

Thomas Jefferson Regional Transit Partnership

August 27, 2020

4:00 p.m.

Via Zoom Conference Call

Committee – Voting Members

Diantha McKeel, *Albemarle Co - Chair*
Lloyd Snook, *City of Charlottesville (absent)*
Lucas Ames, *JAUNT Urban- Vice Chair*
Randy Parker, *JAUNT Rural (Louisa)*
Bea LaPisto-Kirtly, *Albemarle County*
Nikuyah Walker, *City of Charlottesville*
Neil Sherman, *DRPT*
Becca White, *UTS*

Non-Voting & Alternates

Karen Davis, *JAUNT*
Brad Sheffield, *JAUNT*
Garland Williams, *CAT*
Juwhan Lee, *CAT*
Trevor Henry, *Albemarle County*
Kim McManus, *PVCC (absent)*
Jim Foley, *ACPC*
Alison DeTuncq, *CTB*
Chris Rowland, *JAUNT*
Sally LeBeau, *UVA Hospital (absent)*

Staff & Other

Chip Boyles, *TJPDC*
Sara Pennington, *Rideshare/TJPDC*
Jessica Hersh-Ballering, *TJPDC*
Lucinda Shannon, *TJPDC*
Sandy Shackelford, *TJPDC*
Caetano de Campos Lopes, *C3*
Jody Saunders, *Jaunt*
Kevin McDermott, *Albemarle County*
Andy Bowman, *Albemarle County*
Neil Williamson
Sean Tubbs
David Holtzman
Matthew Anderson
Robin Munson

Call to Order

Chip Boyles called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Boyles read the legal statement allowing the meeting to be held virtually/electronically due to circumstances beyond the RTP's control. She also described the guidelines by which the meeting would proceed.

Matters from the Public

None

Minutes from June 25, 2020

Ms. White noted that on page 3, "Mr. Williams" was spelled incorrectly in the third paragraph. She also noted that on page 3, she would like that clarification made that UTS only has one route for employees is only for the Summer of 2020. She would send verbiage in the Zoom chat.

Ms. McKeel made a motion to approve the minutes with those changes and Ms. LaPisto-Kirtly seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Election of Officers

Ms. LaPisto-Kirtley said she and Mr. Snook, members of the nominating committee, recommended Ms. Diantha McKeel as Chair and Mr. Lucas Ames as Vice Chair.

Mr. Parker made a recommendation to close nominations. Ms. White seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Boyles asked for a vote on the motion to elect Ms. McKeel as Chair and Mr. Ames as Vice Chair for FY21. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Boyles turned the meeting over to the new Chair.

JAUNT On-Demand Services

Mr. Sheffield provided the RTP with an update on the JAUNT OnDemand service with a presentation. They will be presenting to other organizations in the near future who have an interest in transit.

Mr. Sheffield said there are five guiding principles for the new service: Responsive, Inclusive, Dynamic, Empower, Safe.

He continued to explain the concept and said there will be more and more information coming out about it and to be on the lookout for it.

Covid 19 Updates re: CAT/JAUNT/UTS

Mr. Boyles said the video they are working on is not quite ready for public viewing, so it will have to be brought back to the Board in the future. It will probably hit the airwaves before it is brought to the Board, even though several members have already had a chance to review it.

Mr. Boyles said the local governments have received a second phase of funding from the CARES Act.

Mr. Sherman said many transit operations still have Covid restrictions throughout the state, although they differ from place to place.

Ms. White says UTS continues to provide service and has expanded their employee service from the parking lot shuttle in anticipation of the residential students returning. They are still using the same precautions on the busses for the passengers. She thanked both Mr. Sheffield and Mr. Williams and their teams for working so well together to make transit work for the community.

Mr. Williams said CAT hired a consultant in July and they have put temporary APCs on six busses which has provided important data not previously available. CAT will be using that information to use in the planning process, which is underway. He said that if CAT did not have the CARES money, he projected that they would potentially have a negative balance by the end of the year. He said he is hoping to get another round of CARES Act money 6-8 months from now.

Ms. McKeel asked both CAT, JAUNT and UTS if there were any issues about passengers wearing masks. Mr. Williams said there are still a few riders who still refuse to wear masks, but JAUNT and UTS have not had any compliance issues.

Mr. Foley said they have a policy in place for Via Elementary, and Mr. Williams said they have policies in place for schools that CAT with which they assist with school transportation.

Mr. Foley said they had one case at Via and he was pleased with the communication about it. Mr. Williams said they had one case at CAT, and the driver is now back on duty. Ms. White said there is a Covid dashboard available off UVA's main web page.

Ms. Williams said there is regular testing available for their staff.

Mr. Foley said they are going to clean the buses in between runs, but the biggest concern is the mask-wearing at this point.

Mr. Williams said CAT is doing as much cleaning as they possibly can.

TIP Amendment

Ms. Shannon said the amendment added a \$8.5 million to the road maintenance grouping for FY20. Mr. Boyles asked Ms. Shannon to send a memo to the Board to explain it further. He said it is a complicated process and he would like for the RTP for understand it more fully.

Public Participation Plan

Ms. Shackelford said the goal of this plan is to show the how the MPO will be meeting the minimum federal standards and to give the MPO as much flexibility as possible in their strategies to go above and beyond the minimum standards.

She said the plan she shared with the board has updates that have been added. There is a 45-day public comment period that goes through September 10. She asked the board to feel free to give feedback to her or to Ms. Pennington, and to share the information to get additional comments from the public.

RTP Committee Updates

Transit Driver Appreciation Committee and Ridership Reporting

Ms. Hersh-Ballering said the committee has working documents in a shared One Drive folder. She said everyone should have access to this folder and if you prefer to get the documents another way, please let her know.

She reviewed the documents to be filled out by the committee members.

RTP Staff Updates

Virginia Breeze to Danville to DC

Mr. Boyles said Virginia Breeze's Piedmont Express is up and running. There is one stop at Arlington Blvd at 11:10 a.m. and 1:40 p.m. in Charlottesville. They leave Washington at 10:15 a.m. and 2:40 p.m. It is roughly \$40 for a one-way ticket to Union Station in DC.

Mr. Sherman said there is a marketing firm they have employed to get out the information about the route. There is a restriction of 27 riders and masks are required. He also reported that Dulles is a major stop on that route.

Afton Express

Ms. Pennington said the Afton Express is waiting final approval from CTB and DRPT re: the demonstration grant. They have finalized the branding, logo and color scheme. They have gotten the route timings and stops finalized. They have an amendment to the contract with transit provider. They have begun development of the web pages and bus stops signs. They have also started identifying Park and Ride lots where they could advertise the service. Many things are on hold until the funding comes through, but there will be another stakeholder meeting once that happens.

Transit Service Provider Updates

CAT

Mr. Williams said, like most transit providers, ridership is down because of Covid. CAT is down by almost 98K riders (about 69% down) since last year, but last month it was down nearly 75%, so it is slowing coming back up.

He also said he has gotten feedback about the video and they will be making edits.

JAUNT

Mr. Sheffield said JAUNT's ridership is down, but it is rebounding. They are focusing on how to focus on the new requirements.

He said one of the bigger things they have been focusing on is how to bring Greene County Transit into the fold. Karen Davis has been tackling that and it is going extremely well.

Rideshare

Ms. Pennington said Rideshare is waiting on the finalized DRPT budget. Rideshare is working on updating the telework portfolio to get info to organizations so they can have a more formalized plan for moving forward.

She also said the Agile Mile program has expanded and they are looking at adding single use trips to it. The trip planning tool has been updated as well.

ACPS

Mr. Foley said they are looking forward to the students coming back on September 8. They have spent a lot of time on routing. He also said he met with other directors across the state and found out that ACPS is doing what other school systems are doing. He reported that they will be delivering over 1,000 meals a day on top of transporting students. There is work for the drivers, but it may be doing something besides driving a school bus. It may be doing something at the schools instead.

UTS

Ms. White said UVA has demobilized the UBike program. She also said UVA lifted parking restrictions outside of the health care system for the past several months, and starting on Monday, September 1, the restrictions will be back in effect.

CAT Advisory Board

Mr. Lee said the board positions are still open with applications in the pipeline, but there was no other update.

Other Business

Regional Visioning Plan and Albemarle Plan

Mr. Boyles reported both applications for these grants have been submitted, but as mentioned previously, they are waiting for the General Assembly to set the budget. Once that is complete, the DRPT can make recommendation to the CTB for awards and funding for the fiscal year.

Ms. McKeel adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.