

**Jefferson Area
Regional Transit Partnership (RTP)
Workshop Meeting
AGENDA**

4:00 p.m., Thursday, June 25, 2020

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85438642291?pwd=cWhRY2tYeXJyV0FFc3BCM3VaWFlqdz09>

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Call In Option
Meeting ID: 854 3864 2291
Password: 729974

Item	Time†	Description
1		Call to Order/Notice of Electronic Meeting
2	4:00-	Introductions/Roll Call
3	4:10	Matters from the Public: Limit 3 minutes per speaker
4		✓ Minutes from May 28, 2020
5	4:10- 4:35	Future of Transit Jessica Hersh-Ballerinig
6	4:35- 4:45	Joint Marketing & Public Relations Effort Introduction of Jodie, new Jaunt staff Sara Pennington Brad Sheffeld
7	4:45 – 5:00	Committee Updates • Budget Technical Committee Chip Boyles • Equitable Driver Appreciation Committee Jessica Hersh-Ballerinig • Reporting Committee Jessica Hersh-Ballerinig
8	5:10- 5:20	• Appoint Nominating Committee for FY21 Officers July vote
9	5:20- 5:45	RTP Staff Updates • Virginia Breeze Danville to DC Chip Boyles • Afton Express Chip Boyles • FY21 Meeting calendar Sara Pennington
10	5:45- 5:50	Transit Service Provider Updates – • CAT/Jaunt/UTS/Rideshare Staff • CAT Advisory Board Update Lloyd Snook
11	5:50- 6:00	Other Business • DRPT Technical Assistance Schedule • Regional Visioning & Albemarle Expansion Studies
12	6:00	Adjourn

Future Meeting Topics

1. June - Nominating committee for July election.

The Regional Transit Partnership (RTP) serves as an official advisory board, created by the City of Charlottesville, Albemarle County and JAUNT, in Partnership with the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation to provide recommendations to decision-makers on transit-related matters.

Times are approximate

- ✓ Requires a vote of the Partnership

(To be read before each public meeting)
NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC MEETING
DUE TO COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY

This meeting of the Regional Transit Partnership is being held pursuant to Item 4.0-01 of the approved state budget (HB 29) that allows public bodies to hold electronic meetings in the current COVID-19 emergency, in that it is impracticable or unsafe to assemble in a single location and that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss or transact the business statutorily required or necessary to continue operations of the public body.

This meeting is being held via electronic video and audio means through Zoom online meetings and is accessible to the public with close captioning and there will be an opportunity for public comment during that portion of the agenda. This meeting is also accessible by telephone conference call.

Notice has been provided to the public through notice at the TJPDC offices, to the media, web site posting and agenda.

The meeting minutes will reflect the nature of the emergency, the meeting was held by electronic communication means, and the type of electronic communication means by which the meeting was held.

A recording of the meeting will be posted at www.tjpd.org within 10 days of the meeting.

Does not have to be read. At discretion of the Chair)
Online Meeting Protocol

We welcome all members and visitors to this virtual meeting.
A roll call of voting and non-voting members will be held to ensure a quorum is present.
This meeting is being recorded as required by state code and will be placed on the TJPDC web site for public access.

Please mute your telephone or computer until you are prepared to speak. We will initially try to allow members to speak openly after asking the chair for the floor. Should this become unorganized, we will mute everyone except the speaker as identified by the Chair and will ask that commissioners either use the raised hand function of Zoom or ask in the chat room to speak. Conference call attendees may use *9 on their telephones to “raise their hand” to speak. The chair will be notified and will call on you.

During the open meeting, Motions and seconds may be presented without use of the hand or chat features. The chair will restate the motion with who motioned and who seconded. A discussion period will follow. To expedite votes, votes will be by voice unless undeterminable by the chair, who may call for a roll call vote. The chair shall ask for “all in favor of the motion” and then “all opposed”. The chair will identify those opposed to be recorded in the minutes. Community participants will be allowed to speak during the designated Public Hearing and Public Comment periods. They should follow the same guidelines of using the “raised hand” function or the chat function. Outside of these times, all visitors will be maintained on mute. Speakers will be limited to two minutes each. The Director and staff will assist in keeping time limits and requested speakers for the entire meeting.

While precautions have been enacted, should the meeting be taken over from an outside entity, the chair may adjourn the meeting and notice be provided by email. To lessen this risk, all participants will be required to first enter a “waiting room” until identified, and then allowed in. We will share the staff’s screen providing viewing of the agenda documents until no documents are required. The view will go to face view at that time. Thank you for working with us on this electronic meeting format. We are hopeful in that it will provide us a new means to connect with more citizens and offer commissioners an alternate way to engage.

Thomas Jefferson Regional Transit Partnership

May 28, 2020

4:00 p.m.

Water Street Center

Committee – Voting Members

Diantha McKeel, Albemarle Co - Chair
Lloyd Snook, City of Charlottesville
Lucas Ames, JAUNT Urban- Vice Chair
Randy Parker, JAUNT Rural (Louisa)
Bea LaPisto-Kirtly, Albemarle County
Nikuyah Walker, City of Charlottesville
Neil Sherman, DRPT (joined at 4:27)
Becca White, UTS

Staff & Other

Chip Boyles, TJPDC
Sara Pennington, Rideshare/TJPDC
Jessica Hersh-Ballering, TJPDC
Gretchen Thomas, TJPDC
Lucinda Shannon, TJPDC
Kevin McDermott, Albemarle County
Andy Bowman, Albemarle County
Stephen Johnson, JAUNT

Non-Voting & Alternates

Karen Davis, JAUNT (absent)
Brad Sheffield, JAUNT
Garland Williams, CAT
Juwhan Lee, CAT
Trevor Henry, Albemarle County
Kim McManus, PVCC (absent)
Jim Foley, ACPC
Alison DeTuncq, CTB (absent)
Chris Rowland, JAUNT
Sally LeBeau, UVA Hospital (absent)

Call to Order

Diantha McKeel called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Ms. McKeel read the legal statement allowing the meeting to be held virtually/electronically due to circumstances beyond the RTP's control. She also described the guidelines by which the meeting would proceed.

Ms. Pennington called roll.

Matters from the Public

Sean Tubbs from the Piedmont Environmental Council said he knows that transit has been hit hard by the lockdown due to Covid-19 (CV19) and that he wants to acknowledge the drivers who have continued to show up for the community. He said during the County's March 11 meeting, there was a major focus on transit funding. He is looking forward to hearing what the outcomes were on that discussion.

He continued by saying he wanted to “remind the partnership that the ultimate goal of this group is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. You are here to build a system that makes it easier, and hopefully, seamless for people to live their lives without getting in a car, should they choose. These past 11 weeks have given us a glimpse of the air quality improvements that can be made if vehicle miles travelled are reduced. The relationships between all the players at this virtual table must be focused on creating a regional system that serves the public good.”

He continued saying one uncompleted goal of the partnership so far is to take a deep dive into looking at a similar system. Blacksburg has been mentioned in the past, and even though we may not be able to go there anytime soon, he suggested that their system begin to be studied anyway. He also said there was talk of the second daily Amtrak train and he feels it will be important to be in conversation with them about that because we are going to become more connected.

Mr. Tubbs went on to say that even after 2-1/2 years into the partnership, there still seems to be a lot of friction, and that friction is an obstacle to the greater goal of the partnership.

Gracie Druzba spoke of her concern about the transit system’s cleanliness and concern for others on the bus without masks and not social distancing. She asked if the seats on the vehicles were in any way contaminated. She also wanted clarification about the garbage bags on the seats of the JAUNT busses.

Minutes from February 27, 2020 minutes

Mr. Parker made a motion to approve the minutes and Ms. LaPisto-Kirtly seconded.

Transit Service Projections Immediate and Post-COVID-19

Mr. Williams said there is going to be approximately a \$400K savings because CAT is supplementing with the CARES Act money. If it weren’t for the Act, CAT would probably be \$500K in the red at the end of the year. To date, CAT has spent \$1.1 million of the \$5.3 given in the CARES Act. As of last month, CAT was down to 29K riders, which is an 87% decrease, which is a standard around the country. He predicts a protracted, long J-curve recovery.

Mr. Willimas addressed Ms. Druzba’s concerns about cleanliness. He said that the vehicles are professionally cleaned every evening and on the weekends with hospital-grade disinfecting products. There is also a mid-day wipe down, especially the high-touch areas (rails, seats, back of the seats, and at the Downtown Transit Station). There are also upgrades to capital products, including a fogger to disinfect the vehicles, which allows for a deep clean of the vehicles including the cloth seats.

Mr. Sheffield shared a ridership graph tracking the ridership trend since the pandemic started. Ridership is trending back up because of the easing of the rules. Mr. Sheffield said he does not have an idea about when services will rebound completely. There is also modified services for the Crozet Connect and the 29 North Connect. The Nelson/Lovington Connect has not changed.

Mr. Sheffield said typically there is a capacity on the JAUNT bus for 18 passengers. Currently, there is capacity for only eight passengers to allow for social distancing. Unfortunately, JAUNT may have to deny service as demand increases because of the limitations on the fleet.

Mr. Sheffield said that CAT and JAUNT are both fare-free at the moment.

Mr. Williams said CAT is fare-free to limit interaction with passengers and drivers. They are also requiring passengers to enter and exit at the side/rear door. This policy may continue through Phase 2. That has yet to be determined.

Mr. Sheffield said the Governor announced that all public transportation passengers will be required to wear masks. He is concerned about limitations of civil liberties.

Mr. Williams said they are working on a joint PSA to communicate the new rules to the public.

Mr. Sherman said there are some systems who are distributing masks to passengers if they need one. Even with that effort, some passengers still will not wear one. This is not an issue for the police to enforce. He said he is hoping that “good manners prevail.”

Ms. White said UTS has altered its routes, suspending nearly all routes except for the ones that support the hospital commuter parkers. All of the routes are online. Regarding protocols, there is also back-door loading, there is a barrier in the aisle between the passengers and the driver, the cleaning procedures mirror CATs, as they are the industry standard. UTS has also published a CV19 riders’ guide and have been able to mandate masks without issue. There are also proactive loaders to ensure they do not surpass the loading limit. She noted that the capacity on the busses has been cut by nearly 60%.

Ms. White also mentioned that UVA will be announcing about the third summer semester and the Fall semester in the coming days and weeks.

Mr. Williams added that beginning June 1, there will be more service on routes 5 and 7 and will have an additional trolley available.

Mr. Foley said that the plan for school busses is not complete, but they are looking at having the capacity of the busses from 77 down to 12 passengers.

FY20 &21 Budget Updates including CARES Act Funding

Mr. Williams reported that the \$5,143,582 will be split between CAT & JAUNT and it will cover FY20 and FY21, but the monies must be use on CV19-related operating, capital, planning expenses and lost revenue – retroactive to January 2020.

Mr. Sheffield said that the CARES Act money helps to offset the loss of public passenger fares and agency revenue. It also takes care of the loss of excess agency revenues used to help support public transit services, the increase in public share of expenses due to the decrease in coordination, and lastly, CV19 mitigation and prevention-related expenses.

Ms. Pennington said Rideshare funding is 80% from DRPT and 20% from localities. Rideshare has readjusted the last quarter of FY20 fund because there are events that will not occur now. DRPT has permitted the rolling over of FY20 funding into FY21. The program has shifted its focus to teleworking.

Mr. Boyles said he is concerned that when the General Assembly is back in session, they will be looking to reprioritize state funds. He thinks that health and safety and replacement of revenues will take priority over transportation.

Appointment of Finance and Budget Committee

Mr. Boyles noted that in the past the Executive/Finance Committee established a technical committee to report to the them on a quarterly basis. There will be a report of a recommended list as to who will be on the technical committee at the next meeting.

CARES Act Rural 5311 Funding

Mr. Boyles said the CTB divided the rural (5311) funding between JAUNT and CAT with 50% going to the rural transit providers across the Commonwealth, 15% earmarked for the Virginia Breeze system, and 35% can be used as discretionary money for future critical needs as determined by the Director of DRPT.

Mr. Sherman said there is a response being drafted from DRPT about what “critical needs” are and how agencies might be considered for that funding, and he said he would get it to the RTP soon.

TIP & STIP Review

Mr. Boyles briefly explained the TIP and STIP (pages 27 – 38 in the RTP meeting packet) for the urban MPO area’s transit needs. He said he will review details in a future RTP working session.

Mr. Sheffield said it will be important to put a footnote in that report that the CARES Act money is not included. Mr. Sheffield said he would send information for Mr. Boyles to include in the report.

RTP Staff Updates

Mr. Boyles reported that the Virginia Breeze running from Danville to DC has been awarded as a subsidiary of Megabus. They will be working to find appropriate stop/s in the Charlottesville area.

Mr. Boyles reported that the Afton Express will work with partners across the mountain to market it before the service is actually available. It would like to build a customer base before it starts.

He continued on to report that the Regional Transit Visioning Plan application and the Albemarle County Route Expansion Study grant application have been submitted and the local match portions have been approved.

Regarding the Amtrak Union Station Site Plan Grant application, Mr. Boyles reported that Ms. Hersh-Ballering was the lead on submitting for this FTA grant for approximately \$700K for small are/site planning. The organization hopes to hear back from the FTA by November.

Transit Service Providers Updates

Mr. Williams said he would send the document with its ridership trends for the last six years and that CAT is adjusting the best they can given the current circumstances.

Mr. Sheffield reported that on July 1, JAUNT will assume the service of Greene County Transit. JAUNT is also applying for the Accelerating Innovation and Mobility grant with focuses on food security.

Mr. White had nothing further to add.

Mr. Foley reported that the school system is still figuring out school schedules, which is proving to be quite difficult. The 12-month staff may be back in June.

Lloyd Snook reported that the CAT Advisory Board needs to be repopulated.

Ms. Walker said that the bylaws for the CAT Advisory Board have been approved by the Council.

Mr. McKeel said she has people who are interested in being on that board.

Mr. Williams said that once the group is up and running, they can adopt the bylaws.

Other Business

Ms. McKeel noted that the next meeting would be on June 25 and the assumption is that it will be a virtual meeting.

Ms. McKeel adjourned the meeting at 5:42 p.m.

FY21 Regional Transit Partnership Meeting Calendar

July 23, 2020- Historically no meeting

August 27, 2020- Business meeting

September 24, 2020- Workshop

October 22, 2020- Business meeting

November- TBD due to Thanksgiving Holiday (workshop)

December- TBD due to Christmas Holiday

January-28. 2020 Historically no meeting

February 25, 2020- Business meeting

March 25, 2020- Workshop

April 22, 2020- Business meeting

May 27, 2020- Workshop

June 24, 2020- Business meeting