

Regional Transportation Partnership and Charlottesville Albemarle Regional Transit Authority Meeting

Draft Minutes, November 18, 2025

The recording of this meeting can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q7dgx_i_BYk

| VOTING MEMBERS & ALTERNATES | | STAFF | |
|--|---|--|---|
| Brian Pinkston, Charlottesville | x | Christine Jacobs, TJPDC | x |
| Natalie Oschrein, Charlottesville | x | Lucinda Shannon, TJPDC | x |
| Diantha McKeel, Albemarle | x | Gretchen Thomas, TJPDC | x |
| Mike Pruitt, Albemarle | x | Igor Kalina, TJPDC | |
| Katy Miller, DRPT | x | Taylor Jenkins, TJPDC | x |
| Randy Parker, Jaunt Rural | x | Sarah Simba, TJPDC * | x |
| Nick Pilipowskyj, Jaunt Urban | x | | |
| Scott Silsdorf, UTS | | | |
| Kendall Howell, UTS (alternate) | x | | |
| NON-VOTING MEMBERS | | GUESTS/PUBLIC | |
| Garland Williams, CAT | x | Zoë Macomber, City of Charlottesville | x |
| Jamie Gellner, Alb County PS | | James Freas, City of Charlottesville | x |
| Vicky Marsh, UVA Hospital | | Tonya Swartzendruber, Albemarle County | x |
| Peter Thompson, CAA | x | Grant Sparks, DRPT | x |
| Sara Pennington, Rideshare | x | Keith Smith, TJPDC Chair | x |
| Ann Wall, Albemarle | x | Anne Mallek, Albemarle County * | x |
| Peter Krebs, PEC | x | Julia Monteith, UVA Ofc of the Architect * | x |
| Mike Murphy, Jaunt | x | Sandy Shackelford, VDOT | x |
| Ben Chambers, Charlottesville | x | Jason Espie, Jaunt | x |
| Jen Fleisher, Blue Ridge Health District (alternate) | x | Chip Boyles * | x |
| Daniel Richardson, Alb County PS (alternate) | | Sadhbh O'Flynn, C3 * | x |
| Karen Davis, CAT (alternate) | x | | |

* Remote attendance

1. CALL TO ORDER (MINUTE 0:00):

The Regional Transportation Partnership (RTP) Chair, Diantha McKeel, presided and called the meeting to order at 5:01. Attendees introduced themselves.

2. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (MINUTE 5:00)

Approval of Agenda for CARTA

Motion/Action: Brian Pinkston made a motion to approve the CARTA agenda. Natalie Oschrein seconded and the motion passed unanimously.



Approval of Agenda for RTP

Motion/Action: Brian Pinkston made a motion to approve the RTP agenda. Natalie Oschrein seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes for CARTA (Sept 25, 2025)

Motion/Action: Brian Pinkston made a motion to approve the CARTA minutes for the September 25 meeting. Natalie Oschrein seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes for RTP (Oct 23, 2025)

Garland Williams stated that on page 5, Gillig is the manufacture of the Battery Electric Buses and the award is LoNo Grant and not NoLo Grant. On Page 3, change Ms. To Mr. Sanders. Right above that in the "Motion/Action" line, Natalie Oschrein is spelled with a "c".

Motion/Action: Natalie Oschrein made a motion to approve the minutes for the October 23 meeting as amended. Mike Pruitt seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with Brian Pinkston abstaining.

3. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 9:55)

Chip Boyles joined remotely and thanked Diantha McKeel for her leadership and congratulated the members for their hard work.

4. REMARKS (MINUTE 12:00)

Christine Jacobs addressed the joint committee and gave a summary on the background of the RTP and CARTA and where the groups are today. She also thanked Diantha McKeel for her dedication to the RTP.

Ms. McKeel thanked Chip Boyles and Nikaya Walker for their work on getting the RTP started.

5. LOOK BACK PRESENTATION (MINUTE 18:52)

Lucinda Shannon gave a presentation on the background on the RTP, and idea which started in 2017 and officially began with a MOU signed in 2019. She thanked the members, past and present, for their hard work and dedication. She noted that CARTA is the first of its kind in the commonwealth.

6. RTP TRANSITION FOLLOW UP (MINUTE 27:15)

Taylor Jenkins said there was some feedback regarding concerns about how CARTA will stay engaged with the public. The other concern received was regarding the representation of rural transit needs. She said the next steps are to sign the dissolution of the RTP and the RTP MOU amendment, and to get the CARTA MOU to all signatories of the RTP MOU.

Ms. McKeel said she wanted to make sure that the transit providers are comfortable with the CARTA non-voting members. Mike Murphy said he is in support of CARTA. His questions revolve around the rural jurisdictions. He said his concern is that it may be more cost-effective for the transit providers to go directly to the vendors. He said he will be bringing the dissolution to his board on December 10 and will recommend that they sign it. He said he hopes the community, collaboration, and

communication continues. He said he would like to see the rural jurisdictions brought in for their thoughts and ideas as well.

Garland Williams said he sees CARTA as an extension of RTP. He said he has looked at other transit authorities around the state and sees them as entities to bring funding in for transportation. He would like to continue the dialogue, and perhaps it is before the City Council or the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Williams said he has to go to the Authorities before making changes within CAT, so this is not as big a change for him.

Peter Thompson said he appreciates the collaboration and inclusion of the health district, equity, environmental consideration, and public safety. He said CAA had a transportation work group this morning, and they discussed how individual consumers/users get their voices heard. Many of the users are on the margins and wonder what mechanisms they should use to get their individual feedback heard.

Peter Krebs said there may be a firewall from a due process perspective, but there is public comment portion of a meeting and email, but that is not quite the same as feeling like your feedback is truly heard. Mr. Krebs said perhaps the solution is that the public needs to know what is happening here before it is fully implemented. He suggests working through the media, particularly Sean Tubbs's newsletter.

Mike Pruitt said the role in which CARTA engages with localities. He suggested strategies to build a coalition with the local elected officials to help at the General Assembly in Richmond.

Ms. McKeel distributed a memorandum to UVA requesting and recommending their participation with a high-level leader as a member of CARTA. She read the memo aloud that included recommendations. Ben Chambers said he is looking forward to having someone from UVA join CARTA as a non-voting member.

7. TRANSIT PROVIDER UPDATES (MINUTE 51:20)

Albemarle County Public Schools: There was no report.

UTS: Kendall Howell reported that he is interested in getting a response to the memo Ms. McKeel just read. He said they change over to fluctuating schedules in the next month or so due to exams and recess schedules. With the addition of the Fontaine garage, there will be a shift to from the Emmet/Ivy garage to Fontaine and there will then be an addition of the purple line which will change some traffic patterns. They are determining the best way to work through the VERV intersection during the apartment building construction process.

CAT and City of Charlottesville: Garland Williams said the electric buses for the school are in-house. The charging stations have been commissioned. There will be dedicated training for the drivers over

the Christmas break. They will be rotating the buses on different routes starting in January. They currently have two buses.

Re; CAT, they are ordering their second round of BEBs next month. There is a discussion about whether there is federal funding available to offset the capital costs. The state has helped close a funding gap in the amount of \$2 million. They are focused on alternative fuel buses. The BEBs infrastructure is in place, and they are considering doing hydrogen buses in the future.

The major push is regarding funding with the City and the County. They will be making presentations to the Council and the BOS soon. They are hoping for a solid recommendation by late January or early February.

Jaunt: Mike Murphy reported they are in the midst of budget season. For the City and County, they are projecting a slight decrease in the request for local funds. Jaunt is a finalist in an RTAP grant that would provide an increased level of service to Greene and also increase the 29 North route that serves Albemarle County. He said Jaunt has worked with DRTP about making that a demonstration grant if it is not awarded.

Mr. Murphy said they are working towards funding for adding mid-day service in some rural areas. There is an overwhelming demand for mid-day service. Jaunt will be presenting to the board its audit report for the FY25 closeout. They will recommend the return of excess capital to the local jurisdictions.

Mr. Murphy said Jaunt is celebrating their 50th year. He welcomes folks to share on their website their experiences with Jaunt through the years.

He said they will also be acknowledging and celebrating Ray Heron at the board meeting in December.

The Transit Leadership Institute is hosting a meeting with emerging leaders in the transit industry who are looking to grow in the profession, and he, Garland, and Kendall will be on a panel discussing what it is like to be in a leadership position in transit.

Lastly, Mr. Murphy reported that Jaunt has a signed contract for a demonstration project in which they will be using the VIA software to schedule ADA clients and provide service.

DRPT: Katy Miller reminded everyone that the 45-day public comment period for the proposed MERIT capital and operating changes is open until November 21. TSDAC will be meeting on Monday, the 24th, to potentially vote on the changes. If CTB approves the changes, they won't be implemented until FY28.

She reported that DRPT has a contractor for the Virginia Breeze and is looking at a spring launch date.

The CHSM (Coordinate Human Service Mobility) plan update is ongoing. The new plan should be available at the end of December. There is a survey coming out soon to give input on prioritization strategies.

She also said that the grant program season is kicking off, and there are several grant workshops this week. She said DRPT will be working with the localities and TJPDC to help get grants ready.

8. RESOLUTION PRESENTATION (MINUTE 1:08:56)

Keith Smith, Chair of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission, spoke to the committee, commending Diantha McKeel on her leadership and compassion.

Taylor Jenkins read and presented the Resolution of Commendation to Diantha McKeel.

9. ADJOURN

Ms. McKeel adjourned the meeting at 6:20 pm.

The next CARTA meeting will be a virtual meeting at 5:00 p.m. on January 22.