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AGENDA
Jefferson Area
Regional Transit Partnership (RTP)
 Thursday, February 25th, 2021 @ 4:00 p.m.
 Virtual Meeting via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86196340792?pwd=UGxUZFIvbm9UMVZ4eHpHNVPIMnQxQT09>

Meeting ID: 861 9634 0792

Passcode: 554430

Item	Time	Description
0	4:00-4:05	Call to Order, Attendance, and Emergency Statement
1	4:05-4:10	Matters from the Public: limit of 3 minutes per speaker Members of the Public are welcome to provide comment on any public-interest, transit-related topic, including the items listed on this agenda – limit three minutes per speaker
2	4:10-4:15	TJPDC Update – Christine Jacobs
3	4:15-4:20	Approval of draft meeting minutes* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See October 2020 RTP Minutes DRAFT
4	4:20-4:30	Membership* – Jessica Hersh-Ballerig <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review list of voting and non-voting members – see webpage • Peter Thompson of Charlottesville Area Alliance*
5	4:30-4:50	DRPT Technical Assistance Grants* – Jessica Hersh-Ballerig <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albemarle County Transit Expansion – see Project Summary • Regional Vision Plan – see Project Summary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Appoint Selection Committee* – see Recommended Selection Committee ○ Stakeholder subcommittee to add diversity of perspectives throughout the regional visioning process; nomination for subcommittee liaison* – see Potential Stakeholder Organizations
6	4:50-5:00	2021 Meeting Schedule – Jessica Hersh-Ballerig <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Proposed 2021 Meeting Schedule
7	5:00-6:00	Connetics Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This presentation will describe the Automatic Passenger Counter data collected on Charlottesville Area Transit vehicles over the last few months. A portion of the hour will be reserved for questions from the Partnership.
8	6:00	Adjourn

* A vote is expected for this item

The Regional Transit Partnership (RTP) serves as an official advisory board, created by the City of Charlottesville, Albemarle County and JAUNT, in Partnership with the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation to provide recommendations to decision-makers on transit-related matters.

NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC MEETING DUE TO COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY

The Governor has declared a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the nature of this declared emergency makes it impracticable or unsafe for the Regional Transit Partnership to assemble in a single location. This meeting and the required public hearings will be held utilizing electronic virtual communication with the Zoom software application. In accordance with virtual meeting procedures and policies as outlined in Item 4.0-01 of the Virginia state budget (HB 29), as effective April 24, 2020. The meeting will be recorded and made available to the public at www.tjpd.org.

Thomas Jefferson Regional Transit Partnership

October 22, 2020

4:00 p.m.

Via Zoom Conference Call

(Video of full meeting can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=seJCOj7PiSg>)

Committee – Voting Members

Diantha McKeel, *Albemarle Co - Chair*
Lloyd Snook, *City of Charlottesville*
Lucas Ames, *JAUNT Urban- Vice Chair*
Randy Parker, *JAUNT Rural (Louisa)*
Bea LaPisto-Kirtly, *Albemarle County*
Nikuyah Walker, *City of Charlottesville*
Neil Sherman, *DRPT (entered meeting at 5:00)*
Becca White, *UTS*

Non-Voting & Alternates

Karen Davis, *JAUNT*
Brad Sheffield, *JAUNT*
Garland Williams, *CAT*
Juwhan Lee, *CAT*
Trevor Henry, *Albemarle County*
Kim McManus, *PVCC (absent)*
Jim Foley, *ACPC*
Alison DeTuncq, *CTB (absent)*
Chris Rowland, *JAUNT (absent)*
Sally LeBeau, *UVA Hospital*

Staff & Other

Chip Boyles, *TJPDC*
Sara Pennington, *Rideshare/TJPDC*
Jessica Hersh-Ballering, *TJPDC*
Gretchen Thomas, *TJPDC*
Jody Saunders, *JAUNT*
Stephen Johnson, *JAUNT*
Kevin McDermott, *Albemarle County*
Andy Bowman, *Albemarle County*
Sean Tubbs
Allison Wrabel

Call to Order

Ms. McKeel called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Ms. McKeel read the legal statement allowing the meeting to be held virtually/electronically due to circumstances beyond the RTP's control. She also described the guidelines by which the meeting would proceed.

Matters from the Public

None

Minutes from August 27, 2020

Ms. Lapisto-Kirtly made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 27 meeting. Mr. Parker seconded and the minutes were approved with Lloyd Snook abstaining.

Review of Strategic Plan

Mr. Boyles reviewed details of the strategic plan on the website with notes from John Martin.

The immediate action items include:

- A need to reschedule one regional system peer visit with the RTP
- Begin formulating a vision statement
- Develop and adopt a Regional Transit Vision statement, values and goals for FY21.

Mr. Boyles noted that funding for RTP will be reconsidered in November or December.

Short-Term Goal Setting

Mr. Foley identified some immediate needs and asked if any of the other transit agencies were putting in HEPA filters on the busses. He reported that one of his suppliers has access to a stand-alone air filter and can install them, but he thinks they may be too expensive and noisy.

Ms. White said UTS didn't even evaluate HEPA filters because their trip durations are so short. She was thinking about asymptomatic testing opportunities for the frontline, providing hazard pay, and vaccine deployment, when it becomes available, for drivers because she considers them to be frontline workers. UTS has mandatory mask wearing, rear loading and only 20 people on the bus at a time.

Mr. Williams said CAT has upgraded their filters and are looking at putting in a UV light filtration system. Busses also has see-through curtains (soon to be replaced) and only rear-loading. Each driver carries Lysol with him or her and every hour and/or at the end of the line, they spray the air.

Mr. Sheffield reported that JAUNT cannot permanently install plexiglass because the drivers' need to assist some of the passengers in case of emergency. They are considering face shields for the drivers in addition to masks and are building more time in between passengers to clean the vehicles.

Mr. Williams said he has been in touch with both Ms. White and Mr. Sheffield re: procedures and supplies.

Lessons Learned

Mr. Sheffield said that the unified communication is going well. There is a need to reassess investment on the communication side. There is also a need for different space planning in the future.

Mr. Williams said the current situation made them reassess how many staff members they have. They do not have enough. He also noted that they are short on mechanics.

Ms. White said all of the transit providers are all using the same resources to employ best practices for the safety of the drivers and the passengers. She noted that there will probably be a commitment to telework and telemedicine. Contactless or web-based transactions or customer service will also remain or rise in popularity.

Ms. White also said that UVA has posted the alterations to the academic calendar through May of 2021 and starting to put out budget guidance for FY22. She also reported that academic boarding is down 76% and parking lot boarding/shuttle is down 22%.

Mr. Boyles said CAT's "fare free" is not free. Someone has to pay for it. There are many benefits to being fare free, including getting rid of the accounting and finance labor costs. He noted that there are other systems that are talking about doing this.

Mr. Sherman noted that DRPT is changing the verbiage to "zero fare", not "free fare". He also noted that some systems will be staying zero fare systems. He said there will be a request for information on this subject that is outside of the grant cycle, perhaps sometime in November or December.

Ms. White noted that even before the pandemic, there are segments of the regional transit system that are "fare free." CAT and UTS have a mutual agreement that anyone with a student id or UVA staff id can ride for free, and those who get on the UTS bus at certain stops around grounds could also ride for free. That agreement continues today.

Ridership Reporting

Mr. Foley said he wanted to make it clear that ACPS have never charged a fare. He said they are transporting only about 10% of the students they normally transport.

Mr. Williams said CAT needs to fix the farebox issue in order to get an accurate count. There was talk about getting automatic passenger counters (APCs). There have been temporary APCs put on the busses and they have gotten much needed data. He is working on a dashboard to report on that data. There is an effort to move to the permanent APCs so more detailed information can be collected.

Mr. Sheffield reported that the urban ridership is still down around half and has been leveled off for the last month or so. Rural is around 40% of what they usually do, which includes commuters. He said that some of the Medicare trips are being scheduled as public trips, and if that is happening it is skewing the numbers for "fare free" trips. It is also taking up the capacity on the agency side (the non-public transit trips), and JAUNT is supposed to be recovering 100% of that cost, so it is hurting JAUNT's capacity and its funding.

Long Term Goal Setting

Regional Visioning Plan and Umbrella Marketing and Branding

Mr. Boyles reported that there is a real need for a regional plan. He said the January meeting should concentrate on the long-range planning for the RTP. Mr. Boyles said all of the regional transit providers need to be seen as one group. Everyone of them has their own identity, but the strategic plan could have them promoting themselves as working together for safety precautions.

Growth in Service Area & Land Use Planning

Ms. McKeel recognizes that fixed routes are not necessarily best serving the community. There is a need for on-demand services as well. There is a need for bike racks, shelters, charging stations, etc. as well.

Ms. Lapisto-Kirtley said she would like to see a loop system that allows folks to get safely from one side of the street to the other. Affordable housing is difficult because there is no transit at some of the developments. Another idea for rural riders is to find them a way to get to a Park-and-Ride and then have a system that stops at those lots.

Ms. McKeel said this will be good to have this conversation after the first of the year.

Transit Service Provider Updates

CAT

Mr. Williams said as part of the planning process, his goal is to get good data. He is working towards getting the permanent ACPs and is looking forward to providing better data in the future.

JAUNT

Mr. Sheffield had nothing more to add.

UTS

Ms. White thanked CAT for the “Guardians of the Road” PSA. She also said that UVA has posted its academic calendar. UTS is in the midst of its annual rider survey and she will have more information at the next meeting. There is a construction project on Emmett Street at Bavaro Hall, and southbound will be impacted in the near future.

Rideshare

Ms. Pennington said Rideshare is waiting on the final funding from DRPT. She said Rideshare partnered with the Community Climate Collaborative re: teleworking and worked on how to move telework into the future. She will also be putting together some commute stories to share in the future. She is also working with DRPT and CSPDS re: transit/transportation appreciation on social media.

ACPS

Mr. Foley had nothing new to add.

CAT Advisory Board Update

Mr. Snook asked Mr. Williams if the CAT Advisory Board will be advising him and not the Council. Mr. Williams said hey still would advise the Council, but there was discussion about the makeup of the advisory board. He thinks the advisory board would be doing the more technical work. He said he would like to bring in a consultant to see how the advisory board can best serve CAT.

Ms. Walker said the County and UVA will continue to have a slot on this advisory board in addition to the business community. She said it is important that the advisory board has direction and purpose.

Mr. Sherman said the CARES Act funding will include the Afton Express. 80% of the cost will be covered by CARES, and 20% will be a local cost. He reminded the board that December 1 – Feb 1 is the grant cycle for DRPT. He also reported that the Danville Express. DRPT is continuing to work on marketing ideas.

Other Business

Ms. McKeel would like to put UTS’s survey on the agenda. She also thanked JAUNT for offering to take people to the polls to vote.

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

Albemarle County Transit Expansion Feasibility Study and Implementation Plan

Purpose:

- a feasibility study and implementation plan for expanded transit service to population and employment centers within Albemarle County, particularly:
 - the Pantops area,
 - Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, and
 - along Route 29 North (between City limits and the UVA Research Park)
- Innovative transit options (to include on-demand service) that emphasize accessibility and responsiveness to customer needs should be investigated alongside traditional fixed-route options

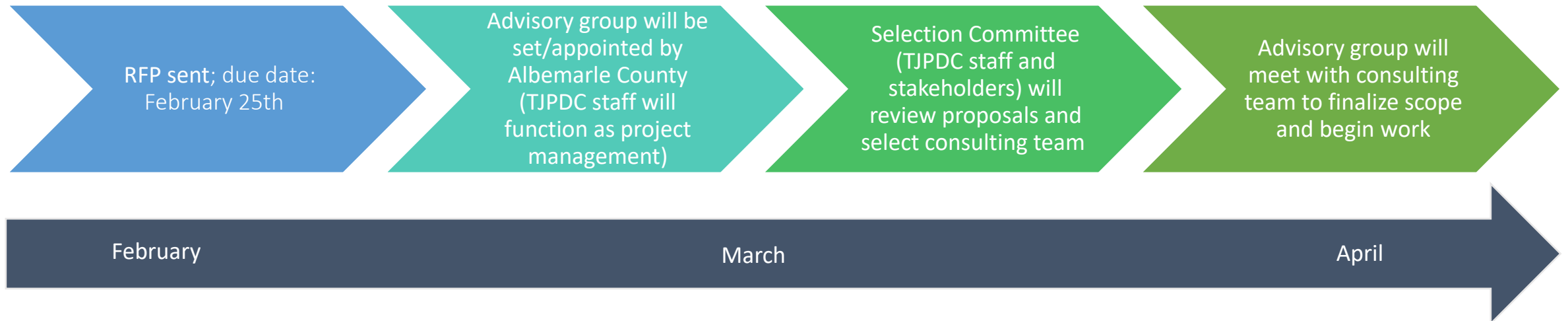
Budget: \$106,215

- \$53,108 in grant funds
- \$53,107 from Albemarle County as local match

Timeline: ~10 months (from signed agreements – December 31st, 2021)

Albemarle County Transit Expansion Feasibility Study and Implementation Plan

Next Steps:



Tasks expected to be part of the consultant's final scope of work:

- Public outreach
 - Project website
 - Online or in-person workshops
- Needs assessment for the study areas – focusing on existing and projected demographic, land use, and economic data
- Feasibility studies of at least two transit service options for the study areas
- An implementation plan for the preferred service option

Charlottesville and Albemarle Regional Transit Vision Plan

Purpose:

- For local leaders, transit agencies, and a wide variety of stakeholders to collaboratively develop a clear vision for the future of transit in our region
- Early work will gather data from a variety of sources to identify the types of transit service that can be supported on travel corridors throughout our region
- The final work product will be a Regional Transit Vision Plan document that identifies short-term, long-term, and extended long-term actions the community must take to support the community's vision for high-quality transit

Budget: \$350,000

- \$175,000 in grant funds
- \$87,500 from Albemarle County as local match
- \$87,500 from City of Charlottesville as local match

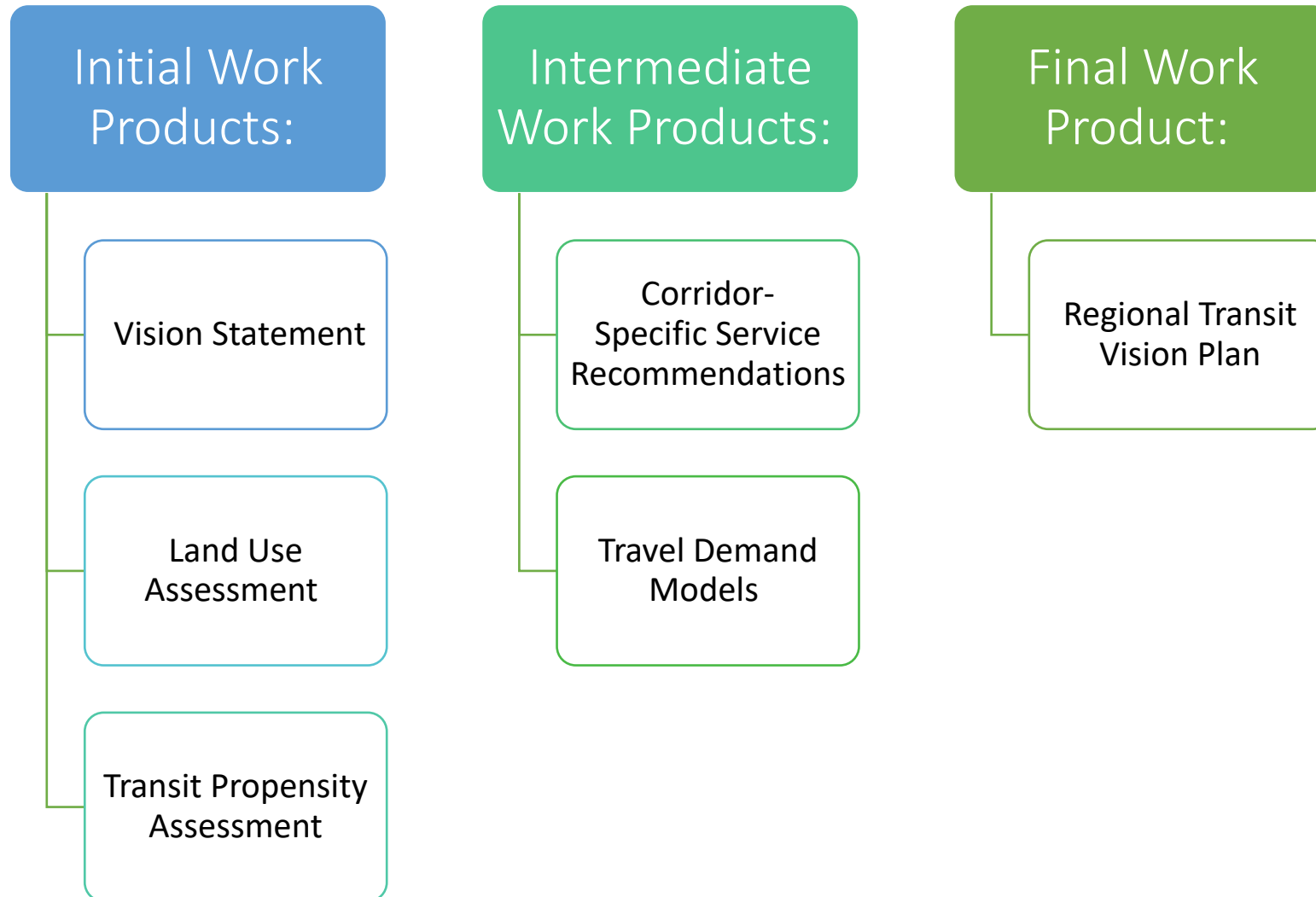
Timeline: ~18 months (as soon as the agreements are signed – June 30, 2022)

Charlottesville and Albemarle Regional Transit Vision Plan

Next steps:



Scope of Work



Vision Statement

- The *Vision Statement* will concisely define the community's understanding of what a "high-quality" transit system looks and feels like, as well as the outcomes in which it results.
- The statement will be the result of collaborative discussions among the RTP, stakeholders, and the general public.

Land Use Assessment

- The *Land Use Assessment* will focus primarily on existing land use plans and zoning codes for the region, while also considering planned significant development projects that might indicate an increased need for transit service.
- This assessment may also consider the built environment, such as planned pedestrian-focused projects, that might support new or increased transit service in an area.

Transit Propensity Assessment

- The *Transit Propensity Assessment* will use Census, employment, and other data, as well as input from stakeholders and the public, to better understand what kind of transit service is needed and would be supported in the area.
 - Some variables that may be considered as part of this assessment include number and density of workplaces in an area and the number of employees, the number and density of non-employment destinations in an area (parks, healthcare, etc.), vehicle ownership rates, etc.
- Equity should be a major consideration of the *Transit Propensity Assessment*, such that historically-underserved populations and populations likely to rely on transit to meet daily needs are quantitatively and qualitatively prioritized in this assessment.

Corridor-Specific Service Recommendations

- The initial work products will guide the development of corridor-specific recommendations for the type of transit service that can be supported.
 - Types of service may include express, high-frequency local, low-frequency local, demand-response, etc.
 - The document will describe these service types in detail.
- This document will include a map to quickly show which type of service is recommended for each corridor.
- This document will prioritize the recommendations to create a relative timeline for implementation.
- Just as equity was described to be a major consideration of the Transit Propensity Assessment, the consulting team should address how the corridor-specific recommendations consider and prioritize our region's historically-underserved populations and populations most likely to rely on transit to meet daily needs.

Travel Demand Models

- The consulting team will use travel demand modeling to compare the fully-implemented “Recommended Scenario” to current transit service, referred to as the “No Change Scenario.”
- Variables for comparison might include ridership, transit service hours, operating costs, costs per passenger, population within a quarter mile of a bus stop, etc.
- The consulting team should address how the “Recommended Scenario” improves equity in our region.

Regional Transit Vision Plan

- Ultimately, the consultant shall develop a Charlottesville Area Regional Transit Vision Plan that summarizes the results and recommendations of the initial and intermediate work products
- Additionally, this document will investigate other broad transit planning topics that the region's providers must grapple with in the visioning process, such as the use of alternative fuel vehicles, equity, safety, and first-/last-mile connections, providing recommendations on these topics that are consistent with the corridor-specific transit recommendations.
- Ultimately, this document will identify short-term, long-term, and extended long-term actions that can be achieved through the collaboration of regional transit agencies, the Regional Transit Partnership, the localities, and other stakeholders.
- The expected outcome of these actions is to create and sustain high-quality, equitable transit service that meets the needs of all the region's riders regardless of their motivation for transit use.

Regional Vision Plan Recommended Selection Committee

Organization	Name (or designee)	Title
Albemarle County	Trevor Henry	Assistant County Executive
City of Charlottesville	Chip Boyles	City Manager
Charlottesville Area Transit	Garland Williams	Director
JAUNT	Randy Parker	Rural Representative
University of Virginia	Julia Montieth	Associate University Planner
Albemarle County Office of Equity & Inclusion	Siri Russell	Director of Equity and Inclusion
Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission	Christine Jacobs	Interim Executive Director

Regional Transit Vision Plan
Potential Stakeholder Organizations

Large Regional Employers/Business Interests

- UVA Hospital
- UVA Research Park
- Martha Jefferson Hospital
- NGIC
- Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Downtown Business Association of Charlottesville

Land Use/Development/Housing

- Charlottesville Area Association of Realtors
- Piedmont Housing Alliance
- Regional Housing Partnership
- Nelson County Community Development Foundation
- Fluvanna Louisa Housing Foundation

Community Resources

- JMRL
- City of Charlottesville Parks and Recreation
- Albemarle County Parks and Recreation
- Blue Ridge Area Food Bank
- Blue Ridge Health Department

Education

- PVCC
- UVA
- Charlottesville-Albemarle Technical Education Center
- Safe Routes to School

Historically Underserved Communities

- Albemarle Charlottesville NAACP
- Jefferson Area Board of Aging and/or Charlottesville Area Alliance
- Youth Representative?
- Independence Resource Center
- Sin Barreras
- International Rescue Committee
- United Way of Greater Charlottesville
- Office of Equity & Inclusion Albemarle County and/or City of Charlottesville
- Region 10

Other Transportation Interests

- Charlottesville Airport Commission
- Veo or City of Charlottesville Bicycle and Pedestrian Planner
- Cville Rail
- Center for Civic Innovation

Environmental Organizations

- Piedmont Environmental Council
- Community Climate Collaborative

Safety

- CPD?
- Emergency Response

Regional Transit Partnership
Proposed 2021 Meeting Schedule

February 25th

March 25th

April 22nd

May 27th

June 24th

July 22nd

August 26th

September 23rd

October 28th

November 25th

December 2nd

December 23rd