

Regional Transportation Partnership Meeting

Draft Minutes, June 26, 2025

The recording of this meeting can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZwSyts4gosM>

VOTING MEMBERS & ALTERNATES		STAFF	
Brian Pinkston, Charlottesville		Christine Jacobs, TJPDC	x
Natalie Oschrin, Charlottesville	x	Lucinda Shannon, TJPDC	x
Diantha McKeel, Albemarle	x	Gretchen Thomas, TJPDC	x
Mike Pruitt, Albemarle	x	Igor Kalina, TJPDC	x
Katy Miller, DRPT	x	Taylor Jenkins, TJPDC	x
Randy Parker, Jaunt Rural	x		x
Nick Pilipowskyj, Jaunt Urban	x		
Scott Silsdorf, UTS			
Allison Day, UTS (alternate)	x		
NON-VOTING MEMBERS		GUESTS/PUBLIC	
Garland Williams, CAT	x	Jason Espie, Jaunt	x
Jamie Gellner, Alb County PS		Zoë Macomber, City of Charlottesville	x
Vicky Marsh, UVA Hospital		Carlos Pineda-Lopez, City of Charlottesville	x
Peter Thompson, CAA	x	Sally Duncan	x
Sara Pennington, Rideshare		Jen Fleisher	x
Ann Wall, Albemarle		Tonya Swartzendruber	x
Peter Krebs, PEC	x	Sean Tubbs *	
Mike Murphy, Jaunt	x	David Blount, TJPDC *	
Ben Chambers, Charlottesville	x		
Jen Fleisher, CAA (alternate)			
Daniel Richardson, Alb County PS (alternate)			

* Remote attendance

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The Regional Transportation Partnership (RTP) Chair, Diantha McKeel, presided and called the meeting to order. With no individuals participating virtually, RTP members introduced themselves and identified that a quorum was established.

2. **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (MINUTE 2:30)**

Approval of Agenda

Motion/Action: Randy Parker moved to approve the agenda. Natalie Oschrin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.



Approval of Minutes

Motion/Action: Natalie Oschrein moved to approve the April 24, 2025, minutes. Peter Thompson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 4:35)

None.

4. REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY WORKING GROUP UPDATE (MINUTE 5:50)

Taylor Jenkins provided an update on the work of the Charlottesville-Albemarle Regional Transit Authority Working Group. At the March 27, 2025, CARTA Board meeting, Board members requested that staff research other authority structures to develop a recommendation on who CARTA non-voting Directors should be. At the May CARTA Board meeting, staff presented a memorandum recommending that the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) and the University of Virginia (UVA) fill the first two roles of non-voting directors and filling the remainder at a later date. The CARTA Board approved this recommendation and staff and working to facilitate that invitation process.

Taylor Jenkins also shared that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) officially approved the statewide six-year improvement program, which includes the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and DRPT budgets. Programs and projects that TJPDC applied for, including a technical assistance grant to complete a prioritization study on behalf of CARTA, were all approved by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. The scope of work for the prioritization study was revised and should be shared for proposals soon.

Diantha McKeel indicated that CARTA is still hopeful for participation from surrounding rural jurisdictions. CARTA will meet again in July.

5. CAT BUDGET UPDATE (MINUTE 9:50)

Garland Williams joined to provide the annual update of Charlottesville Area Transit (CAT) Fixed-Route and MicroCAT services and the transit agency budget.

Natalie Oschrein asked for clarification on when fare free transit services would end. This fiscal year ends state funding for fare-free transit. Next fiscal year (FY26) is when the City and County have to pick up the costs and make a future decision.

Garland Williams illustrated that CAT has made significant changes in recent years, including eliminating service frequencies longer than 60 minutes and working to increase reliability.

CAT's budget is made up of federal, state, local (Charlottesville/Albemarle), and other funding sources. UVA contributes for the trolley and zero fare support. Garland Williams presented a FY26 cost allocation estimate, including what that share of costs would be between City and County contributions.

MicroCAT is approximately 90% funded by Albemarle County. There are now over 3,000 service requests per week and they continue to grow, far exceeding initial ridership estimates. Popular stops include Albemarle High School and Walmart. Cost-per-ride continues to drop as ridership and service efficiency grows.

Garland Williams concluded the presentation. Members had discussion about the collection of demographic data, the intent of zone- and demand-based services, and comparisons of costs between MicroCAT and CAT fixed-route services.

Diantha McKeel shared that in Albemarle County, healthcare costs are one of the largest drivers of the budget process and that they observed a 30% increase in those costs this budget season. Garland Williams indicated that healthcare costs were one of the numbers that changed their cost-per-hour for services for this budget, but that the city does have a partial reimbursement program for health or gym-related facilities.

6. JAUNT BUDGET UPDATE (MINUTE 51:00)

Mike Murphy began his presentation by sharing that Jaunt has an off-time of year where they complete benefits renewals. This year, they switched to a provider offering a 28% increase rather than 72% that they were previously quoted. Each driver has a baseline level of fitness that they need to have and pass an annual physical.

The Jaunt Board has five priorities for 2026/2026, including remaining a presence with CARTA, securing a written agreement for Charlottesville ADA service, implementing a microtransit pilot, creating a performance evaluation system, and implementing new scheduling and planning software.

Jaunt applied for 10 projects that were funded in DRPT's FY26 budget. For Jaunt's FY26 budget, increases in salaries, wages, and fringe were taken into consideration in addition to increases in service hours/miles. The priority is for demand response and commuter bus services to remain fare free. Ridership ADA service is now being reported by CAT to bring the agencies in alignment with how the rest of the state does it.

Jaunt is receiving capital requests through FTA 5339 program this year, funding that DRPT has discretionary control over, which means a 4% match instead of a 36% match. This approach will allow for Jaunt to only use the required amount of local contributions, and possibly send funds back to local jurisdictions.

Mike Murphy concluded his presentation and answered committee member questions.

7. TRANSIT PROVIDER UPDATES (MINUTE 1:17:20)

There were no members present from Albemarle County Public Schools during the transit provider updates. Allison Day provided the update for UTS. Order of four battery-electric busses is currently

being built, and Scott is on-site watching some of the process. Fontaine parking garage is coming along.

Garland Williams shared that CAT is applying for a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Low and No Emissions grant and that they presented on the project to MPO Technical Committee. CAT purchased two electric vehicles that will be delivered July 2026.

Mike Murphy spoke about receiving a DRPT Demonstration Grant and looking to identify vendors. Jaunt is also talking to other providers in the state to share development of procurement resources, including cooperative language in contracts. Mike also shared that CAT and Jaunt are undergoing audit reviews.

Katy Miller shared that the CTB approved DRPT's six-year funding program and all funding will go "live" on July 1 with contracts to follow. DRPT is completing a state application for FTA 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities to get local match down further for local transit providers.

Diantha McKeel requested an update on CAT bus shelters. Garland Williams shared that CAT has some of the most difficult bus stops in the state due to geography, and that they are working through the process with the state. There are three stops in the County that they're working down the list to address with bus shelters.

8. OTHER BUSINESS/UPDATES/REMINDERS (MINUTE 1:48:40)

The next meeting is August 28, 2025.

9. ADJOURN

Ms. McKeel adjourned the meeting around 5:50pm.