1. RESOLUTION 2025-08: APPROVAL OF FISCAL YEAR 2026 OPERATING BUDGET:** Mr. Srinath stated that staff recommends the Board adopt Resolution 2025-08 approving the JTA's Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 and authorizing its submission to the Jacksonville City Council. The Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2026, on an Authority-wide basis and excluding any transfers between funds, totals \$162,399,852 for operating expenses.

**MOTION** (Sams/Brown) to adopt Resolution 2025-08 approving the Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget. Motion Approved (4-0).

Vice Chair Wallace stated for the record that the Board has been briefed extensively together in two work sessions and individually. The Board has reviewed each of the line items and is not being derelict in this approval process. Director Sams shared that she two separate individual

meetings to review the budgets. Director Brown stated that the Board, the CEO and JTA staff meet and discuss any and all items for Board consideration in advance of any action, the information presented at the meetings is not new to them.

**2. RESOLUTION 2025-09: APPROVAL OF FISCAL YEAR 2026 CAPITAL BUDGET AND CAPITAL PLAN OF CONTRACTS:** Mr. Srinath stated that staff recommends the Board adopt Resolution 2025-09 approving the JTA's Capital Budget and Capital Plan of Contracts for Fiscal Year 2026 and authorize submission to the Jacksonville City Council. The Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Budget is balanced in that all of the capital spending is covered by an equal amount of funding sources.

**MOTION** (Sams/Brown) to adopt Resolution 2025-09 approving the Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Budget and Capital Plan of Contracts. Motion Approved (4-0).

**3. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD FOR ORACLE E-BUSINESS SUITE UPGRADE (P-25-011):** Mr. Srinath stated that staff recommends the Board authorize the CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with OATC Inc. to implement the upgrade of Oracle E-Business Suite from 12.1.3 to 12.2.14. The Contract term is twelve months for a total Contract Value of \$1,295,671.50. This project is funded through \$1,208,510.26 of Local Oracle Upgrade Reserve and \$87,161.24 by the Fiscal Year 2025 Federal Urbanized Area formula funding program.

**MOTION** (Sams/Brown) to approve contract award for Oracle E-Business Suite Upgrade (P-25-011). Motion Approved (4-0).

**L. SERVICE DELIVERY** (Vacant, Committee Chair)

**APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD FOR FLEET MAINTENANCE SERVICES (P-25-020):** Mr. Smith stated that staff recommends the Board authorize the CEO to execute a contract with American Transmissions for fleet maintenance services for non-revenue, Connexion, and Fixed Route fleet vehicles. The estimated cost for this service will be a not-to-exceed amount of \$1,400,000 for a five-year period of performance. Approval of this item will allow for comprehensive maintenance and repair services, encompassing minor repairs to major component replacements including engines, transmissions, and other critical systems.

**MOTION** (Sams/Brown) to approve the contract award for Fleet Maintenance Services (P-25-020). Motion Approved (4-0).

**1. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD FOR REBUILT BUS PURCHASE (P-25-021):** Mr. Smith stated that staff recommends the Board approve and authorize the CEO to execute a contract with Complete Coach Works for the purchase of a minimum of 12 fully restored, 40-foot, low-floor, and wheelchair-accessible heavy-duty diesel transit buses. The estimated total

not-to-exceed cost for this purchase is \$6,537,917. Approval of this item will expand the Fixed Route fleet and better posture the Authority to continue providing service levels for an enhanced customer experience. In remaining consistent with the Authority's existing fleet, only Gillig buses will be purchased to ensure operational consistency and maintenance efficiency.

**MOTION** (Sams/Brown) to approve the contract award for Rebuilt Bus Purchase (P-25-021). Motion Approved (4-0).

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

There were no items under Long Range Planning and System Development.

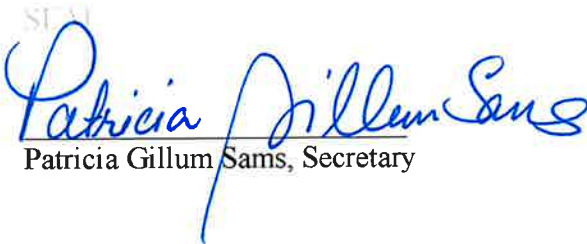
**N. OLD BUSINESS**

No old business.

**O. NEW BUSINESS**

No new business.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

  
Patricia Gillum Sams, Secretary

  
Aundra Wallace, Vice-Chair