



Regional Vision ▪ Collaborative Leadership ▪ Professional Service

Memorandum

To: Charlottesville-Albemarle Regional Transit Authority and Regional Transit Partnership
From: Taylor Jenkins, Director of Transportation
Date: November 18, 2025
Subject: Regional Transit Partnership Transition Update

Purpose:

This memorandum provides an update on the conclusion of the Regional Transit Partnership (RTP) and transition of duties following the establishment of the Charlottesville-Albemarle Regional Transit Authority (CARTA).

As the RTP prepares to hold its final meeting, staff recognize the importance of addressing two primary concerns that have been expressed by RTP committee members:

1. How the public and special interest groups will continue to have input into regional transit decision-making, and
2. How the needs of rural jurisdictions will be represented given the CARTA Board's current membership of the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County.

CARTA Involvement for Special Interest Groups and the Public:

Several RTP members have expressed concern about how special interest groups, advocacy organizations, and the public will be able to provide transit-related input for CARTA consideration. As a public body, CARTA will continue to be subject to the same public participation requirements as other public bodies, including hosting open meetings and providing opportunities for public comment.

While CARTA will assume the role as the primary forum for regional transit discussion and decision-making, it will continue to rely on local jurisdictions to collect and communicate feedback from their residents, organizations, and partners for integration into CARTA's ongoing activities. Because CARTA does not directly operate public transportation services and will focus on transit funding and planning for its member jurisdictions, it will be critical for local governments to serve as the key conduits for community and stakeholder engagement.

This approach maintains the connection between CARTA's activities and the local context of the communities it serves. It also ensures coordination between CARTA and its member jurisdictions, as local governments are best positioned to capture feedback from their respective communities of transit riders, advocates, and employers. As CARTA matures, the Board will have the opportunity to develop standing or ad hoc mechanisms to support ongoing dialogue with stakeholders.

Representation of Rural Transit Needs:

The second concern raised is how the transit needs of rural areas will be represented. Approximately one year ago, staff conducted outreach to rural jurisdictions to gauge interest in joining CARTA, but there was no interest expressed at that time. Historically, rural jurisdictions have preferred to coordinate directly with transit providers to fund services tailored specifically to the needs of their residents. Staff will revisit these discussions and ensure rural jurisdiction engagement as part of the upcoming Transit Prioritization Study being completed under CARTA's direction.

Additionally, the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC) staffs the Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC), which includes staff from each rural jurisdiction (rural Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, and Nelson). RTAC will remain an active venue for discussing rural mobility as part of their regular meeting agendas to maintain the regional awareness and connectivity between urban and rural planning.

Next Steps:

At the November 6, 2025, TJPDC Commission meeting, the Commission approved transmitting the following documents related to the RTP transition:

- **Letter requesting dissolution**
- The **RTP Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) amendment**, which will formalize the conclusion of RTP activities
- The **CARTA MOU**, identifying the roles and responsibilities of the City of Charlottesville, Albemarle County, and the TJPDC in CARTA administration

TJPDC staff have distributed materials to all signatories of the RTP MOU. The signatories of the RTP MOU are as follows:

- Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission
- City of Charlottesville, on behalf of Charlottesville Area Transit
- Albemarle County
- Jaunt, Inc.
- Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization (CA-MPO)
- University of Virginia

Staff appreciate the dedication of RTP members and the collective commitment to advancing regional transit coordination over the years and look forward to supporting a smooth transition.