

**Regional Transportation Partnership Meeting**

Draft Minutes, September 26 2024

The recording of this meeting can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7a03abmaH4>

| VOTING MEMBERS & ALTERNATES         |   | STAFF                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------------|---|
| Brian Pinkston, Charlottesville     | x | Christine Jacobs, TJPDC                   | x |
| Natalie Oschrin, Charlottesville    | x | Lucinda Shannon, TJPDC                    | x |
| Diantha McKeel, Albemarle           | x | Gretchen Thomas, TJPDC                    | x |
| Mike Pruitt, Albemarle              | x |                                           |   |
| Katy Miller, DRPT *                 | x |                                           |   |
| Randy Parker, Jaunt Rural           | x |                                           |   |
| Caetano De Campo Lopes, Jaunt Urban |   |                                           |   |
| Scott Silsdorf, UTS                 | x |                                           |   |
| Kendall Howell, UTS (alternate)     |   |                                           |   |
| NON-VOTING MEMBERS                  |   | GUESTS/PUBLIC                             |   |
| Garland Williams, CAT               | x | Jasie Espie, Jaunt                        | x |
| Jamie Gellner, Alb County PS        |   | Sarah Richardson, CAT                     | x |
| Vicky Marsh, UVA Hospital           |   | Jessica Hersh-Ballering, Albemarle County | x |
| Peter Thompson, CAA                 |   |                                           |   |
| Sara Pennington, Rideshare          |   |                                           |   |
| Ann Wall, Albemarle *               |   |                                           |   |
| Peter Krebs, PEC                    | x |                                           |   |
| Mike Murphy, Jaunt                  |   |                                           |   |
| Ben Chambers, Charlottesville       | x |                                           |   |
| Jamie Gellner, Jaunt Rural          |   |                                           |   |
| Jen Fleisher, CAA (alternate)       | x |                                           |   |

\* Remote attendance

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Regional Transportation Partnership Chair, Diantha McKeel, presided and called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Katy Miller is in Richmond and had no vehicle to get to Charlottesville this afternoon.

**Motion/Action:** Brian Pinkston made a motion to allow Katy Miller to participate remotely. Natalie Oschrin seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Diantha McKeel invited those at the meeting to introduce themselves.



## **2. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (MINUTE 3:20)**

### **Approval of Agenda**

**Motion/Action:** Brian Pinkston moved to approve the agenda. Natalie Oschrein seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### **Approval of Minutes**

**Motion/Action:** Mike Pruitt moved to approve the August 22 minutes as amended. Scott Silsdorf seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **3. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 5:09)**

None.

## **4. REMOTE MEETING POLICY UPDATE (MINUTE 5:21)**

Christine Jacobs gave an update on the remote meeting policy that includes the ability to hold all-virtual meeting up to 50% of the time. It must be posted publicly. There may not be two consecutive all-virtual meetings in a row. Cameras and sound must be on for a voting member or alternative to be considered “present”. If a camera is turned off, the member will be considered “absent” until it is turned back on again. If there is an in-person meeting, there must be a quorum in person for action to be taken.

## **5. CHARLOTTESVILLE AREA ALLIANCE (CAA) WALK AUDIT (MINUTE 9:38)**

Jen Fleisher presented to the Partnership a presentation on the CAA walk audit on the walkability of the community and what the priorities are for those who participated in the audit.

She shared that there were 34 attendees from nonprofit organizations, government agencies and the community who participated. She shared the vision for the walk audit including equity, strengthening partnership, generating ideas, and establishing foundations for the future.

She reported that Hillsdale was the most walkable and along 29North is the most “not walkable.”

She reported that there are several things that can be done to improve walkability including wider walkways; vigilant maintenance; adding shade; mixed use paths; bigger buffers; slowing down traffic; and making sure sidewalks are made for all users, including mobility devices, walkers, and cyclists.

She reported on the takeaways including that moving as a pedestrian is difficult, it is more time consuming to take transit with a wheelchair, all sidewalks are not “rollable”, heat impact and designs for heat extremes should be considered, and the bus system needs to be clearer.

Ms. Fleisher said the next steps include consulting neighborhood leaders and associations to conduct their own walk audits, supporting City and County improvement initiatives and walk audit efforts, keeping community members connected to walkability work, and the upcoming PATH Program – Transit Field Trip/Bus Buddies Pilot program.

## **6. PATH/MOBILITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE (MINUTE 32.09)**

Lucinda Shannon presented the committee with an update on the program thus far. She gave background on the need for the program including the growing elderly population. She noted that this year has been mostly program startup including securing funding, implementing a data collection center and marketing study and the PATH brand. Staff hired and trained Transportation Counselor and created a call center.

She continued explaining the marketing activities undertaken to date.

Ms. Shannon reported on the services offered through PATH. It is a free informational hub for all transportation options in the City, Albemarle, Nelson, Greene, Louisa, and Fluvanna. She noted that most of the calls were from folks who needed a ride to medical appointments.

She continued with statistics on the calls received to date.

She noted that instead of creating new services, PATH aims to assist existing transportation providers and human service organizations with improving and increasing transportation options for older adults and people with disabilities.

PATH is conducting a bus field trip for seniors with InnovAge on October 8th.

Ms. Shannon enumerated the community benefits. She asked the committee members to take the materials provided and distribute them to those who may need the service.

There was a discussion regarding additional information about the calls that have been received. Much of the discussion focused on how to deal with the payment gap that often exists for those who use the transit system.

She invited the committee member to InnovAge's Bus Field Trip on October 8. Lunch will be provided. She will send out an email with the agenda and timing for the day.

## **7. TRANSIT PROVIDER UPDATES (MINUTE 1:22:02)**

**Albemarle County Public Schools** – Jamie Gellner was not present so there was no report given.

**University Transit Services** – Scott Silsdorf reported that the Commute Club initiative is now called Wahoo Commute and was launched on Monday. It incentivizes faculty and staff to not take their vehicle to Grounds, [www.Parking.Virginia.edu](http://www.Parking.Virginia.edu) has additional information about it. You can get paid approximately \$1.50/day which goes directly into paychecks. That matches the cheapest parking option available. It is also gamified with a leaderboard and dashboard to track trips. So far 90+ people have signed up for the program.

He also noted that Afton Express is completely free for employees and \$1.50/pay will be added to their paycheck per trip. They are also added into a pool for a raffle.

He also reported that the cost for carpool permits are being split by how many people are in the carpool.

He continued by reporting that UTS has purchased five e-Jest buses (smaller buses) and hope to get them into circulation in off-peak hours in the Spring.

**CAT** – Garland Williams reported that they have Karen Davis joining their staff as their new Assistant Director of Operations. She will begin on October 7. He also said Gilly (bus company) has available space to move them up in production to get eight diesel buses. They are going to get them in March of 2025 instead of January of 2026. He said they had a good meeting with their consultants re: planning and phasing the infrastructure to support alternative fuel vehicles. They are looking at \$60 million of capital expenses to make it all work

**CAT** – Mr. Williams reported that there are four potential additional drivers. They will be starting an aggressive marketing campaign for additional drivers on October 1.

As an aside, the CAT service improvements will begin on Saturday, October 26 which will include service to The Center.

**Jaunt** – Jason Espie said they had a series of studies that will be coming to fruition soon. On Monday, September 30, there will be a modification to the Buckingham route. They will be trimming it to make it more efficient.

**DRPT** – Katy Miller reported said there wasn't much to report, but to look to them if there are gaps in funding that may be needed.

#### **8. STAFF UPDATES (MINUTE 1:42:06)**

Lucinda Shannon reported that Sept 30 – October 6 is National “Week Without Driving” week through America Walks to help bring awareness of the difficulties that those who cannot drive face.

#### **9. OTHER BUSINESS/UPDATES/REMINDERS (MINUTE 1:42:55)**

Ms. McKeel reported that there will be no meeting in October.

The next meeting will be December 12, 2024 from 4 – 6 p.m. in person at the Water Street Center, 407 E Water Street, Charlottesville, VA.

Natalie Oschrein noted that Loop De Ville has been rescheduled to October 6 due to inclement weather.

#### **10. ADJOURN**

Ms. McKeel adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.