

Agenda

Rural Transportation Advisory Committee

Tuesday – April 15, 2025

1:00 PM

Location: Water Street Center



Item	Time	Description
1.	1:00-1:05	Matters from the Public: Limit of 3 minutes per speaker <i>Members of the Public are welcome to provide comments on any public-interest, transportation-related topic, including the items listed on this agenda</i>
2.	1:05-1:10	Approval of Draft Minutes* February 18th meeting
3.	1:10-1:50	TJPDC SMART SCALE Area Type Comparison (Sandy Shackelford, VDOT)
4.	1:50-2:10	PATH- Mobility Management Program 2024 Annual Report
5.	2:10-2:25	VDOT Project Updates - Lynchburg District project (Carson Eckhardt, Rick Youngblood) - Culpepper District projects (Sandy Shackelford, Charles Proctor)
6.	2:25-2:45	Round Table Discussion & Identification of Future Topics Committee members are invited to share updates and topics of interest with the group
7.	2:45-3:00	Additional Matters from the Public <i>Members of the Public are welcome to provide comments (limit of 3 minutes per speaker)</i>
8.	3:00	Adjourn

* Items requiring committee action.

Upcoming Meetings:

June 17, 2025

Rural Transportation Advisory Committee

DRAFT Minutes February 18, 2025

The video of the meeting can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IjnOzJRkm10>

VOTING MEMBERS		STAFF	
Tom Egeland, Louisa County	x	Gretchen Thomas, TJPDC	
Jim Frydl, Greene County	x	Christine Jacobs, TJPDC	x
Todd Fortune, Fluvanna County	x	Gorjan Gjorgievski, TJPDC	x
Dylan Bishop, Nelson County		Sarah Simba, TJPDC	x
Sandy Shackelford, VDOT, Culpeper	x	Taylor Jenkins, TJPDC	x
Carson Eckhardt, VDOT, Lynchburg	x		
Jason Espie, Jaunt	x		
Sara Pennington, Rideshare	x		
Alberic Karina-Plun, Albemarle County	x		
ALTERNATES		GUESTS/PUBLIC	
Rick Youngblood, VDOT, Lynchburg			
Stephanie Golon, Greene County			
Cindy King, Louisa County			
Carrie Shepherd, VDOT			
Trey Walton, Fluvanna County			
Emily Hjulstrom, Nelson County			
Vacant, Albemarle County			
Chuck Proctor, VDOT, Culpeper	x		
Vacant, Jaunt			

*** attended online via Zoom.**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Rural Technical Advisory Committee Chair, Tom Egeland, presided and called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. The meeting was held on Zoom. Sara Pennington read the notice of electronic meeting. She reminded the voting members to keep their cameras on to be considered “present” at the meeting.

2. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

- Comments by the Public:** None
- Comments provided via email, online, web site, etc.:** None

3. APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES (2:57)

Motion/Action: Tom Egeland made a motion to approve the August 20, 2024 meeting minutes. Todd Fortune seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Motion/Action: Tom Egeland made a motion to approve the October 15, 2024 meeting minutes. Todd Fortune seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.



City of Charlottesville

Albemarle County

Fluvanna County

Greene County

Louisa County

Nelson County

401 East Water Street ▪ Post Office Box 1505 ▪ Charlottesville, Virginia 22902-1505

Telephone (434) 979-7310 ▪ Fax (434) 979 1597 ▪ Virginia Relay Users: 711 (TDD) ▪ email: info@tjpc.org ▪ web: www.tjpc.org

4. INTRODUCTION OF TJPDC'S TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR (MINUTE 3:33)

Christine Jacobs introduced Taylor Jenkins to the committee and gave a brief background on her work history and the areas in which she will be working at TJPDC.

5. FY26 RURAL TRANSPORTATION WORK PLAN (MINUTE 4:30)

Sara Pennington presented the annual work plan done annually for the Rural program, funded by VDOT. She noted that the state requires each PDC administering the program to identify activities to be undertaken.

She noted that the agenda packet includes a copy of the draft plan. She said she had sent out an email requesting any information on rural transportation needs anticipated for the next year. She said there is still time to provide feedback. She said the draft will go to the Commission at their March 6 meeting and will hopefully be adopted in April and then sent to VDOT.

She reviewed the draft work program highlights including the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan, the Regional Travel Demand Management Study, participation in the Pipeline Studies, SMART SCALE application support, and Long-Range Priorities and Plans.

She continued by sharing the budget for the draft work plan, which she noted is similar to the budget from last year.

She opened up the meeting with for discussion. Todd Fortune asked when the last regional bike plan was updated, to which she replied that it was probably in FY19, but said she would check to be certain.

Tom Egeland noted that with Smart Scale, it is becoming more difficult for the rural localities to apply, so he would like to put an emphasis on starting earlier on studying intersections and who is responsible for those studies. He encouraged all the members of RTAC to coordinate with VDOT starting this summer to start doing studies.

Todd Fortune noted that he has spoken with someone at VDOT regarding a roundabout at Routes 53 and 619 in Fluvanna. Chuck Proctor said it did not meet the safety requirements and was outside the area, so it didn't meet the UDA requirements, so it was not eligible in the past. He said it may not score very well, but he would look at the data again.

Tom Egeland suggested that the other Long-Range Transportation plans could be brought into a group conversation in the RTAC meetings to see how much time has passed since they were written, so perhaps they would need an update. He suggested perhaps a discussion at a future meeting might be about the 5-, 10-, and 15-year studies for the RTAC counties that may need a refresher.

He also said he'd like to learn more about pedestrian activities because it is difficult from a rural standpoint. For example, there are walking trails in Louisa and a property owner has agreed to extend that trail on his land that ends on a street. He said that is the first pedestrian activity they have done in a while. He said he understands it is easier to plan bike/ped projects in a more urban environment, but noted it is more challenging for a rural county. He said perhaps that could be addressed at a future meeting as well.

Todd Fortune said several of Fluvanna's comprehensive plans are 15-20 years old and could use some updating. He said they were done by the TJPDC in the past.

Jason Espie noted that the extension of the Three Notch'd Trail is underway and there is talk of it being a regional asset. He noted that if they complete Albemarle's piece of the trail, the others become easier to build in the future.

Ms. Jacobs noted that the Three Notch'd Trail is in the MPO's UPWP.

Mr. Fortune noted that Bike Route 76 is currently being re-routed through Palmyra Village and perhaps there can be a conversation about that. Ms. Pennigton said she would look into it.

Mr. Egeland asked if there were any grants that staff was looking into for this year. Ms. Jacobs said this is handled on a case-by-case basis depending on the localities' needs. For example, it could include the Safe Streets and Roads for All implementation, Smart Scale, and any other locality- or regional-specific applications that present themselves. The line item in the budget is a place holder for when opportunities present themselves. She noted the money does not roll over into the next fiscal year and must be used by the end of June. She suggested that the CTAC group look at the budget and see if the line items need to be amended throughout the year to be certain that priorities are being met.

After some discussion, it was decided that the budget will be re-presented at the next meeting with costs for admin and cost for programming so as not to trigger an amendment process if the committee decides to change priorities. It is still important to list the projects that will be worked on, but there does not need a value assigned to each project.

6. VDOT PROJECT UPDATES/SMART SCALE SCORING (MINUTE 29:08)

Culpeper District

Chuck Proctor presented the Smart Scale recommendation review. He noted that it was not good for this region this round due in large part to the shift of \$1.6 million from construction into maintenance costs. He shared a comparison of Culpeper District funding amounts among Smart Scale rounds. He noted that Rounds 4 and 5 funding reflected phasing in of the Supplemental Fuels Tax (SFT) with Round 6 reflecting the fully-phased SFT. He noted that the High Priority Project (HPP) program is competitive state-wide and is not guaranteed.

He said out of \$68 million in funding there was \$6.6 million that needed to come out of that total to pay for the escalation in costs of 7-8 projects that had already been approved.

He continued sharing the initial scoring outcome observations including that 53 projects out of 270 submissions were recommended for funding statewide and 4 out of 24 were recommended in the Culpeper District. He noted that changes in land use, economic development, HPP funding process, and changes to HPP eligibility lowered the scores, increased the cost of the projects, and reduced the number of projects approved.

He shared the full district ranking list and noted that the Culpeper district scored relatively well, but there is a limited amount of money, and there is not enough to cover very many projects.

He said the next steps are public hearings from April to May on staff recommended scenarios and any potential revisions. Then at the May CTB meeting, a consensus funding scenario will be developed, and the adoption of the Six-Year Improvement Plan (SYIP) will be adopted at the June CTB meeting.

Mr. Proctor said there was an email sent to the localities with a survey about the process asking that everyone to fill that out so VDOT can improve the process in the future. He said VDOT will be starting in late summer.

Lynchburg District

Carson Eckhardt, VDOT, said the Tanbark/Route 151 roundabout got funded for \$12.5 million in Nelson County. He said they are going to focus on Rockfish for the next round.

He said the Lynchburg district had 12 projects submitted in and four were recommended for funding totally about \$80 million.

He said the safety score was the main factor for the Tanbark roundabout getting funded.

7. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION & IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE TOPICS (MINUTE 40:53)

Louisa County

Tom Egeland said the planning commission is focusing on growth areas for the land use map. They are working on land development regulations and clean up.

Albemarle County

Alberic Karina-Plun said they are continuing to work on their comp plan updates. He said the land use chapter will be going to the Board tomorrow. They are currently writing their transportation chapter. He said the County is putting zoning notice signs on location instead of just mailing letters and noted that he has had a great deal of response from residents because of the signs.

Fluvanna County

Todd Fortune said Fluvanna is continuing to try to update their comp plan. The next step is appointments to advisory groups. There are community meetings set for the end of February, beginning of March. He said they are short-staffed right now because their GIS technician left. He also said they are pursuing a TAP grant for the upcoming cycle for Phase Two of the Fork Union streetscape.

Greene County

Jim Frydl said they are helping update the Town of Stanardsville with their comp plan. He said Greene will be touching base with TJPDC to get some help with updating some of the charts that were previously created in the past. He said they are also working through local administration of a Smart Scale project that is just beginning.

Rideshare

Sara Pennington said she submitted the FY26 operating grant to DRPT. She said she is also in the process of completing the CAP Strategic Plan for adoption.

Gorjan Gjorgjievski said he is coordinating one-on-one Safe Street for All (SS4A) meetings with each of the localities to discuss safety criteria, the existing conditions report, and some jurisdictional snapshots regarding the high injury network. After these meetings are held, he said the data will be put into the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. He would like to present to the various boards of supervisors in April to get feedback on the plan. Staff will take the feedback and incorporate it in the plan. The plan must be adopted by the end of June.

It was noted that the next Notification of Funding Opportunity will be available for the next round of SS4A at the end of March.

Jaunt

Jason Espie reported that Jaunt had a board retreat in January with the specific purpose of prioritizing initiatives. He said the five priorities are: upgrade dispatch software, implement microtransit demos in Greene County and ADA service in the Charlottesville urbanized area, create a performance evaluation process, maintain an active presence as Charlottesville Albemarle Regional Transit Authority (CARTA) develops, and work with CAT on formalizing their ADA agreement with them.

Todd Fortune asked if any of the counties have done a joint comp plan with the town(s) in their locality. He said if anyone had an interest, he has a contact that has done it and would be willing to share the information.

Mr. Egeland reminded the committee members that if they do not have an alternate appointed to the committee, to please work on that and get the information to Ms. Pennington.

Future Meeting Topics

Mr. Egeland requested a legislative update due to changes coming on July 1 and the changes at the federal level.

Mr. Proctor said they are having a meeting on POC next week and any changes or updates to Smart Scale, so he can report back to the committee on those. He noted that he would like to see a change to the area type from Area Type C to Area Type D because he thinks it will help get better scores for the applications.

Ms. Jacobs said what is going on in the Commonwealth with rail is important for the group to be paying attention to.

Mr. Espie said not to forget the Virginia Breeze because it helps folks get access to places that the rail does not run through

7. Additional Matters from the Public

None.

Adjourn

Tom Egeland adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

The next meeting is *in person* April 15, 2025 from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. at the Water Street Center, 407 E Water Street, Charlottesville, VA.

2024

Year End Report



PATH

Partnership for Accessible Transportation Help





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- 3 Ride Reports
- 4 Goals for 2025
- 6 Finances

About **PATH**

PATH, Partnership for Accessible Transportation Help, is a free transportation information and referral service open to the public.

PATH assists anyone with inquiries about local transportation, with a focus on helping older adults and people with disabilities find transportation options when they are unable to drive.

PATH serves Region 10, including the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle, Greene, Fluvanna, Louisa, and Nelson counties.

Letter from the **MOBILITY MANAGER**

Dear Community Member,

Since receiving funding in October 2023 from the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), the TJPDC team has been hard at work building partnerships and programs to enhance transportation options for non-drivers. Thanks to support from DRPT, the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation, the University of Virginia, and TJPDC, we successfully launched a one-call/one-click center to assist individuals with transportation needs.

In our first year, we partnered with JABA to staff the one-call center, where dedicated team members helped area residents explore and utilize transportation options. Despite extensive marketing efforts, we received 119 calls—fewer than anticipated. Most callers were in critical need, having exhausted other resources. Of the 34 callers requiring specific trip assistance, we successfully secured transportation for 13.

Our experience revealed a significant gap in transportation services, particularly for rural residents needing access to medical centers. In response, we began building partnerships with potential service providers. Highlights of our progress include:

- Assisting Here to Stay Wintergreen in obtaining a wheelchair-accessible van through PATH.
- Exploring ways to support volunteer driver programs.
- Securing funding to provide limited transportation assistance for those in urgent need.
- Partnering with CAT and the Charlottesville Area Alliance on AARP Livable Communities initiatives, including a bus field trip with InnoVage members.

Looking ahead, we are excited to host more informational workshops and bus trips in collaboration with partners like The Center and the Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority. These efforts aim to connect more individuals with viable transportation solutions.

We are committed to strengthening partnerships and finding innovative ways to address transportation challenges in our community. Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

Sincerely,



Lucinda Shannon
PATH Mobility Manager

PATH *Accomplishments* 2024

ONE-STOP TRANSPORTATION RESOURCE CENTER

- Hired and trained Transportation Counselor in May 2024
- From October 2023 to August 2024, received 114 calls from seniors looking for transportation help

MARKETING

- Conducted marketing study, developed PATH brand
- Developed and published website, brochure, flyers, and magnets
- Participated in 32 marketing events and activities including tabling at events, hosting focus groups, giving presentations, and running Public Service Announcements on WNRD

OPERATIONS

- Secured funding and partnerships with multiple agencies
- Secured partnership with JABA for call center staffing
- Designed data collection system
- Procured web domain and toll-free number
- Procured firm to conduct marketing study and develop brand identity
- Hired Transportation Counselor (May 2024)

PARTNERS

- Active partners and supporters: JABA, BRHD, CAA, Jaunt, InnoVage, UVA Parking and Transportation, Charlottesville Area Community Foundation
- Assisting CAA's AARP's Livable Community Grant projects
 - Walk Audit
 - Bus field trip
 - Transportation workshops for senior groups



STORIES *From the Road*

An 86-year-old woman in Louisa called asking for help getting around town for general errands and grocery shopping. PATH called a local volunteer group who was able to put her in touch with a volunteer driver there. A few weeks later PATH heard that the woman and the volunteer driver had met to work out details and both were very happy to have the connection.

Our STAFF



LUCINDA SHANNON

Mobility Manager
lshannon@tjpd.org

Lucinda has extensive experience providing technical assistance and planning documents around transportation for underserved communities. In her free time Ms. Shannon enjoys training animals and is a Karen Pryor Academy Certified Training Partner.



SARAH RICHARDSON

Transportation Counselor
info@pathva.org

With extensive experience assisting seniors and people with disabilities, Sarah provides travel training, conducts workshops, and writes grants to help fund emergency rides.



IGOR KALINA

Transportation Counselor
ikalina@tjpd.org

With previous experience in project management in government and non-government organizations, as well as in transportation and interpretation services, Igor works within the PATH program, implementing mobility management policies. He is an avid hiker, cyclist, and electronic music enthusiast.

Ride Report 2024

In 2024, many calls we received were from individuals seeking “general information.” These callers weren’t necessarily looking for immediate transportation solutions but wanted to explore their options or find out what services were available in their area. These interactions were often productive, especially for those in Charlottesville or Albemarle. In these cases, we provided detailed information about how to use CAT, MicroCAT, and Jaunt, including the steps needed to access Jaunt and other available options. These were successful encounters; connecting callers with viable transportation options for their future needs.

Many of the callers (46) were **seeking transportation to and from medical appointments or procedures.**

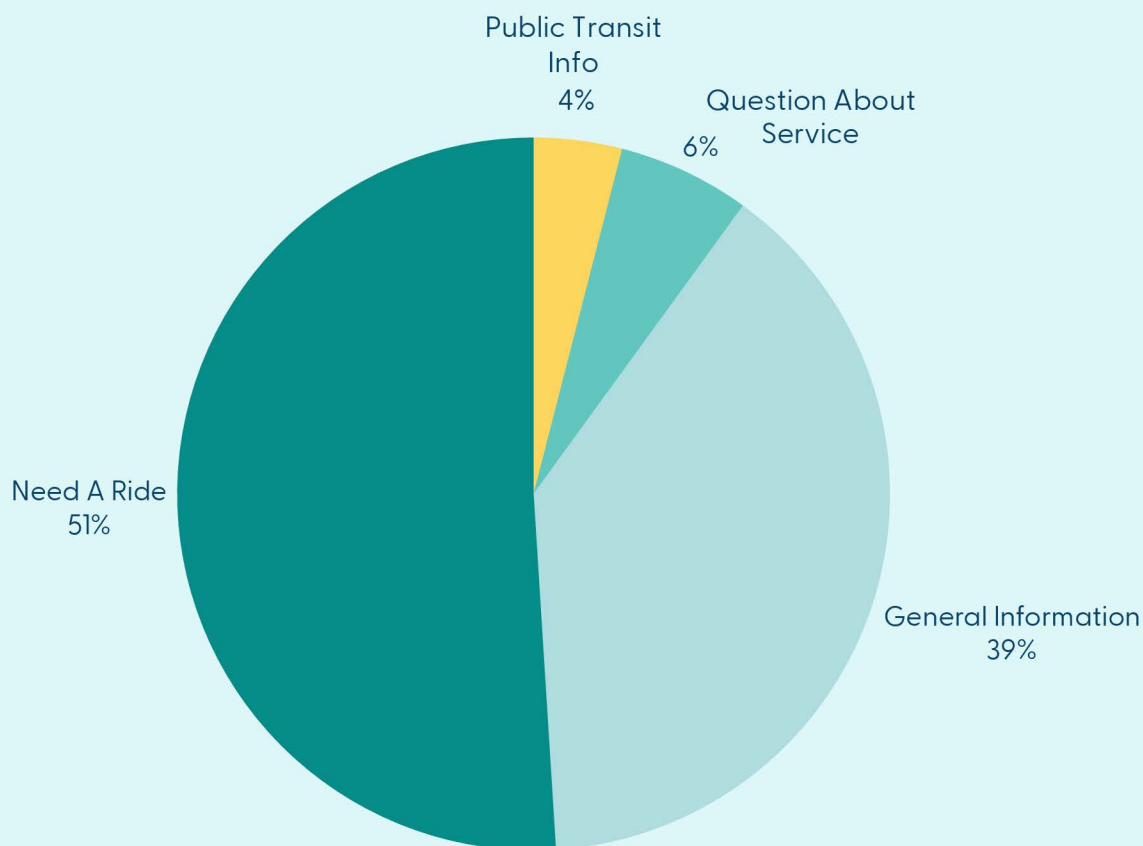
Additionally, many reached out for help with critical errands such as grocery shopping, food banks, hair appointments, or veterinary visits—either in addition to medical needs or as standalone requests.

During this period, we successfully arranged rides for 13 individuals with specific medical appointments. Unfortunately, we were unable to find rides for 21 callers, though some managed to secure transportation independently. The outcome for 12 callers remains unknown.

Jaunt continues to be the primary option for most callers, with **MicroCAT** providing a reliable service for those within its coverage area. We also received inquiries specifically about MicroCAT’s offerings, highlighting its growing recognition as a transportation resource.

Ride Report 2024

REASON FOR CALL



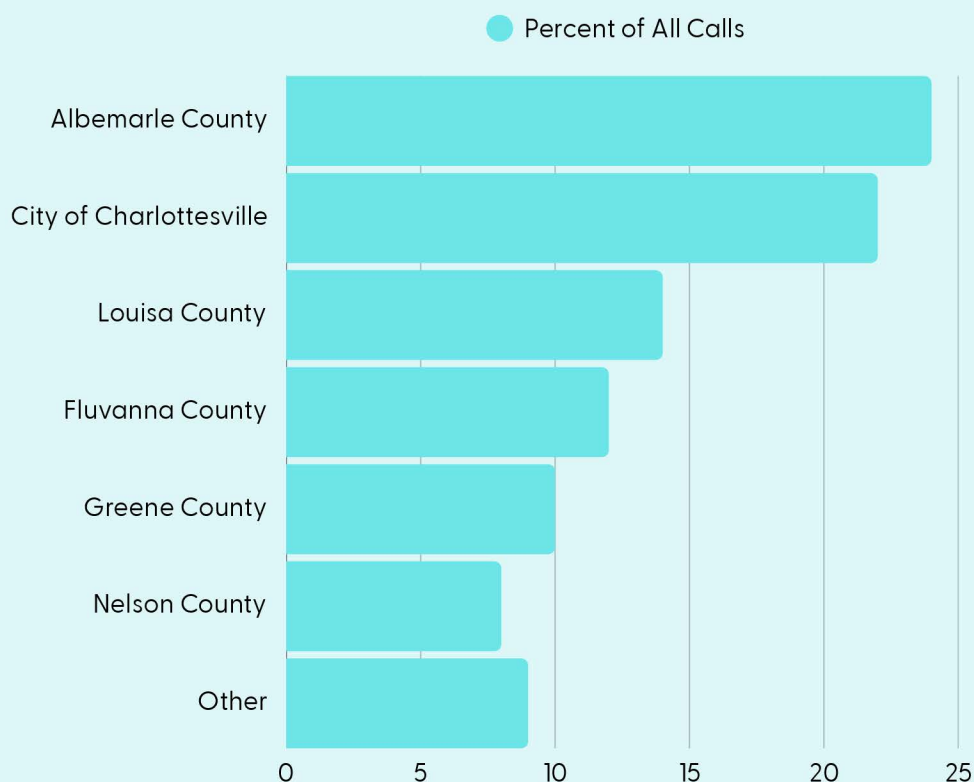
STORIES *From the Road*

A client with a disability needed assistance arranging a ride from the Berkmar neighborhood in the US 29 corridor to a medical appointment at a clinic in Pantops. Accustomed to commuting by car, the client was unaware of the available public transportation options connecting the two areas. A PATH transportation counselor informed the client that the free MicroCAT service operates in both areas and would be a perfect solution. The counselor also guided the client through the process of setting up a MicroCAT account and making a reservation.

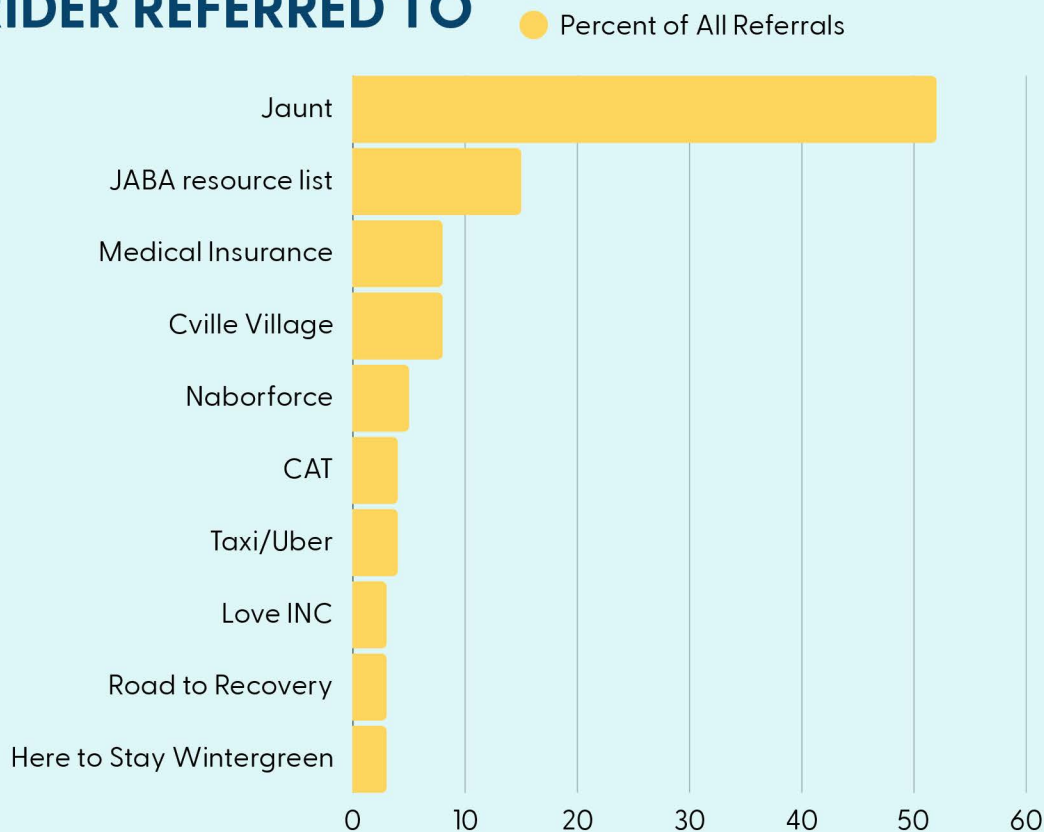


Ride Report 2024

JURISDICTION CALLING FROM



RIDER REFERRED TO



Goals for **PATH 2025**

In this coming year PATH is striving to increase the amount of transportation services available for non-drivers through supportive partnerships.

STORIES

From the Road

A senior in rural Albemarle County called about transportation to his dialysis treatments at Pantops. Jaunt provides service in that area from 10am to 2pm Monday – Friday. PATH contacted a representative from Jaunt and worked together to find a solution to get him to and from dialysis. The caller was now able to get to and from his dialysis and maintain his independence.

A Charlottesville resident who is legally blind did not know the Charlottesville transit system. PATH provided information on his options, including CAT, MicroCAT and Jaunt, and helped him plan a route to some of his preferred destinations.

SUPPORT volunteer driver programs and other partners with additional staffing, marketing, and mileage reimbursement

EDUCATE potential PATH users and partners through transportation workshops, bus field trips, and marketing efforts

INCREASE capacity and call-volume at the One-Stop Transportation Resource Center; increase the number of riders on Jaunt and CAT through networking and travel trainings



Financial FFY 2024–2025



2025 FUNDING

We're facing a funding gap for the 2025 Fiscal Year, and we need your help to fill it. Your support will ensure older adults in Region 10 can maintain their independence and stay connected to essential services and their communities through reliable transportation.

Here's how your gift can make an impact:

- **Mobility Specialist Staffing:** \$20,000
- **Administrative Staffing Costs:** \$10,000
- **Transportation Assistance Fund:** \$10,000
- **Miscellaneous Needs Not Covered by Grants:** \$2,000

Every contribution helps older adults remain active, independent, and engaged. Contact Lucinda Shannon, Mobility Manager, to make your gift today and help make a difference in the lives of Region 10's older adults.

PATH Annual Budgets and Programs

FFY2024

September 2023–October 2024

BUDGET

FY24 Budget: \$110,000
4% Local Match: \$4,400

STAFF

Halftime Manager 12 months
Fulltime Specialist 9 months

FFY2025

September 2024–October 2025

BUDGET

FFY24 Budget: \$223,888
4% Local Match: \$8,956

STAFF

Halftime Manager 12 months
Fulltime Specialist 12 months
Fulltime Specialist 6 months



FIND YOUR RIDE



PATH

Partnership for Accessible Transportation Help

PATH is a free informational hub for all transportation options in the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle, Nelson, Greene, Louisa, and Fluvanna counties. By centralizing assistance through an accessible and user-friendly platform, PATH aims to ensure that every individual can navigate their journey with confidence and ease.

888-879-7379 • www.pathva.org