

**Regional Transportation Partnership Meeting**

Draft Minutes, August 24, 2023

The recording for this meeting can be found at [https://youtu.be/EE7zpm\\_xQoU](https://youtu.be/EE7zpm_xQoU)

VOTING MEMBERS & ALTERNATES		STAFF	
Brian Pinkston, Charlottesville	x	Christine Jacobs, TJPDC *	x
Lloyd Snook, Charlottesville		Lucinda Shannon, TJPDC	x
Diantha McKeel, Albemarle	x	Gretchen Thomas, TJPDC	x
Ann Mallek, Albemarle	x	Ruth Emerick, TJPDC	
Katy Miller, DRPT *	x	Ryan Mickles, TJPDC	
Hal Morgan, Jaunt Rural	x	Michael Barnes, VDOT	
Lucas Ames, Jaunt Urban	x	Curtis Scarpignato, TJPDC	x
Kendall Howell, UTS	x		
NON-VOTING MEMBERS		GUESTS/PUBLIC	
Garland Williams, CAT	x	Jessica Hersh-Ballering, Albemarle	x
Charmane White, Alb County PS*	x	Ben Chambers, Charlottesville	x
Vicky Marsh, UVA Hospital		Steven Hicks, City of Charlottesville	x
Peter Thompson, CAA	x	Jen Fleisher, BRHD	x
Sandy Shackelford, CAMPO	x	Allison Day, UTS	x
Sara Pennington, Rideshare *	x		
Ted Rieck, Jaunt	x		

\* Remote attendance

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Regional Transportation Partnership Chair, Diantha McKeel, presided and called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. She invited those at the meeting to introduce themselves.

**2. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (MINUTE 4:50)**

Approval of Agenda

**Motion/Action:** Diantha McKeel noted that both the April and May minutes need to be approved at this meeting. There is also going to be letter of support for the Mobility Management grant that needs to be approved. Ann Mallek made a motion to approve the agenda with the updates. Brian Pinkston seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

**Motion/Action:** Ann Mallek made a motion to approve the April 27 and May 25, 2023 minutes. Brian Pinkston seconded the motion.



Katy Miller is online. Brian Pinkston made a motion to allow Katy Miller to join the meeting as a voting member.

The motion to approve both set of minutes was approved unanimously.

**3. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 10:28):**

None.

**4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WITH TRANSIT AND HEALTH EQUITY (MINUTE 10:52):**

Blue Ridge Health District Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

Jen Fleisher, Blue Ridge Health District, presented the committee with the 2022 MAPP2Health Process with a focus on health disparities and racism as a public health crisis. In their discussions re: MAPP2Health, it was discovered that the lack of transportation had the biggest impact on elders, young children, people of color, and those in low-income neighborhoods.

She reviewed the transportation MAPP recommendations which led to the 2023 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) process. During their first meeting, there was focus on what to identify and amplify, including decision making, what's in progress, what is missing, and transit vs transportation. They created nine goals and objectives that ended in 25+ tasks for follow up and follow through.

She reviewed the transportation CHIP objectives. [www.Vdh.virginia.gov/blue-ridge/chip](http://www.Vdh.virginia.gov/blue-ridge/chip) is the website for additional information and to make recommendations.

The committee had a question-and-answer time with Ms. Fleisher.

Charlottesville Area Alliance's Transportation Working Group

Peter Thompson, Charlottesville Area Alliance (CAA) Working Group, gave kudos to Lucinda Shannon and to Jen Fleisher for their good work. He continued by presenting the group with an overview and background of CAA and the demographics for the area. He noted that "age-friendly" means it is good for everyone. He noted that CAA has joined with the World Health Organization and AARP network.

He reviewed the benefits of WHO/AARP age-friendly network.

He noted it is important to have buildings and outdoor space, housing, social participation, respect and social inclusion, work and civic engagement, communication and information, community and Health services, and transportation.

He reviewed the goals for transportation. First, he said the CAA will work with the new Mobility Manager and JABA, the selected vendor, to help ensure the use and success of the Mobility Management program. He said another goal is to have bus stop amenity improvements. Lastly, he said CAA will advocate for transportation in rural areas.

He noted that AARP Virginia selected Albemarle-Charlottesville as their focus community for the past three years. This year, Mpact will provide pro bono technical assistance. CAA with BRHD discussed their options and selected the CHIP priority of exploring how to bring riders' voices to public transit. One September 21 and 22, there will be two 2-hour virtual discussions with CAA, CAT, Jaunt, UTS, riders and other community stakeholders to examine this issue and develop an action plan aimed to develop such a group.

## **5. TRANSIT PROVIDER UPDATES (MINUTE 59:09)**

**Jaunt** – Ted Rieck reported that Jaunt launched their micro-transit program today. Next month, they will be launching their rural transit needs study. Jaunt is also going to be launching a study that may result in fast-charging stations for EVs in rural areas.

**Albemarle County Public Schools** – Charmane White reported that initially for this school year, there were about 1,000 children they were not able to transport due to driver shortages. It is down to 700 now. They are working to rectify this situation. She said 90% of the children are able to get to school on time. She noted that while recruitment is important, retention is important as well. There are programs in place to hear from and engage the current employees. She said they are evaluating their routes to maximize them, perhaps even with CAT. She will be in touch with Garland Williams.

**UTS** – Kendall Howell reported that Scott Wilsdorf started as the new UTS Director. He also said they had their graduation of their driving program last week. CAT hosted the training of the driving program. They have eight new licensed drivers and CAT has three new drivers. He noted that the bus lot is currently a construction site. He also reported that their new EV buses are expected to arrive in January, but they were ordered from ProTerra that just filed for bankruptcy. Vicky Marsh is replacing Sally LeBeau at UVA Health. She is retiring in January, so there will be another representative and he hopes to encourage her to attend these meetings.

**CAT – Charlottesville Public Schools:** Garland Williams said there were no major issues at the beginning of the school year. He reported that the three new drivers will be starting soon pending background checks. He said there is a Network to Work pilot to get school bus drivers into the pipeline.

**CAT** – Mr. Williams reported that CAT had an alternative fuel feasibility study and presented it to City Council in July, but there was no decision made by City Council at that time. The next step will be to hold additional meetings with community groups and stakeholders. Once a new fuel type has been chosen, there will need to be a transition plan created. CAT just got several new buses in, and it reported that it took 22-24 months to get all of them delivered.

He said their Transit Strategic Plan's chapters one and two are completed. They will be getting into route changes in future chapters.

Lastly, he gave an update on bus stop improvements. He said he is working with a firm on completing an ADA accessibility assessment.

**DRPT** – Katy Miller reported that two weeks ago they had a post-award ceremony. The coming grant cycle starts in December with pre-applications due on December 1.

## **7. STAFF UPDATES (MINUTE 1:28:49)**

### Smart Scale

Sandy Shackelford reviewed the Smart Scale funding program for major transportation projects. She described the area type and project scoring and how the benefit scores are weighted. She continued by briefly discussing the analysis summary and major concerns about application quality, program administration burdens, and project delivery and the proposed solutions.

She also discussed the congestion factor benefit score and the recommendation for that issue. She continued by discussing the high priority program (HPP) eligibility. She said the HPP is intended to be projects and they don't seem to fit the smaller projects that have been funded.

She listed the MPO/TJPDC projects that would have been eligible under the adjusted HPP definition in Rounds 1 – 5. She continued by giving an example of how a project would be scored for funding.

She finished by talking about Smart Scale's overall impacts.

### MPO Long Range Transportation Plan update

Ms. Shackelford gave each of the committee members a postcard with a link to the survey and encouraged those who have not already taken the survey to please do so.

### Transportation Implementation Plan (TIP)

Ms. Shackelford said the Policy Board approved an amendment to help fund rail service to Roanoke to Richmond.

### Regional Transit Governance Study

This topic was tabled for the next meeting due to time constraints.

### Mobility Management Program

Lucinda Shannon said TJPDC is applying for a BAMA Works grant to help with the Mobility Management program. The application deadline is September 1. She is requesting the committee provide a letter of support.

**Motion/Action:** Brian Pinkston made a motion to support the letter of support with a change in the date on the letter from January 24 to August 24. Ann Mallek seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**8. OTHER BUSINESS (UPDATES AND REMINDERS) (MINUTE 1:55:56)**

None

**9. ADJOURN**

Ms. McKeel adjourned the meeting at 5:56 p.m.

The next meeting is September 28, 2023 from 4 – 6 p.m. at the Water Street Center, 407 E. Water Street, Charlottesville, VA.