Thomas Jefferson
Planning District Commission
*Regional Vision ▪ Collaborative Leadership ▪ Professional Service*

**Regional Transportation Partnership Meeting**
Draft Minutes, August 22, 2024
The recording of this meeting can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_OtR-phJAyQ

| **VOTING MEMBERS & ALTERNATES** | | **STAFF** | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Brian Pinkston, Charlottesville | x | Christine Jacobs, TJPDC | x |
| Natalie Oschrin, Charlottesville | x | Lucinda Shannon, TJPDC | x |
| Diantha McKeel, Albemarle | x | Gretchen Thomas, TJPDC | |
| Mike Pruitt, Albemarle * | x | | |
| Katy Miller, DRPT | | | |
| Randy Parker, Jaunt Rural | x | | |
| Caetano De Campo Lopes, Jaunt Urban | x | | |
| Scott Silsdorf, UTS | x | | |
| Kendall Howell, UTS (alternate) | | | |
| **NON-VOTING MEMBERS** | | **GUESTS/PUBLIC** | |
| Garland Williams, CAT | x | Peter Peckaday | x |
| Jamie Gellner, Alb County PS | | | |
| Vicky Marsh, UVA Hospital | | | |
| Peter Thompson, CAA | | | |
| Jen Fleisher, CAA (alternate) | x | | |
| Sara Pennington, Rideshare * | x | | |
| Ann Wall, Albemarle | x | | |
| Peter Krebs, PEC | x | | |
| Mike Murphy, Jaunt | x | | |
| Ben Chambers, Charlottesville | | | |

** Remote attendance*

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Regional Transportation Partnership Chair, Diantha McKeel, presided and called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

**Motion/Action**: Scott Silsdorf made a motion to allow Mike Pruitt to participate remotely. Natalie Oschrin seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Diantha McKeel invited those at the meeting to introduce themselves.

**2. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (MINUTE 7:22)**

Approval of Agenda

**Motion/Action**: Brian Pinkston moved to approve the agenda. Caetano De Campo Lopes seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.


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Approval of Minutes

Diantha McKeel said on the first page, noted that a change needs to be made. He noted that Randy Parker will be taking Hal Morgan's place on the committee representing Jaunt Rural, not Jamie Gellner.

**Motion/Action**: Brian Pinkston moved to approve the June 20 minutes as amended. Natalie Oschrin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## 3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (MINUTE 9:32)

Brian Pinkston made a motion to keep Diantha McKeel as Chair and Natalie Oschrin as Vice Chair.

**Motion/Action:** Brian Pinkston made a motion to elect Diantha McKeel as Chair with Natalie Oschrin as Vice Chair. Randy Parker seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

## 4. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 12:15)

None.

## 5. CARTA WORK GROUP UPDATE (MINUTE 13:25)

Ann Wall presented the Board with the work done to date on the potential for a Charlottesville Albemarle Regional Transit Authority (CARTA). She thanked Ben Chambers, Christine Jacobs, and Lucinda Shannon for their work on this endeavor thus far. She noted that she will be presenting this information to a joint meeting between the City and Albemarle County on September 17 and is looking to bring a recommendation from this committee to them at that time.

She reviewed the history of regional transit and governance structure and the key efforts in forming an RTA, including the Regional Transit Vision Plan and the Transit Governance Study (both found on the TJPDC website). After those studies were complete, it was recommended that the region create CARTA to serve as an interim entity for regional transit governance and decision making with the ability to expand its role over time. It was noted that the General Assembly determined that Charlottesville and Albemarle must be the entities to enact the RTA. Participation from the four surrounding counties and other organizations are welcome to support it as it moves forward. Ms. Wall said the particulars are detailed in the legislation.

She then reviewed the role (general, planning, funding, federal/state government), benefits, purpose, and intent of regional transit authorities. She shared the work completed to date including engagement with stakeholders, developing bylaws and a draft workplan for the set up and initial focus of the RTA.

Mr. De Campos Lopes asked for an explanation for the difference between the RTP and an RTA.

Ms. Wall continued with an explanation of the CARTA legislation from 2009 that describes the powers of the RTA, identifies initial members and other county members and partners, as well as other duties and responsibilities.

She then went on to review the draft bylaws. She said the bylaws would be adopted by the RTA when and if it is established. Each of the items in the bylaws can be acted upon locally and does not need action from the General Assembly.

Ms. Wall presented a review of the outreach conversations had with stakeholders.

Ms. Wall offered the committee a draft workplan for the proposed RTA. She noted that CARTA would need to approve the bylaws, elect officers, and designate committees. Goals need to be established, and improvements in services and customer service need to be considered. She said CARTA would need to prepare a budget, evaluate staffing and funding requirements, prepare grant applications, and identify possible revenue strategies. She also said that CARTA would need to advocate for transit needs in the area, recommend regional transit priorities, apply for grants and other funds, and begin developing a package of desired legislative updates.

She continued with key takeaways, noting that the region has a variety of transit needs to serve both urban and rural areas. She noted that standing up CARTA as an entity to make decisions about transit needs and service provision is the first step in resolving questions about transit.

Lastly, she said staff recommends the RTP endorse the creation of the Charlottesville Albemarle Regional Transit Authority.

There was an extended comment and question-and-answer session after the presentation.

Mike Murphy said he feels there are some things that may make endorsing CARTA problematic for him, including who ultimately controls Jaunt if it is in the RTA, and mentioned that there could potentially be competition for grants in the future.

Garland Williams noted that there are numerous RTA models, including ones that allow for the big entity to collect money/go after funding, and then buy the services of the smaller organizations.

Peter Krebs said it will be important to discuss funding sources and timing for next steps.

**Motion/Action:** Brian Pinkston made a motion that the RTP board endorse the creation of the Charlottesville Albemarle Regional Transit Authority. Mike Pruit seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**6. Charlottesville Area Alliance (CAA) Walk Audit (Minute 1:19:25)**

This agenda item was tabled due to time constraints. It will be presented at a later meeting.

**7. Transit Provider Updates (Minute 1:20:00)**

**Albemarle County Public Schools** – There was no report due to schools starting and Ms. Gellner was not available to attend the meeting because of it.

**Charlottesville City Schools** – Mr. Williams said the City has 18 routes and all of them are covered and for the first time since he has been on staff, there is no one on their wait list.

**CAT** – Mr. Williams said the next trip to Champaign, Illinois has been locked in for October. Christine Jacobs noted that because there will be so many people from the RTP going on that trip, there will not be an October meeting. Mr. Williams described the trip's focus and purpose. He said the trip will be quick, but it is an impactful experience. He said they use a lot of innovative technology with hydrogen vehicles. Ms. Wall has been on this trip and noted that their transit system is a good model for a regional system but noted that Illinois has a different terrain than central Virginia.

**University Transit Services** – Scott Silsdorf reported that UTS was not successful in obtaining the FTA grant, so they are in the process of regrouping. He said they recently invited folks to see a 20' battery-electric bus they are considering for purchase that can hold up to 20 people. It was on Grounds for two weeks because of the functioning EV charger. He said they are considering that type of bus as a supplement to the larger, diesel-fueled buses that run at off-peak times that only carry 5-6 passengers. He said they are close to making an order for some of those buses. It was noted that these buses could take routes that have lower railroad overpasses which the larger buses cannot travel under.

He also reported that he and two members of his team are going to the Zero-Emission Bus Conference. Mr. Williams said he is sending members of his team.

Lastly, he said they are fully staffed for all their services and operations. They are operational with TransLoc and have new passenger counters.

**Jaunt** – Mike Murphy reported that he presented to the General Assembly on disability and para-transit last week with good results. He noted that there was a conference and noted that there are a couple of opportunities in the software realm that are both interesting and free. He said one of them is through vehicle insurance programs that provide tracking that is totally free. He said they finished the Transit Needs Assessment. He said they are close on finalizing the Micro-Transit Study.

**DRPT** – Katy Miller was not present, so there was no report.

Brian Pinkston spoke about his key note speech at the Virginia Community Transportation Association conference regarding Regional Transit Vision.

## 6. STAFF UPDATES (MINUTE 1:39:54)

**Piedmont Environmental Council –** Peter Krebs reported that the Piedmont Mobility Alliance (the City, County, UVA, public hospitals, and others) is having a joint social with their counterparts from the Shenandoah Valley. There will be a tour of Waynesboro's new park, Sunset Park, on August 29. He noted that the parks planner also does transportation planning and he is going to talk about some of the connectivity work that Waynesboro is doing to connect Shenandoah National Park and eventually the Three Notch'd Trail.

Caetano de Campo Lopes made a comment about the difference between the RTP and the RTA, noting that the RTA seems much more long-term.

**Mobility Management - PATH** – Lucinda Shannon tabled the update due to time constraints.

## 7. OTHER BUSINESS/UPDATES/REMINDERS (MINUTE )

The next meeting will be September 26, 2024 from 4 – 6 p.m. in person at the Water Street Center, 407 E Water Street, Charlottesville, VA.

## 8. ADJOURN

Ms. McKeel adjourned the meeting at 5:47 p.m.