

Key Efforts at Forming a Regional Transit Authority



2008 – Charlottesville-Albemarle Regional Transit Authority Report



2009 – General Assembly passes legislation to enable the formation of a regional transit authority to plan regional transit services, but did not include state-authorized revenue generation - Charlottesville Albemarle Regional Transit Authority (CARTA)



2016 – Regional Coordination Study looked at the question of setting up a regional transit authority, but recommended setting up a similar body, the Regional Transit Partnership which was created in 2017. The RTP was intended to serve as an interim body, responsible for ushering the development of an RTA.

Key Efforts at Forming a Regional Transit Authority



2022 – Regional Transit Vision Plan identified a clear long-term vision for efficient, equitable, and effective transit service in the region.



2024 – Transit Governance Study, which recommends activating CARTA to serve as an interim entity for regional transit governance and decision making with the ability to expand its role over time.

Benefits of Regional Transit Authority

- Improved efficiency
- Seamless connectivity
- Expanded coverage
- Economic development
- Attract investment
- Social equity
- Environmental benefits
- Data and planning
- Innovation and technology
- Improved customer communication
- Expanded funding options

Charlottesville Area Regional Transit Authority



Working Group formed (August 2024)



CARTA enacted by Albemarle County and the City of
Charlottesville (December 2024)



Board formed (January 2024)



First Board meeting (February
20, 2025)

Review bylaws

Review goals and intent for CARTA

Discuss general assembly timeline

Service Prioritization and Implementation Feasibility Study



In what order should the services from the vision plan be implemented?



How much will each service in the Regional Transit Vision Plan cost?



What are the benefits of each service?

DRPT MERET Technical Assistance Grant

- Total Budget \$200,000
- 50% local match \$100,000
- Albemarle County \$50,000
- City of Charlottesville \$50

Develop a short-term implementation plan for the projects in the Regional Transit Vision Plan.

DRPT MERET Technical Assistance Grant

Steering Committee

- Representative from the CARTA board
- Representatives from each jurisdiction embraced by CARTA
- Representative from DRPT
- Representative from VDOT
- Transit representatives (CAT, Jaunt, and UTS)
- Representatives from Regional Transit Partnership

DRPT MERET Technical Assistance Grant

Stakeholders

- Rural Transportation Advisory Committee
- CARTA (the approving body)
- Albemarle Board of Supervisors
- Charlottesville City Council
- TJPDC Commission
- Additional Rural Board of Supervisors as requested

DRPT MERET Technical Assistance Grant

Task One

- Evaluate vision plan services
- Select services to be further evaluated

Task Two

- Refine operating and capital costs
- Review benefit data
- Prioritize selected services for near-term investment

End of show

- All the slides below are extra from Ann and Ben's presentation.

2009 Charlottesville Albemarle Regional Transit Authority Legislation (CARTA)

- Describes powers of regional transit authority
- Identifies initial members as City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County
- Identifies other county members (Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa and Nelson) as well as other partners
- Describes other duties and responsibilities

Endorsement

- On August 22, 2024, the Regional Transit Partnership unanimously endorsed the formation of the Charlottesville Albemarle Regional Transit Authority.

Work to Date

- Engaging with surrounding localities' staff and UVA leadership to gain an understanding of their transit needs
- Engaging with transit services to hear how their existing plans align with the need for more coordination between jurisdictions and services
- Developing bylaws that are in conformance with CARTA legislation
- Developing a draft work plan for the set-up and initial focus of regional transit authority

Engagement: What We Heard

- Interest in learning more about regional transit needs and ways to address these needs
- An understanding that there is some planning work to be done as a region before dedicated funding is an option
- Opportunities for short-term improvements to services, funding through DRPT demo and TRIP grants
- Unanimous interest in seeing Charlottesville and Albemarle County set up CARTA together
 - Surrounding counties want to see how it goes
 - Acknowledged need for a venue to collaboratively plan and make decisions

Draft CARTA By-laws

- Initial memberships to include City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County
- Counties of Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa and Nelson as well as private nonprofit tourist driven agencies, higher education facilities in the Charlottesville-Albemarle area and public transportation agencies may join
- Board of Directors:
 - Board of Directors, including two Albemarle County Supervisors, two Charlottesville City Council members, and one member of the governing body of each jurisdiction that joins CARTA as voting members
 - Up to four additional non-voting directors representing the interest of agencies or institutions within the region

Draft CARTA By-laws

- Officers, terms of office, Chair and Vice Chair
- Meetings: regular and special meetings, public hearings, quorums, Voting, agendas, minutes, closed sessions,
- Committees:
- Finance Committee
 - Consists of five members appointed by the CARTA Board
 - Reviews, comments, and recommends on annual budget and adjustments, financial policies, quarterly expenditures, financial statements
- Technical Committee
 - One staff member from each member locality, plus non-voting members from DRPT and VDOT
 - Review, comments, and recommends on all planning, project and program prioritization, selection, and programming matters

Draft CARTA By-Laws

- Executive Director and staff
- Adoption and amendments of by-laws

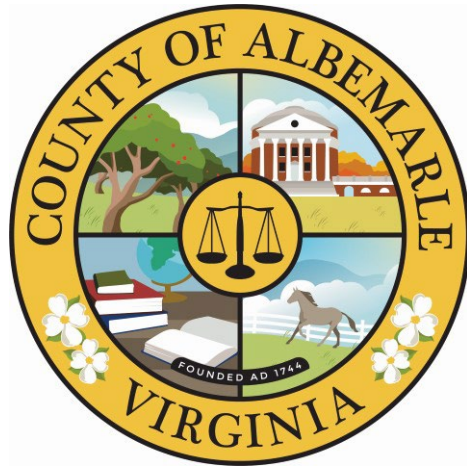
Key takeaways

- Region has a variety of transit needs to service both urban and rural areas. Region is served by multiple transit providers . More investment in transit is warranted as localities seek continuous improvement and improved quality of life.
- For more than 15 years, there have been numerous discussions regarding regional transit governance.
- Existing legislation possess the fundamentals needed to create a regional transit authority.
- Standing up CARTA as a venue to make decision about transit needs and service provision is the first step in resolving questions about transit.

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Forming a Regional Transit Authority



Agenda

Review of history of regional transit and governance structures

Review of the purpose and intents of regional transit authorities

Structure of proposed regional transit authority

Steps to form regional transit authority

Report on outreach conversations

Draft workplans