

Charlottesville Albemarle Regional Transit Authority (CARTA) Meeting

Draft Minutes, January 22, 2026

The recording of this meeting can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VONS7A_XUQo

VOTING MEMBERS & ALTERNATES		STAFF	
Jen Fleisher, Charlottesville	x	Christine Jacobs, TJPDC	
Natalie Oschrin, Charlottesville	x	Lucinda Shannon, TJPDC	x
Sally Duncan, Albemarle	x	Gretchen Thomas, TJPDC	
Mike Pruitt, Albemarle	x	Taylor Jenkins, TJPDC	x
		Ben Chambers, Charlottesville	x
		Ann Wall, Albemarle	x
NON-VOTING MEMBERS		GUESTS/PUBLIC	
Grant Sparks, DRPT	x	Katy Miller, DRPT	x
		James Freas, City of Charlottesville	x
		Garland Williams, CAT	x
		Scott Silsdorf, UTS	x
		Mike Murphy, Jaunt	x
		Zoe Macomber, CAT	x
		Tonya Swartzendruber, Albemarle	x
		Jennifer DeBruhl, RK&K	x

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Taylor Jenkins called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. because there is an election of officers on the agenda for this meeting. She welcomed two new board members, Sally Duncan and Jen Fleisher.

Lucinda Shannon noted that the meeting was all-virtual, held over Zoom, and she read the electronic meeting policy.

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (MINUTE 1:49)

Taylor Jenkins reminded the board of the duties of both the Chair and Vice Chair. Mike Pruitt nominated Natalie Oschrin as Chair and himself as Vice Chair to maintain continuity and switch City and County leadership (a County rep was Chair and a City rep was Vice Chair last time).

Motion/Action: Jen Fleisher made a motion to approve Natalie Oschrin as Chair and Mike Pruitt as Vice Chair. Sally Duncan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Natalie Oschrin took over leadership of the meeting. She invited those at the meeting to introduce themselves.



3. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA (MINUTE 9:30)

Motion/Action: Jen Fleisher made a motion to approve the agenda. There was no second. There was a group of new attendees who were accepted into the meeting and who introduced themselves.

4. MEETING MINUTES (MINUTE 10:43)

Motion/Action: Jen Fleisher made a motion to approve the November 18, 2025, meeting minutes. Mike Pruitt seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

5. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 11:45)

None.

6. PRIORITIZATION STUDY UPDATE (MINUTE 12:12)

Taylor Jenkins gave an overview of the meeting schedule with dates, times, and potential topics for the calendar year 2026. The regularly scheduled meetings are set for the fourth Thursday of the odd months from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. The exception would be in November due to a conflict with the Thanksgiving holiday, so it is rescheduled for November 12.

Mike Pruitt noted that it will be important to focus on the eventual implementation of the transit vision plan and would like the topics presented at the meetings have that at top of mind. There was a brief discussion about how best to do that. He noted that he would like to start adopting an internal position within CARTA and then pursue legislative action.

It was the position of the board to accept the calendar dates and times and topics as presented. No vote was necessary.

7. TRANSIT AGENCY UPDATES (MINUTE 23:29)

Ms. Jenkins noted that during the last RTP meeting, one of the positives of that organization’s meetings was having an open forum to hear about the various transit agencies’ current work, their budgets, and other things they were working towards. Supervisor McKeel, the former Chair, asked that this agenda item remain as part of CARTA meetings going forward. The memo in the agenda packet covers this topic with additional details.

8. TRANSIT GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS (MINUTE 31:09)

Jaunt

Mike Murphy presented the board with general information about Jaunt and its stockholders. He noted that Jaunt celebrated its 50th anniversary in the fall of 2025. They have currently been working on rebranding and are working on refining their values. The rebrand will include “Regional Connections Powered by Care.” He shared the service area noting that it covers over 2,700 square miles. He shared the characteristics of the service they provide noted that the majority of all riders are “demand response” trips and that Jaunt averages 20,000 trips per month with a total of over 97,000 ADA trips in FY25.

He reported that Jaunt became an ADA provider in 1987 and shared numerous statistics with their Charlottesville and Albemarle services.

He continued by sharing Jaunt's values regarding people, service and connection. He shared a variety of major considerations he shared with Jaunt's board and the five priorities for 2025/2026 that they chose from a list of 25 strategic priorities they brainstormed in a workshop last January.

He also shared a FY26 budget overview and 10 projects that are funded in the state budget through the CTB. He noted that their FY25 audit is done and completely clean. He said there is excess capital and he will be going back to the board on how to return that excess capital (approximately \$1 million) to the localities.

He continued by covering the FY27 budget concepts including services, capital, people and other operations considerations. He gave a brief overview of the \$20 million FY27 budget and how the board can help Jaunt in the future.

There was a brief question and answer session after the presentation.

University Transit Service (UTS) (Minute 47:08)

Scott Silsdorf introduced himself and shared the governance structure of UVA's UTS and the operations that fall under both parking and transportation.

He shared the origins of UTS from 1971 as a response to the growing parking problem at UVA.

He also shared the UTS FY25 revenue by source, including mandatory student fee, UVA Health Service, bus charters, and fuel sales throughout the University.

He said they have 44 vehicles in their fleet, and nine of them are electric vehicles. He reviewed the fixed route service types and a map of its routes.

He reported that they had 2.2+ million total rides in FY25.

He noted that UTS also offers on-demand service and it is an overnight point-to-point service on Grounds only. It uses a fleet of nine mini- and full-size vans.

Mr. Silsdorf briefly reviewed the charter services that are available.

He continued by reviewing UTS's operations planning.

He shared the Purple line route map that will begin on March 9 and will run from 2:30 – 8:00 p.m.

He shared their workplan to-date to reach zero emissions including the Gillig electric buses and the Karsan e-Jest mini-transit vehicles.

He said they are looking to enhance their paratransit services in 2026-2027.

There was a brief question-and answer session after the presentation.

Mr. Silsdorf said they will be creating a Wahoo Wheels Bike Garage at the intersection of Massie and Copely Roads to teach bike repair and safety.

9. ROUNDTABLE TRANSIT AGENCY UPDATES (MINUTE 1:12:00)

Charlottesville City Schools

Garland Williams said over the winter holiday, they got 95% of their operators and supervisors trained. They now have two battery-electric school buses that are in service that are scheduled to do both AM and PM trips. He said the chargers are having some issues with the freezing temperatures. He said they are trying to determine where to place the buses in their normal rotations.

CAT

Mr. Williams said they are currently adding the finishing touches to their budgets and working through determining the amount they are going to need for FY27. He noted that there will be two battery-electric buses scheduled to be delivered in May. CAT is also planning to purchase two more that would be delivered in February, 2028. They have to determine whether there are other buses that will be needed for the future.

Jaunt

Mr. Murphy said the weather is the big story right now. He said Jaunt is preparing seven budgets for the local governments. He has gone to make presentations to Charlottesville and Fluvanna so far. He said they are the most fully staffed they have been since he joined the organization. He reiterated that there is a Board meeting on February 10.

UTS

Mr. Silsdorf did not have anything else to report except that their battery-electric buses are being utilized on their Gold line. The unit numbers start with "25" on the buses.

10. REGIONAL TRANSIT SERVICE PRIORITIZATION STUDY UPDATE (MINUTE 1:19:25)

Jen DeBruhl, Director of Rail/Transit at RK&K, reviewed the study scope of work. She said the study will develop an implementation plan that identifies costs for constrained and unconstrained services and feasible short-, mid-, and long-term timelines. She said they are planning to bring a draft/final plan for approval in the early Fall of this year.

She shared the project status noting that both service identification and refinement, and prioritization methodology & project prioritization portions of the study are currently underway.

Ms. DeBruhl shared the prioritization methodology from January through April and then shared the next steps. They are planning to develop a draft of the prioritization methodology for review by CARTA Board in March before getting into the implementation plan in the summer.

11. ADJOURN

Ms. Oschrein adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.