



Thomas Jefferson Regional Transit Partnership

June 25, 2020

4:00 p.m.

Via Zoom Conference Call

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*
Becca White, *UTS*

Staff & Other

Chip Boyles, *TJPDC*
Sara Pennington, *Rideshare/TJPDC*
Jessica Hersh-Ballerger, *TJPDC*
Gretchen Thomas, *TJPDC*
Lucinda Shannon, *TJPDC*
Sandy Shackelford, *TJPDC*

Non-Voting & Alternates

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

Call to Order

Diantha McKeel called the meeting to order at 4:00 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.

Ms. Thomas called roll.

Matters from the Public

None

Minutes from May 28, 2020

Ms. White noted that on page 5, "Mr. White" should be changed to "Ms. White". She also noted that on page 3, paragraph 5, the mention of the routes being "online" meant that their operating status is online. She would like that clarification made.

Mr. Snook made a motion to approve the minutes with those changes and Ms. LaPisto-Kirtly seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Future of Transit

Ms. Hersh-Ballering gave a presentation on COVID-19 and the future of transit. The link to the presentation is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C7zdJQkLrfo&feature=youtu.be> starting at minute 6:45 and ends at 27:21.

In response, Mr. Sheffield said no matter how much cleaning and safety precautions are taken, it is important for transportation companies to understand and respond to how businesses and the public feel about riding public transit again.

Mr. Williams said CAT is in the process of upgrading their PPE, including more permanent barriers and air filtering and cleaning systems. CAT is doing everything they can to keep the busses clean and safe for everyone.

Ms. White said telework as a more permanent way of operating may redefine the work trip and the focus on the work trip. She said that perhaps folks may consider not needing a car because of it. She also noted there the goal is to act as quickly as possible to new regulations and guidelines, but sometimes there is difficulty in being nimble and being able to respond quickly.

Mr. Williams said that one of the points in the presentation is to get the riders to use masks, but the enforcement of the rule lies with the Health Department, not the police department. Despite offering anyone a mask who does not have one, there are some folks who just will not put them on. There have been a few incidents where the police have had to get involved because there have been riders who have gotten belligerent.

Mr. Foley said students will be on every seat in the school buses. That will help with the schools' bell schedule. The drivers and the students will be required to wear masks. If the students do not wear masks, the parents will have to drive the student to school.

Joint Marketing & PR Effort

Ms. Pennington said it has been discussed in the past that there should be a joint marketing effort for all of the systems and services in the RTP. She wanted to make sure that was still a priority.

Mr. Williams said that JAUNT and CAT have already been coordinating and have created a 30-second commercial/PSA that encouraged riders to use face coverings.

Ms. White said she is interested and noted that Mr. Williams has already reached out to UTS about the joint message. She said UTS is "all in."

Mr. Boyles said it may be best to start a technical committee to begin branding a message for now and for the future. Most transit operators are already getting together for other tasks, so perhaps they could tack this on to their coordinated efforts.

Mr. Sheffield introduced Jodie Saunders, who joined JAUNT on June 15 to tackle public relations and other marketing efforts.

RTP Committee Updates

Budget Technical Committee

Mr. Boyles said there will be quarterly reviews on the previously created MOU between the County and the City. Beginning in early July, there will be a meeting of financial staff, administrative staff, transit staff, and RTP staff who will review any changes that have occurred and provide a quarterly report to the City Council and the Board of Supervisors.

Equitable Driver Appreciation Committee and Reporting Committee

Ms. Hersh-Ballering said the committees discussed their purpose and next steps at their last meeting. There is now a shared folder system for all the sub-committees to use. She also noted that another sub-committee was created to handle Covid-19 strategies and information.

Ms. Hersh-Ballering said one of the things the committee is going to do is pull together information about all of the routes and overlay them on a JS map to create one map for all of the transit routes. That should be available in a few months.

Appoint Nominating Committee for FY21 Officers for a July Vote

Ms. McKeel reported that Mr. Snook and Ms. LaPisto-Kirtley have volunteered to be the nominating committee.

RTP Staff Updates

Virginia Breeze to Danville to DC

Mr. Sherman said Dillon Bus Company was the company award the Virginia Breeze contract. They are currently working to determine times and fares and marketing. There will be a website to make reservations. The first route, from Blacksburg to Union Station, will begin in late July and the other routes will begin in August.

Afton Express

Mr. Boyles said Afton Express's logo has been created, but they are waiting for the official word on the award. Many of those awards may be delayed into the Fall.

Mr. Sherman said that most of DRPT's projects will not be awarded until September and then approved in October.

FY21 Meeting Calendar

Ms. McKeel asked if a July meeting would be feasible.

Both Mr. Snook, Ms. Walker and Mr. Williams said the date set on the schedule did not work for them.

It was the consensus that a meeting was not necessary, so the next meeting would be in August.

After much discussion about what dates work in the future for the board members, Ms. Pennington will send out the new dates via email to the board.

Transit Service Provider Updates

CAT

Mr. Williams shared CAT's ridership numbers for the last quarter and noted that May's ridership had an 87.7% drop and that June's ridership numbers will probably be 70-80% down from last

year. He also noted that now that there is an increase in service, there will be an uptick in ridership, but the numbers will still be down dramatically from last year.

He reported that CAT will be working with a consultant in July, August, and September to look at routes, run times, and look at the request to make a modification to one of CAT's routes to have service to The Center. By the Fall, they will be ready to implement a new service model.

Mr. Willimas also reported that CAT has been working with UTS to see where routes overlap so perhaps CAT could assist them in their routes.

JAUNT

Mr. Sheffield said JAUNT has been focusing on working on policies and procedures to transition to normal operations, including occupying the offices and getting drivers onto their shifts, etc.

From a ridership standpoint, he said there is a slight increase in urban ridership from their lowest numbers 3-4 weeks ago.

UTS

Ms. White said there is only one route to get employees from a remote parking lot on grounds to the hospital. The ramp up for ridership on that route is slower than they anticipated. There has only been an increase from 800 riders a day to 1,000. She reported that it may be due to the fact that the outpatient counts are high at the hospital, but, because of the uptick in telehealth, the onsite demand has been lower than anticipated.

Ms. White said they are planning for the students' return. She said there is no declared return to work day for staff. It will be entirely up to the department. The students will begin class on August 25 and UTS will be back to their new version of full service. They were tasked with having to redesign their routes due to COVID regulations. She is hoping to have a map of those approved redesigned routes soon.

Rideshare

Ms. Pennington said Rideshare received approval from DRPT for the rollover of funds from the last quarter of FY20 to FY21. The CTB met to approve first quarter for the Rideshare program. Rideshare is continuing to promote telework.

ACPS

Mr. Foley said they are continuing to work on bell schedules and the buses. He reported that they have completed an RFP for fuel. He also reported that DMV is backed up which has prevented drivers from renewing their licenses and performing permit testing.

CAT Advisory Board

Ms. Snook said Council appointed a few members to the CAT Advisory Board, but there were not enough applicants to fill all the slots available. They will have to re-advertise the positions.

Ms. McKeel said that she, Ms. LaPisto-Kirtley and Mr. Sheffield should be thinking of folks who might be interested from the County.

Ms. Williams said that they currently meet quarterly, but that can be changed. He said it will be important to get representatives from the business community or the Chamber.

Other Business

DRPT Technical Assistance and the Regional Visioning Plan

Mr. Boyles reported both applications for these grants have been submitted, but as mentioned previously, the RTP will not know if they have been awarded until sometime in the Fall.

Mr. Boyles reminded everyone that these meetings are recorded and will be online and available for viewing within ten days of the meeting date.

Ms. McKeel adjourned the meeting at 5:39 p.m.