

Memorandum

To: Charlottesville-Albemarle Regional Transit Authority (CARTA) Board
From: CARTA Working Group Staff
Date: September 24, 2026
Subject: Key Policy Questions and Process

Purpose

At the Charlottesville-Albemarle Regional Transit Authority (CARTA) special meeting on August 24, 2026, the Board raised several important considerations regarding CARTA's future role, governance structure, authority, and potential legislative pathway. Staff heard the questions raised by the Board and recognize that there are significant policy decisions that must be made prior to initiating a legislative request.

Questions Guiding Staff Activities

Based on the August 24th discussion, staff understand the Board's questions to center on two areas:

1. What is the role of CARTA for regional transit governance?
2. What is the legislative funding proposal and pathway?

Staff will use these questions to structure the work and provide information to support future Board discussions that would include the following:

- Defining potential roles and responsibilities for CARTA (governance, planning, funding, operations, etc.)
- Outlining the steps, decisions, and resources required under each scenario
- Outlining the benefits and drawbacks of each scenario
- Developing potential legislative and funding approaches
- Bringing information and options to the Board incrementally as the work progresses

Next Steps

Staff anticipate completing this process by May/June 2027, allowing time for CARTA Board and local government consideration in advance of pursuing any legislative action. Staff welcome any questions on this proposed process.