



# Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization of Expenditures (TRUE) Commission

Daniel Henry, Chair

## LEGISLATIVE TRACKING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

November 21, 2019

3:00 p.m.

City Council Conference Room B  
Suite 425, City Hall

**Attendance:** Commissioner John Roberts

**Also:** Jeff Clements – Council Research Division; Ruth Pierre-Charles – Jesse Ball duPont Fund

The meeting was convened at 3:05 p.m. and the following items were discussed:

2019-765 – appropriation for traffic calming in Southside Estates subdivision: Commissioner Roberts thinks there should be a mechanism to require traffic calming devices on some streets without needing the 75% resident approval process, which is practically impossible to achieve. Staff was asked to find out from the Traffic Engineering Division if traffic calming devices are available without community consensus where safety considerations may warrant.

2019-843 – changing the method for addressing street numbering anomalies: the bill provides that street numbering changes can be made administratively by staff rather than by the 911 Emergency Addressing Committee, with an appeal mechanism to the committee.

2019-848 – appropriating funds from countywide roadway safety account to 2 specific pedestrian improvement projects.

2019-850 - SAFER grant appropriation: the City has received a \$2.24 million federal grant to pay 75% of the salary and benefits costs of hiring 40 new firefighters. The grant is for 3 years, after which the City will need to pick up the full cost of the firefighters or lay them off.

2019-852 – authorizing participation in a Medicaid Intergovernmental Transfer program to provide additional funding for Fire and Rescue Department EMS transport of patients covered by Medicaid. The State of Florida is receiving additional Medicaid funding from the federal government to pay for ambulance transports and Jacksonville will receive a proportional share based on its percentage of Medicaid-paid transports statewide, expected to be approximately \$2.7 million.

2019-853 – authorizing execution of a property purchase option with a developer on a site for construction of a soccer stadium downtown. The owner of the Jacksonville Armada would pay \$5,000 for an option, to be exercised within 3 years, to purchase 5 acres of vacant City land on A. Phillip Randolph Avenue for \$1 on which a soccer stadium would be constructed with a minimum of 2,500 seats.

2019-854 – appropriating \$785,000 of Tourist Development Council capital funding from an expenditure account for construction of a downtown visitor center in the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts to a designated reserve fund. The appropriation would put the project on hold while other locations for a

visitor center are explored by the TDC. The demolition of the Jacksonville Landing and impending work to replace bulkheads along the riverfront may make the area unsuitable for a visitor center for the next several years.

2019-844 – authorizing a Recapture Enhanced Value grant for Eagle LNG Partners, LLC to incentivize the company to construct a liquefied natural gas production and distribution facility on Zoo Parkway. The company will invest nearly \$500 million in land, plant and production equipment to convert natural gas to a liquid to fuel ships and to export to other countries. The REV grant would be \$23 million payable over 10 years, representing 50% of the amount of new taxes paid on the property due to its increased value.

2019-863 – resolution encouraging the JEA board to abandon its Performance Unit Plan. The PUP is an employee incentive program that would allow employees to purchase “units” for \$10 whose value could increase significantly if the utility meets a set of performance goals over the next 3 years, or could have no value at all if the goals are not met.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

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