

**MINUTES  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
JACKSONVILLE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023 – 2:00 P.M.**

The regular Board meeting of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) was held on Thursday, April 20, 2023.

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Deborah Buckland, Chair  
G. Ray Driver, Vice Chair  
Abel Harding, Secretary  
Aundra Wallace, Treasurer  
Stephanie Burch

**JTA EXECUTIVE STAFF**

Nathaniel P. Ford Sr., CEO  
Cleveland Ferguson III, SVP Administration  
Charles Frazier, SVP Operations  
Greer Gillis, SVP System Development

**BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Greg Evans, FDOT  
Arezou Jolly, Immediate Past Chair

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Katie Smith, Board Administrator  
Richard Milian, General Counsel

**A. CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Buckland called the meeting to order at 2:17 p.m. and thanked the Board and JTA staff for their time to attend the meeting, and the work session that took place prior to the Board Meeting.

Chair Buckland led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Smith completed roll call confirming a quorum of the Board.

Chair Buckland then provided the safety message for the month of April, “Prepare for Disaster, Recover Faster.”

**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 30, 2023 BOARD WORK SESSION AND BOARD MEETING**

**MOTION** (Harding/Wallace) Motion Approved (5-0).

**C. COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISON** – Councilwoman Pittman was not in attendance.

**D. EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARDS** – Employee Recognitions were presented for March 2023 Employees of the Month.

Bus Operator of the Month

Theodore Jordan

Bus Operator of the Month

Patricia Gardner

Maintenance Employee for the Month

George McGarry

Administration Employee for the Month

Carl Brown

**E. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** There were no public comments.

**F. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S (CEO) REPORT** – Mr. Ford shared that on April 1<sup>st</sup>, the JTA participated in the 2023 Triple Crown Rodeo in Orlando and brought home the gold!

- Ramon Farfan won his 5th State Roadeo title and was also awarded the Yard Stick Award ... all this just a month after winning his 12th Local Roadeo.

- Paratransit Maintenance employee Sherman Polydore was recognized with the following awards:

- 2nd Place, Paratransit Maintenance Division
- Highest Paratransit Maintenance Written Test Score
- Highest ACC Air Conditioning Module Score
- Highest Paratransit Bus Inspection Score

- The Maintenance Technician Team, made up of Richard Ballard, Michael Paskanik, and Tommy Crews brought home a 1st Place finish in the I/O Control Module, and 3rd Place in the overall competition.

He shared that on Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, the JTA hosted a site visit to BAE Systems where the Jean Ribault is in dry dock undergoing routine preventive maintenance.

On the same day, the JTA held its quarterly meeting with the Federal Transit Administration's Region IV. Dr. Yvette Taylor and the FTA Region IV staff received a full update on JTA's services and capital projects, including ridership, alternative mobility options, DBE report, transit-oriented development, and economic development. At the conclusion of the quarterly meeting, the JTA provided Dr. Taylor and FTA staff with a briefing on the U2C.

Mr. Ford stated that in January 2021, this board approved an action where it allowed me, as JTA CEO, to negotiate and execute a ground lease agreement with Corner Lot Development Group for a Transit Oriented Development of a residential multi-family housing unit on JTA's Montana Avenue property. On April 6, Corner Lot broke ground on the 340-unit multi-family development. Madame Chair and Director Jolly, thank you for your presence at this event, which we were also happy to be joined by City Council Vice President, Ron Salem, our City Council Liaison, JuCoby Pittman, and executives from Corner Lot, as well as guests from the community.

During the month of April, Mr. Ford not only got to recognize current JTA team members but had the privilege to meet with four of JTA's senior employees that when combined have given over 150 years of service to this agency.

On that same day, he the pleasure of recognizing a group of employees that work in the background day-in and day-out to keep us moving and to keep us safe – the facilities maintenance Team, who work three different shifts from 4:00 am to midnight, 7-days a week, to keep the platform and this building safe and clean.

On April 12 – 14, the JTA continued to recognize its status as an industry leader, as staff welcomed officials from the Pittsburgh Regional Transit (PRT), for a three-day visit filled with sessions and tours.

Mr. Ford stated that that on April 13<sup>th</sup> he was taken a bit out of his comfort zone, but all for a great cause. He had the opportunity to join Eric Mann, Andrea Brownlee and Gracie Simendinger, along with students from KIPP for a Family Feud Charity Event. The event raised over \$70,000, with over 150 people attending the event.

He stated that last, the JTA started a practice of coordinating what is known as “Community Pulse” meetings, where community leaders are invited to come to the JRTC and have an open dialogue with the JTA, the state of transportation, and their needs and priorities from their personal or group perspective. In April, the team met with the Mayor’s Hispanic Council.

Mr. Ford shared his congratulations to the JTA’s Chief Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Officer Ken Middleton for being awarded the 2023 North Florida District Small Business Advocate of the Year by the Small Business Administration North Florida District.

He acknowledged that on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Cleveland Ferguson was unanimously elected to a two-year term as Secretary of the American Public Transportation Association – Legal Affairs Committee.

Mr. Ford announced that he has been selected by UITP to serve as a National Ambassador representing the United States of America on their Policy Board. As a National Ambassador, he be representing the more than 130 members in the USA and Canada on this Policy Board, composed of transportation leaders from around the world.

Mr. Ford concluded his report with a video highlighting the activities during the month of April.

**G. DIVISION REPORTS**

1. **ADMINISTRATION MONTHLY REPORT** – Mr. Ferguson shared highlights of the Administration Division through March 2023.

2. **SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT MONTHLY REPORT** – Ms. Gillis shared details of the System Development Report and activities through March 2023.

3. **OPERATIONS MONTHLY REPORT** – Mr. Frazier provided the Board with the Operations report for March 2023.

**H. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. **DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY**

**MOTION** (Wallace/Burch) Approval of Consent Agenda as recommended by Staff.  
Motion Approved (5-0).

**I. ADOPTION AGENDA**

No items under the Adoption Agenda.

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

Director Wallace stated that there were no items under the Safety, Audit and Compliance Committee. He did provide an update on matters that fall under this committee related to the Authority's follow-up FMO Review.

Director Wallace also announced that the JTA Safety Town Halls were held on March 30, 2023 from 3:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. And finally, a hurricane preparedness tabletop is scheduled for mid-May, where the staff will review any adjustments to the Continuity of Operations Plan for 2023. The estimate for named storms is between 11 and 15 in the Atlantic basin. The team is reviewing its emergency operations functions in anticipation of the season.

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

Director Harding stated that there were no items under the Finance and Administration Committee. He did thank Mr. Hayes for the presentation on the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget during the work session held prior to the Board meeting. Over the next month each of the Board members will have the opportunity to meet with Mr. Hayes and team to get a deeper dive into the capital and operating budgets. The budget will be presented for approval at the May Board meeting, for submission to the City of Jacksonville (City) in June.

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

Director Burch stated that there was one item under the Service Delivery Committee, the approval of the contract for Paratransit and Alternative Services Delivery. She shared that the Board received an in-depth presentation on this matter at the work session. Staff and the Board started the conversation on this item back at the February work session and then the Board approved the ranked shortlist and authorized staff to move forward with negotiations.

This item directly supports the JTA's vision to maximize mobility options for the community, increase operational efficiencies through the comingling of trips, expand transportation services regionally, and to further develop the associated technologies to do so.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**1. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR PARATRANSIT SERVICE DELIVERY AND STRATEGIC SCHEDULING SERVICES (P-22-036)** – Mr. Frazier stated that staff recommends the Board authorize the CEO to execute a contract with MV Transportation, Inc. (MV),

the highest ranked responsive and responsible proposer for Paratransit and Alternative Services Delivery. The base period of performance is five years at an estimated cost of \$69,970,980.

He reiterated the process that Director Burch shared and added the initial phase of the contract will include paratransit and Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) services in Duval County, deviated fixed route and TD services in Clay County, ReadIRide, and Mobility Application Program planning. The existing paratransit service delivery contract expires on June 30, 2023.

**MOTION** (Harding/Burch) Approval of Contract for Paratransit Service Delivery and Strategic Scheduling Services (P-22-036). Motion Approved (5-0).

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

Director Driver stated that there were two items under the Long Range Planning and System Development Committee. He stated before moving into those items, he announced that the Board heard an update on the Comprehensive Fare Study during the work session held before the meeting. The Fare Study is being conducted to review the JTA's fare policies, fare structure, and innovative fare programs to provide more accessibility, fiscal equity and ease of use to JTA's traveling public. The board was briefed on the findings of the study regarding the travel characteristics of JTA's riders, the availability of access to fare media across the county and the region, and the demographics of its riders. As Chair of this committee, I look forward to the next update from staff on their progress.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**1. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD FOR ST. JOHNS RIVER FERRY IMPROVEMENTS PHASE V (P-23-008)** – Ms. Gillis presented Staff's recommendation that the Board authorize the CEO to negotiate and execute a contract agreement with C & D Construction for a not-to-exceed amount of \$2,521,796 to provide design-build services for the St. Johns River Ferry Phase V Improvements project. This contract provides for repair and improvements at the Mayport and Ft. George Ferry terminals. The work includes extending bulk-head walls, repair and repainting of the bridge and bridge gantry, new chain-hoists, repair and resurfacing of the bridge access ramp, a new shelving system in the Ft. George warehouse, and an added catwalk assembly at the Ft. George dock.

Ms. Gillis added that the majority of this work will be done after the ferry haul out. The DBE goal is 25 percent and C & D Construction has agreed to meet this goal.

**MOTION** (Wallace/Burch) Approval of Contract Award for St. Johns River Ferry Improvements for Phase V (P-23-008). Motion Approved (5-0).

**2. APPROVAL OF DECLARATION OF SUPLUS AND DISPOSITION OF REAL PROPERTY – BOWDEN ROAD** – Mr. Ferguson stated that staff recommends the Board officially declare certain real property as surplus and eligible for disposal through public sale or transfer to other governmental agencies. Staff also recommends that the Board authorize the CEO to enter into negotiations with Pavilion Development Company for sale of the property in the amount of \$1,500,000. The subject parcel is identified as a portion of the Duval County Property Appraiser’s Real Estate Number 152677-0000 comprised of roughly 1.4 acres.

**MOTION** (Burch/Harding) Approval of Declaration of Surplus and Disposition of Real Property on Bowden Road. Motion Approved (5-0).

**N. OLD BUSINESS:** There was no old business.

**O. NEW BUSINESS:** There was no new business.

Chair Buckland thanked the Board and staff for attending the Board Work Session and Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

SEAL

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Debbie Buckland, Chair

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Abel Harding, Secretary