



August 1, 2017

To: Jacksonville City Council

From: Lisa Rinaman

RE: Request for Full Transparency and Public Review of Proposed Dredging

On July 25, 2017, JAXPORT provided the City Council with a four-inch binder of public meeting notices, agendas, and minutes related to harbor deepening discussions that have occurred in the past 6 years. JAXPORT would like you to believe that the proposed dredging has already been thoroughly evaluated and publicly vetted and no further discussion is necessary.

However, nothing could be further from the truth. **The information submitted to you actually demonstrates that JAXPORT has made little attempt to provide or even encourage a robust community dialogue and comprehensive assessment of this project.** Most of the meetings cited only included brief updates on the status of the dredging or a specific component of the project and did not provide a complete picture of the project or a platform for broad public participation and discussion. Numerous documents even refer to presentations that St. Johns Riverkeeper provided to various organizations, commissions, and boards regarding the shortcomings of the dredging plan and the unanswered questions that remain.

To date, not one public meeting has been held to discuss:

- the pros and cons of an 11-mile dredging project
- the total cost of the harbor expansion (including tenant relocation costs and landside improvements)
- funding sources and Jacksonville's anticipated financial obligations
- the recent analysis by Dale Lewis and Dr. Asaf Ashar questioning the economic viability of the project
- the tradeoffs in local public programs and services that would be necessary in future years.

In addition, these meetings all failed to adequately address the flaws in the Army Corps' economic and environmental assessment and the lack of mitigation that exists to offset the inevitable damage that will occur to our river.

The bottom line is that these documents demonstrate a lack of transparency and a lack of full disclosure reinforcing the need for robust public dialogue and comprehensive evaluation by City Council and the local community before the harm is done.

At the April 5, 2017, Noticed Meeting between City Council Members Gulliford and Boyer, JAXPORT could not answer questions regarding city funding. At that same meeting, it was suggested **“that the Port Authority might want to hold a public meeting with Council Members...with a give and take for discussion of this huge endeavor.”**

While JAXPORT has provided each Council Member a spreadsheet proposing a range of \$47-\$150 million of City money, a full vetting of the risk and costly, budgetary trade-offs has not taken place.

Instead, JAXPORT is moving full-steam ahead with Phase A in an effort to obligate future COJ spending without first undergoing a thorough public vetting process to comprehensively evaluate the merits of this project.

This would be the most expensive public infrastructure project ever undertaken in the City of Jacksonville. It will have a long-term financial impact on our community and will cause significant and irreparable harm to the health of the St. Johns River and its tributaries.

The public deserves the opportunity to fully assess this massive investment to ensure that we are making the right decision for our City, the port, and our river.

We ask that the City Council provide a forum for review and accountability before this risky project moves forward.

Sincerely,

Lisa Rinaman,
St. Johns Riverkeeper

**Analysis by St. Johns RIVERKEEPER of
Harbor Deepening Public Meeting Notices/Agendas 2011-2017 Provided by JAXPORT**

City Council Meetings & Workshops

- April 5, 2017** **Noticed Meeting: City Council Members Gulliford and Boyer**
- No Mention Of COJ Spending Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
 - It was suggested “that the Port Authority might want to hold a public meeting with Council Members...with a give and take for discussion of this huge endeavor.”
- June 10, 2014** **Noticed Meeting: City Council Port Deepening Workshop**
- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
- March 11, 2014** **Noticed Meeting: City Council Port Deepening Workshop**
- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
 - JAXPORT CEO Brian Taylor was asked to bring more detail on the economic impact study to a future committee meeting. There was no evidence in the June 10, 2014, Committee Minutes that this request was fulfilled.
- Jan. 28, 2014** **Noticed Meeting: City Council Port Deepening Workshop**
- Outdated Discussion Of COJ Spending and Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
 - CEO Brian Taylor stated that the normal funding split would be 65% federal and 35% state and local, with the State of Florida normally funding half of the state/local share. *(Today’s funding split is 50% federal and 50% state and local due to JAXPORT’s desire to dredge to 47 feet instead of the Corps’ preferred 45 feet.)*

US Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District

The Army Corps did not analyze local benefits, local funding or local tradeoffs in their study nor were local issues addressed in the following public discussions.

- March 18, 2014** **USACE Teleconference Call (Additional calls: 4/1, 6/3, 8/5, 10/7, 12/2)**
- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
- Sept. 30, 2013** **USACE Deadline for Final EIS Comments**
- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed

June 27, 2013

USACE Public Meeting

- Outdated Discussion Of COJ Spending and Amount, Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
- Funding discussion included: “The estimated project cost right now is \$733 million for 47 feet. This includes \$80 million for mitigation and monitoring. The federal share of that is \$350 million. *The nonfederal share for Jacksonville Port Authority is \$383 million.*”
- *At this time, they were still proposing mitigation at \$80 million.*

March 12, 2013

USACE Public Meeting

- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed

Waterways Committee & Subcommittees

Feb. 14, 2017

Jacksonville Waterways Commission

- St. Johns Riverkeeper Presented Concerns
 - Environmental Impacts have been Underestimated
 - Virtually No Mitigation to Offset Harm
 - Project Benefits have been Overstated
- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
- Rinaman stated “that there is a genuine need for a robust vetting of the pros and cons of JAXPORT’s priorities, and Jacksonville’s priorities, as well.” (March 12, 2014)
- **St. Johns Riverkeeper also presented the above at the following JWC Meetings: 7/27/16, 9/9/15, 8/2/15, 5/13/15, 6/10/15, 4/15/15, 3/11/15, 2/11/15, 1/14/15, 10/14/14, 9/10/14, 8/13/14, 7/23/14, 5/14/14, 4/9/14, 3/12/14, 12/11/13, 10/9/13, 10/9/13, 8/14/13, 6/12/13, 12/12/12, 11/14/12, 9/19/12**

Oct. 12, 2016

Jacksonville Waterways Commission

- JAXPORT CEO Brian Taylor Presented
- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed

Sept. 11, 2013

Jacksonville Waterways Commission

- USACE presented on schedule, salinity issues, mitigation, monitoring
- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
 - Commissioner Fleming did state that “other costs had to be weighed as well: JEA moving overhead electrical wires; deeper

bulkheads; improved railroad and roads...more like a \$1 billion project”

Sept. 10, 2013

Jacksonville Waterways Commission Subcommittee on SJR Issues

- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
- JAXPORT’s Dr. John Martin presented benefits *without addressing local spending or tradeoffs*.
- Commissioner Fleming raised concern over additional costs that will “far exceed the direct dredging costs that are often cited.”

Jacksonville Port Task Force Meetings

April 16, 2015

Jacksonville Port Task Force Meeting

- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
- **The Port Task Force was dismantled before it addressed COJ Spending.**
- *The Task Force did pass a Resolution supporting the project but only with an additional \$50 million for mitigation to protect the St. Johns.*

March 11, 2015

Jacksonville Port Task Force Meeting

- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
- Focus: Benefits of Project
 - The consultant hired to review Dr. Martin’s work assumed that the assumptions were correct. *New evidence reveals questions regarding Martin’s assumptions.*

Jan. 14, 2015

Jacksonville Port Task Force Meeting

- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
- Focus: Environmental Mitigation

Nov. 12, 2014

Jacksonville Port Task Force Meeting

- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
- Focus: Environmental Mitigation

Oct. 14, 2014

Jacksonville Port Task Force Meeting

- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
- Focus: Environmental Impacts

- Sept. 17, 2014** **Jacksonville Port Task Force Meeting**
- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
 - Focus: Environmental Impacts
- Aug. 7, 2014** **Jacksonville Port Task Force Meeting**
- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
 - Focus: Benefits of the Project
- June 18, 2014** **Jacksonville Port Task Force Meeting**
- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
 - Focus: Benefits of the Project
- May 12, 2014** **Jacksonville Port Task Force Meeting**
- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
 - Focus: Benefits of the Project
- April 18, 2014** **Jacksonville Port Task Force Meeting**
- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
 - Organizational Meeting

Citizen Planning Advisory Committees

- Feb. 27, 2017** **Southeast Citizens Planning Advisory Committee**
- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
 - A statement was submitted.
- Aug. 10, 2016** **North Citizens Planning Advisory Committee**
- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
 - Representative Lake Ray discussed benefits. JAXPORT was not in attendance.
- Aug. 8, 2016** **Greater Arlington Beaches Citizens Planning Advisory Committee**
- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
 - St. Johns Riverkeeper presented outstanding concerns. JAXPORT was not in attendance.
- Sept. 3, 2015** **Urban Core Citizens Planning Advisory Committee**

- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
- St. Johns Riverkeeper presented outstanding concerns. JAXPORT was not in attendance.

July 27, 2015

District 3 Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
- Subcommittee Chair Gloria Stephens stated that “St. Johns River dredging project continues to have more questions than solutions.” JAXPORT was not in attendance.

Nov. 24, 2014

District 3 Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

- Brief Mention* Of COJ Spending, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
- St. Johns Riverkeeper presented outstanding concerns. JAXPORT was not in attendance.
- *From the minutes: “The harbor deepening is projected to cost at least \$684 million, with JAXPORT and the local community responsible for over \$371 million. The total does not include the cost of fixing Mile Point, annual maintenance dredging, and road and other infrastructure improvements that will be necessary.”

Oct. 6, 2014

Urban Core Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
- St. Johns Riverkeeper presented outstanding concerns. JAXPORT was not in attendance.

Aug. 25, 2014

District 3 Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

- Brief Mention* Of COJ Spending, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
- JAXPORT CEO Brian Taylor presented benefits:
 - *Taylor did state, “JAXPORT will also have to work with State and City for financial contributions.”
 - *When asked how much money would be required from the City, Taylor answered, “\$180 million.”

Aug. 13, 2014

North District Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
- JAXPORT CEO Brian Taylor presented benefits.
 - No mention of COJ spending in the meeting minutes.

July 14, 2014

Greater Arlington Beaches Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
- JAXPORT CEO Brian Taylor presented benefits.
 - No mention of COJ spending in the meeting minutes.

Sept. 4, 2014

Urban Core Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

- Brief Mention* Of COJ Spending, Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
- JAXPORT CEO Brian Taylor presented benefits.
 - *When asked “when does City Council vote on the bill?” Taylor answered, “the mayor has a Task Force that will evaluate and develop some recommendations on funding.”
 - The Port Task Force was dismantled before it addressed COJ spending.

March 10, 2014

Greater Arlington Beaches Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
- JAXPORT was not in attendance.
- In public comment, a citizen mentioned dredging.

May 9, 2012

District 6 Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
- Only mention of dredging was in a discussion regarding asking the St. Johns Riverkeeper to present at a future meeting.
- JAXPORT was not in attendance.

April 25, 2011

Southeast Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

- Brief Mention* Of COJ Spending, Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
- JAXPORT’s Nancy Rubin presented the benefits of dredging.
 - *Estimated cost stated as \$500 to \$600 million.
 - *Rubin stated that the federal government would pay two-thirds and the local share to be a third.
 - The current cost-shared split is 50%-50%.

Environmental Protection Board

Aug. 8, 2016

Environmental Protection Board

- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
- There was an agenda item under Old Business regarding an Environmentally-focused dredging forum/town hall.

- It was decided to continue to monitor the status of the project and to consider doing something at a later time.

- JAXPORT was not in attendance.

April 11, 2016

Environmental Protection Board

- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
- There was an agenda item under Old Business regarding an Environmentally-focused dredging forum/town hall.
 - Remains referred to the Education & Public Outreach Committee (EPO)

- JAXPORT was not in attendance

March 14, 2016

Environmental Protection Board

- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
- St. Johns Riverkeeper presented outstanding concerns.
- There was an agenda item under Old Business regarding an Environmentally-focused dredging forum/town hall.
 - Remains referred to the Education & Public Outreach Committee (EPO)

- JAXPORT was not in attendance

Jan. 6, 2016

Environmental Protection Board Steering Committee

- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
- There was an agenda item under Old Business regarding an Environmentally-focused dredging forum/town hall.
- JAXPORT was not in attendance

Dec. 4, 2015

Environmental Protection Board Steering Committee

- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
- There was an agenda item under Old Business regarding an Environmentally-focused dredging forum/town hall.
- JAXPORT was not in attendance

Nov. 9, 2015

Environmental Protection Board

- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
- There was an agenda item under Old Business regarding an Environmentally-focused dredging forum/town hall.

- Sept. 23, 2015**

 - JAXPORT was not in attendance

Environmental Protection Board Steering Committee

 - No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
 - There was an agenda item under Old Business regarding an Environmentally-focused dredging forum/town hall.
- July 29, 2015**

 - JAXPORT was not in attendance

Environmental Protection Board Steering Committee

 - No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
 - There was an agenda item under Old Business regarding an Environmentally-focused dredging forum/town hall.
- July 13, 2015**

 - JAXPORT was not in attendance

Environmental Protection Board

 - No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
 - There was an agenda item under Old Business regarding an Environmentally-focused dredging forum/town hall.
- May 28, 2015**

 - JAXPORT was not in attendance

Environmental Protection Board Steering Committee

 - No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
 - There was an agenda item under Old Business regarding an Environmentally-focused dredging forum/town hall.
- May 11, 2015**

 - JAXPORT was not in attendance

Environmental Protection Board

 - No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
 - There was an agenda item under Old Business regarding an Environmentally-focused dredging forum/town hall.
- Sept. 9, 2013**

 - JAXPORT was not in attendance

Environmental Protection Board

 - No Mention of Dredging

JAXPORT

June 26, 2017

JAXPORT Board Meeting

- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
 - Harbor Deepening – Contract A on Agenda
 - Minutes are not currently available.
- Feb. 27, 2017** **JAXPORT Board Meeting**
- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
 - Purchase of Pelotes Island as Mitigation on Agenda
- Jan. 30, 2017** **JAXPORT Board Meeting**
- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
 - JAXPORT/USACE Partnership on Agenda
- Dec. 14, 2016** **JAXPORT Board Meeting**
- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
 - Conservation Land Purchase on Agenda
- Feb. 22, 2016** **JAXPORT Board Meeting**
- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
 - Local Sponsor Agreement for Deepening on Agenda
- Oct. 26, 2015** **JAXPORT Board Meeting**
- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
 - Joint Participation Agreement with FDOT on Agenda
- Feb. 26, 2013** **JAXPORT Board Meeting**
- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed
 - Presentation of Benefits on Agenda

Misc. Public Meetings

- March 9, 2015** **UNF's 'The Dredging of the St. Johns River' Town Hall Meeting**
- Cohosted by UNF Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work; The Ports Project, UNF: The St. Johns Riverkeeper; and the Northeast Florida Center for Community Initiatives at UNF
- Aug. 23, 2015** **EPB/UNF Symposium Presentation: River Impacts**

- Presentation regarding the environmental impacts of the dredging by USACE Eric Summa.
- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed

July 23, 2013

St. Johns Riverkeeper Expert Panel Discussion: Outstanding Concerns

- Presentation regarding the environmental impacts of the dredging and the outstanding environmental and economic concerns and shortcomings of the Army Corps study.

Oct. 27, 2010

Port Expansion Panel

- Presentation regarding the benefits of the dredging and the process to deepen the river.
- No Mention Of COJ Spending or Amount, Budgetary Tradeoffs Were Not Discussed