

Regional Transportation Partnership Meeting

Draft Minutes, October 23, 2025

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

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	Sarah Simba, TJPDC	x
Nick Pilipowskyj, Jaunt Urban *	x		
Scott Silsdorf, UTS	x		
Allison Day, UTS (alternate)			
NON-VOTING MEMBERS		GUESTS/PUBLIC	
Garland Williams, CAT	x	Zoë Macomber, City of Charlottesville	x
Jamie Gellner, Alb County PS	x	James Freas, City of Charlottesville	x
Vicky Marsh, UVA Hospital		Tonya Swartzendruber, Albemarle County	x
Peter Thompson, CAA	x	Alan Saunders, DRPT	x
Sara Pennington, Rideshare		Mitch Huber, DPRT *	x
Ann Wall, Albemarle		Bethel Kefyalew, DRPT *	x
Peter Krebs, PEC	x		
Mike Murphy, Jaunt	x		
Ben Chambers, Charlottesville	x		
Jen Fleisher, CAA (alternate)	x		
Daniel Richardson, Alb County PS (alternate)			
Karen Davis, CAT (alternate)	x		

* Remote attendance

1. CALL TO ORDER (MINUTE 0:15):

The Regional Transportation Partnership (RTP) Chair, Diantha McKeel, presided and called the meeting to order at 4:01. Nick Pilipowskyj stated that he was attending virtually due to a family medical reason.

It was noted that no representative from the City was present in person, so no actions or motions could be taken.

2. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (MINUTE 1:26)

Approval of Agenda

There was no quorum, so no action was taken.



Approval of Minutes

There was no quorum, so no action was taken.

3. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 3:00)

None.

4. RTP TRANSITION UPDATE (MINUTE 3:33)

Taylor Jenkins noted that at the last meeting, there was a letter regarding the sunseting of the RTP. Because the bylaws do not speak to the dissolution, the same process that was used to set it up would be the same process to dissolve it. Additional information is in the packet including a copy of the dissolution letter and an MOU.

Natalie Oschrin joined the meeting in person at 4:05 p.m. creating a quorum.

Ms. Jenkins said the transit agency updates will continue to happen at the CARTA meetings. The Rural Technical Advisory Committee (RTAC) will also be updated on the work that CARTA is doing. There was a discussion about what RTAC is and who is on the committee. It was noted that there will be members who will be invited to CARTA to participate as non-voting members.

Ms. Jenkins said that CARTA will be meeting every other month until further notice. Ms. McKeel requested that the guiding document note that there is a transit provider update in the meetings. Ms. Oschrin said an agenda template might be useful as well. Ms. Jacobs said she would take that back to the working group.

Peter Krebs asked how the Authority would tackle the new influx of new six-figure jobs. Mr. Chambers said CARTA is strong in planning and is looking for ways to get funded well.

There was a discussion about what projects and enhancements CARTA will be helping to foster.

Ben Chambers said that could be fleshed out once the funding question has been answered. The funding must come first. For the short term, CARTA has no authority or funding to make recommendations for action. So, if there are two transit organizations that want to do something jointly, they would go to one another directly.

Mike Murphy would like to see CARTA target efforts to bring in other localities. Ms. Jacobs said CARTA may need to have successes before other localities might be inclined to join.

There was consensus that there should be an outreach to other localities, but there would not necessarily be success in having them join.

Ms. Jacobs said CARTA is new and is being built from the ground up and she appreciates feedback from the RTP members.

Peter Thompson has a concern that there would not be enough advisory voices from other organizations involved with CARTA.

Ms. McKeel asked to have the group vote in Nick Pilipowskyj. He joined remotely due to a family medical issue.

Motion/Action: Mike Pruitt made a motion to allow Mr. Pilipowskyj to join the meeting remotely. Natalie Oshrin seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. McKeel asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Approval of the Agenda

Motion/Action: Randy Parker made a motion to approve the agenda. Mike Pruitt seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion/Action: Mike Pruitt made a motion to approve the minutes. Natalie Oschrein seconded, and the motion passed with Randy Parker abstaining.

5. DRPT BUS STOP UPDATE

Alan Saunders, DRPT, introduced himself and gave a background on DRPT's mission and vision, who they are and what they do. He noted that DRPT only has 70 employees. He presented the engineering team's names and what they do.

Ms. Saunders reported that there are approximately 1,500 transit stops in the state. They cover a broad spectrum of projects that include everything from bus stops to Metro stations. He noted that every bus stop is unique and needs to be approached individually.

He continued with recent and future advancements. It was noted that DRPT has collaborated with VDOT to develop a Land Use permit for small transit shelters. It has developed transit stop design guidelines to support transit agency efforts across the state. DRPT has incorporated local and nationwide best practices and has developed a framework for cataloging bus infrastructure.

Bethel Kefyalew, DRPT, noted that cataloging bus stop infrastructure has been helpful for those making any decision about designing, engineering, and building bus stops. She noted that the dataset will continue to grow alongside the existing GIS/Data-Portal inventory. The best practices and the dataset should be on their website in November.

Mr. Saunders reported on several recent projects including CAT/Albemarle, CSPDC, District III, GET, and Fredericksburg. Every project needs a survey, a design, and to have a PE review it, and then put it up for approval for the Commonwealth Architecture Review Board. It may also go through NEPA. He

said if you are thinking about putting up a bus stop, he suggested that you contact him or Ms. Kefyalew to get guidance on how to get through the process.

He noted that bus stops are very complex projects and require a lot of thought.

Garland Williams thanked Mr. Saunders for his work on the bus stop the City just completed. He thought it was going to be about \$45K and it ended up being \$250K because there was a great deal that was not considered when they were first estimating the project.

There was a discussion about ADA compliance for bus stops.

Ms. McKeel asked if the Virginia Department of Transportation follows national guidelines for ADA compliance. The answer was that they do follow them. Ms. McKeel has been trying to get a shelter in Albemarle County for the past eight years. She said they got the OK to get it done, but it has to be done within three years of the approval, but it has already been 2 years.

Mr. Williams noted that Albemarle is close to getting that bus stop and noted that it will probably be within 6 months. He said it is definitely closer than she thinks it will happen.

Peter Thompson said the senior community has difficulty using transit because there is no shelter from the weather and no place for them to sit down.

6. REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (CARTA) WORKING GROUP UPDATE (MINUTE 1:15:52)

Taylor Jenkins said the scope has gone out to DRPT's Transit Planning bench for RFPs and they have received four proposals back. There was an extensive review by staff and the consensus in CARTA was to choose RK&K as the consultant. She said they are hopeful to sign a notice to proceed soon.

7. TRANSIT PROVIDER UPDATES (MINUTE 1:17:00)

Albemarle County Public Schools: Jamie Gellner said it is National School Bus Safety Week this week. She had a briefing from Altamont re: the camera and school bus arms. She said in September, they issued 380 violations and 783 warning for the speed cameras in school bus zones. She said there were only 2 buses with working stop arm cameras in September, and there will be 4 stop arm cameras in October. There are approximately 160 buses.

UTS: Scott Silsdorf said UVA's semester continues. He reported that both units of his department were at conferences last week. He said they continue to get the Battery Electric Buses (BEBs) ready for the road. They have done their first round of training. By the end of this semester, there will be at least one of the four buses in circulation. The buses will be blue vs the others that are white. He reported that they completed the parking garage in September, but it is not open to the public yet because there are some additional updates that need to be completed. The purple line will stop at that garage eventually. There is also another garage going up at JPJ and there will be a transit stop there as well. Lastly, he reported that UTS will be renovating their HQ on Milmont.

CAT and City of Charlottesville: Garland Williams said the City schools are getting close to taking possession of their first two BEBs. He is hoping to have a ribbon cutting in mid-November. They are in conversation about getting two more. Re: CAT, he and his Assistant Director of Maintenance went to Gillet to see their BEBs and they are supposed to get them in April. They are working on the design for the wraps for those buses. There is a discussion between the City and County to make reliability better and potential changes to routes. He said they are working with DRPT to potentially go after a Smart Scale application to potentially update their current maintenance facility, and also to get additional space for their headquarters and maintenance facility for the BEBs. He said he is hopeful they would get awarded the NOLO grant, but they have not heard yet.

There was a discussion about the potential for hydrogen electric buses.

Jaunt: Mike Murphy reported that Jaunt turned 50 years old and they will be acknowledging that anniversary over the next year. There will be a place on the website for the public to share their stories about Jaunt.

He said that work continues on branding for Jaunt.

He also shared that all transit agencies are in the midst of National Transit Data reporting season. He said budgets are starting to be due, Jaunt has a total of nine budgets in all.

He reported that on Sunday, there will be a “Jaunted” bus at the Stonefield shopping center for their Halloween celebration.

Mr. Murphy said he would be presenting to the City Council at their work session on November 17. He said that he and Mr. Williams and potentially Mr. Silsdorf will be talking with a group of young transit leaders at the Virginia Transit Leadership Institute at their conference.

Jaunt will also be piloting the on-demand concept in a rural jurisdiction for all of Greene County.

Lastly, Mr. Murphy said Jaunt will be engaging with 8-9 public agencies to procure new scheduling software.

DRPT: Katy Miller said they are wrapping up procurement for the Virginia Breeze. They are close to having a 2026 launch timeframe.

She said on November 5-6 there is a workshop on procurement. She said on November 19 there is a Transit Program Grant workshop at 11:00 a.m.

She said the Merit program updates are ongoing, public comments should be sent to the DRPT email no later than November 21. All the info on that is on their website. She reported that there will be a TSDAC meeting on 11/24 to review all public comments and potentially vote on the proposed

changes. If it is ultimately passed by CTB, it will not be implemented until 2028. It may not even go to the CTB if the staff votes “no”.

Mr. Murphy said they are looking at losing 11% in funding.

Ms. Miller recommends the community submits as many public comments as possible.

Ms. McKeel said she met with approximately 100-150 high school students about environmental issues today and many of them said they would like a more robust transit system.

8. OTHER BUSINESS/UPDATES/REMINDERS (MINUTE 1:47:19)

Ms. McKeel said because of the holiday season, there will be a joint RTP and CARTA Meeting in November. She suggested Tuesday, November 18 from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. It will be the last RTP meeting and there will be a celebration afterwards. This meeting would replace the December meeting.

Motion/Action: Randy Parker made a motion to move the Nov/Dec meeting to November 18. Mike Pruitt seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

9. ADJOURN

Ms. McKeel adjourned the meeting at 5:52 pm.