Thomas Jefferson Regional Transit Partnership  
October 24, 2019  
4:00 p.m.  
Water Street Center  

Committee – Voting Members  
Diantha McKeel, Albemarle Co - Chair  
Kathy Galvin, City of Charlottesville – Vice Chair  
Lucas Ames, JAUNT Urban  
Randy Parker, JAUNT Rural (Louisa)  
Ned Gallaway, Albemarle (absent)  
Nikuyah Walker, City of Charlottesville  
Neil Sherman, DRPT  

Non-Voting & Alternates  
Karen Davis, JAUNT  
Brad Sheffield, JAUNT  
Garland Williams, CAT  
Becca White, UTS  
Trevor Henry, Albemarle County  
Mike Murphy, City of Charlottesville (absent)  
James Mann, CAT Advisory Board  
Kim McManus, PVCC (absent)  
Jim Foley, ACPD  
Alison DeTuncq, CTB (absent)  
Chris Rowlond, JAUNT (absent)  
Ginger Morris, Greene County Transit (absent)  
Sally LeBeau, UVA Hospital (absent)  

Call to Order  
Chair Diantha McKeel called the work session to order at 4:04 p.m. and began introductions.  

Matters from the Public  
Sean Tubbs from the Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) said he appreciated the fact that the RTP exists because he said it is important to have the forum for public discussions about community mobility. The PEC has been advocating for the continuation of the Planning and Coordination Council (PACC), but if it does go away, he is glad the RTP will remain. Now with the County, the City and UVA now committed to the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, the actions taken in the group should be taken with climate action goals in mind.  

He went on to say that as a member of the community who rides the bus, he said it is important for him to point out when things aren’t working as well as they should. He reported that there is a trolley without a transponder, the 404, and he asked what the fix was for that.
Second, he was using UTS recently and was impressed by how full the busses were and how it met the TDM goals of the University. He recommended that everyone read it.

**Response to Matters from the Public**
Ms. McKeel said that PACC is not “going away’ but they are trying to make it more relevant, so they are talking about realigning it so the three communities can look at the area not just through a “land use lens.”

**Approval of Agenda**
Ms. McKeel asked to move Item 8 to number 6, right after the approval of the minutes because Jim Foley needs to leave early.

Ms. Galvin moved to accept the agenda as amended. Mr. Parker seconded and it was approved unanimously.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 22, 2019 and September 26, 2019**
Mr. Parker made a motion to adopt both sets of minutes. Ms. Galvin seconded the motion and both sets of minutes were approved unanimously.

**Electric and Energy Efficient Bus Exploratory Committee Recommendations**
Mr. Boyles reported that it has been requested that a committee be formed to begin to explore how the RTP could take on any roles working with schools, CAT, and JAUNT to see how to pursue electric or energy-efficient buses. The committee would also look for any funding sources that may be available to assist in this effort.

Ms. McKeel asked for volunteers to be included on this committee and Ms. White and Mr. Foley volunteered.

Ms. White said that perhaps someone from Virginia Clean Cities should be included on the committee as a good resource.

Mr. Foley said that Dominion purchased a number of the energy-efficient buses and Albemarle County School System applied for one of those. The State also purchased 50 electric buses and they will be applying for one of those as well.

Mr. Sherman said Dominion has a good planning piece regarding infrastructure and said he would send it to both Ms. White and Mr. Foley.

Mr. Boyles confirmed that the committee would allow outside groups to participate on the committee and there was a consensus that they would.

After some discussion about particular bus types, Ms. McKeel confirmed that Ms. White, Mr. Foley, Mr. Williams, and Brad Sheffield will be on this exploratory committee in addition to other representatives from other agencies. Ms. White also recommended inviting student representative(s) to the committee who are interested in environmental issues and said she would reach out to them.

Mr. Boyles said he would finalize the committee and schedule a first meeting.
Introduction of Garland Williams
Ms. McKeel introduced Garland Williams and asked him to tell the Board about what his focus is right now and what his priorities are.

Mr. Williams stated that he has been on the job since September 3 and has been evaluating what CAT does well and where he sees opportunities for improvement.

He went on to say that he is concerned about the drop in ridership over the past five years and is trying to determine key components on how to build it back up.

He noted that one of the things CAT needs to do better is gather data about riders. He is also committed to using CAT’s resources more efficiently and building the system. He noted that there are places in the City and the County where there is new growth and said CAT eventually needs to be aggressive in trying to get to those new areas of growth.

Mr. Williams went on to say that CAT has to fix things top on his priority list before he can talk about doing anything newer or grander. His focus for the next year is to fix and stabilize the system and then will move onto aggressive growth changes in other areas and making CAT a bigger system.

Ms. McKeel said one of the issues the Board have talked about was, at some point, for the residents who ride UTS, CAT, or JAUNT to not have to use different apps and create something that makes riding the different transit systems seamless. She suggested that as CAT is purchasing new technology in the future, it would be great to have them seamlessly integrated.

Mr. Williams said that is a great idea, but his current focus is on turning the current model around and stabilizing it. He continued that it is crucial that CAT find out from the riding public what they think CAT does well and how it can improve. Mr. Williams said the next time the RTP meets, he would like to bring updates from his numerous meetings.

Ms. McKeel said she would have it put on the agenda.

JAUNT FY21 Budget Overview and Crozet and Park Connect
Mr. Sheffield said JAUNT is ready to submit budget to City and County and shared it with the committee with a handout.

Crozet and Park Connect
He reported first on Crozet and Park Connect. He noted that they are going to add a Fontaine Research Park stop and will be launching a mobile payment app around November 1. He said the only concern is the capacity of the vehicles. JAUNT will be talking with DRPT about increasing their capacity.

Stephen Johnson, with JAUNT, reported that the website will have its final changes on October 28.

Mr. Sheffield discussed the “ghost bus” issue and said that sometimes JAUNT doesn’t know about it until someone notifies them and when they check into the problem, it often is wifi coverage, or sometimes the transloc gets turned off. He does not believe it will ever be 100% accurate, but when notified, it should be fixed.
Budget
Mr. Sheffield said some of the issues that JAUNT is encountering re: the budget includes:

1. Folks who could use CAT are calling JAUNT instead,
2. Health care costs for staff continue to climb,
3. Compensation needs to stay competitive, and
4. Service costs and ancillary items are rising.

Ms. Galvin asked what makes someone eligible to ride on JAUNT.

Mr. Sheffield deferred to Mr. Williams who said that at his previous position in Richmond, a person had to get a doctor’s note. CAT does not have this in their system, so they err on the side of caution and believe the riders. There is discussion about when and how aggressively they will be in the future about getting a doctor’s note. He wants to be upfront with the public to prepare them for the fact that this may be coming.

After additional discussion, it was consensus that CAT needs to revisit the entire model.

Before moving on to the next agenda item, Ms. White asked if she could change some things on the minutes. Ms. McKeel said that since the minutes were already voted on and approved, no changes could be made at this meeting.

Regional Transit Plan Funding Request
Mr. Boyles said he is continuing to work on the “Immediate Action Items” from the strategic planning meeting. He is currently working on Item #5 – “Pursue funding, strategy and timeline for development of a full-scale Regional Transit Development Plan – Strategic Plan FY20.”

Mr. Boyles said DRPT would be open to an application from the RTP for a Regional Transit Vision Plan which takes a broader approach than the Regional Transit Development Plan with a 20-25 year plan vs a 5-6 year plan.

Mr. Boyles went on to say that RTP should submit the application through the TJPDC by February 1, 2020. It is a 50/50 match through the Department’s 5303 program.

There was a consensus reached that the Board is open to this opportunity and it will be revisited at a later meeting.

By-laws Revision to Add University of Virginia as Voting Member of RTP
Mr. Boyles reported that MOU is in on the agendas for the next City Council and Board of Supervisors’ meetings. Once they are approved by both bodies, the bylaws can be amended to include UVA as a voting member. This amendment will more than likely happen at the December meeting.

Committee & Project Updates
Monthly Ridership Reporting Committee
Mr. Boyles said the numbers are not ready to put out in a report because CAT’s numbers are not ready to release yet.
Regional Equitable Driver Appreciation Committee
Mr. Boyles said this committee has not yet met. He said there is no staff from CAT or JAUNT assigned to this committee. Ms. Hersh-Ballering and Mr. Boyles will work on getting a committee together for the future.

Transit Peer System Visit – Blacksburg
Mr. Boyles said staff is working towards a spring trip to Blacksburg.

Energy Efficient Bus Committee
The report was delivered earlier in the meeting.

Transit Service Provider Updates
CTAC
Mr. Mann reported that Mr. Lee and the City attorney are scheduled to meet on the bylaws in the near future.

UTS
Ms. White said that UVA announced they will be changing the minimum hourly rate to $15 for contract employees as well as their full-time employees. She also reported that the parking and transportation strategies for the next 10 years was published this week and encouraged everyone to read it.

Ms. McKeel asked Ms. Hersh-Ballering to send the Board the link to the online document.

JAUNT and CAT already gave their report earlier in the meeting.

DRPT
Mr. Sherman reported that there is an RFP for an intercity bus from Danville to Dulles and Union Station. They will announce the winner of the contract in February.

Amtrak
Mr. Boyles reported that the Charlottesville station is the fourth busiest in the state of Virginia.

Ms. McKeel said the next meeting will not be on November 21 because there will be too many members not available on that date. Ms. Hersh-Ballering said she would send out a poll for an alternate date.

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