



Thomas Jefferson Regional Transit Partnership

August 22, 2019

4:00 PM

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*
Nikuyah Walker, *City of Charlottesville (absent)*
Neil Sherman, *DRPT*

Staff

Chip Boyles, *TJPDC*
Gretchen Thomas, *TJPDC*
Sara Pennington, *Rideshare*
Jessica Hersh-Ballering, *TJPDC*

Non-Voting & Alternates

Karen Davis, *JAUNT (absent)*
Brad Sheffield, *JAUNT*
Becca White, *UTS*
Trevor Henry, *Albemarle County*
Leslie Beauregard, *City of Charlottesville (absent)*
Mike Murphy, *City of Charlottesville*
James Mann, *CAT Advisory Board*
Dave Feisner, *JAUNT Rural (Alb – alternate) (absent)*
Bill Wuensch, *JAUNT Urbal (Alb – alternate) (absent)*
Kim McManus, *PVCC (absent)*
Jim Foley, *ACPD*
Alison DeTuncq, *CTB (absent)*
Chris Rowland, *JAUNT (absent)*
Becca Askey, *DRPT (absent)*
Ginger Morris, *Greene County Transit (absent)*
Sally LeBeau, *UVA Hospital (absent)*

Call to Order

Chip Boyles called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. Mr. Boyles introduced Jessica Hersh-Ballering as a new staff member at TJPDC who will be involved with the RTP.

Matters from the Public

Sean Tubbs with the Piedmont Environmental Council noted that there are some exciting things happening with JAUNT and the area near Loaves & Fishes. He also said he was pleased to see the offer to a member of UVA as one of the voting members on the RTP Board. He is interested in solving the problem of “how do we get more people out of their cars.” He is still taking the bus and is grateful he has access to it. He would like that kind of access for the rest of the urban area. Not one agency will be able to do that alone, so he is please the RTP has come together.

Response to Matters from the Public

None.

Approval of the Agenda

Ms. McKeel made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Gallaway seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes from May 23 and June 27 meetings

On the May 23rd minutes, Ms. White needed further clarification on UVA and STIC funding and UTS's interest in receiving federal funding and the info about data collection. Ms. White has spoken to those who were recorded in the minutes and did not want to take up meeting time for the clarifications. She trusts that those clarifications will be reflected in the minutes.

Ms. McKeel moved to approve the June 27 minutes. Mr. Parker seconded and they were approved unanimously.

Election of Officers

Mr. Parker nominated Ms. McKeel to continue as Chair. Mr. Gallaway seconded the motion.

Mr. Gallaway nominated Ms. Galvin to continue as Vice Chair. Ms. McKeel seconded the motion.

Both motions were passed unanimously.

Ms. McKeel asked that everyone introduce themselves.

JAUNT Proposed Fee Schedule

Mr. Sheffield reported that part of JAUNT's TDP recommendations was to simplify the fare rates. Over time there have been numerous fare rates in the past. The ADA paratransit zone fares will not change. He reported that Albemarle's general command response fares are not changing but JAUNT will be realigning the zone boundaries with the TAZs so there is better correlation. All the other fares will be changing – some will go up and some will go down.

He continued that the Senior Center pays for their attendees to get there, so they worked out a discounted rate for senior passengers riding to/from the Center.

JAUNT has been telling passengers that the fares will be changing, both when they call and with materials/handout on the buses. The fare change will be in effect on September 17, 2019.

Ms. McKeel asked if JAUNT was accepting apps for payment.

Mr. Sheffield said there will be an offering to have accounts online, and in tandem there will be a mobile payment app. They are also looking to accept Apple Pay on the commuter routes.

Ms. McKeel asked if CAT and JAUNT could have the same app.

Mr. Murphy said that CAT's mobile app was developed in-house and created to keep people up to date on the bus location and timing. He also reported that they just created a bridge between the app and Twitter so anytime there is an update on the app, it puts it out on Twitter, too.

This would be an opportunity to create a single platform.

Mr. Sheffield said JAUNT's fare platform is a "smart card".

Mr. Murphy said that you still have to put fare on the card and interact with a human, so it is not online.

Mr. Ames said it is important to have systems integrated. The City may not be there yet, but would be important to get them on board if it so chooses. Data collection could also come through that system.

Ms. White said UTS uses a program that scans IDs and they can discern boardings based on that. She noted that UTS does not have Farebox on their system. They have a reciprocal system so anyone can ride. They use a public provider called Transloc that has bus positioning and GPS. She went on to say that UTS counts passengers with a fairly standard automatic passenger counting company called UTA. She also said there was a recent meeting of the three providers to start to have these conversations about the platforms used.

Lastly, she reported that UTS has signed the Google transit agreement such that their feed/GTS is going to be on Google Transit. It is one of the steps towards having everyone looking at the same options.

JAUNT Regional Equitable Driver Compensation & Appreciation

Mr. Sheffield noted that Albemarle is increasing their minimum pay \$15/hour and UVA will be increasing their minimum wage to \$15/hour as well. JAUNT is asking the RTP to help plot a path forward.

Mr. Parker said that there could be a sub-committee from the RTP to help figure it out.

Mr. Boyles said the RTP is only an advisory committee, so it can come up with recommendations only.

Ms. Galvin said to put the RTP's energies where it makes most sense. Too many sub-committees puts a strain on people.

After much discussion, it was concluded that Mr. Boyles will charge Staff to create a technical committee. Staff will create a resolution of intent and present it at the next business/voting meeting.

Ms. Pennington asked for the four transit organizations to email her with the names of those whom they would like on the committee.

Recommendation to Partners to Amend the MOU to add UVA as a Voting Member of RFP By-laws revision to add UVA as Voting Member of RTP

Ms. McKeel noted that UVA requested to become voting members of the partnership.

Mr. Boyles said the amended MOU shows UVA as a voting member, retains them so they can have a representative as a non-voting member, and would have one voting membership seat at the table.

Mr. Parker made a motion to recommend to the respective voting boards that the changes be made to the MOU to include UVA as a voting member. Ms. Galvin seconded the motion and the motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. McKeel said the recommendation will go to City council, the Albemarle Board of Supervisors, JAUNT, MPO Policy Board and Ms. White requested that it be reviewed by Virginia's General Council to see the exact wording.

Mr. Boyles will be certain to get the changes to the MOU the respective bodies for approval.

It was also determined that the bylaws will be updated and voted up at the next business meeting in October.

Transit Service Provider Updates

JAUNT – Mr. Sheffield reported that JAUNT launched the Crozet Connect with strong ridership. They will be tweaking the schedule to better fit riders' needs. They are not promoting any park and ride lots yet, but working with Starr Hill and Old Trail for potential future partnerships. One issue they discovered is that there are not enough bike racks on the buses nor places to store the bikes if they rode it to the bus stop. All of the buses will be tracked by Transloc.

CAT – Mr. Murphy reported that CAT has a new director named Garland Williams. He will start the day after Labor Day. He is slated to come to the next meeting.

DRPT – Mr. Sherman reported that Virginia Breeze will be going from Blacksburg to Union Station in DC. They will be putting out a request for contract for two routes: Martinsville to Richmond and another from Danville to Union Station with a stop in Charlottesville. He also reported that on the existing route, there is an 85% farebox recovery. It goes to Charlottesville and will also be going to Lynchburg. It will also go to Dulles and Union Station. There are no bike racks, but it is lift-equipped. Megabus is currently the operator of the existing system.

UTS – Ms. White reported that classes start on August 27 and the first years move in on the 23rd. UTS will be back to full service and student routes starting at 5:00 a.m. The buses are in service 21 out of 24 hours a day. On another note, the first football game is on September 6.

Albemarle County Public Schools – Mr. Foley reported that 3,000 elementary students require a parent at the bus stop with them in the afternoon. Many parents have not even registered their children. Mr. Foley did a survey through the Virginia Association of Pupil Transportation (VAPT), and out of the 133 school districts surveyed, half replied. Of those who replied, 80% have a driver shortage. Mr. Foley said General Assembly can make teaching positions critical shortage positions through which teachers collect full pension & work. He is going to make a suggestion to the General Assembly that the same offer be made for drivers.

Ms. Galvin asked that he send language to Mike Murphy. Ms. McKeel also said to let her know if the County can help in any way. Ms. Galvin said that sometimes when the county and the City go to the General Assembly together, it makes a bigger impact.

Mr. Foley said there will be an RFP out for stop arm cameras soon. He also said ACPS is willing to share ticket revenue from offenders with the City.

CAT Advisory Board – Mr. Mann reported that the City attorney and Juwhan have been working on the final bylaws. They have already been approved by the City attorney. Juwhan is working to complete it and bring it to City council.

Other Business

Mr. Boyles noted that the County and Rio Advisory Committee meeting has been cancelled because the county office building lost power.

Mr. Boyles also reviewed the meeting schedule. Staff is working on the next work session being an interactive session with the Chamber of Commerce in the AM of September 26. The next business meeting will be October 24 and the meeting after that would be a working session on November 21.

Ms. Galvin reported that because this group talks about land use and transportation, it is important to acknowledge the zoning and re-zoning discussions that have been happening. The council has recently reviewed the form-based code. The code is trying to decrease the block size to create more intersections with more bus stops. September 4th and 5th there will be a public meeting about form-based code that will be open to the public. She encouraged those in the group to attend.

Ms. Galvin also gave a shout out to Albemarle County and Crozet because the lumber yard was rezoned and there is going to be a connection through that site which will increase efficiency and decrease headway.

Ms. McKeel said the Board of Supervisors will be talking about an on-demand transit service for Loaves & Fishes through JAUNT. Mr. Sheffield will be doing a presentation to the Board about what the pilot program might look like.

Ms. McKeel also said that Stonefield is starting a Sense of Place art initiative around the two transit stops – one by COSTCO and the other by the Hyatt on Bond Road.

Mr. Boyles said it will be important to start thinking about the regional TSP so RTP can get the budget request to the City and the County for the coming year. He noted that Jarrett Walker just completed a plan for Tuscon for just over \$600,000.

Ms. McKeel adjourned the meeting at 5:39 p.m.