

Jacksonville BPAC Meeting Notes  
Hybrid Meeting  
May 1, 2025 @ 5:30 PM  
Ed Ball Building – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
214 N Hogan Street – Jacksonville FL

**Attendees:**

In-person: Matt Fall (COJ Bike Ped Coordinator), Thalia Fuste (NFTPO), Heather Rooney, Tanner Pletzke, Andrew Comes, Ernest Smith (Urban Core CPAC), Lauren Rushing (BPAC Chair), Barry Cotter, Peter Borenstein (BPAC Vice Chair), Len Burroughs (NFBC), Stephanie McCaffrey (BPAC Secretary), Kelly Jones, Lauren Rushing (BPAC Chair), John Nooney, Steve Tocknell (NFBC)

Virtual: Jesse Wilson

**I. Introductions and Adoption of Minutes**

- Meeting called to order by Lauren Rushing, BPAC Chair, at 5:30 PM.
- Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
  - Motion to adopt April 2025 meeting minutes by Peter Borenstein, seconded by Len Burroughs. Unanimously approved.

**II. Update on North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (NFTPO) Initiatives**

- Presenter: Thalia Fusté, Transportation Planner, North Florida TPO
- Key Points:
  - Overview of North Florida TPO: Covers Nassau, St. Johns, Duval, and Clay Counties (2,000 sq. miles, 1.7M people). Functions include long-range planning, coordinating on FDOT's 5-year work program, and planning studies.
  - Core-2-Coast Study:
    - Preliminary study for a trail connecting downtown Jacksonville to the beaches.
    - Considered existing infrastructure, transit stops, schools, and parks.
    - Proposed alignment includes shared-use paths and protected cycle tracks.
    - Public feedback positive; survey showed strong support. The trail spans 5 council districts, 91 transit stops, 12 parks, and 17 schools.
    - City has applied for federal funding for planning and engineering study.
    - Community engagement opportunities to follow.
  - 2024 Annual Mobility Report:
    - Analyzes high-crash areas, bike/pedestrian fatalities, vehicle miles traveled, and economic impacts. Available on TPO website.
  - University Blvd Safety Study:
    - Covers San Jose to Fort Caroline Rd.; examines sidewalks, crossings, driveways, and safety concerns.
    - Web page with maps and crash data available; public comments requested using the "Get Involved" tab.
    - Collaboration with JTA, Arlington CRA, and FDOT; addressing driveway consolidation and resurfacing.
    - Example: Unsafe mid-block crossing near Arlington Elementary (no controlled crossing, high speeds).
    - Public outreach planned at local schools/businesses.
  - Mid-Block Crossing Study:

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- Developing a GIS-based system with City traffic engineering to prioritize crossing improvements.
  - Focus on targeted countermeasures based on road characteristics; not public facing but for engineers to help streamline the process.
- First and Last Mile Study (Normandy Blvd):
  - Examines access to bus stops from Jacksonville Regional Transportation Center (JRTC) and along Normandy Blvd.
  - Identified ADA, sidewalk, and crossing issues; created low/medium/high priority infrastructure improvement plans.
  - Estimated \$22-24M for improvements; preparing for FTA grant application.
  - Collaboration between the JTA and the City.
- New Studies for 2025:
  - E-Bike Safety Study (Beaches): Address complaints about e-bike behavior; develop consistent policies across Jacksonville, Atlantic, and Neptune Beaches. Focus on youth education and helmet use.
  - Protected Bike Lane Study (Jacksonville): Identify locations and designs for protected bike lanes.
  - First Street Bike/Ped Study (Beaches): Enhance safety on First St. (Neptune to Jax Beach).
  - Safe Routes to School Assistance:
    - The TPO is looking to assist schools in 4 counties with grant applications and safety plans.
    - Focus on barriers such as missing sidewalks, unsafe crossings within 2 miles of schools.
    - Includes education, enforcement, and events like bike/walk to school days.
    - Task forces with parents, teachers, and engineers; resolutions signed by Jacksonville and Duval County Public Schools.
  - Best Foot Forward Program:
    - Funded by FDOT to improve driver yield rates at 12 crossings.
    - Involves task force with law enforcement; examines crossing safety and proposes quick fixes.
    - Community engagement events to be planned.
- Questions/Discussion:
  - Concerns about federal funding shifts; Fusté noted efforts to secure earmarks without diverting from other projects.
  - Suggestions for BPAC involvement in walk audits and tabling at events to raise awareness.
  - Request to include people with disabilities, including wheelchair users, in site visits.
  - Inquiry about e-bike complaints; Fusté cited a recent incident involving a 14-year-old without a helmet.
- Action Items:
  - Fusté to share materials for BPAC tabling.
  - BPAC to explore walk audit participation with TPO.

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- Fusté to send Safe Routes to School flyers digitally to Ernest for Northside schools.
- Matt Fall to keep BPAC updated on protected bike lane study.

### **III. City of Jacksonville Draft Quick Builds Project List**

- Presenter: Matt Fall, Bicycle-Pedestrian Coordinator
- Key Points:
  - Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant: Funding for a planning grant to implement temporary demonstration projects (e.g., protected intersections, bike lanes, crosswalks, two-way cycle tracks).
  - Vision Zero Dashboard: Lists proposed quick-build projects (light blue routes) and permanent Vision Zero CIP projects (pink routes).
  - Purpose: Demonstrate infrastructure to residents before permanent implementation; projects are low-cost and reversible.
  - Preliminary List: 20 projects identified citywide (e.g., protected bike lanes, intersection treatments, lane reductions).
  - Time constraints limited discussion; topic deferred to next meeting.
- Action Items:
  - Reschedule detailed discussion for June 2025 meeting.
  - Resend spreadsheet of preliminary projects to BPAC mailing list.

### **IV. Update on BPAC Bylaws and New Officer Role**

- Presenter: Lauren Rushing, BPAC Chair
  - Bylaws Update (Last Revised 2020):
    - Mission Statement: Changed from “pedestrians and bicyclists” to “people who walk and bike”
    - Vision Statement: Updated to “Jacksonville is a walkable, bikeable, and livable city committed to safely moving people of all ages and abilities” with emphasis on diverse mobility options.
    - Membership: Formalized to allow anyone with expertise or interest to join via a letter to the Chair; members could be inducted at the next meeting.
    - Voting: Restricted to officers and members; public can provide comments but not vote.
    - Noticing Requirements: Added clause: “Subject to applicable city noticing requirements” to address Sunshine Law concerns if multiple Context Sensitive Streets Standards Committee members attend.
    - Subcommittees: Language added to allow officers to meet outside monthly meetings for advocacy and event planning, as BPAC evolves from advisory to advocacy role.
  - New Officer Role: Proposed Social Media and Community Engagement Officer (1-year term) to manage Instagram, Facebook, and community events.
  - Motion to approve bylaws with amendments by Len Burroughs; seconded by Thalia Fusté. Unanimously approved.
  - Motion to appoint Tanner Pletzke as Social Media and Community Engagement Officer by Peter Borenstein, seconded by Len Burroughs; unanimously approved.
- Action Items:

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- Lauren Rushing to provide template letter for membership applications.
- Post finalized bylaws on BPAC website.
- Tanner Pletzke to establish social media handles (e.g., @JaxBPAC, @bikewalkjax, @walkbikejax, final name TBD)

#### **V. Bike Month Event – Bike to Work Day**

- Presenter: Matt Fall, Bicycle-Pedestrian Coordinator
  - Bike to Work Day on Friday, May 16, 2025, from 8:30–10:00 AM at the Fuller Warren Bridge shared-use path on-ramp (near permanent user counter).
  - Activities: Hand out granola bars, coffee, Vision Zero T-shirts, and information to commuters

#### **VI. Open Discussion / Rapid Fire**

- Jax Coffee Outside ride scheduled for Sunday, May 18, 2025, at 10:00 AM (2-hour ride with coffee stop).
  - Accessibility issue at Park and Lee (no sidewalk ramp); Matt Fall to follow up
- John Nooney's Proposal:
  - Requested a resolution to support designating private property on Pottsburg Creek as a public park for recreational and environmental benefits (e.g., kayaking, water quality, wildlife).
  - Property on city's land acquisition list; recognized by North Florida Land Trust and Waterways Commission.
- Action Items:
  - John Nooney to send property details to Lauren Rushing.

#### **VII. Wrap Up / Upcoming Events / Announcements / Next Meeting Info**

- Upcoming Events:
  - Bike to Work Day: May 16, 2025, 8:30–10:00 AM, Fuller Warren Bridge SUP.
  - Jax Coffee Outside Ride: May 18, 2025, 10:00 am.
- Announcements:
  - Meeting attendees encouraged to submit letters of interest for formal membership.
- Next Meeting: June 5, 2025, 5:30 PM.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.