



Downtown Investment Authority

**Ed Ball Building
214 N. Hogan Street, 1st Floor Training Room
Wednesday, October 10, 2013 – 2:00 p.m.**

MEETING MINUTES

Board Members Present: Acting Chairwoman M. Bishop, Vice Chairman J. Bailey, T. Allegretti, and K. Harper Williams

Board Members Not Present: Chairman O. Barakat, P. Perez, R. Clements, and M. Saylor

Office of General Counsel: Jason Gabriel

Council Members Present: Council Member Lori Boyer, District 5; and Council Member Don Redman, District 4

Attendees: Nathaniel Ford, JTA, Chief Executive Officer; Brad Thoburn, Vice President of Strategic Planning, JTA; Suraya Teeple, JTA Urban Planning Administrator; Neil Nance, JTA Project Manager; Aundra Wallace, DIA, Chief Executive Officer; Jim Klement, OED Staff; and Karen Underwood, Recording Secretary.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Melody Bishop called the special meeting to order at approximately 2:09 p.m.

II. ACTION ITEMS/INFORMATION ITEMS

None

PRESENTATION:

JTA – BUS RAPID TRANSIT

Nathaniel Ford, Chief Executive Officer, JTA, presented the Bus Rapid Transit System. Mr. Ford stated that the first workshop meeting was held on March 27, 2013 at the Wyndham Hotel. He stated that Jacksonville's system will cost \$110 million and when finished will be one of the largest in the Southeast. Eighty percent of the funding comes from the Federal Transit Administration, 10 percent from the State of Florida and 10 percent from JTA.

Mr. Ford and the transportation officials met with DIA members to discuss the upcoming downtown portion of the Bus Rapid Transit system scheduled to be completed in March 2015.

Jim Klement, OED stated how the JTA began working with the Downtown Development Review Board (DDRB) and also how the DDRB was formed in 2003 to implement design guidelines within the Development of Regional Impact (DRI) boundaries. The JTA is moving forward with their

mass transit project, including the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) downtown. OED felt there should be some input and review of the appropriate design aspects for the project in 2011-2012. On August 2, 2012, JTA presented the project to DDRB and it was approved for a final review.

Chairwoman M. Bishop inquired regarding the comments from DDRB. Jim Klement responded that there was a clarification of some of the relationship to the horizontal pathway and addressed pathway widths, existing/non-existing parking, and treatment of utilities where the DDRB would try to improve streetscape aspects. He also brought up the design, color coding and branding of the structures. JTA addressed why it was important to have a branding for this project.

Brad Thoburn stated that Suraya Teeple is the person that guides them through the federal process, environmental planning work, and has gotten the program moving forward. Neil Nance handles the design engineering for downtown. Concerns arose from new residents in March 2013. JTA came up with a solution to go to FTA and they received a waiver from the requirement that 50 percent of the lanes would have to be dedicated lanes at peak hour for buses.

Suraya Teeple shared a PowerPoint presentation showing where the stops will be located.

Chairwoman M. Bishop stated that transit-oriented design could be an economic boost to the city.

Nathaniel Ford commented that the criteria for new BRT projects going forward require a higher level of dedicated bus right-of-way.

Councilmember Don Redman asked for an explanation of the difference between the original design for Riverplace Boulevard and the current design. Brad Thoburn stated that the JTA-dedicated lane was removed.

Councilmember Don Redman asked if there would there be a problem with a bike lane on Riverplace Boulevard. Brad Thoburn responded that he would defer to the authorities at the City.

Chairwoman Bishop commented that Jacksonville is competing with larger metropolitan areas and asked if there would there be a federal regulation that would allow the developer to work with JTA.

Nathaniel Ford responded that he anticipates developers will consider the opportunity to leverage public dollars behind this infrastructure investment

Board Member Tony Allegretti referenced the proximity of the Skyway station and asked if there were plans to utilize Skyway access from the bus stop. Mr. Ford responded that they would not take the BRT system and overlay it on their existing system.

Suraya Teeple referenced the bus stations and stated that all of them are developed in conjunction with DDRB streetscape guidelines.

Councilmember Redman inquired if the bus stations would have advertising on them like the others. Ms. Teeple responded that the JTA plans to construct bus shelters in locations where advertising is permitted.

Chairwoman Bishop has concerns regarding the yellow color of the shelters. She suggested the Jacksonville Jaguars gold and teal colors be displayed.

Chairwoman Bishop opened the floor for discussion.

Bruce Fouraker assumed the color change on a station might not affect the branding.

Ms. Teeple commented that the grant does require branding and DDRB's design approval did not specify a color for the bus shelters. JTA has developed a 10-year shelter program for the cost of maintenance.

Nathaniel Ford stated that the suggested color of the shelters could be changed; however, the project would have to go back through DDRB review process and the delay could jeopardize the entire grant.

Brad Thoburn stated that that Mr. Nance needs to get the design plans by December 2013.

Chairwoman Bishop pointed out that the DIA could write a letter requesting that the project be moved out of committee and be approved by City Council.

Chairwoman Bishop inquired of Jason Gabriel about the status of DDRBs action with respect to the transit shelters. Jason Gabriel responded that the JTA is operating under a development order approved by the DDRB with respect to same. Per the Overlay requirements, the DDRB approves the type, design, number, spacing, and location of transit shelters.

Jim Klement commented that the JTA and DDRB have already spent a fair amount of time discussing the color of the shelters.

Councilmember Boyer asked Jason Gabriel if the DDRB-approved design guidelines were adopted by OED. Mr. Wallace responded that OED provided those guidelines to the JTA before Mr. Ford's tenure.

Council Member Boyer pointed out that it is within the purview of the DIA to change the DDRB design guidelines to be consistent with the branding of downtown.

Chairwoman Bishop noted that the purpose for the day's meeting was to address the board's concern regarding the yellow color of the shelters with JTA. She inquired if the JTA could reconsider the color. Nathaniel Ford commented that if there were a way to revisit the color without slowing down the continued control agreement and move forward, the FTA and JTA would do so. Aundra Wallace stated that the purpose of the special meeting was to discuss the actual color of the shelters. The ultimate authority is with the FTA at this time.

Council Member Boyer noted that there was a deferral request by the DIA in reference to the continuing control agreement. In addition, if DIA withdraws that request and says that they are content with moving it forward because, they are discussing the design, then that does not hold up the agreement. She inquired if the shelters had to be an entirely yellow color or no color at all. If it is already within the scope of their approval and the request is made to make a modification that should not be an issue. Jason Gabriel stated that they might have some flexibility.

Mr. Wallace stated that, due to the way the DIA was established and the guidelines created, the DIA board must constantly rely on OGC to provide further clarification about exactly what can and cannot be done administratively.

Mr. Ford commented that the JTA is committed to working with the DIA on the color. The yellow color scheme was chosen a couple of years ago and JTA did not want delay the project by readdressing the design.

Chairwoman Melody Bishop asked for feedback from Board Member Harper-Williams and Board Member Allegretti on their support for the project. Mrs. Harper-Williams stated that she did not want to put this project in jeopardy. Mr. Allegretti understands that this project was made before the DIA was created and concurs with Mrs. Harper-Williams.

Nathaniel Ford noted that the JTA and FTA have had quarterly meetings over the last few years. The Project Management Oversight Committee reviews the JTA's work.

JTA does agree with the board on the project.

Jim Klement stated that, as the DDRB liaison, there is a genuine desire to work together with the DIA.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

None

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Barakat adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:40 p.m.

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The next regularly scheduled DIA meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 16, 2013, at 5:00 p.m.

Please note that all attachments referenced above will be posted on the DIA Website, www.jaxdowntowninvestment.org

The written minutes for this meeting are only an overview of what was discussed. For verbatim comments of this meeting, an audio CD is available upon request. Please contact Karen Underwood at (904) 255-7567 or by email at karenu@coj.net.