

**Charlottesville Albemarle Regional Transit Authority (CARTA) Meeting**

Draft Minutes, March 25, 2026

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

VOTING MEMBERS & ALTERNATES		STAFF	
Jen Fleisher, Charlottesville	x	Christine Jacobs, TJPDC	x
Natalie Oschrin, Charlottesville	x	Lucinda Shannon, TJPDC	x
Sally Duncan, Albemarle	x	Gretchen Thomas, TJPDC	x
Mike Pruitt, Albemarle	x	Taylor Jenkins, TJPDC	x
		Ben Chambers, Charlottesville	x
		Ann Wall, Albemarle	
NON-VOTING MEMBERS		GUESTS/PUBLIC	
Grant Sparks, DRPT	x	Katy Miller, DRPT	x
		James Freas, City of Charlottesville	x
		Garland Williams, CAT	x
		Scott Silsdorf, UTS	x
		Mike Murphy, Jaunt	x
		Zoë Macomber, CAT	x
		Tonya Swartzendruber, Albemarle	x
		Jennifer DeBruhl, RK&K	x
		Emma Stockton, RK&K *	x
		Jessica Dimmick, Albemarle	x
		Stacy Beverly, UTS	x
		Scott Boon, Cambridge Systematics	x
		Lois Stanley, PhD, UVA	

\* Attended virtually

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Natalie Oschrin called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

**2. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA (MINUTE 1:44)**

**Motion/Action:** Mike Pruitt made a motion to approve the agenda. Jen Fleisher seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**3. MEETING MINUTES (MINUTE 2:11)**

**Motion/Action:** Sally Duncan made a motion to approve the January 22, 2026, meeting minutes. Mike Pruitt seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**4. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 2:36)**

None.



## **5. REGIONAL HOUSING PARTNERSHIP (RHP) APPOINTMENT (MINUTE 3:09)**

Lucinda Shannon shared that the Central Virginia Regional Housing Partnership has in their bylaws that the chair from the Regional Transit Partnership (RTP) would be part of their board. Since the RTP is dissolved, they asked if someone from CARTA would take their place on the full partnership. Ms. Oschrein said the CVRHP has one representative from the City of Charlottesville and she is the alternate. Mike Pruitt said either he or Sally Duncan could take that spot. Ms. Jacobs noted that the CARTA rep will be one of 21 members on the board. It was noted that the first meeting is scheduled for this afternoon.

**Motion/Action:** Sally Duncan nominated Mike Pruitt as the CVRHP appointee. Jen Fleisher seconded, and the motion carried.

## **6. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (MINUTE 8:35)**

David Blount, Legislative Liaison for TJPDC, noted that there is a gap between the House and the Senate about budget items. They are working towards a compromise now and they will come back together on April 23 for their special session.

Mr. Blount said there was a great deal of discussion in the General Assembly (GA) about WMATA funding in northern Virginia and how to generate it from taxes. He said he thinks there will be funding for WMATA but it is hard to tell at this point.

There is language amendment in the House to provide authority for DRPT to use reserves from the mass transit funds in order to provide short-term loans to transit entities to backstop 5310 and 5311 funds. Both the House and Senate had bills that contains language that would give authority to DRPT to conduct a statewide review related to funding opportunities for transit-oriented development around existing transit and rail stations. That also includes an analysis of potential barriers to housing production and economic development. He noted there is an emphasis in the GA about affordable housing and transit is tied to that.

He continued by reviewing numerous bills under consideration related to transit and transportation.

## **7. TRANSIT PRIORITIZATION STUDY: PRIORITIZATION METHODOLOGY (MINUTE 22:04)**

Jennifer DeBruhl, RK&K, gave a project overview. She noted that this study will develop an implementation plan that identifies costs for those services and feasible short-, and mid-, and long-term timelines based on a funding strategy.

She noted that they are building on the Regional Transit Vision plan. She also reviewed 22 plans across the region and cataloged the transit improvements across the region. They will optimize it before they prioritize it.

She said there are three types of improvements: expanded route coverage, improved frequencies at different times of day, and extended hours of service.

Ms. DeBruhl said they met with several stakeholder groups to discuss priorities including Albemarle County, City of Charlottesville, and TJPDC & Jaunt. There was a broader set of stakeholders including DRPT, the School District, UVA, CAA, and PEC. They hear the priorities are to grow ridership, provide transit access to more people and essential destinations, and increase frequency.

They took that feedback and the two key criteria: either increase the intensity of service or increase the footprint of service.

Increased intensity is achieved primarily by increasing frequencies, and introducing BRT and associated enhancements, such as bus priority treatments. It includes a focus on serving communities that rely on transit, providing convenient alternatives in congested areas, and providing service that is better than hourly in outer areas where possible.

Increasing footprint is achieved primarily by extending/realigning routes, adding new routes, increasing hours of operation, and introducing/expanding microtransit services.

She reviewed how to measure the impact of service improvements. Intensity is measured by the number of people with access to increased frequency of service. Footprint is measured by additional people with access to transit service across the week.

Ms. DeBruhl said based on stakeholder feedback, they propose a 60/40 split with increased intensity at 60% and increasing the footprint at 40%.

There was an extended question and answer session and discussion.

Grant Sparks said there is a financial incentive to put more on the ridership side in DRPT's view.

Ms. DeBruhl gave the next steps. She said there is consensus to proceed with updating and finalizing prioritization methodology based on today's discussion. In April/May, they will apply the prioritization methodology to the list of service improvements, develop capital and operating costs. In May, they will bring a draft prioritized list of service improvements to CARTA Board meeting.

There were technical difficulties, so there was a break in the meeting.

## **8. TRANSIT AGENCY GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS (MINUTE 1:11:10)**

Garland Williams reviewed the background of CAT. It was first the Charlottesville Transit Service from 1975 – 2010. He continued with the timeline of the service from 1975 through 2026. He continued reviewing the types of services and routes that were and are now currently available.

He reviewed the exiting ridership numbers noting that Routes 5, 7 and the trolley account for 53% of the ridership.

He gave a breakdown of the CAT fleet, the majority being diesel-fueled (~87%), and the others being electric and hybrid. The projection is that 2027 will be the last year CAT will buy diesel fuel buses for the fleet and 2040 will be the first year for potential 100% ZEB fleet.

He continued presenting about MicroCAT rideshare services. He shared the service area map and the hotspots on that map. He noted that demand remains strong and outpaces supply. He said ridership numbers are increasing and current service is running efficiently.

Mr. Williams continued by noting how to access the fixed route and MicroCAT through their apps, website, Google maps, or by telephone.

He continued by covering the schools services. He briefly covered pupil operations.

Finally, he showed both the existing and proposed CAT infrastructure sites. He shared an active project they are working on that includes the charging stations infrastructure. He said the project should culminate in May.

Additionally, Mr. Williams said they have been working on infrastructure including bus stops and bump outs, sloped sidewalks, stairways, etc. He noted that there have been three completed bus stops to date.

#### **9. CAT BUS STOP INVENTORY (MINUTE 1:35:17)**

Zoë Macomber presented on Bus Stop Inventory and Amenities. She presented the goals and scope of the bus stops. She noted that it is important to consider ADA compliance, rider experience and systemwide assessment.

She continued with an overview of current inventory and the data that was collected on the inventory including numerous design elements.

Ms. Macomber said CAT has 12 fixed routes, and 316 bus stops. 44 of the stops have shelters. She said there are 47 missing and 9 are damaged and 259 are in good condition. She reviewed the highest amenities present. She noted that 272 do not have ADA accessibility. She said trash can inventory is a contentious issue because there is a question about who services them.

She reviewed new stops and upgrades. There are three stops under construction on Commonwealth Drive.

She reviewed amenities criteria that include shelter, bench, trash can, CAT lighting, and signage.

She gave next steps that include data collection and validation of inventory, criteria for amenities, guidelines and this CARTA presentation, and then prioritization of programming upgrades and design & construction.

She reported that there are outstanding and future projects including developing a process to filter requests for bus stop upgrades, inquiries about additional amenities, requests for new bus stops, syncing amenity programming with other projects including streetscape design, repaving and VDOT projects. Some of the other future projects include signage design and holistic lighting assessment.

There was a question-and-answer session after the presentation.

**10. ROUNDTABLE TRANSIT AGENCY UPDATES (MINUTE 1:56:13)**

UTS

Mr. Silsdorf said they are in their third week of the purple line. That combined two routes into one (the red and blue). He said the cost of the infrastructure for that was about \$100,000. They have extensive service on Fontaine Avenue. They will be doing their passenger survey starting next week through April 19.

Jaunt

Mr. Murphy said last week was National Transit Employee Appreciation Day. He said next week they will be having their board and shareholder meeting to discuss the excess capital strategy. He reported that they will be returning the money saved back to the jurisdictions. He said Albemarle County has two vacancies on their Board and is looking to fill those positions. Mr. Murphy said Jaunt is looking to start the Greene County microtransit pilot soon. Lastly, he said Jaunt is celebrating its 50-year anniversary in September.

CAT

Garland Williams said they have ordered two more BEBs that will arrive in approximately 15 months.

Mike Pruitt said the group talks about the needs assessment implementation process as if it were an agile process, but it has a single deliverable with fixed time and feedback. He advocated for a future implementation study because it is not currently an agile process with multiple deliverables at different stages.

**11. ADJOURN**

Ms. Oschrein adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.