

Regional Transportation Partnership Meeting

Minutes, January 25, 2023

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

VOTING MEMBERS & ALTERNATES		STAFF	
Brian Pinkston, Charlottesville	x	Christine Jacobs, TJPDC*	x
Lloyd Snook, Charlottesville	x	Lucinda Shannon, TJPDC	x
Diantha McKeel, Albemarle	x	Gretchen Thomas, TJPDC	x
Ann Mallek, Albemarle	x	Ruth Emerick, TJPDC	x
Neil Sherman, DRPT		Ryan Mickles, TJPDC	x
Hal Morgan, Jaunt Rural	x	Michael Barnes, VDOT	
Lucas Ames, Jaunt Urban	x	Curtis Scarpignato, TJPDC	x
Becca White, UTS			
NON-VOTING MEMBERS		GUESTS/PUBLIC	
Garland Williams, CAT		Jessica Hersh-Ballering, Albemarle	x
Charmane White, Alb County PS	x	Alison Day, UTS	x
Sally LeBeau, UVA Hospital		Ben Chambers, Charlottesville	x
Peter Thompson, CAA	x	Wyatt Burtschall, PEC	x
Sandy Shackelford, CAMPO	x	Matt Lawless, Town of Scottsville	x
Sara Pennington, Rideshare	x	Kristin Riddervold	x
Ted Rieck, Jaunt	x		
Juwhan Lee, CAT	x		
Kendall Howell, UTS (alternate)	x		
Wood Hudson, DRPT (alternate)*	x		

* Remote attendance

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Regional Transportation Partnership Chair, Diantha McKeel, presided and called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

The members of the meeting introduced themselves at the request of Ms. McKeel. Ms. McKeel introduced Ann Mallek as a new Board member and Curtis Scarpignato as a new TJPDC Transportation Planner.

2. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (MINUTE 3:45)

Approval of Agenda

Motion/Action: Ann Mallek moved to approve the agenda. Brian Pinkston seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.



Approval of Minutes

Motion/Action: Brian Pinkston made a motion to approve the December 8, 2022 minutes. Hal Morgan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously with Ann Mallek abstaining.

Approval of 2023 Meeting Dates

Motion/Action: Brian Pinkston made a motion to approve the 2023 meeting dates as proposed. Ann Mallek seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

3. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 6:40):

Matt Lawless, Administrator of the Town of Scottsville, said he appreciates the work of the board. He looks forward to seeing the work for this meeting unfold. He represents the citizens of Scottsville who rely on the Jaunt service and appreciates the Jaunt report included with the agenda packet.

4. JAUNT 2022 REVIEW AND LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023 (MINUTE 8:08):

Presentation and Discussion

Ted Rieck presented the committee with background information on Jaunt, their mission, and the work they do for the community. He also discussed some of Jaunt's issues in the past and how they are continuing to overcome them. He discussed how Jaunt was using funds, their cost structure, and funding shifts.

Mr. Rieck also discussed capital needs challenges in regard to vehicles.

He noted that Jaunt's goal is to achieve 45% GHG reduction by 2050 with alternative vehicles. They are submitting a grant next week to study electric busses. He noted that there is a need for fast charging stations in the rural area in order to make this feasible.

Mr. Rieck reported that they are applying for a grant to help with micro transit. They are also determining the best course of action for implementing this program.

He also reported that they just completed their 6-year Transit Development Plan.

Mr. Rieck went on to share demographic information for the population in the areas in which they serve.

He finished his presentation with the new Jaunt image-building campaign commercial.

There were clarifying questions and a discussion among committee members.

Mr. Rieck thanked the PDC for letters of endorsement for the grant they will be submitting.

5. MOBILITY MANAGEMENT LETTER OF SUPPORT (MINUTE 41:45):

Ms. Shannon presented the background on the Mobility Management Program as discussed at the last meeting. She said TJPDC will be applying for the grant whose deadline is February 1.

She noted that DRPT suggested CAMPO talk with the Foothills Area Mobility System (FAMS). That program is quite large, so TJPDC would scale it down to begin.

She presented to committee with the idea for the program in this area. She also noted that Rapidan Rappahannock said TJPDC could use their software to begin the program if the grant money is awarded.

Ms. Shannon reported that the first-year budget is \$110K with a 4% local match, which includes a half-time manager for 12 months, and full-time staff for 6 months.

She continued by explaining how the program will start and grow as the program gets underway.

Motion/Action: Ann Mallek made a motion to approve the letter of support included in the packet. Brian Pinkston seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

6. TRANSIT PROVIDER UPDATES (MINUTE 50:28)

Jaunt: Ted Rieck said there is a new Chief Operations Officer starting on Monday. He said there is also a new Operation Director starting later in February.

Albemarle County Public Schools: Charmane White reported that the schools are working on a strategic plan to address driver shortages. She noted that they have increased their pay for drivers to \$21.50/hour with the STEP scale program. She also reported that the schools have two electric busses that they are getting ready to put on the road in the urban ring. She said they are going to be including four Type A busses (no CDL license required, but all other requirements need to be met) as part of the fleet. She noted that they are working on implementing a career path for drivers.

Ms. White said they have put out an RFP for outsourcing transportation to get some relief for current employees.

UTS: Kendall Howell said UTS has returned to the 15 minute headways (full service) within the last two weeks. They are running continuous service for employees. He said they have a Night Pilot in the most popular areas at the University. UTS On Demand (formerly Safe Ride) covers the rest of campus. He would like to talk more about the mix of the two services at a future meeting.

He reported that there are four battery electric busses (BEBs) currently on order and they are expected to be in service in September or October.

He noted that they are pivoting from vans to Chevy Volts for the overnight On Demand piece of their transit services.

Re: Drivers, they have 31, they need 43. They have hired a recruiting and retention specialist to help with hiring drivers. He said perhaps there could be collaboration with RTP members. He also said perhaps the job of “bus driver” needs to be elevated.

Lastly, Mr. Howell noted that Sally LeBeau has been promoted and has been replaced by Vickie Marsh. Perhaps she could be offered an opportunity to join the committee.

CAT and City of Charlottesville Schools: Juwhan Lee said they have an alternative fuel study, and a micro-transit study for Rt 29 and the Pantops area underway. He reported they are trying everything they can to recruit drivers. Mr. Lee said he would like to talk with Ms. White about the Type A busses and how the school system has implemented them. He noted that CAT will be putting ads out soon to recruit drivers.

Peter Thompson said he is very interested in helping to support the micro-transit program in the City.

DRPT: Wood Hudson reminded that DRPT’s grant season ends on Feb 1. He noted that guidelines and applications are available on their website.

7. STAFF UPDATES (MINUTE 1:12:00)

Afton Express

Sara Pennington reported that the Afton Express’s annual report will be sent this next week. She reported on the numbers of riders, noting that the average is around 50 riders per day. She also noted that there will be schedule change to include additional routes to serve the UVA Health System employees. She noted that there will be a morning trip to pick up the UVA hospital workers at 7:45. In the evening, there will be one at 6:45 and another at 7:45 pm. There will be an adjustment of the other two routes by 15 minutes. The final schedules will be up on the website with lots of marketing to come.

MPO Updates

Sandy Shackelford reported that they are working through the LRTP and starting stakeholder outreach. Staff will be finalizing the kick off plan for the public engagement process.

Ms. Shackelford gave an update on the Safe Streets for All grant. The award will be announced shortly.

She continued by announcing the area projects that have been recommended for funding through SMART Scale. The final funding allocations and commitments will happen in June.

Lastly, she said one of the applications submitted that did not get recommended for funding was the Rivanna Bike/Ped Bridge because of cost. TJPDC will be applying for a RAISE grant to cover the preliminary engineering portion of the project so that it might be more viable for future funding applications.

Governance Study

Lucinda Shannon reported that the first technical memo has been completed. She said they are working on the second technical memo now. The consultant will be coming in soon to cover the work done thus far. She noted that there will be a steering committee meeting in March.

8. OTHER BUSINESS (UPDATES AND REMINDERS) (MINUTE 1:25:08)

Ms. Shannon asked a few housekeeping questions about how many agendas and packets to print for meetings. She also said she has been sending out meeting notices individually and asked if she should send out the meeting notices for the entire year instead. The committee asked to send them all at once.

9. ADJOURN

Ms. McKeel adjourned the meeting at 5:29 p.m.

The next meeting is February 23 at 4 – 6 p.m.