

Regional Transportation Partnership Meeting

Draft Minutes, April 25, 2024

The recording of this meeting can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qyhPZ-n8ltA>

VOTING MEMBERS & ALTERNATES		STAFF	
Brian Pinkston, Charlottesville	x	Christine Jacobs, TJPDC	x
Natalie Oschrin, Charlottesville	x	Lucinda Shannon, TJPDC	x
Diantha McKeel, Albemarle	x	Gretchen Thomas, TJPDC	x
Mike Pruitt, Albemarle	x		
Katy Miller, DRPT *	x		
Hal Morgan, Jaunt Rural	x		
Lucas Ames, Jaunt Urban			
Kendall Howell, UTS (alternate)			
Scott Silsdorf, UTS	x		
NON-VOTING MEMBERS		GUESTS/PUBLIC	
Garland Williams, CAT	x	Nick Addamo, Kimley Horn *	x
William Shifflett, Alb County PS		Jessica Hersh-Ballering, Albemarle	x
Vicky Marsh, UVA Hospital		Lucas Muller, Kimley Horn *	x
Jen Fleisher, CAA	x		
Sara Pennington, Rideshare	x		
Ann Wall, Albemarle	x		
Peter Krebs, PEC	x		
Mike Murphy, Jaunt	x		
Ben Chambers, City of Charlottesville	x		

* Remote attendance

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Regional Transportation Partnership Chair, Diantha McKeel, presided and called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Motion/Action: Brian Pinkston moved to allow Katy Miller to join the meeting remotely. Scott Silsdorf seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Diantha McKeel invited those at the meeting to introduce themselves.

2. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (MINUTE 2:30)

Approval of Agenda

Motion/Action: Brian Pinkston moved to approve the agenda. Hal Morgan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.



Approval of Minutes

It was noted that the time mark for the video in the minutes are not complete. They will be updated.

Motion/Action: Hal Morgan moved to approve the March 28, 2024 minutes with the amended video times. Mike Pruitt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with Brian Pinkston abstaining.

3. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 3:57):

None.

4. CAT TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC PLAN (TSP) (MINUTE 4:42):

Garland Williams Noted that the plan is a requirement for transit agencies in the state. He introduced both Lucas Muller and Nick Addamo from Kimley Horn presented the committee with the draft TSP. He gave an overview of the work completed to date. He noted that each of the chapters will be included in the full draft TSP that will be presented to the public for their input.

Lucas Muller presented greater details of Chapter 3, Planned Improvements. He said there are 40 service improvements developed (short-, mid- and long-term); service improvements are “fiscally constrained” and grouped into one of three timeframes; recommendations cover FY25-FY34; and select “unconstrained” projects and additional recommendations subject to future study is also included.

He detailed the planned short-term, mid-term and long-term improvements.

There was discussion about whether the route will go to and from the Albemarle County Regional Jail. The new route in the short-term improvement plan includes a route that will stop near the jail on both sides of the street to allow access into and out of the area.

Mr. Muller covering non-service recommendations including customer experience, fare policy, intermodal transfer opportunities.

He continued with Chapter 4, Infrastructure and Implementation Considerations and Chapter 5, Financial Considerations.

He noted that CAT anticipates the need to increase local funding support, especially in 2026 and beyond, to maintain existing services and implement improvements. The TRIP grant and the Federal CARES Act funding will be tapering down in 2025.

Mr. Addamo presented the project schedule and the next steps. They include the TSP stakeholder group meeting, publish the draft TSP, have a public comment period in early May (with 4-week public review and comment), finalize the TSP document, present it to the City Council for adoption on June 3, and then submitted to DRPT by June 30.

5. TRANSIT PROVIDER UPDATES (MINUTE)

Albemarle County Public Schools – William Shifflett was not at the meeting, so no report was given.

University Transit Services – Scott Silsdorf reported that UTS submitted a request today for 20 battery-electric buses with a national federal grant. The award will be announced at the end of September. He also said they had their annual driver meeting recently. He also said they are kicking off ‘Hoos on Demand’ with UTS driver recruitment. The training will begin at the end of May.

CAT – Mr. Williams said CAT is taking the same opportunity as UTS regarding the federal electric bus grant, but they have a requirement to have the Transit Strategic Plan (TSP) in place first. They will be asking for 2-4 electric vehicles through the grant. If the grant application is successful, that will speed up the short-term improvements from the plan.

Mr. Williams also announced the new Senior Project Manager, Bruce White, for CAT. He will begin on June 3. Additionally, the new Assistant Director of Operations will also begin on June 3. Diantha McKeel asked for more information on the Assistant Director and the NJ Transit Agency.

Charlottesville City Schools – Mr. Williams reported that their budget process is over and there will be two additional drivers for next year. He said their marketing coordinator has been working up a plan to attract more drivers starting in May.

Jaunt – Mike Murphy reported that Jaunt approved the return of excess capital to the jurisdiction starting on July 1. There will be a nominating committee for the board and for the RTP. Jaunt is looking at some stop-by-stop data on their fixed routes and see opportunities for refinement. RE: electrifications, there will be additional information on what it might look like with 100% electrification. They also have a plan for the installation of the infrastructure for EVs.

Mr. Murphy explained the two separate Boards that exist at Jaunt.

DRPT – Katy Miller reported the CCR Improvement Program has been released to the CTB and is now available for public comment. She noted that May 8 is the Culpeper District Six-Year Plan public hearing at the Water Street Center. She also said that on May 16, DRPT will provide an opportunity for public comment in Richmond on the Six-Year Plan.

6. STAFF UPDATES

Regional Transit Authority (RTA) – Ann Wall reported that she, Ben Chambers, Lucinda Shannon, and Christine Jacobs have been working on bylaws for an RTA. She said the bylaws will be brought to the RTP at the June meeting. She said budget and high-level conversations about staff were also discussed. In May, there will be outreach to the counties in Region 10 about what opportunities exist for an RTA. She said they have spent time reviewing the past conversations about the RTA so they are not having the same conversations repeatedly. She also said they need to determine the next steps. Ben Chambers said they are making good progress on the things they said they need to do.

She continued by explaining that the legislation is prescriptive on an RTA. In the early stages, she said there is not much variance in what can be done. There needs to be compliance with the current legislation.

Ann Wall said there needs to be a discussion about next steps. Christine Jacobs said they will be reaching out to CAT and Jaunt to learn their perspectives on forming an RTA.

There will be an update presented at the next meeting in June.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Jacobs said she would like an update on the Jaunt studies at a future meeting.

8. ADJOURN

Ms. McKeel adjourned the meeting at 5:11 p.m.

The next meeting is on June 27 at the Water Street Center from 4 – 6 p.m.