



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*

Staff

Chip Boyles, *TJPDC*
Gretchen Thomas, *TJPDC*
Lucinda Shannon, *TJPDC*
Jessica Hersh-Ballering, *TJPDC*

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 Rowland, *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 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, 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, or a "ghost bus", 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 the TDM.

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.

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.

After discussion by the Partnership regarding a consensus of the need, Mr. Boyles said he would finalize the committee and schedule a first meeting.

Introduction of Garland Williams

Ms. McKeel introduced Garland Williams.

Mr. Williams stated that he has been on the job as CAT Director since September 3 and has been evaluating what CAT does well and where he sees opportunities for improvement. Mr. Garland discussed topics of ridership, data collection and use, and system stabilization.

JAUNT FY21 Budget Overview and Crozet and Park Connect

Mr. Sheffield said JAUNT is ready to submit their budget to City and County and shared it with the committee with a handout.

Crozet and Park Connect

Mr. Sheffield 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.

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 trust riders' requests. There is discussion about when and how aggressive they will be in the future about getting a doctor's note.

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 3, 2020. It is a 50/50 match through the Department's 5303 program.

By-laws Revision to Add University of Virginia as Voting Member of RTP

Mr. Boyles reported that the 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. These amended bylaws will more than likely be reviewed at the December or January meeting.

Committee & Project Updates

Monthly Ridership Reporting Committee

Mr. Boyles said the numbers are not ready to put out a report at this time.

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.

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 rates for contract employees as well as full-time employees. She also reported that the parking and transportation strategies for the next 10 years were published in a document this week and encouraged everyone to read it.

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

DRPT

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

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.