

Jacksonville Skyway Modernization Project



Conceptual rendering of new river crossing

A NEW VEHICLE

The preferred vehicle technology for the future U²C is the Autonomous Vehicle. Based on research and meetings with multiple vehicle manufacturers, Autonomous Vehicle (AV) technology has the greatest potential to achieve the desired features for the future downtown circulator. AV technology is advanced enough to operate on the existing elevated guideway today and at the street level in the future.

The U²C concept envisions:

- » A larger fleet of vehicles arriving more often
- » Vehicles large enough to carry peak number of passengers
- » Vehicles that could operate individually or be connected to provide high capacity during peak travel times
- » Street level extensions of the current Skyway that use dedicated transit lanes with signal priority to ensure a high level of speed, frequency and reliability



Conceptual rendering of new autonomous vehicles

TAKING THE NEXT STEP

The U²C concept takes full advantage of the existing Skyway assets and fully integrates advancing technologies. Implementing this bold but necessary vision to enhance the transportation system will entail successful agency partnerships, community buy-in and essential financial resources.

While JTA continues coordination with federal, state and local agencies to evaluate funding, right-of-way requirements, environmental compliance and modifications to the street conditions; the following actions will be taken:

- » Continue community outreach to gain strong support for the project
- » Maintain existing Skyway vehicles until a future vehicle is defined
- » Identify the preferred vehicle and future operating system
- » Develop a plan to convert the existing monorail structure for the new vehicle
- » Develop an autonomous vehicle demonstration project
- » Prepare a project phasing plan to coordinate the design and construction of the system extensions



YOUR RIDE IS WAITING.....GET ON BOARD!



U²C: Transforming Downtown Mobility with the Ultimate Urban Circulator



A NEW ERA FOR THE SKYWAY



Since the late 1980's, the Automated Skyway Express (Skyway) has glided above streets of Downtown Jacksonville, carrying customers to work, school, and to numerous special events and daily activities. Creating a new state of the art urban circulator presents an exciting opportunity for Jacksonville and supports the vision for a revitalized and vibrant Downtown.

In December 2015, the JTA Board of Directors approved a resolution to "Keep, Modernize and Expand" the Skyway and recommended the development of a Skyway Modernization Program. The focus of the Skyway Modernization Program was to define the path forward for the Skyway, recommend vehicle technology, and develop a strategy to expand the system to connect to more places in the future.

The project team evaluated current and emerging technologies, analyzed where people travel now and their mobility needs for the future, evaluated development plans and gathered community feedback. As a result, the Skyway Modernization Program recommends transforming the Skyway into a new, ultimate urban circulator system. This transition is critical to support growth, enhance economic development and improve the quality of life in Jacksonville.

THE ULTIMATE URBAN CIRCULATOR

With the support and participation of its partners, JTA is uniquely positioned to create the Ultimate Urban Circulator (U²C). The U²C program will provide mobility, connectivity, sustained economic growth and vibrancy for Jacksonville. This can be achieved by utilizing the investment in the existing elevated Skyway, expanding the area it serves, and employing rapidly emerging autonomous transit technology.

U²C can cost effectively reach beyond the current Skyway system to serve existing and planned development. The proposed U²C system will achieve the purpose of a downtown circulator system by:

- » Providing high frequency, service and accessibility
- » Offering service flexibility
- » Including extensions that can be elevated or at the street level



Autonomous Vehicle Examples

MAKING NEW CONNECTIONS

The new urban circulator will reach more destinations than the Skyway takes you today. The proposed U2C System Plan recommends extensions to connect to expanding and emerging development in Riverside, near the sports complex, The Shipyards, and into San Marco. These extensions are shown on the map illustrated on the following page. The system extensions would link Downtown to nearby, popular neighborhoods and allow people in the Downtown core to reach employment, residential, retail, medical and educational centers.

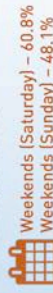
To enhance connectivity, the plan recommends a new crossing of the St. Johns River be constructed to join the developing areas on the eastern ends on the Northbank and Southbank of the river. This new bridge would be for transit, bicycles and pedestrians only; connecting the Northbank and Southbank Riverwalk creating an inner loop for the future U2C service and enhancing accessibility of the downtown circulator.

The proposed U2C plan integrated feedback from stakeholders, partner agencies and the community obtained through multiple workshops and outreach activities. An online survey, resulting in more than 1250 responses, provided insight into where people want to go and when they want to use the Skyway. Getting to the Sports Complex and to Five Points ranked high on the list of priorities of those surveyed.

PRIORITY DESTINATIONS FOR EXTENSIONS



A new system is exciting, but our customers want to be able to use the Skyway more often now. While more work is done on the new system extensions, our team will explore options to expand the hours of service and days of operation to support Downtown events and businesses, as desired by the community. When asked about how to make the Skyway more useful, 60% of the respondents want to see more service on Saturdays, and 48% want more Sunday service too.



U2C PROVIDES:

- » New vehicles
- » Next generation autonomous vehicles
- » Frequent service
- » Flexibility for extensions
- » New river crossing

LEGEND

- Existing Skyway Route/Stations
- Potential Extension Route/Stations

