

Thomas Jefferson Regional Transit Partnership

April 25, 2019

4:00 PM

Water Street Center

Committee – Voting Members

Diantha McKeel, *Albemarle Co - Chair*
Kathy Galvin, *City of Charlottesville (absent)*
Randy Parker, *JAUNT Rural (Louisa)*
Fran Hooper, *JAUNT Urban (Albemarle)*
Ned Gallaway, *Albemarle*
Nikuyah Walker, *City of Charlottesville (absent)*
Patrice Strachan, *DRPT*

Staff

Chip Boyles, *TJPDC*
Gretchen Thomas, *TJPDC*
Sara Pennington, *Rideshare*

Non-Voting & Alternates

Karen Davis, *JAUNT (absent)*
Brad Sheffield, *JAUNT*
Becca White, *UTS*
Trevor Henry, *Albemarle County*
Leslie Beauregard, *City of Charlottesville (absent)*
James Mann, *CAT Advisory Board (absent)*
Dave Feisner, *JAUNT Rural (Alb – alternate) (absent)*
Bill Wuensch, *JAUNT Urban (Alb – alternate) (absent)*
Kim McManus, *PVCC (absent)*
Jim Foley, *ACPD (absent)*
Katie Schwing, *DRPT (alternate) (absent)*
Alison DeTuncq, *CTB (absent)*
Chris Rowland, *JAUNT (absent)*
Becca Askey, *DRPT (absent)*
Ginger Morris, *Greene County Transit (absent)*
Sally LeBeau, *UVA Hospital (absent)*

Call to Order

Chair McKeel called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. She noted that there were no representatives from the City, so quorum had not been reached. Because a representative from both the City and the County had to be present for quorum there would be no voting at the meeting.

Members introduced themselves.

Matters from the Public

Sean Tubbs with the Piedmont Environmental Council said he has been experimenting with public transit and documenting his experience on Twitter. He knows that finding funding for transit will be difficult, especially for the headways. There was a learning curve, but he has been

able to figure it out for himself. He noted that the future of the community needs transit alternatives.

He went on to say that he was hoping the MOU would be ratified at this meeting. He said that the MOU is exactly what this partnership is for. He was hoping the City officials would be at the meeting so they could hear him praise the bus system.

Neal Williamson from the Free Enterprise Forum said he went to the Affordable Housing Summit and critical element of the summit was the cost of transportation and the link to housing needs. He said he believes there is opportunity in the current agreement. He said he believes the two localities have to work together to make it work as a symbiotic relationship instead of a parasitic one. He went on to say that he looks forward to a meeting when everyone can be in attendance and the vote will be taken.

Response to Matters from the Public

Ms. McKeel said she asked Mr. Boyles and Ms. Pennington to give a presentation on the transit comments and data, not only from the UVA working group report published, but the Affordable Housing Summit as well.

Mr. Boyles said he agreed. He mentioned a fact from the summit that surprised him. There are portions of the County where if you take the rent cost and add the transportation cost to the family household, they are spending 78% of their monthly income on those two items alone.

Ms. McKeel said she would like to pull the transit pieces from the summit and present them to this RTP.

Approval of the Agenda

Since there was no quorum, no vote could be taken. Ms. McKeel asked to move items 7 and 8 to accommodate Patrice Strachan's schedule.

Approval of Minutes

Since there was no quorum, no vote was taken.

FY20 CAT Albemarle Funding Agreement Approval

Since there was no quorum, no vote was taken.

Replacement TDP's with System Strategic Plan (see presentation for detailed information)

Ms. Strachan introduced herself as the DRPT Transit Program Manager. She mentioned that her territory is shifting so Becca Askey will be her replacement.

She reported that public transit agencies are now required, through legislation, to complete a Transit Strategic Plan (TSP) if they are in an urbanized area with 50K or more population and if an agency has a fleet of 20 vehicles or more. JAUNT will have to be included in the TSP even though it is not called out as an agency on the chart (in the presentation) because they support paratransit in the City.

She went on to say that the Greater Lynchburg Transit and Hampton Roads Transit are in Phase I. They are essentially the pilot for the TSP. They are funded and ready to go, but she said she

didn't have details because it is just in the beginning of the program. She mentioned that CAT will use a great deal of information that they get from these two transit agencies.

She said that CAT is in Phase II, which starts in FY22 and those who are eager to begin will go first. Charlottesville has been eager to begin, so she feels CAT will be given preferential treatment to start the process in about a year.

Ms. Hooper asked who was involved in creating the plans.

Ms. Strachan said DRPT wants the localities, the MPO and the transit agency to own it with guidance from the DRPT.

Ms. Strachan said she anticipates a 50/50 split in funding either by the MPO and the DRPT or localities and DRPT, but she expects there will be fairly substantial local funding.

Mr. Boyles asked if the local jurisdictions will procure based on a set of guidelines or will DRPT have a list of preferred vendors.

Ms. Strachan said the DRPT has a bench of four consultants to use. Those consultants are listed on DRPT's website. The cost is more favorable because it has been negotiated by the Commonwealth. Given that, she said localities may use another consultant. There is no requirement to use them, but it may be the easiest, most cost-effective way to do it.

Ms. White asked how much leeway will there be in writing the scope.

Ms. Strachan said she assumes that the RTP will be able to write the scope as long as the guidelines are met.

Ms. Strachan went on to say that the primary goal is to create a strategic blueprint outlining desired changes that will improve the provision of transit services throughout each agency's service area within existing funding structures.

Ms. McKeel asked if the TSP replaces the TDP and Ms. Strachan said that it does.

Ms. Strachan said that because of JAUNT's unique service and who they serve, they may not satisfy the TSP size requirements and may be required to do a TDP for the rural part of their service and a TSP for their work with the MPO area. This remains to be seen.

Ms. Strachan said the DPRT will allow for minor updates. Those updates have been due by January 15, but that date may change in the future.

Mr. Henry asked if the localities will be given time to develop the plan, perhaps 12 – 24 months. Ms. Strachan said there will be time given.

Ms. Strachan said if the MPO is ready to move ahead, she would talk with Ms. Askey to step up the date.

FY21 Public Transit Funding based on System Performance

Ms. Strachan said there is transit prioritization legislation that requires 100% of statewide operating funds to be performance based – on the operating side only, not the capital side. It will be effective on July 1, 2019 (FY20).

She reported that DRPT and Transit service Delivery Advisory Board (TSDAC) jointly developed and the CTB approved performance metrics. (See slide for complete details).

She went on to say that the operating allocation will be based on a combination of sizing and performance factors.

Ms. White asked how they will measure passenger miles travelled.

Ms. McKeel said CAT, JAUNT, and UTS do not measure that.

Ms. Strachan said they are in the metrics as a future goal.

Ms. Strachan continued by describing the funding methodology. (see slide for detailed chart). She said that Charlottesville will not be too dramatically impacted by it. In fact, the formula is good news for Charlottesville. In FY21, the new formula is favorable for CAT with a slight reduction for JAUNT. The formula is based on the past four years' average.

Ms. McKeel asked that Ms. Strachan give this presentation to the City representatives who are not here. Ms. Strachan said she would send it to Mr. Boyles who would then get the document to the representatives.

Ms. White asked how to expand existing services. If an organization wants or needs to grow, how do they expand using only existing monies? Is the organization constrained forever?

Ms. Strachan said DDRPT cannot promise you any more funding that an organization currently has, however, increasing ridership and improved performance is going to drive more funding. As you expand service, you can apply for separate grants.

Mr. Sheffield said there is a separate evaluation for the expansion of capital and operating.

Ms. Strachan said if an organization goes to DRPT and an analysis finds a need for a new route, DRPT has funding vehicles for expansion and can advise the organization how to apply for grants.

Ms. McKeel said it showed how important it is to get correct data.

Mr. Sheffield said JAUNT collects exact data and CAT and UTS collect sample data and it is hard to compare the two.

Transit Update

Ms. White said that UTS now has an Instagram account (@UVA.UTS). It is the organization's first foray into social media and invited everyone to follow the account.

Ms. White also reported that the UTS service package will shift into exam services next week and then into the summer service after exams. There will be a reduction in service from a 10-minute headway to a 20-30 minute headway for the student routes only.

Ms. McKeel asked the board members to continue to think of ideas for future work sessions. Some of the ideas she has so far include:

- UVA Working Group report and the Housing Summit info on transit
- CAT Advisory Committee Bylaws
- Tom Tom Founder Festival presenter re: open data and the importance of data and the downside of relying on data
- Getting CAT and JAUNT's budgets in a comparable format
- Work on ridership reports and how to understand them better
- Hybrid/Electric buses and grants
- Presentation on current UVA research project re: transportation for community and UVA students

Mr. Gallaway noted that he is very interested in the ridership report and understanding what to do with the information in the report.

Ms. Strachan said the Six Year Improvement Plan (SIP) hearings for FY20 are coming up all over the state and the VDOT Culpeper office's meeting is on May 6 from 4:00 – 6:00 pm.

Ms. Pennington said she would send an email with all the info re: those meetings.

Ms. Beauregard reported that the City has a new manager who will be starting next month. Also, there will be a job posted for the CAT Director on the website and it will be open for 30 days.

Ms. McKeel adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.