

Regional Transportation Partnership Meeting

Draft Minutes, June 27, 2024

The recording of this meeting can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4uTUb8O7JVk>
(Please note: due to technical difficulties, the recording has no audio until approximately minute 17:00)

VOTING MEMBERS & ALTERNATES		STAFF	
Brian Pinkston, Charlottesville	x	Christine Jacobs, TJPDC	
Natalie Oschrin, Charlottesville	x	Lucinda Shannon, TJPDC	x
Diantha McKeel, Albemarle	x	Gretchen Thomas, TJPDC	x
Mike Pruitt, Albemarle	x		
Katy Miller, DRPT	x		
Hal Morgan, Jaunt Rural	x		
Lucas Ames, Jaunt Urban			
Kendall Howell, UTS (alternate)			
Allison Day, UTS	x		
NON-VOTING MEMBERS		GUESTS/PUBLIC	
Garland Williams, CAT	x	Alberic Karina-Plun, Albemarle	x
William Shifflett, Alb County PS		Jen Fleisher, CAA	x
Vicky Marsh, UVA Hospital		De Campo Lopes	x
Peter Thompson, CAA	x		
Sara Pennington, Rideshare *	x		
Ann Wall, Albemarle	x		
Peter Krebs, PEC	x		
Mike Murphy, Jaunt	x		
Ben Chambers, Charlottesville	x		
Jamie Gellner, Jaunt Rural	x		
Scott Silsdorf, UTS			
Allison Day, UTS (alternate)	x		

* Remote attendance

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Regional Transportation Partnership Chair, Diantha McKeel, presided and called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Diantha McKeel invited those at the meeting to introduce themselves.

Ms. McKeel noted that this is the last meeting for Hal Morgan and that Randy Parker will be taking his place on the committee. Mike Murphy said a few words about how he will be missed at Jaunt. He noted that Lucas Ames will be stepping down as well. He said that Caetano De Campo Lopes will be taking his place.



Jamie Gellner, UTS, introduced herself to the committee.

The group took a break to celebrate the end of the year and the folks who will be leaving the committee.

2. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Approval of Agenda

Motion/Action: Hal Morgan moved to approve the agenda. Brian Pinkston seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion/Action: Brian Pinkston moved to approve the April 25, 2024 minutes. Hal Morgan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with Brian Pinkston abstaining.

3. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC:

None.

4. CAT FY25 BUDGET (MINUTE 17:56):

Garland Williams presented the committee with CAT's FY25 budget.

He reviewed CAT's transit objectives, including reliability, frequency, ridership and alternative transportation. He also reviewed the challenges they face including service levels, increase reliability & frequency, increasing accessibility, the move to a union workforce and others.

He continued with the transit strategic plan and noted that the plan has been accepted by the state. He reviewed the stakeholder workshop findings, including strengths and weaknesses.

He presented the public survey findings including priorities, reasons for riding the bus and not riding the bus.

He continued by giving a snapshot of the numbers for transit in FY25. He noted that they received funding for battery electric vehicles, demonstration grant funding to add micro-transit, capital funding for the administration building, and bus stop amenities funding (13 in the City and 11 in the County).

He reported that their approved budget is \$15,101,398 with a projected FY26 budget of \$13,421,549. He continued by detailing the budget presented.

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

5. JAUNT FY25 BUDGET (MINUTE 47:54)

Mike Murphy presented the committee with an overview of Jaunt's FY25 budget, adopted June 12, 2024.

He noted that there was an overall increase of .064% from FY24. He noted that the demand response and commuter bus service remain fare-free. He also said there was an increase of 4.6% in salaries and wages. He noted that supply chain continues to affect delivery time of new vehicles, contributing to additional maintenance needs of an aging fleet.

He continued by presenting an overview of the operating budget with prior year comparisons. He also presented info on the capital budget highlighting revenue and expenses.

6. CARTA WORK GROUP UPDATE (MINUTE 1:02:30)

Ann Wall presented an update on the Charlottesville Albemarle Regional Transit Authority (CARTA) to date. She began by reviewing the purpose and benefits of forming a regional transit authority (RTA), and then she reviewed the history of efforts to develop at regional authority for transit.

Ms. Wall continued by reporting on current work to determine the initial structure of CARTA, including a completed Regional Transit Governance study. The study concluded with four major findings, which she reviewed. She continued by describing the working group efforts to begin looking at bylaws, work planning, and initial budgets with an eye for setting up CARTA in Fall, 2024.

She reported on CARTA legislation, the bylaws that have been created for review, governance as proscribed by CARTA legislation, and noted that only Charlottesville and Albemarle County would start as voting members.

Ms. Wall reviewed the feedback from the outreach efforts to date that included meetings with staff from surrounding counties, UVA, and transit services.

Ms. Wall noted that the draft work plan for CARTA will have three phases: set up, planning, and dedicated revenue. She noted the current work plan being developed by the working group is focused on the first two phases, and continued by describing what those phases would entail.

She concluded by noting key takeaways from their work and feedback received thus far. Ms. Wall asked the partnership members to look at the information they presented and give feedback. She said she would incorporate feedback and bring this back to the RTP to consider endorsing the creation of an RTA as well as endorsing the bylaws as prepared.

6. TRANSIT PROVIDER UPDATES (MINUTE 1:43:53)

Albemarle County Public Schools – Jamie Gellner noted that ACPS offers high school students the opportunity to participate in unique courses and explore career pathways of interest at a location other than their base school, so this sometimes brings challenges for transporting them to and from the locations. There are only a few students who participate in that offering, but it may grow in the future.

She noted that ACPS has four battery electric school buses that they have had for approximately 20 months. She noted they have not seen any cost savings and they are still learning how to utilize them to their fullest potential. They are not using them as much as the other buses.

University Transit Services – Allison Day reported that their overnight, on-demand operation is now in house. Their first fully operational day with nine drivers and two dispatchers will be July 1.

She also reported on the ADL contract. They have signed an agreement and will be in conversation with Jaunt in the near future.

She noted that they added a purple line this summer.

Lastly, she said UVA's parking inventory is in flux at the moment, so their transit needs are also in flux and they are trying to be as responsive as possible.

CAT – Mr. Williams noted that FY26 will be the last year for "zero fare." He said in FY27, a decision will need to be made about fares.

He also said they will be taking another transit field trip on October 24- 26 (flying out on the 24th, site visit on the 25th, and flying back on the 26th).

He reported that the Downtown Transit Center needs upgrades. The beginning of those improvements will begin around October, 2024.

Charlottesville City Schools – Mr. Williams said they have 22 driver positions. The 10 full time positions are filled, but the other 12 part time are not filled to date. They continue to advertise to fill additional positions. The goal is to have every driver ready on August 1.

Jaunt – Mike Murphy reported that their battery EV had issues with their power and since Jaunt doesn't have the capacity to grow the size of their fleet, that drops the possibility of electrifying the fleet from 75-100% to about 38% because of the vehicles and in-route charging.

He reported that he just came back from visiting Winchester's transit system that is now approximately 90% micro-transit. He said he learned a great deal from them. Mr. Murphy said the consultant has given them five scenarios for moving forward with micro-transit in the future.

He continued by reporting generally on potentially supporting and serving Greene County and Crozet.

DRPT – Katy Miller reported that they have a new open data portal where all applications will be housed. She also noted that the new acting director of DRPT is Zach Trogon following the retirement of Jennifer DeBruhl.

6. STAFF UPDATES (MINUTE 2:03:52)

Mobility Management - PATH – Lucinda Shannon tabled the update due to time constraints, but noted there was a flyer for members to take and review. She asked the committee members to share the flyer advertising PATH’s services. She noted they have been tabling at events to get the word out to the public.

7. OTHER BUSINESS (MINUTE 2:04:37)

None.

8. ADJOURN

Ms. McKeel noted that the July meeting is cancelled. The next meeting will be August 22 from 4 – 6 p.m. in person at the Water Street Center, 407 E Water Street, Charlottesville, VA.

Ms. McKeel adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m.