

Regional Transportation Partnership Meeting

Draft Minutes, April 24, 2025

The recording of this meeting can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wn6-vJ1TmI>

VOTING MEMBERS & ALTERNATES		STAFF	
Brian Pinkston, Charlottesville	x	Christine Jacobs, TJPDC	x
Natalie Oschrein, Charlottesville	x	Lucinda Shannon, TJPDC	x
Diantha McKeel, Albemarle	x	Gretchen Thomas, TJPDC	x
Mike Pruitt, Albemarle	x	Sarah Richardson, TJPDC	
Katy Miller, DRPT *	x	Igor Kalina, TJPDC	
Randy Parker, Jaunt Rural	x	Taylor Jenkins, TJPDC	x
Nick Pilipowskyj, Jaunt Urban	x		
Scott Silsdorf, UTS	x		
Kendall Howell, UTS (alternate)			
NON-VOTING MEMBERS		GUESTS/PUBLIC	
Garland Williams, CAT	x	Devon Thompson, CSPDC	x
Jamie Gellner, Alb County PS	x	Zoë McComber, City of Charlottesville	x
Vicky Marsh, UVA Hospital		Sally Duncan	x
Peter Thompson, CAA	x	Tonya Schwartzendruber, Albemarle County	x
Sara Pennington, Rideshare			
Ann Wall, Albemarle			
Peter Krebs, PEC	x		
Mike Murphy, Jaunt	x		
Ben Chambers, Charlottesville	x		
Jen Fleisher, CAA (alternate)	x		
Daniel Richardson, Alb County PS (alternate) *			

* 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.

Katy Miller joined via Zoom and said she is in Richmond and was unable to get to the meeting in Charlottesville in time.

Motion/Action: Natalie Oschrein made a motion to allow Katy Miller to participate remotely. Mike Pruitt seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

She invited those at the meeting to introduce themselves. Mike Murphy introduced Nick Pilipowskyj as the newest member of the partnership representing Urban Jaunt.



2. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (MINUTE 6:06)

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion/Action: Brian Pinkston moved to approve the February 27, 2025 minutes. Natalie Oschrein seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 7:39)

None.

4. CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE TRANSIT PLANNING UPDATE (MINUTE 9:00)

Ben Chambers presented to partnership with the roles the City plays in regional transit. He reviewed the planning priorities for the next 8-12 months for transit under both roles as the jurisdictional partner and as a transit agency.

He focused on the FY27 Expansion Plans and budget preparation. He said City Council members emphasized a need to get started early in the next budget cycle process to expand transit service. Staff has started modeling different expansion scenarios from the CAT Strategic Plan. He said modeling those options will estimate costs.

Mr. Chambers continued by reviewing a CARTA priorities identification study. The study will take recommendations from the previous Regional Transit Vision plan and other existing transit agency plans and identify the “regionally significant” network where the region wants to make more investments. The study is currently recommended for funding through DRPT’s technical assistance grant.

Regarding the CARTA funding model/legislative package, he said they are beginning to work with legislators to understand where the best opportunities are.

Zoë McComber introduced herself as the new Transit Planner for the City and gave a little background on what she has been and will be doing.

Diantha McKeel said she is happy to see that there may be Sunday service through CAT. It was noted that the County will need to make a decision about continuing on with MicroCAT in November. Ms. McKeel noted there may be a “transit heavy” focus in the next General Assembly.

5. AFTON EXPRESS ANNUAL REPORT (MINUTE 27:50)

Devon Thompson, CSPDC, gave a brief overview on CSPDC and the Afton Express. She mentioned the local partners and the funding for the program. She reviewed the routes and stops from Staunton through Fishersville, Waynesboro and into Charlottesville.

She shared the fares and amenities with the partnership. She noted that the ridership is less in the

summer and during holidays, as to be expected, but she shared the metrics with the increase in ridership through the years from 2021 through 2024.

She shared the passenger profiles with most passengers riding 3-4 days, but some ride 5 days. She gave information on the race and age of the riders.

She continued by sharing the impact of the Afton Express on the environment, economics, and quality of life. She noted that many people take the AE because it saves them a great deal of money.

She said there is a new Wahoo Commute program in which UVA affiliates ride for free.

Ms. Thompson noted that the Staunton Crossing park-and-ride is now the new bus stop. The Fishersville stop is now at Augusta Health.

She reported that they launched their mobile data collection system that helps with more accurate data.

Looking ahead, she said they are looking to expand service, adding the Crozet Park-and-ride lot stop once it is constructed, and they will be expanding marketing for the new services.

There was a question-and-answer session at the end of the presentation.

Scott Silsdorf explained the Wahoo Commute program.

Mike Murphy said he would like to talk with Ms. Thompson about collaborating with the Afton Express's routes in and out of Crozet.

It was noted that the service is for everyone, not just for commuters. She also said she can be reached at cdevon@cspdc.org if people had additional questions.

6. REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY WORKING GROUP UPDATE (MINUTE)

Ben Chambers reported that there have been two meetings for the CARTA Board. They have worked through bylaws (now adopted) and public meeting policy (now adopted). They are currently working on deciding on non-voting partners, technical committee members, and determined that it is time to talk with finance staff at both the City and County. There was a discussion about who might be best to serve as non-voting members and technical committee members.

It was noted that the meetings will most likely be held in the Water Street Center for future meetings as the group grows in size.

Ms. McKeel asked that CARTA share with the RTP the bylaws and any policies that have been adopted to date.

Mr. Pinkston said it may be time now to start reaching out to legislators about the new group.

7. **TRANSIT PROVIDER UPDATES (MINUTE 1:05:19)**

Albemarle County Public Schools – Jamie Gellner reported that they are upgrading to a new routing software and will start training next week. She said they are starting a fleet advisory committee. They will be monitoring the utilization of the vehicles.

University Transit Services – Scott Silsdorf reported that the semester is wrapping up and will be going into exam mode and then recess service. They put their “eJest” vehicles for getting people back and forth between some of their buildings under the railroad tracks at Old Ivy Road. He said they took the buses onto the Lawn on April 3. UTS has an Instagram account and recommends people start to follow them.

City of Charlottesville Schools – Garland Williams said they are wrapping up their agreement with Dominion. They will be ordering battery-electric vehicles. Dominion has been on site to determine where to put in charging stations.

CAT – Garland Williams said CAT is actively working on a similar pilot program. They ordered two battery electric buses that will be on site in June 2026. He described some of the work that needs to be done in order to facilitate the new buses. The initial plan is to have six charging stations. There is a great deal of conversation about increasing service. They will be presenting to City Council relatively soon on some of their updates. Ms. McKeel asked that they be in touch with the County as well.

Ms. Gellner noted that ACPS has four electric buses on shorter urban routes.

Jaunt – Mike Murphy said they have a new CFO at Jaunt whom he is currently onboarding. Her name is Missy Corbin. He said by early June they will be sending out a survey to riders. Mr. Murphy said Jaunt would like to advance their marketing capabilities. He said he will continue to go to Project Sync meetings which he noted has been a bit challenging. He said they are currently working on a parking lot project. Lastly, he said they are looking forward to a number of software advancements in the coming year.

DRPT – Katy Miller said they appreciated Jaunt’s feedback with Project Sync meetings. DRPT has their interim business report out now and they are working on getting a more finalized version. Ms. Miller noted that the tariffs have frozen their state contract for the Flyer vehicles. She noted that there is a cap on escalating costs due to tariffs in that contract.

Ms. Miller said the draft Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) has been released. She recommended that the members look at DRPT’s data portal online. Ms. Miller also noted that on May 7 in Culpeper, there is a public hearing on the SYIP and May 21 is the deadline for any comments online.

8. OTHER BUSINESS/UPDATES/REMINDERS (MINUTE 1:31:53)

Ms. McKeel said the minutes reference the conference in Richmond on May 28-29. She asked Lucinda Shannon to send information to the partnership in case anyone wants to go.

The next meeting will be June 25, 2025, from 4 – 6 p.m. in person at the Water Street Center, 407 E Water Street, Charlottesville, VA.

9. ADJOURN

Ms. McKeel adjourned the meeting at 5:33 p.m.