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The Florida Times-Union

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A Skyway vehicle makes a turn on the elevated structure that covers 2.5 miles. The Jacksonville Transportation Authority is considering the future of the structure by examining various alternatives. BOB SELF/THE FLORIDA TIMES-UNION

Public asked to sound off on five Skyway plans

All options would require substantial spending

David Bauerlein
Jacksonville Florida Times-Union
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Jacksonville Transportation Authority is asking for public feedback on five different options for the future of the Skyway's elevated structure that include keeping it for above-ground trains, converting the structure for rubber-tired autonomous transit shuttles, turning it into a pedestrian walkway or tearing it down.

JTA officials have been talking for years about making the Skyway part of the Ultimate Urban Circulator system that would use autonomous transit shuttles operating on both streets and on a converted elevated structure.

But none of the alternatives under



A rendering shows how the elevated structure for the Skyway could be turned into a trail for walking, jogging and bicycling.

PROVIDED BY JACKSONVILLE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

consideration is starting with an advantage as JTA asks what residents prefer, spokesman Taniel Koushakjian said.

"That's what this exercise is about," he said. "What does the community like? What do they want to see?"

All the options would continue to re-

quire substantial spending on downtown-oriented transit, whether it's through the Skyway or with expansion of street-level autonomous transit shuttles like those operating now along Bay Street.

See SKYWAY, Page 4A

Cuba says its forces killed 4 in gunfight

Michael Loria, C.A. Bridges and Rick Jervis
USA TODAY NETWORK

U.S. officials called for an investigation after a gunfight off the coast of Cuba ended with the communist nation's patrol forces killing four people and injuring six aboard a Florida-registered speedboat.

The heavily armed crew of the

speedboat consisted of Cuban nationals who had been living in the United States and who were equipped with assault rifles, handguns and Molotov cocktails, Cuban authorities said Feb. 25.

Cuban Ministry of the Interior authorities said the crew members "aimed to infiltrate the country for terrorist ends."

"When a surface unit of the Border

Guard Troops of the Ministry of the Interior, carrying five service members, approached the vessel for identification, the crew of the violating speedboat opened fire on the Cuban personnel, resulting in the injury of the commander of the Cuban vessel," the Cuban Embassy said in a statement.

Cuban authorities said they also

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Peluso: Carrico should step back

Proposes action during state attorney probe

David Bauerlein
Jacksonville Florida Times-Union
USA TODAY NETWORK

City Council member Jimmy Peluso called on council President Kevin Carrico to step down from being president until State Attorney Melissa Nelson completes an investigation of documents her office sought in a subpoena issued this week.

A letter sent by Peluso to Carrico said temporarily stepping aside would "increase public trust" in council.

"Our city deserves better than what we have been seeing from our council, and I think you should accept responsibility as one of the key reasons why," Peluso wrote in the Feb. 26 letter.

Carrico said the letter was "political theater from the biggest drama queen on City Council." He said he is fully cooperating with the State Attorney's Office.

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ANALYSIS

Economic policy shifts leave Americans with mixed bag

Ann Saphir
REUTERS

Over a year into President Donald Trump's second term, his suite of sweeping economic policy changes has delivered on some promises and fallen short on others, leaving American households and businesses with a mixed bag that includes strong economic growth and a tech investment boom, but also stalled job gains and still too-high inflation.

Couple that with last week's Supreme Court decision striking down the emergency tariffs that were a centerpiece of Trump's economic agenda, and the uncertainty that has characterized the American economic outlook since Trump returned to power

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