

**Regional Transportation Partnership Meeting**

Minutes, June 24, 2021

The recording for this meeting can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkUDjCUM8iw>

VOTING MEMBERS & ALTERNATES		STAFF	
Nikuyah Walker, Charlottesville	x	Jessica Hersh-Ballering, TJPDC	x
Lloyd Snook, Charlottesville	x	Lucinda Shannon, TJPDC	x
Diantha McKeel, Albemarle	x	Gretchen Thomas, TJPDC	x
Bea LaPisto-Kirtley, Albemarle	x	Christine Jacobs, TJPDC	x
Neil Sherman, DRPT	x	Sam Pittman	x
Randy Parker, Jaunt Rural	x	David Blount, TJPDC	x
Lucas Ames, Jaunt Urban	x		
Becca White	x		
NON-VOTING MEMBERS		GUESTS/PUBLIC	
Stephen Johnson, Jaunt	x	Trevor Henry	x
Garland Williams, CAT	x	Chuck Proctor, VDOT	x
Jim Foley, Albemarle County PS	x		
Sally LeBeau, UVA Hospital			
Peter Thompson, CAA	x		
Sandy Shackelford, CAMPO	x		
Sara Pennington, Rideshare	x		

**Note:** The Governor has declared a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the nature of this declared emergency makes it impracticable or unsafe for the Regional Transportation Partnership to assemble in a single location. This meeting was held utilizing electronic virtual communication with the Zoom software application, and in accordance with virtual meeting procedures and policies as outlined in Item 4.0-01 of the Virginia state budget (HB29), as effective April 24, 2020. A recording of the meeting was made available to the public on **May ,2021 at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-kfKHK5PKM&feature=youtu.be&ab\\_channel=TJPDC-MPO](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-kfKHK5PKM&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=TJPDC-MPO)**.

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Regional Transportation Partnership Chair, Diantha McKeel, presided and called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. and read the Notice of Electronic Meeting and Commissioner and Public Protocol. Jessica Hersh-Ballering took attendance by roll call, and certified that a quorum was present.

**2. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 3:33):**

**Ethan Heil**, daily CAT commuter in Charlottesville, also appointed to CAT Advisory Board, has not heard anything from that board since he was appointed. Is hopeful that the board will be re-engaged soon.



**Caetano de Campos Lopes**, C3 Climate Policy Director, said the largest portion of climate change comes from the transportation sector and she feels that the RTP is set to lead the way. He is grateful the work that has already been done in the transit community regarding this concern. C3 presented a letter that recommends a number of crucial elements that must be considered and kindly hopes that the RTP would consider those recommendations. **(Letter is attached)**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (MINUTE 8:50):**

**Motion/Action:** Christine Jacobs noted in the state of emergency portion of the minute, the date needs to be changed from March to May. On a motion by Randy Parker, seconded by Bea LaPisto-Kirtly, the committee approved the minutes of the May 27, 2021 meeting, with Becca White, Lloyd Snook, and Stephen Johnson abstaining.

**4. MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – BECCA WHITE AND JIM FOLEY: (MINUTE 10:40)**

Becca White introduced herself and her position and work she does for University Transit Service.

Jim Foley then introduced himself, his position and the work he does for Albemarle County Public Schools and Transit. There was some discussion about cameras on the busses and speed cameras in school zones.

**5. SMART SCALE APPLICATION ASSISTANCE FOR TRANSIT: (MINUTE 19:20)**

Chuck Proctor, Culpeper District Planning Manager, reported that VDOT works with all the localities to help them get their applications together including sketches, putting together the concepts, and helping to complete the application.

After some discussion, Ms. McKeel said she would like to know more about how to properly build a Park and Ride. This may become a topic for a future meeting.

**6. REMOTE MEETING PARTICIPATION (MINUTE 32:57)**

David Blount, with TJPDC, presented the Board with the Remote Participation Policy and the reasoning behind it. Members will be required to attend meetings in person starting in July unless they meet the exemptions listed in the policy.

The changes in the policy would include “for personal matter” or “medical provision or disability.” The limitation of missing up to two meetings a year (or 25%) is for “personal matters” provision only.

Mr. Parker asked whether we should encourage remote participation because it reduces carbon emissions and participation has been increased with remote meetings.

Mr. Blount said there may be new policies created in the new General Assembly, but for now this policy is based on the current law.

Ms. White made a motion to accept the Remote Participation Policy as presented in the packet and amended. Mr. LaPisto-Kirtly seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**7. TRY TRANSIT WEEK: (MINUTE 54:36)**

Sara Pennington said Try Transit Week is usually in September. Last year, DRPT declared September Transit Month and focused on safety. She assumes it will go back to just a week this year. She wanted to get it on everyone's radar to think about how to market it best to the region.

**8. EQUITABLE DRIVER APPRECIATION PROJECT UPDATE: (MINUTE 58:37)**

Sam Pittman, intern at TJPDC, introduced himself and gave an update on the equitable driver appreciation project. He spoke about the Virginia Transit Authority forum highlights, current issues and ways to improve transit systems and driver retention.

Ms. McKeel said it would be interesting to find out if Charlottesville and Albemarle combined to drive students to school. She said it would be interesting to see if it would save money and reduce the carbon footprint.

**9. DRPT GRANT UPDATE: (MINUTE 1:21:05)**

Jessica Hersh-Ballering gave an update on the Regional Transit Vision plan. The project has begun and will continue through June 30 in 2022. The AECOM-led consulting team has been chosen, which includes AECOM, Jarrett Walker and Associates and EPR.

She gave an update of the Albemarle County Transit Expansion Study. There are upcoming stakeholder focus groups/public engagements, creation of a project website, and a Metroquest survey.

**10. NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR FY21 ELECTION OF OFFICERS: (MINUTE 1:27:34)**

Ms. McKeel said the bylaws can name a nominating committee. Ms. LaPisto-Kirtley has volunteered to be on the committee. Lloyd Snook also volunteered to be on the committee.

**9. MPO UPDATES: (MINUTE 1:29:01)**

Sandy Shackelford said the CTB met this week and approved the 2022-2027 six year improvement program. That included the funding for Smart Scale. Because the money has already started to come in for the projects, some of the projects could be escalated and come on board faster than initially estimated.

Ms. Shackelford shared two resolutions of support: one for the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) grant application for the Meadow Creek shared use path and bridge, and the second is the Safe Routes to School program grant.

TJPDC will be applying for another grant, the Rebuilding the American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) planning grant, called the Charlottesville Regional Multimodal Transportation Station Master Plan grant. Ms. Hersh-Ballering reviewed the reasoning behind the application and need for the grant.

Ms. LaPisto-Kirtley made a motion to approve the resolutions of support. Mr. Snook seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**11. TRANSIT PROVIDER UPDATES: (MINUTE 1:41:56)**

**CAT:** Mr. Williams said CAT was informed by Rio Hill shopping center that they want the bus stop removed no later than the end of September. The shopping center will be undergoing renovations and the bus stop as it currently stands does not work with the renovation. The bus stop will be on the outskirts in the future.

**UTS:** Becca White said summer session are virtual. The Fall session will be on Grounds. There will be more activity in the third week in August. Masks and rear loading are still required.

**Jaunt:** Stephen Johnson said ridership is slowing coming back. Remote working policies are affecting the ridership. Jaunt is still working at 50% capacity on the busses and is unsure when it will be back to 100% capacity. He also reported that their offices will be reopening on July 6. There is also a new remote work policy in effect. They have also adopted a new mission and vision statement. He asked whether there are names associated with bus stops and asked if there was a way to stay in sync on how to refer to them.

Ms. White said she would contact Mr. Johnson and Mr. Williams separately.

**Albemarle County Public Schools (ACPS):** Mr. Foley reported said the schools are still running SPED and summer school students. They applied for two electric school busses and are hoping to be successful in that endeavor.

**12. OTHER BUSINESS: (MINUTE 1:51:22)**

Ms. McKeel asked if there was an update on the CAT Advisory Board.

Ms. Walker and Mr. Snook said the council is waiting on a proposal from Mr. Williams.

Mr. Williams said he has not had a chance to find a consultant because of the extra work from the pandemic.

Ms. McKeel said the representative from C3 about getting a roundtable group on transit options. Ms. Jacobs said there has been discussion about getting that done and suggested that perhaps the RTP sponsor that roundtable.

Mr. Williams said his concern it is unusual for the public to be included in the selection of equipment and running the transit system.

Mr. Williams said he would share the information from the scope, study, and plan with C3 and other members of the public. It needs to be shared with FTA, DRPT, and with the City Manager first.

The next meeting will be on July 22, 2021

**ADJOURNMENT:** Ms. McKeel adjourned the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

