

City of Jacksonville

*117 W. Duval Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202*



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

2:00 PM

**Council Chamber
1st Floor, City Hall**

Transportation, Energy & Utilities Committee

*Ju'Coby Pittman, Chair
Chris Miller, Vice Chair - Excused
Matt Carlucci
Tyrona Clark-Murray
Mike Gay
Nick Howland
Jimmy Peluso*

*Legislative Assistant: Steven Libby
Council Auditor's Office: Edward Linsky
Council Research: Eamon Webb
Office of General Counsel: Carla Lopera
Administration: Bill Delaney
Planning Dept.: Laurie Santana*

Meeting Convened: 2:01 PM

Meeting Adjourned: 2:48 PM

Present: 6 - Chair Ju'Coby Pittman, Council Member Matt Carlucci, Council Member Tyrona Clark-Murray, Council Member Mike Gay, Council Member Nick Howland and Council Member Jimmy Peluso

Excused: 1 - Vice Chair Chris Miller

Presentation by Nathaniel Ford, JTA CEO, on Emerald Trail Grant

Nat Ford, CEO of Jacksonville Transportation Authority, spoke on the \$147 million grant award that the City received for the Emerald Trail in partnership with JTA and Groundwork Jacksonville. The City applied for the grant through the program called "Reconnecting Communities," which attempts to reconnect communities that had been separated by the highway system. These funds will go toward the completion of the five remaining segments of the Emerald Trail. Mr. Ford noted that the City and JTA had lengthy meetings and discussions with the Department of Transportation, including a presentation of a Memorandum of Understanding, that contributed to Jacksonville's receiving the largest single grant award awarded by the program.

Mr. Ford explained that only 132 out of 682 applications were awarded grants; Jacksonville's application was ranked sixth among all applications and received 100% of the application's ask. He thanked the Congressional delegation, the City Council, and the community for their support in securing the grant; the Local Option Gas Tax passed by the City Council in 2021 provided the \$37 million that was leveraged in the application as matching funds. The timeline for the completion of the Emerald Trail with funds raised by the Local Option Gas Tax was previously twenty years, and this grant should shrink that timeline considerably.

Greer Gillis, Chief Infrastructure and Development Officer for JTA, stated that JTA will work collaboratively with the City and Groundwork Jacksonville to achieve the promises of the Emerald Trail and the grant application. She stated that the work now should be done by 2034 and that the completion timeline could be accelerated even further if necessary. She explained that Groundwork Jacksonville has already begun construction on Segment 3 of the Emerald Trail project, with 30% of the design work on this segment complete, and that the procurement process has begun for Segments 4, 6, 7, and 8, with three firms having applied and their evaluation by the JTA board set for May of 2024.

Kay Ehas, CEO of Groundwork Jacksonville, thanked the City Council for their involvement in the project. She stated that seven neighborhoods included in the construction area of the Emerald Trail would be able to develop their own affordable housing and economic development plans. She thanked the City for providing funds to get construction rolling and explained that Segment 1 is the LaVilla Link, currently under construction and set for ribbon-cutting on May 6th. Segment 2 runs through the heart of Downtown, and should be under construction by June. Segment 10 is McCoys Creek between I-95 and Kings Street and is under construction; Hogans Creek is in design and should be under construction by 2026. 40% of the project is either complete, in construction, or designed, and this progress was accomplished without federal dollars. Ms. Ehas showed pictures demonstrating the progress on the LaVilla Link and McCoys Creek.

Nat Ford stated that JTA currently has two outstanding grant applications, partnered with the City, for the St. Johns River Ferry and for roadway improvements related to the Arlington Expressway. He thanked the Council for the partnership in improving the infrastructure of the City for generations to come. Ms. Ehas noted that the Arlington Expressway project would reduce flooding in the area by raising the bridge and "daylighting" Hogans Creek.

CM Peluso noted that several Groundwork Jacksonville projects in the CIP had been underfunded and asked Ms. Ehas whether this problem had been corrected by the administration to ensure that proper funding was available; Ms. Ehas stated she did not have full cost for these projects and that Hogan Street, McCoys Creek, and Hogans Creek were not eligible to receive funding through the Local Option

Gas Tax. Ms. Ehas stated that Hogans Creek is a massive undertaking and that Groundwork Jacksonville is working with the City to apply for a grant for this project.

CM Clark-Murray asked whether the design process for Segment 6 had taken into consideration the fact that the trail will cross three or four railroad tracks. Ms. Ehas stated that the firm that will be hired to do the design work for this statement will weigh these considerations, along with community input. CM Clark-Murray asked how much money Groundwork Jacksonville had received from private donors; Ms. Ehas stated that they had brought in a total of \$21 million, although some of these funds were public grants. CM Clark-Murray asked how Groundwork Jacksonville involves the community in the design process, and Ms. Ehas stated that community representatives have seats at the table throughout the design process to ensure community buy-in. She added that Groundwork Jacksonville attends every neighborhood organization meeting monthly.

Bill Delaney, Council Liaison, noted that the City had already applied for a grant for the Hogans Creek and Arlington Expressway Bridge project. He added that the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities federal grant through FEMA was also on the administration's radar.

CM Pittman expressed her gratitude for the work done on the project, noting that this project should be a "shot in the arm" for traditionally underserved urban and African-American communities. She thanked the mayor and the Congressional delegation for their support throughout the process, and she noted the importance of establishing personal partnerships with those outside the City.

Ms. Ehas stated that Groundwork Jacksonville will hire a design firm to design the recreational spaces in the Hollybrook Park area and will pay a citizen group for their time in participating in the design process. She stated that this process should take 12 to 18 months.

CM Carlucci thanked Ms. Ehas for her work, noting Groundwork Jacksonville's humble beginnings. He asked about the water quality in McCoys Creek; Ms. Ehas stated that contamination had been found in the branches area of the creek and that the City will be putting forward money and working with FDEP to improve the quality of the creek. CM Carlucci explained that people flock to walking trails and paths and emphasizing the importance of ensuring the safety of citizens who use the park. He stated that having clean parks in the area should attract business activity as well. Ms. Ehas added that Groundwork Jacksonville would like to hire people who live in these neighborhoods to maintain these parks.

CM Howland thanked the administration and Ms. Ehas for their work. He noted that these funds could not displace any previously appropriated funds in the CIP. He added that it is important to be cognizant of the City's available funds and existing financial commitments.

CM Clark-Murray asked whether the clean-up area for McCoys Creek referred to the Robinson's Addition neighborhood. Ms. Ehas stated that it did not; the clean-up area is the area between Beaver Street and what was McCoys Creek Boulevard. Ms. Ehas added that a future goal could be to restore the Robinson's Addition portion of McCoys Creek.

CM Pittman stated that it is important that Groundwork Jacksonville, the City, and JTA were involving the voices of the community throughout the process. She stated that some of these improvements were in the Brentwood and Phoenix neighborhoods and that it is important to understand that other

neighborhoods benefit by the improvement of other neighborhoods.

Item/File No.	Title History
1. <u>2024-0173</u>	ORD Approp \$2,162,000 From the Drainage System Rehabilitation & the Underdrain Replacements Projs to: (1) the Silver St Drainage Improvement Proj; (2) the Cain Ln & Able St Drainage Proj; (3) the Crest Dr Drainage Proj; (4) the Old Kings Rd Drainage Proj; (5) the Sunbeam Rd Drainage Proj; (6) the Saddle Rd Underdrain Repair Proj; & (7) the Reedy Branch Underdrain Repair Proj; Amend the 24-28 5-Yr CIP Appvd by Ord 2023-505-E to Reflect This Approp of Funds to the Proj (B.T. 24-061) (Wilson) (Req of Mayor) 2/27/24 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, F, TEU 3/4/24 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer 3/5/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer 3/5/24 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer 3/12/24 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefer 3/18/24 NCSPHS Amend/Approve 7-0 3/19/24 F Amend/Approve 5-0 3/19/24 TEU Amend/Approve 6-0 Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 3/12/24

AMEND/APPROVE

Aye: 6 - Pittman, Carlucci, Clark-Murray, Gay, Howland and Peluso

Excused: 1 - Miller

AMENDMENT

- 1. Clarify that appropriation includes \$1,226,483 from the Drainage System Rehabilitation and \$935,517 from the Underdrain Replacements projects**
- 2. Attach Revised Exhibit 1 (BT) to update appropriation amounts based on available funding**
- 3. Attach Revised Exhibit 2 (CIP) to reflect updated appropriation amounts and correct prior years amounts**

Funds appropriated to the following projects:

- Silver Street Drainage (CD 7) - \$25,000**
- Cain Ln. & Able St. DSR (CD 9) - \$436,000**
- Crest Drive DSR (CD 12) - \$502,000**
- Old Kings Rd. DSR (CD 10) - \$300,000**
- Sunbeam Rd. DSR (CD 5) - \$400,000**
- Saddle Rd. Underdrain (CD 12) - \$294,000**
- Reedy Branch Underdrain (CD 11) - \$205,000**

Edward Linsky of the Council Auditor's Office explained the amendment, which clarified funding sources. The amendment was unanimously approved by the Committee.

2. [2024-0174](#) ORD Approp \$1,435,385.00 in Grant Funding From the FL DOT Through the National Park Service to Pay for Construction of the Timuquan Trail - Segment C Along Fort Caroline Rd in Council Dist 1; Apv & Auth the Mayor, or Her Designee, & the Corp Sec, to Execute & Deliver a Local Agency Prog Agrmt, Financial Proj Nos. 441861-2-58-01 & 441861-2-68-02, btwn the State of FL DOT & the City; Amend the 24-28 5-Yr CIP Appvd by Ord 2023-505-E to Reflect This Approp of Funds to the Proj; Prov for Oversight by the Dept of Public Works, Engineering & Construction Mgmt Div (B.T. 24-064) (Wilson) (Req of Mayor)
2/27/24 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, F, TEU
3/4/24 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
3/5/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
3/5/24 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer
3/12/24 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefer
3/18/24 NCSPHS Amend/Approve 7-0
3/19/24 F Amend/Approve 5-0
3/19/24 TEU Amend/Approve 6-0
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 3/12/24

AMEND/APPROVE

Aye: 6 - Pittman, Carlucci, Clark-Murray, Gay, Howland and Peluso

Excused: 1 - Miller

AMENDMENT

Clarify that the funds are from the U.S. Department of Transportation through the Florida Department of Transportation

- **This project is the first segment funded towards an area-wide trail plan consisting of 8 separate segments and over 6 miles of trails**

Edward Linsky of the Council Auditor's Office explained the amendment, which clarified the funding source. The amendment was unanimously approved by the Committee.

3. [2024-0176](#) ORD Approp \$11,954.00 in Grant Funding from the FL DOT to Pay for Oversight of the Design of 5th St Over Six Mile Creek Bridge No. 724039, in Council Dist 9; Apv & Auth the Mayor, or Her Designee, & the Corp Sec, to Execute & Deliver a Local Agency Prog Agrmt, Financial Proj No. 437414-1-38-02, btwn the State of FL DOT & the City; Amend the 24-28 5-Yr CIP Appvd by Ord 2023-505-E to Reflect This Approp of Funds to the Proj; Prov for Oversight by the Dept of Public Works, Engineering & Construction Mgmt Div (B.T. 24-068) (Wilson) (Req of Mayor)
2/27/24 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, F, TEU
3/4/24 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer

3/5/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
3/5/24 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer
3/12/24 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefer
3/18/24 NCSPHS Approve 7-0
3/19/24 F Approve 5-0
3/19/24 TEU Approve 6-0
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 3/12/24

APPROVE

Aye: 6 - Pittman, Carlucci, Clark-Murray, Gay, Howland and Peluso

Excused: 1 - Miller

- City anticipates that the State will contribute additional funds towards the Project in the future
- Public Works has estimated a total Project cost of \$6.3 million

4. [2024-0177](#) ORD Apv, & Auth the Mayor, or Her Designee, & the Corp Sec to Execute & Deliver, for & on Behalf of the City, a Roadway Jurisdiction Transfer (RJT) Agrmt btwn the City & FDOT Transferring From the State Highway System to the City a Portion of the R/W Known as University Blvd (Roadway ID 72110000) Including the Responsibility for the Operation, Maintenance, & Repair of the Roadway & Prov for Recording of R/W Maps in the Public Land Records by the City; Prov for City Oversight by the Engineering & Construction Mgmt Div of the Dept of Public Works (Dillard) (Req of Mayor)
2/27/24 CO Introduced: F, TEU
3/5/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
3/5/24 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer
3/12/24 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefer
3/19/24 F Approve 5-0
3/19/24 TEU Approve 6-0
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 3/12/24

APPROVE

Aye: 6 - Pittman, Carlucci, Clark-Murray, Gay, Howland and Peluso

Excused: 1 - Miller

- FDOT has committed to providing \$9.5 million towards the Complete Streets Project along the subject segment
- City currently owns adjoining segments of University Blvd from:
 - University Blvd. Bridge to Arlington Expressway
 - Merrill Rd extending north

5. [2024-0178](#) ORD Declaring That Certain Parcel of Real Property (R.E. # 022605-0000) Located at 0 Bergmann Rd, in Council Dist 10, to Be Surplus to the Needs of the City; Prov for the Direct Sale of the Surplus Property & Requiring Grantee to Sign Site Access Agrmt; Waiving the Provisions of Sec 122.424 (Disposition by Direct Sale), Pt 4 (Real Property) Ch 122 (Public Property), Ord Code, & Sec 122.425 (Disposition by Auction or Sealed Bid), Pt 4 (Real Property) Ch 122 (Public Property), Ord Code, to Allow for the Direct Sale of the Parcel to Alberta Williams at the Negotiated Sales Price of \$4,493; Prov Auth to the Mayor & Corp Sec to Execute a Quit-Claim Deed (Wilson) (Introduced by CM Pittman)
2/27/24 CO Introduced: R, F, TEU
3/4/24 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
3/5/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
3/5/24 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer
3/12/24 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefer
3/18/24 R Amend/Approve 5-0
3/19/24 F Amend/Approve 5-0
3/19/24 TEU Amend/Approve 6-0
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 3/12/24

AMEND/APPROVE

Aye: 6 - Pittman, Carlucci, Clark-Murray, Gay, Howland and Peluso

Excused: 1 - Miller

AMENDMENT

Provide for oversight by Public Works Real Estate Division

- **City to retain access rights to the Property for environmental monitoring**
- **Property is not suitable for Affordable Housing due to inclusion in a flood zone**
- **Waives Sections 122.424 and 122.425 to allow for direct sale of the Property to Alberta Williams**

Edward Linsky of the Council Auditor's Office explained the amendment, which provided for oversight by the Real Estate Division. The amendment was unanimously approved by the Committee.

6. [2024-0179](#) RESO re the City's 2024 List of Priority Projs Related to Transportation Improvements; Prov a Recommendation to the North FL Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) (Staffopoulos) (Introduced by CMs Peluso, Freeman, Pittman & White)
2/27/24 CO Introduced: TEU
3/5/24 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer
3/12/24 CO Read 2nd & Rerefer
3/19/24 TEU Amend/Approve 6-0

AMEND/APPROVE

Aye: 6 - Pittman, Carlucci, Clark-Murray, Gay, Howland and Peluso

Excused: 1 - Miller

AMENDMENT

Attach Revised Exhibit 1 (Priority Projects List) to correct Council Districts and Mobility Zones

Edward Linsky of the Council Auditor's Office explained the amendment, which attached a revised exhibit. The amendment was unanimously approved by the Committee.

7. [2024-0203](#) ORD Approp \$800,000.00 From the Solid Waste Disposal Fund to Pay for the Purchase of Recycle Carts & for Necessary Temp Residential Solid Waste Collections in FY 23-24 (B.T. 24-076) (Dillard) (Req of Mayor)
3/12/24 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, F, TEU
3/18/24 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
3/19/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
3/19/24 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 3/26/24

READ 2ND & REREFER

8. [2024-0204](#) ORD Closing & Abandoning &/or Disclaiming a Portion of an Opened & Improved Alley, Estab in the Plat of Hendricks Subdivision of Homestead Tract South Jax, as Recorded, Located in Council Dist 5, at the Req of Karen Hirshberg & G.I.S. Holdings, Inc., Subject to Reservation Unto the City of an All Utilities, Facilities & Access Easement Over the Closure Area; Prov for Appvl Subject to Conditions; Waiving C.R. 3.107 (Reintroduction of Bills), Council Rules, as to the Requirement That an Ord That Failed Passage Not Be Reintroduced for 12 Months (Dillard) (Req of Mayor)
3/12/24 CO Introduced: R, TEU, LUZ
3/18/24 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
3/19/24 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer
3/19/24 LUZ Read 2nd & Rerefer
TEU PH Pursuant to Sec 336.10, F.S. - 4/2/24
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 3/26/24

READ 2ND & REREFER

9. [2024-0205](#) ORD Closing & Abandoning &/or Disclaiming an Opened & Improved Portion of the North Entrance Road (Alumni Way) R/W, as Recorded, Located in Council Dist 3, at the Req of the UNF Board of Trustees; Subject to Reservation Unto JEA of an All Utilities, Facilities & Access Easement Over the Closure Area; Prov for Appvl Subj to Conditions (Dillard) (Req of Mayor) (Co-Sponsor CM Lahnen)
3/12/24 CO Introduced: TEU
3/19/24 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer
TEU PH Pursuant to Sec 336.10, F.S. - 4/2/24
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 3/26/24

READ 2ND & REREFER

10. [2024-0206](#) ORD Auth the Mayor, or Her Designee, & the Corp Sec to Execute & Deliver a Locally-Funded Agrmt (Lump-Sum) btwn FL DOT & the City Pursuant to Which the City Agrees to Pay FL DOT \$2,500,000 for Certain Roadway Improvements; Prov for Oversight by the Engineering & Construction Mgmt Div of the Dept of Public Works (Dillard) (Req of Mayor)
3/12/24 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, F, TEU
3/18/24 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
3/19/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
3/19/24 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 3/26/24

READ 2ND & REREFER

11. [2024-0209](#) ORD Approp \$18,429,138.41, Including (1) \$11,554,138.41 from the Projs Titled McCoy's Creek Improvements/Pipe Removal, Kernan Blvd Widen - 4 Lanes DVD - JTB & McCormick, Hammond Blvd Wall, University Blvd & Jack Rd, San Jose Blvd - New, St. Johns Bluff Rd - New Sidewalk ES, St. Johns Bluff Rd - New Sidewalk WS, Biscayne Blvd Sidewalk - New & Emerald Trail - S-Line Connector to the Projs Titled McCoy's Creek Greenway - Outfall Improvements With Riverwalk, Park St Road Diet, McCoy's Creek Channel Improvements/Restoration, Ranch Rd - Duval to Tradeport - Sidewalks - Mobility DD, Armsdale Rd - Duval Road Improvements, Duval Road Improvements - btwn Airport Ctr & Main, & Emerald Trail Model Mile Proj to Pay for the Completion of the Projs, & (2) \$6,875,000 From the Authorized Capital Projs Fund to the JTA Transportation Projs Pay-As-You-Go Fund With Respect to the Shindler 103rd to Argyle Forest Proj, & Updating Prior Approps to Reflect Actuals; Amend the 24-28 5-Yr CIP Appvd by Ord 2023-505-E to Reflect This Approp of Funds to the CIP Projs; Prov for Oversight by the Engineering & Construction Mgmt Div of the Dept of Public Works (B.T. 24-065) (Dillard) (Req of Mayor) (Co-Sponsor CM Clark-Murray) (JWC Apv)
3/12/24 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, F, TEU, JWC
3/18/24 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
3/19/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
3/19/24 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 3/26/24

READ 2ND & REREFER

Public Comment:

John Nooney invited those who wished to attend to a site inspection of a property on Pottsburg Creek that houses a FEMA repetitive-loss property. He stated that it is low-hanging fruit to transform this property into a public park to increase public access to the waterways and that the City has conducted similar projects in recently on other properties.

Carnell Oliver spoke to the JTA presentation; he stated that JTA is a private entity and that he would like to see the organization come under City control. He stated that he would like to see the gas tax be made biennial (only effective once every two years). He added that he would like to see greater investments in the Northwest areas of Jacksonville, anticipating that a healthcare sales tax may soon put greater burden on these areas.

NOTE: The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, April 2, 2024.

*******Note: Items may be added at the discretion of the Chair.*******

Pursuant to the American with Disabilities Act, accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please allow 1-2 business days notification to process; last minute requests will be accepted; but may not be possible to fulfill. Please contact Disabled Services Division at: V 904-255-5466, TTY-904-255-5476, or email your request to KaraT@coj.net.

Minutes:

Eamon Webb
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Posted: 3/22/2024, 3:00 PM