

Regional Transportation Partnership Meeting

Minutes, September 23, 2021

The recording for this meeting can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDEtz7AL0rU>

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

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 September 30 2021 at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDEtz7AL0rU>.

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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (MINUTE 5:26)

Ms. McKeel reported that under the MPO Update agenda item, Sandy Shackelford is going to be asking someone to volunteer to become part of the Rivanna River Bike/Ped project advisory committee.



Motion/Action: Ms. McKeel noted that the date for the minutes are for August 26 not the 28th. On a motion by Lloyd Snook, seconded by Bea LaPisto-Kirtley, the committee approved the minutes of the August 26, 2021 meeting as amended with Lucas Ames abstaining.

3. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 8:37):

Caetano de Campos Lopes with C3 reported that they launched a report about a cleaner and more equitable future. Transportation is increasing becoming one of the greatest contributors to climate change. Greenhouse gasses from Albemarle County is at 53%. The goal is to become carbon neutral through behavior changes. In order to change it, there needs to an increase in public transit. It is important to increase ridership at a very fast rate and the be sure that the busses' emissions are as clean as possible. Electric busses are cheaper than diesel busses and so he sees that as a solution. Their report is online.

4. MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – SUPERVISOR BEA LAPISTO-KIRTLEY (ALBEMARLE) AND KAREN DAVIS (JAUNT) (MINUTE 12:08):

Bea LaPisto-Kirtley introduced herself and told about her background and the reason for her interest in transportation.

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5. TRANSIT PROVIDER UPDATES (MINUTE 20:56):

Jaunt: Karen Davis reported that Jaunt held two mandatory information session with the Blue Ridge Health District for all unvaccinated employees and then they came to Jaunt to offer free vaccines. They are moving into mandatory weekly testing.

The driver shortage continues and will match CAT and UTS's bonus offerings. The Discover Transit month is a cooperative effort by UTS, CAT, Jaunt and Rideshare and there has been much work to launch it in the future.

Mr. Snook came to tour the facilities recently.

There was a bus rodeo recently. It was smaller than in years past, but it was successful nonetheless.

Some of the staff are attending the Virginia Transportation conference next week. After 40 years, Debbie Taylor is being presented an award at that conference.

Albemarle County Public Schools: Jim Foley was unable to attend the meeting because he is driving a school bus due to shortages, so there is no update.

UTS: Becca White reminded folks that there is a game on Friday and heavy traffic will be the norm in town and on Grounds. There will be typical road closures associated with that.

UTS deployed a survey to UVA tenants of the North Fork Park and the analysis is underway.

She continued her report re: route changes and ridership and also reported that their driver shortage also continues.

CAT and City of Charlottesville Schools: Garland Williams reported that TJPDC came to visit earlier in the month and it was well-received. CAT has applied for the TRIPs grant this past Friday. He is hopeful that the grant money will help augment their CARES money.

Their driver shortage continues as well. They are 17 drivers down on the CAT side and 19 drivers down on the school side. The bonus is helping, but it is still a struggle.

6. GROWING TRANSIT RIDERSHIP THROUGH CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE (MINUTE 35:53)

Stephen Johnson gave a presentation on customer experience and design. He noted that customer experience is the ultimate determinate of transit ridership and that “customer experience” involves more than just riding the bus.

Steps he suggests taking are to start assessing transit customer experience; no special training is necessary. RTP could schedule a workshop around it. He suggested measuring customer experiences so it can be tied to regional objectives. He also suggested finding opportunities to bring stakeholders together to engender ownership over the transit customer experience.

Mr. Williams said that many of the questions and suggestions Mr. Johnson has raised has been brought to the General Assembly.

There was additional discussion about ideas on how to improve the customer experience with transit.

7. PEER CITY PRIORITIZATION (MINUTE 1:12:20)

Lucinda Shannon shared the list of the peer cities identified and asked the committee to rank the cities on which they want to visit virtually.

Once the members voted on the most important factor, Ms. Shannon said she will review the results and compare them to the peer cities to see which will be the best fit.

8. STAFF UPDATES (MINUTE 1:23:42):

Rideshare Update: Ms. Pennington gave an update on the Afton Express stating that there are currently 11-22 passenger trips a day.

She also noted that Try Transit/Discover Transit month has been left up to the individual transit agencies to get this program off the ground. CAT, Jaunt and UTS are working in conjunction to get that marketing campaign launched in October.

Albemarle County Transit Expansion Study: Lucinda Shannon now has the market and service analysis on the website. There will be a stakeholder meeting on October 22 from 9:30 – 11:00. Invitations will be going out shortly. There will be a public meeting on October 21st from 6 – 7:30.

Here is the link to the Albemarle Transit Study website:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/85862f72f1c6488bbc7aac5f37ed6c24>

Regional Transit Vision Plan: There is a stakeholder meeting on October 7 that will include the RTP members and function as the October RTP meeting. That meeting is open to the public, but the stakeholders are chosen by invitation only. The website will be coming soon.

North 29 Corridor Study: The existing conditions report is complete and on the website. There was a public meeting on September 9 that had a large turnout. <https://campo.tjpd.org/rt-29-corridor-study-albemarle-greene/>

MPO Update: Sandy Shackelford said the MPO Policy Board approved moving forward on the RFP for a strategic plan. The MPO will be preparing an application for a technical assistance grant for helping to prepare methodology for project prioritization for the 5-year LRTP that will begin next year.

She noted that the MPO is asking for the appointment of someone from the RTP for the Rivanna River Bike and Pedestrian Crossing stakeholder advisory committee. Bea LaPisto-Kirtley volunteered to serve on the committee.

10. OTHER BUSINESS/UPDATES/REMINDERS (MINUTE 1:40:11):

Ms. McKeel said there was some access issues for Jaunt with the University Medical Center. Ms. Davis and they discussed how to work around it and improve the experience. They will be meeting again in 30 days.

The next meeting will be on October 7, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. McKeel adjourned the meeting at 5:48 p.m.