

Regional Transportation Subcommittees Meeting
12/05/2019 2:30pm to 5pm

In attendance:

Sara Pennington – TJPDC
Chip Boyles – TJPDC
Jessica Hersh-Ballering – TJPDC
Mike Duffy – UVA Facilities Management Fleet
Susan Elliot – City of Charlottesville Climate Protection Program
Marnissa Claflin – JAUNT
Stephen Johnson – JAUNT
Chris Rowland – JAUNT
Caetano de Campos Lopes – Charlottesville Climate Collaborative
Mike Stumbaugh – UVA Parking & Transportation
Kendall Howell – UVA Parking & Transportation
Brian Cameron – UVA Parking & Transportation
Allison Day – UVA Parking & Transportation
Becca White – UVA Parking & Transportation
Alleyn Harned – Virginia Clean Cities
Kathleen Staples - Dominion Energy
Jim Foley – Albemarle County Public Schools
Garland Williams – Charlottesville Area Transit

Energy Efficient Transit Subcommittee:

After introductions, representatives from Albemarle County Public Schools, JAUNT, UVA Parking & Transportation, and Charlottesville Area Transit reviewed their fleet details – such as duty cycles and vehicle replacement schedules – as well as their fuel-efficient vehicle option preferences and feasibility concerns. Transit representatives also described their current efforts to transition vehicles to more fuel-efficient options.

Representatives from City of Charlottesville Climate Protection Program described the City’s Climate Action Plan and its goals for transit emissions. Dominion Energy described potential funding opportunities for electric vehicle fleet transitions. Representatives from Virginia Clean Cities and Dominion Energy described models that they had created or were in the process of creating to better understand energy efficient fleet feasibility. Breckenridge, CO (with its mountainous terrain) and Louisville, KY (with its innovative in-route vehicle charging) were highlighted as relevant examples and leaders in energy efficient transit technology adoption.

Led by comments from Charlottesville Climate Collaborative, this subcommittee also discussed the idea that “energy efficiency” can be achieved not only through technological change but also by increasing ridership by any means.

The subcommittee requested the following support from the TJPDC:

- The creation and maintenance of a file-sharing location for subcommittee members to share resources.
- The creation and distribution of a transit agency “fleet worksheet” and an analysis of responses to compare fleet specifics.
- Plan and host or collaborate with another organization to plan and host that connects transit agency representatives and the RTP to local land use planners in an effort to increase our community’s energy efficiency through increased transit ridership.

Regional Equitable Driver Appreciation Subcommittee:

Representatives from Albemarle County Public Schools, JAUNT, UVA Parking & Transportation, and Charlottesville Area Transit reviewed driver retention efforts and the variety of ways in which drivers are compensated. Representatives also reviewed driver training processes, staff scheduling processes, and full- to part-time staff ratios. Representatives described challenges with driver behavior leading to termination.

The subcommittee identified potential collaborations with community members not currently represented in the subcommittee, specifically PVCC or economic development entities.

The subcommittee discussed the benefits and costs of creating a shared applicant pool.

The subcommittee requested the following support from the TJPDC:

- The creation and maintenance of a file-sharing location for subcommittee members to share resources.
- The creation and distribution of a transit agency “driver appreciation worksheet” and an analysis of responses to compare compensation specifics. Becca from UTS may have a spreadsheet that she can share to aid in the creation of this worksheet. All responses will NOT be public.

Ridership Reporting Subcommittee:

Transit agency representatives described the ridership data they currently collect, the data they would like to collect, the challenges they face in collecting accurate data, as well as the differences in their data collection goals. Additionally, the subcommittee described and discussed quirks of ridership data that must be put into context in order to be fully understood – for instance, boarding rates may decrease even as passenger miles traveled increases because of better or longer routes; a large number of transit riders making very short trips along a segment might indicate a lack of safe/effective bike and pedestrian infrastructure along the roadway.

Transit agency representatives described the costs and benefits of ridership data collection technology – such as fareboxes and Automatic Passenger Counters.

Subcommittee members described and discussed the shortcomings of previous iterations of the TJPDC-produced transit ridership reports and its attempts to normalize ridership data across transit agencies. Recommendations were made to improve the ridership report with narrative explanations of data.

Subcommittee members discussed how non-ridership transportation data (e.g. vehicle trip rates counted by fixed cameras along a roadway segment) could be collected and included in a report to better contextualize transit data.

The subcommittee requested the following support from the TJPDC:

- Ongoing discussion of what ridership data can be collected and shared by each agency and how this data can be best presented in a regular report.