

**CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**



Agenda Date:	December 16, 2024
Action Required:	Approval of Resolution
Presenter:	Ben Chambers, Transportation Planning Manager
Staff Contacts:	Ben Chambers, Transportation Planning Manager Robinson Hubbard, Deputy City Attorney James Freas, Deputy City Manager
Title:	Resolution to approve the City of Charlottesville's Initial Membership in the Charlottesville-Albemarle Regional Transit Authority

Background

In 2009, the General Assembly provided the ability to the City of Charlottesville, Albemarle County, and the surrounding counties to form a regional transit authority, called the Charlottesville-Albemarle Regional Transit Authority (CARTA). CARTA's enabling legislation identifies the City and Albemarle County as initial members and identifies its purpose as a regional forum to conduct transit planning.

Discussion

In 2022, the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission, working collaboratively with its members, developed a Transit Vision Plan that identifies a clear long-term vision to efficient, equitable, and effective transit services for the region. Building on the Transit Vision Plan, the Transit Governance Study, completed in 2024, recommended the activation of CARTA, both to function as a collaborative multi-jurisdictional entity identify and to solve regional transit issues. Other work of CARTA would include preparing a regional transit implementation plan, considering service expansions and alternatives, advocating for transit needs at both state and federal levels, and serving as grant applicants.

By focusing on regional efforts, CARTA would work to improve efficiency of transit operations by reducing duplication of services, improving connectivity and coordination of transit services; expanding transit coverage; reducing congestion to improve air quality; and promoting a more sustainable environment.

On August 22, 2024, the Regional Transit Partnership received a presentation on the formation of a regional transit authority and unanimously endorsed its formation. On September 17, 2024, the Charlottesville City Council and the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors met jointly, received a presentation, and indicated support for the formation of a regional transit authority. On December 11, 2024, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors approved their initial membership in CARTA through resolution that mirrors the recommended resolution before Council.

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan

Creating CARTA as one of its initial members would support the goals for transit system development and regional transportation collaboration outlined in the Transportation portion of the City's Comprehensive Plan. More specifically, it builds on the identified strategy of participation in the development of the Regional Transit Vision Plan and Regional Transit Partnership, as well as an infrastructure funding strategy of coordinating transportation system development with regional planning efforts.

Community Engagement

Community engagement has been ongoing through the development of the recommendation for the City Council and Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, under multiple planning efforts, including the 2022 Regional Transit Vision Plan and the 2024 Regional Transit Governance Plan.

Budgetary Impact

There is no budget impact associated with the adoption of the proposed resolution.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board adopt the proposed resolution to approve the City of Charlottesville's initial membership in the Charlottesville-Albemarle Regional Transit Authority.

Alternatives

Attachments

1. City CARTA Resolution