



To: Regional Transit Partnership

Date: December 19, 2019

From: Chip Boyles, Executive Director

Re: Recommendation for Regional Vision Plan Funding Application to DRPT

The Regional Transit Partnership developed an Organizational Strategic Plan through the facilitation of John Martin & SIR in July, 2018. One of the outcomes of the strategic plan was to develop a pathway for coordinated regional transit system(s). Item 5 of the Immediate Action Items was to pursue funding, strategy and timeline for development of a full-scale Regional Transit Development Plan – Strategic Plan to be initiated in Fiscal Year 2020.

While both Charlottesville Area Transit and JAUNT are required by DRPT to develop regular individual Transit Development Plans and/or Transit Strategic Plans, a Regional Strategic Visioning Plan is not required but would be beneficial to meet the Regional Vision identified by the RTP.

Other transit systems in the Commonwealth and beyond have completed similar plans with great success: Greater Richmond Transit Vision Plan; <http://www.drpt.virginia.gov/transit/major-initiatives/richmond-regional-transit-vision-plan/>; Roanoke Valley Transit Vision Plan; Hampton Roads Regional Transit Plan. Regional Visioning Plans are tailored to fit the specific needs of each region but often include the basic tasks of:

- Establish a long-term strategic vision for the regional transit system.
- Estimate future transit demand and identify services gaps.
- Understand the long-term financial outlook and system improvement costs.
- Coordination of existing transit providers
- Identify opportunities and optimal conditions for private partnerships and investment.
- Explore alternative service delivery models to augment the system

In previous discussions with the RTP, it has been determined that extensive community engagement would be desired for a Regional Vision Planning process. Because of the extensive community engagement, it is estimated a Regional Visioning Plan development would cost approximately \$800,000. Development of a Regional Vision Plan will likely take 12 to 18 months from contract award.

The Department of Rail Public Transportation offers a cost sharing grant to develop planning efforts on a 50-50 cost share. Applications are due February 3, 2020.

Recommendation: Motion by the RTP to recommend to the City of Charlottesville and to Albemarle County to commit \$100,00 each entity in each of the fiscal years 2021 and 2022 toward the match for a Regional Transit Vision Plan development and recommend that the MPO apply to DRPT for \$400,000 to match the local contributions toward the Regional Transit Vision Plan.