

**The Better Jacksonville Plan  
Financial and Project Administration Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
July 23, 2004**

**FAC:**

Dan Kleman  
Walt Bussells (also PAC)  
Dan Edelman  
Wendell Holmes  
Richard Wallace (ex officio)  
Cindy Stover

**PAC:**

Michael Blaylock  
Lynn Westbrook  
George Robbins

**CITY:**

Cal Ray  
Mary Arditti  
John Chapman  
Yetende Olewole  
Marcy Cook  
Chris Boruch  
Andy Eckert  
Janice Billy

**JTA:**

Mike Miller  
Jacquie Gibbs  
Loyce Ellis, II  
Deidre Kyle  
Matt Dominy  
Dan Gulliver  
John Davis

**JEA:**

Greg Perrine  
Helen Khert

**I. Welcome and Opening Remarks** **Walt Bussells**

**II. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes** **Walt Bussells**

**III. Finance Administration Committee**

**A. Project Report** **Cal Ray**

**1. Off-Agenda Item**

Requested committee's indulgence to explain the delay in delivery of information papers. Will continue to work to shorten the time frame primarily by eliminating the number of human hand steps. Offered a minor process improvement for committee's consideration. Since the committee operates on a three-month cycle, suggested eliminating the information sheets on individual months which would expedite the delivery of all other information to the committee. This suggestion was well received and approved by the committee.

**2. Transportation Program**

Heavy year-to-date expenditures represent a catch up from previous periods. Did not get as fast a start as with infrastructure side. Now beginning to return to model as the program matures.

**3. Revenue Trends/BJP Financial Summary Report**

The St. Johns Bluff Road/9A/Fort Caroline project reflects \$340,000 over budget due to land acquisition costs. In process with TD to correct. Will take \$340,000 of capacity from Public Works 0257. Dave Schneider believes that donor project can be brought in under budget by reducing right of way in order to save on land and condemnation costs.

**4. Infrastructure Program Summary**

Still well ahead of model but showing a gradual return to the model. The value of being ahead of schedule has been shown to be true due to well publicized sudden inflationary spike in cost of steel and concrete. Request was made by Walt Bussells to include in future reports a one-page schedule reflecting the current structure of outstanding debt for each quarter. Cal Ray agreed to do so. As of June 30, BJP has at least one year's expenditures in the construction fund so will not need to go to capital markets any time soon. Capital spending has been below expectations mostly due to courthouse delay. Question was asked about the advisability of revising the model. It was deemed unnecessary at this time.

**5. BJP Project Summary**

Everything is performing within budget at this time.

**6. Transportation Sales Tax Revenue**

Based on 12-month rolling average, we are now performing 4.7% growth. Still somewhat below model which is generating some anxiety. Mr. Ray believes this is still a reasonable and transient variation of the original estimate of 5.5%. State has tentatively approved a loan authorization of \$40 million at 2% for 20 years. Still negotiating a coverage factor. Have asked for one-one, but state has not yet signed off on that. Because of these favorable terms, this is where we will go first when we need to take down some more money.

**B. JTA**

**Dan Gulliver**

Total funding available for both BJP-1 and BJP-2 highway projects remains steady at just over \$830 million. Total amounts expended in accrued life through May 31, was \$130.2 million bringing the life-to-date cost percentage of both programs up to 16.2%. \$2 million was spent on BJP-1 projects and \$19.5 million was spent on BJP-2 projects. The largest single expenditure was the widening of Butler Boulevard to six lanes and cost \$12.2 million. Most projects are still in design and ROW acquisition. Budget for next year on BJP (beginning on October 1) is \$91.4 million.

**C. Ernst & Young Audit**

**Lynn Westbrook**

Ernst & Young is scheduled to begin financial audit in mid August. Should have a full report at next quarterly meeting. Ernst & Young will be present.

Mr. Bussells commented that he will be retiring on August 27. Jim Dickinson will succeed him as CEO of JEA and will attend this committee next time. Michael Blaylock congratulated Mr. Bussells on behalf of JTA and the entire city of Jacksonville. The committee gave Mr. Bussells a round of applause.

**IV. Project Administration Committee**

**Michael Blaylock**

**A. Project Status Reports**

**Rex Holmlin**

Engineering projects are going quite well. Twenty projects have been completed with a total value of about \$355 million. Another 31 projects are in construction at a value of about \$287 million with another 45 projects in design valued at about \$620 million.

**Baseball Park**

- Project complete.

**Arena**

- Project complete.

**Equestrian Center**

- Project complete.

**Roadway Projects**

- Pulaski Road is in the award process. Next project out for bid will be Hood Road Phase II.

**Libraries**

- Branch libraries are progressing well. Three renovation projects will be completed within the next month and also will have substantial completion on two of the branches. University Park looks really good. Substantial completion of all projects should be accomplished right after the first of the year.
- Main library progressing very well. In process of taking down one tower frame and the last one will be gone in a month which will allow closing in of the atrium area.

**Resurfacing**

- Approximately 1500 miles of roads have been resurfaced
- Approximately 90 miles of sidewalk complete.

**County Courthouse**

**Chris Boruch**

- Cannon Design is doing revisions. Excavation package is undergoing review. Foundation package should be received in September. Old courthouse asbestos abatement work is taking place. Thanked JEA for partnering on the chilled water lines.

**JEDC**

**Andy Eckert**

- New entrance to Cecil Commerce Center is expected to be completed in October. It will be a four-lane divided boulevard. Majority of roads in the south portion should be completed by December. On the north side one road extension has been completed.
- New World Avenue contract should be out on the street in the next several months.
- JEA has completed the water treatment plant and sewer system are operational. The electrical transmission lines on the north side are operational.

**JEA**

**Greg Perrine**

- Septic tank phase out projects progressing – two phases left in Murray Hill and Glynlea. Engineering studies being done in three areas in order to evaluate new technology for gravity sewers which could save money and allow more septic tank removal in other areas.

**JTA**

**Matt Dominy**

- Increased costs are impacting Regency Bypass II, Southside Connector, and Beach Boulevard bridge over the Intracoastal. The Beach Boulevard bridge cost estimate has gone from \$40 million to \$48 million.
- Network study to evaluate the interchange projects should be completed by the next meeting and preliminary findings will be presented at that time.
- Closing the Hart Bridge for at least the next two weekends to run conduit for the lighting project. Lighting on Fuller Warren should be completed by the first week of August. Materials for Main Street and Hart bridges will be in about the middle of August.
- Wonderwood Bridge will open this weekend.
- Introduced a new JTA Project Design & Production Manager, John Davis.

**B. MBE**

**John Chapman**

- Participation numbers are in the low 20% range but are expected to improve as we enter the construction phase.
- Following up on Mr. Holmes' request for a report about individual companies and their expenditures and ethnicity. The company reports were

hard to come by because data had not been recorded by company name, just by ethnicity. The requested quarterly summary was handed out. Working to produce a year's worth of data from all three agencies by company name, ethnicity, and money spent. They should have this for the next meeting. Mr. Holmes thanked the agencies for their cooperation in providing this information which will indicate the fairness of the Better Jacksonville program.

**V. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**VI. Adjourned**

**Michael Blaylock**

**Next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 29, 2004**