



**NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION (NEFRTC)
MEETING SUMMARY**

Wednesday, April 26, 2018 - 1:30 PM
NFTPO Board Room
980 North Jefferson Street
Jacksonville FL 32209

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner James Bennett, Baker County, **Chairman**
Commissioner Chip Laibl, Putnam County, **Vice Chairman**
Commissioner Lindsey Brock, Duval County, **Secretary**
Commissioner Bill Bishop, Duval County, **Treasurer**
Commissioner Ennis Davis, Duval County
Commissioner Jimmy Johns, St. Johns County
Commissioner Danny Leeper, Nassau County
Doreen Joyner Howard, FDOT

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Commissioner Bill Gulliford, Duval County
Commissioner Doug Conkey, Clay County

OTHERS PRESENT:

Alan Mosley, RTC
Mike Hays, Nassau Transit
Brian Teeple, NE FL Regional Council
Brad Thoburn, JTA
Cheryl Freeman, RS&H
Liz Peak, Regional Mobility Group
Tasia Latimore, Majors & Associates

STAFF PRESENT:

Jennifer Lott, North Florida TPO Staff

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bennett called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. Introductions were made around the room.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time.

▶ 3. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 24, 2018 MEETING SUMMARY

Chairman Bennett asked for review and approval of the January meeting's summary.

Jimmy Johns made a motion to approve the January 24, 2018 meeting's summary; seconded by Ennis Davis; motion carried unanimously.

▶ 4. TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MARCH 2018

Alan Mosley presented the Treasurer's Report for March.

Chairman Bennett asked if there were any questions. There were no questions at this time.

Jimmy Johns made a motion to approve March's Treasurer's Report as presented; seconded by Ennis Davis; motion carried unanimously.

▶ 5. 2017 FINANCIAL AUDIT

Tasia Latimore of Majors & Associates presented the 2017 financial audit and informed the Board that there were no audit findings.

Chairman Bennett thanked the TPO and its staff for their continued support.

Chairman Bennett asked if there were any questions. There were no questions at this time.

Bill Bishop made a motion to approve the 2017 Financial Audit as presented; seconded by Lindsey Brock; motion carried unanimously.

▶ 6. RTC – 2018 AND BEYOND

Alan Mosley informed the Board that the RTC has the following three priorities going forward.

- RTC Elevator Speech
 - Make world class regional mobility a reality in Northeast Florida
 - Focus on collaboration among regional partners to attract and leverage public and private sector investment
 - Achieve success – thriving economy, healthy environment, opportunities for all to reach their full potential

- Create a Path Forward
 - No funding coming from the constituent counties
 - Need to find creative ways for a sustainable funding source
 - Show that we add value
- Constituent County Resolutions
 - Clay County – requires a signed resolution prior to November 30, 2018 or RTC sunsets
 - Putnam County – requires a signed resolution as part of the RTC’s enabling legislation but does not trigger sunset provisions
- Mr. Mosley feels confident that he will be able to get in front of Clay County’s Board of County Commissioners, and would like to forgo the assessment fee in an attempt to get them to sign the resolution.
- Mr. Mosley would like the Board’s permission to send a letter to the constituent counties informing them that the RTC will not be seeking an assessment for the coming year.

Commissioner Bishop commented that he feels it would be a mistake to tell the counties that we will not ever come back to them for an assessment. At the end of two years, we have to have something to show what we have accomplished and what value we add.

- Chairman Bennett stated that we must address the issue of a sunset. What does that mean and where does the money go? As we approach November 30, if we do not have the support of Clay County we need to have a plan in place.
- Commissioner Bishop feels that the RTC has gotten all of the various counties' transit agencies together to find a way to make a combined operation work. That conversation, in the manner of which we have facilitated it, would not have happened.
- Chairman Bennett stated that he feels that sometimes there is a breakdown in communication between who we are providing money to and who we are asking for money from. The message that we provide value may not be passed on from the provider to the requestor.
- Commissioner Leeper would like to know why Clay County does not want to participate.

Mr. Mosley responded that the resolution states that they support the regional multi-modal transportation plan, and some of the Clay County Commissioners do not see the value in the plan. They are aware that without a signed resolution, the RTC will cease to exist.

Chairman Bennett commented that when you have that conversation with Clay County you need to have the support of Clay Transit. Without the support of the transit agency, you will not be able to move forward.

- Bill Bishop wants to know what the elevator speech is that you can give someone in a minute or less that tells them why this organization has value and why should they support it.
- Lindsey Brock commented that what we are doing now is building the foundation of a regional transit system.
- Chairman Bennett commented that Clay County has withdrawn from the Regional Council as well. The current leadership has a different perspective in trying to assess where they want to expend their resources. I think that they feel if they can't see what product they are getting, then they are not paying for it.
- Bill Bishop wants to know if you can get Clay County to sign the resolution and then they can quit if they want.

► **7. SUPPORT SERVICES CONTRACTS**

1. Extend the contract with Liz Peak of RMG for support services for a not-to-exceed amount of \$30,000.

Danny Leeper made a motion to approve the extension of the contract with RMG for a not-to-exceed amount of \$30,000; seconded by Bill Bishop; motion carried unanimously.

2. Enter into a contract with RS&H for a not-to-exceed amount of \$49,500 for activities related to the exploration of regional transit services.
 - Bill Bishop wants to know what our contract limits are, and is this possible because we are piggy backing on JTA's contract.

Chairman Bennett stated that Mr. Mosley will confirm that the amount of \$49,500 is within our contractual limits before this contract is executed.

- Bill Bishop would like to know what the scope of the work orders will be.

Bill Bishop made a motion to approve the contract with RS&H for a not-to-exceed amount of \$49,500 to assist with activities related to the exploration of regional transit services; seconded by Danny Leeper; motion carried unanimously.

3. Support Services Contracts Clay County/JTI/RTC - To provide a study to develop immediate recommendations to meet this challenge, as well as intermediate-term opportunities for public transit development.

Danny Leeper made a motion to approve the contract with JTI for an amount of \$7,500 to provide a study to develop immediate recommendations to meet this challenge, as well as intermediate-term opportunities for public transit development; seconded by Lindsey Brock; motion carried unanimously.

- Bill Bishop wanted to know if Clay Transit goes under can you go out in the market place for another provider. What is the likely hood of that happening and who pays for that?

Brian Teeple responded that the source of the money will not change. A couple of transit providers have attempted to provide service. If we go out to the marketplace, the TD Commission will need to be involved.

Bill Bishop commented that none of these providers make money. They operate with the help of a subsidy.

Doreen Joyner Howard stated that when the money runs out they stop providing trips.

Chairman Bennett commented so when the money runs out there is a reduction in service. All transit systems require subsidies.

Doreen Joyner Howard commented that one of the things that is different about Clay County is that only a small portion of the county is rural. They have lost a lot of their funding over the last five years because of the census and the projections. Over the past ten years they have had a 75% reduction in 5311 funds. The urban area has been extended all the way out to Green Cove Springs.

- Chairman Bennett wanted to know if that means they lose their rural funding and gain urban funding. JTA serves as the urban transit provider and over time the urban transit area has expanded further into Duval County. The funding for that area comes to JTA.

Brad Thoburn commented that JTA entered into an agreement with Clay County. JTA provides annual capital and operating assistance to them for the formula amount less administrative costs.

Doreen Joyner Howard stated that FDOT gets small urban and rural area funds; however, these funds are not enough to provide the

services needed. It is a small pot of 5310 dollars for the entire district. It is less than \$500,000 annually.

- Brad Thoburn commented that Clay County did look into becoming a direct recipient. However, they decided not to continue when they found out how many administrative requirements were tied to the program.

Doreen Joyner Howard commented that JTA is liable and has to make sure that Clay County is meeting all of the federal requirements.

Brad Thoburn stated that JTA does audits to make sure they are maintaining the vehicles, and that the assets that JTA paid for are being utilized. If they get rid of the vehicle before it has reached its useful life, there are pay back requirements.

► 8. RTCC UPDATE

Liz Peak gave a brief update on the RTCC.

Ms. Peak asked if there were any questions. There were no questions at this time.

- Chairman Bennett stated that he thinks the Regional Fare Initiative is where we can show the other counties that we are adding value.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time.

► 9. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

James Bennett, Chairman

Lindsey Brock, Secretary