

# Investing in Transit's Greatest Asset

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# Innovative Workforce Development

In an effort to promote training opportunities in emerging technologies, the FTA initiated the Innovative Workforce Development Program which made \$7M of grant funds available nationally for eligible workforce training programs:

- 17 entities in 12 states were awarded funds under this program.
- JTA was awarded \$247,197 to develop its Hybrid Technology Education Program in an effort to address the lack of industry recognized hybrid bus technology maintenance standards and procedures.



# Hybrid Technology Education Program

JTA is partnering with the APTA Bus Maintenance Training Committee to establish a hybrid technology bus maintenance standard through which:

- A standard hybrid maintenance procedure will be developed to serve as a resource for transit agencies throughout the country.
- 34% of JTA's technicians participated in a two-phased, 3-day, hybrid service and maintenance training program.
- 27 employees of the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department were trained in emergency and first response scenarios involving hybrid technology.

# Innovative Training Opportunities

JTA has appropriated grant funds to purchase a bus driving simulator which will allow us to:

- Train operators on the latest safety and efficiency standards with minimal risk.
- Partner with regional transportation agencies to provide a unique resource for collaborative workforce development.
- Develop a comprehensive package of training materials for future workforce development.

# Cultivating Tomorrow's Workforce

Since 2008, JTA has provided 50 high school and college students with the opportunity to gain first-hand experience in the industry:

- Opportunities to work in a wide variety of departments including the CEO's Office, Bus Maintenance, Finance, Operations, Paratransit, Planning, and Risk Management.
- Opportunities to tour local public and private transportation entities such as the aviation and port authorities and CSX to learn about the different aspects of transportation industry.
- In July 2013, JTA hosted the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) in Jacksonville. This unique opportunity allowed JTA to provide access for interns to attend panel discussions regarding pertinent issues in the transportation industry. It also exposed interns to the COMTO scholarship program which makes scholarships available for minority students interested in pursuing careers in public transportation.



# “One Call One Click” - The Veterans Transportation & Community Living Initiative

In an effort to increase the accessibility of transportation resources and information to veterans, military families and the community as a whole:

- FTA initiated the Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative which made \$34.6M of grants available nationally for eligible projects.
- Of the 55 projects awarded, JTA was one of 4 transit agencies nationally which received an award in excess of \$2M.
- JTA initiated the “One Call One Click” program to provide veterans, military families and the community as a whole with access to a one-stop resource center which will offer a centralized booking and dispatch system accessed by major transportation systems in the region via a secure internet connection. Full implementation is expected by 2014.