

Congress of the United States
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0904

May 23, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) Autonomous Transit Deployment project in the Fiscal Year 2026 Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill. JTA requests \$4,096,000 to purchase ten purpose-built autonomous vehicle shuttles for its U2C Phase III Neighborhood Extensions Project. JTA is working to establish a new benchmark in modern transit systems that produces cost efficiencies, enhances safety outcomes, and improves overall system performance. JTA will purchase the vehicles through the statewide AV contract that was procured in November 2024 in partnership with the Florida Public Transportation Association as a method agencies in the state and around the country can benefit and purchase vehicles. JTA is located at 100 LaVilla Center Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32204.

This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will enhance JTA's transit network, improving the experience for existing transit passengers and drawing new passengers to the system. Jacksonville is the largest city by landmass in the contiguous United States, which has contributed to the city's car-centric development and heavy reliance on personal automobiles. Pre-pandemic travel trends showed increases in automobile traffic, growing 3.3 percent from 2018 to 2019. More than 80 percent of travel in the region is done in Single Occupancy Vehicles (SOV), which is a major contributor to congestion and safety incidents. In 2019, vehicle crashes cost the region \$4.9 billion in economic losses, and 232 people died in vehicle crashes. Increasing transit ridership would reduce congestion, improve safety, and support economic development in Downtown Jacksonville.

This project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 23 USC 133(b). Additionally, this project previously received a FY 2018 BUILD Grant and FY 2021 RAISE Planning grant that made federal investments in earlier stages in this transit project. I certify that I have no financial interest in this project and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress