



Regional Vision ■ Collaborative Leadership ■ Professional Service

January 28, 2026

Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation
600 East Main Street, Suite 2102
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Reviewer:

On behalf of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC), I am pleased to offer this letter of support for Jaunt's application to the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) MERIT Demonstration Project Assistance grant program. As the regional planning body serving the Counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, and Nelson and the City of Charlottesville, the TJPDC works to enhance quality of life through regional collaboration and planning. Transportation access and mobility are a core part of our mission, and Jaunt is a critical partner in these efforts.

Jaunt connects residents in seven jurisdictions to their desired destinations meeting employment, healthcare, educational, social and shopping needs. Jaunt's CONNECT service provides fare-free fixed-route commuter service to UVA and downtown Charlottesville from the surrounding counties. We believe that expanding the Connect service to Ruckersville in Greene County would meet a community need and provide a cost-effective solution. Based on the high ridership observed along the existing Connect Route 29 North, expanding service to Ruckersville would likely result in greater overall demand for service. Additionally, we believe that this combination coupled with an enhanced Circulator service concept will attract new ridership and increase service demand within Greene County.

As a signatory of support for Jaunt's National Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) application for Greene County service improvements, I continue to believe that the successful implementation of this concept will positively impact the health of our community. Our organizations have a close and effective working relationship that has significantly strengthened transportation mobility throughout the region. We greatly value our partnership with Jaunt, and fully support their efforts to expand their important services through this grant opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine Jacobs".

Christine Jacobs
Executive Director