

Regional Transportation Partnership Meeting

Minutes, August 28, 2021

The recording for this meeting can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PA_bTSHxVgQ

VOTING MEMBERS & ALTERNATES		STAFF	
Nikuyah Walker, Charlottesville	x	Sandy Shackelford, TJPDC	x
Lloyd Snook, Charlottesville	x	Lucinda Shannon, TJPDC	x
Diantha McKeel, Albemarle	x	Gretchen Thomas, TJPDC	x
Bea LaPisto-Kirtley, Albemarle	x	Christine Jacobs, TJPDC	x
Neil Sherman, DRPT		Sam Pittman, TJPDC	x
Hal Morgan, Jaunt Rural	x		
Lucas Ames, Jaunt Urban			
Becca White	x		
NON-VOTING MEMBERS		GUESTS/PUBLIC	
Stephen Johnson, Jaunt	x	Sean Tubbs	x
Garland Williams, CAT	x	Jessica Hersh-Ballering	x
Jim Foley, Albemarle County PS		Trevor Henry	x
Sally LeBeau, UVA Hospital		Chuck Proctor, VDOT	x
Peter Thompson, CAA	x		
Sandy Shackelford, CAMPO	x		
Sara Pennington, Rideshare	x		
Karen Davis, Jaunt	x		
Juwhan Lee, CAT	x		

Note: The City of Charlottesville has declared a local state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the nature of this declared emergency makes it impracticable or unsafe for the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission to assemble in a single location in the city. This meeting was held utilizing electronic virtual communication with the Zoom software application, and in accordance with virtual meeting provisions contained in Code of Virginia § [2.2-3708.2](#). A recording of the meeting was made available to the public on August 27, 2021 at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PA_bTSHxVgQ.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Regional Transportation Partnership Chair, Diantha McKeel, presided and called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. and read the Notice of Electronic Meeting and Commissioner and Public Protocol. Lucinda Shannon took attendance by roll call, and certified that a quorum was present.

2. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 3:45): None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (MINUTE 3:56)

Motion/Action: On a motion by Hal Morgan, seconded by Becca White, the committee approved the minutes of the June 22, 2021 meeting, with the additional of Ms. White’s comments, with Bea Lapitso-Kirtley abstaining.



4. MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – LUCINDA SHANNON (TJPDC) AND COUNCILOR LLOYD SNOOK (CHARLOTTESVILLE) (MINUTE 7:45):

Ms. Shannon introduced herself and gave her background and how she got to Charlottesville and the TJPDC.

Lloyd Snook introduced himself and gave his background on his professional life and his interest in transit and how it is inter-related with affordable housing and other urban matters.

5. TRANSIT PROVIDER UPDATES (MINUTE 14:42):

Jaunt: Karen Davis reported that ridership is coming back and is trending up. Service is back to full service despite the driver shortage.

Crozet Connect is also back up and running on a full schedule. She is hopeful that ridership will return.

She also reported that there is new software called “SPARE” for On Demand service which they tested and liked.

She also said that UTS visited Jaunt and met on how to make connections and brainstormed solutions to current issues.

She went on to report that she met with Peter Thompson at The Center. They, too, talked about On Demand in addition to the services Jaunt already provides to them.

She reported that the Jaunt Tom Tom bus is being wrapped now.

She gave updates on their Covid protocols and vaccination opportunities and education.

There is a continuing shortage of drivers and mentioned that CAT and UTS have offered much larger bonuses to new drivers, so she has to rethink that incentive for Jaunt. There have been efforts to recruit new drivers.

Lastly, she noted that Stephen Johnson has been promoted to the Director of Planning and Process.

Albemarle County Public Schools: Jim Foley was unable to attend the meeting, so there is no update.

UTS: Becca White reminded folks that the students are back and UTS implemented their new transit package on the 24th.

UTS has been watching the uptake of parking permits and as of the 24th, 85% have gotten their permits.

Ridership has gone up substantially since classes are back in session.

She congratulated the folks for the Afton Express ribbon cutting and encouraged employers to promote it in their organizations.

Re: staffing, UVA has implemented a bonus to the driving staff and explained how that worked.

UTS is doing a transit survey of the tenants at North Fork because there is currently no transit to those employees.

Ms. White submitted her service package plan to the RTP committee for their review. The package also includes the route maps.

Lastly, she thanked Jaunt for their continued collaboration.

CAT and City of Charlottesville Schools: Garland Williams reported they had a bus shelter design charrette. It gave them a chance to determine what types of shelter would fit best for Charlottesville. There will be more info on this in the future.

On Sept 3, TJPDC staff will be over to CAT facilities for a visit.

CAT has a first draft of study completed and sent to a few partners to get feedback to get a grant to continue to be fare free. He may need resolutions of support from the City and from the County and potentially from UVA.

Mr. Williams reported that the automatic passenger count installation project is complete. The counters are now being validated.

Lastly, he described the bonus program for CAT drivers. He also said they have set up a vaccination program for staff.

RE: the public school, they are short on drivers, just as they are for CAT. They have hired 5 new drivers for the pupil side, even though they are still 20 drivers down. The bonuses have become a necessity to keep existing staff and build new staff members.

Lastly, they have expanded their service on Route 9.

Ms. LaPitso-Kirtley left the meeting.

6. INTERN PROJECT REPORT (MINUTE 1:03:05)

Sam Pittman reported on Peer Cities re: Transit and the Driver Appreciation Report. Ms. Davis said she will get data to Sam for inclusion on the Driver Appreciation report. Ms. McKeel asked that Sam share the Peer Cities document with the committee.

Garland Williams left the meeting.

7. DRPT GRANTS UPDATE (MINUTE 1:12:02)

Lucinda Shannon reviewed the Albemarle Transit Expansion Study's purpose and budget and the status of the study in the timeline.

She also reviewed the Transit Vision Plan's purpose and Budget and the status of the plan in the timeline.

8. RIDESHARE UPDATES (MINUTE 1:17:56):

Sara Pennington gave an update on Try Transit which is a potential collaboration between the transit service providers and RideShare. "Try Transit" will be called "Discover Transit" and will be a month-long promotion in October. There will be a different theme each month. Week One will be "Plan Your Trip." Week Two will be "Show Up." Week Three will be "Enjoy the Journey." Week Four will be "Bus or Bust." There will be giveaways during this last week.

Lastly, Afton Express begins September 1 and will be free for the entire month of September. There will be additional promotions to look forward to in the future.

9. STAFF UPDATES (MINUTE 1:25:11):

Workplan Update: Ms. Shannon reviewed the RTP Workplan update re: the projects in the timeline for the rest of fiscal year 2022.

North 29 Corridor Study: Ms. Shannon gave an update on the study's timeline. Project goals are currently being developed. There will be a public meeting on September 9 (via Zoom). Chuck Protor said there will be a Metro Quest survey put out for folks to participate.

Smart Scale MPO Update: Sandy Shackelford gave an update on the Smart Scale round five timeline. The next step is to appoint members to the MPO Advisory Committee. She reviewed the four projects that the MPO has decided on for submission.

VDOT Project Pipeline: Ms. Shackelford said VDOT has created a new project pipeline. They have taken on a 29 & Front Street project as well as improvements along the 250 corridor. There will be a public outreach effort in the next few months for the public to be informed and for their input.

Joint MPO meeting with Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro (SAW): Ms. Shackelford reported that there will be a joint meeting with the SAW MPO in November. It will be hosted by SAW MPO this year.

10. OTHER BUSINESS/UPDATES/REMINDERS (MINUTE 1:47:32):

None.

The next meeting will be on September 23, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. McKeel adjourned the meeting at 5:53 p.m.