

**Regional Transportation Partnership Meeting**

Draft Minutes, March 28, 2024

The recording of this meeting can be found at <https://youtu.be/E9bABbZF2FI>.

VOTING MEMBERS & ALTERNATES		STAFF	
Brian Pinkston, Charlottesville		Christine Jacobs, TJPDC *	x
Natalie Oschrin, Charlottesville	x	Lucinda Shannon, TJPDC	x
Diantha McKeel, Albemarle	x	Gretchen Thomas, TJPDC	x
Mike Pruitt, Albemarle	x		
Katy Miller, DRPT	x		
Hal Morgan, Jaunt Rural *	x		
Lucas Ames, Jaunt Urban	x		
Kendall Howell, UTS (alternate)			
Scott Silsdorf, UTS	x		
NON-VOTING MEMBERS		GUESTS/PUBLIC	
Garland Williams, CAT	x	Evan Price, DRPT	x
William Shifflett, Alb County PS	x	Jen Fleisher, BRHD	x
Vicky Marsh, UVA Hospital		Ben Chambers, City of Charlottesville	x
Peter Thompson, CAA	x		
Sara Pennington, Rideshare	x		
Ann Wall, Albemarle			
Peter Krebs, PEC	x		
Mike Murphy, Jaunt	x		

\* Remote attendance

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Regional Transportation Partnership Chair, Diantha McKeel, presided and called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. She invited those at the meeting to introduce themselves.

**Motion/Action:** Lucas Ames moved to allow Hal Morgan to join the meeting remotely. Natalie Oschrin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**2. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (MINUTE 2:39)**

Approval of Agenda

**Motion/Action:** Natalie Oschrin moved to approve the agenda. Mike Pruitt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

**Motion/Action:** Lucas Ames moved to approve the February 22, 2024 minutes. Natalie Oschrin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.



**3. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 3:31):**

None.

**4. BLUE RIDGE HEALTH DISTRICT (BRHD) COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CHIP) (MINUTE 4:00):**

Jen Fleisher, BRHD, presented the CHIP background and transportation objectives to the advisory committee. She reported on the progress made to date. They include work on bus shelters, the governance study, and medical transport.

She noted that some of the legislation that the governor is set to sign may make it easier to build bus shelters in the next year.

Regarding medical transport, she said there were issues with folks stuck at the hospital because they could not get home and had to be re-admitted to the ER.

She continued by reporting on the community engagement portion of their work. That includes initiating a sustainable mechanism for including community voices (see slide).

CAT Microtransit has been completed and they are aiming for 600 rides a week to be considered a success. There is a 95.5% demand rate, which means they are getting where they want to be on time. They are looking to get a marketing strategy in place.

Mobility Management Program includes a one-click, one-call information and referral center. She hopes there will be a crossover with the other transit providers.

Ms. Fleisher presented the Charlottesville Area Alliance (CAA) impact report addressing the challenge of community engagement in transit decision-making. It was noted that one of the challenges is that transit riders have limited opportunities to be a part of the decision-making process. She presented the goals and barriers to tackling that challenge.

Peter Thompson provided background on the CAA organization and how it is engaged in the transportation process.

Jen Fleisher continued reporting on how to support mitigating the challenge through community engagement. She gave a summary of the overarching findings from the first day's engagement, and the results from the second day. The very basic finding is the community needs a public comment forum for all transit and to feel confident they're being heard.

She reported on the proposals that came from the Impact sessions, including listening, clarify, relate and strategize.

There was a mobility summit last week and many work groups. One of the things that came out of that was to get organizations that have transportation as a priority get together and present a unified voice to City Council.

Diantha McKeel noted that there was a CAT Advisory Committee to get that kind of information, but it was disbanded some time ago for various reasons.

There was a discussion about how to best move forward on having the community's voices heard.

**5. DRPT 2024 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (MINUTE 53:57):**

Evan Price, Data and Policy Specialist with DRPT, began his presentation with a background on the DRPT and a 2024 session summary. He reviewed the major rail and public transit bills up for consideration and their fate.

He continued by doing a deeper dive into HB285, the "bus shelter bill". The governor's deadline to sign the bill is April 8.

Ms. McKeel noted that getting a reprieve for one year will not do much because sometimes the materials to get the bus stops built take more than a year to get delivered. That doesn't even include the time that it would take to decide where to put the stops and get those stops approved.

Mr. Price gave a summary of the Northern Virginia Transit study. He said that it is something to keep in mind for the future of the RTP.

He continued by giving a summary of the 2024-2026 biennial transportation budget, including the transportation trust fund and the Commonwealth Mass Transit fund and what programs they support in the state.

Lastly, he gave upcoming dates of interest: April 8, deadline for the Governor to act on most legislation, including the budget; April 17, reconvened session for the General Assembly to act on amended or vetoed items; July 1, starts the new fiscal year and the budget cycle begins again.

Ms. McKeel said she knows that many submitted a request that the sunset clause be removed from the bus stop bill.

**6. MICRO CAT UPDATE (MINUTE 1:11:05):**

Garland Williams presented the advisory committee with an update on the MicroCAT service program. He said there have been 8,170 completed rides and 1,995 accounts, and they have a 4.9 satisfaction rating out of 5, and their highest daily rating was 172 riders. He noted that their services have grown 5x since launch and continues to set new weekly ride records. He knew it would grow fast, but he didn't know it would grow as fast as it has.

He presented the top locations for the service.

He said they are increasing their marketing and advertising efforts.

There was discussion about the service, areas of demand, and the capacity to handle an influx of new riders, and how best to get the information out about the service.

## **7. TRANSIT PROVIDER UPDATES (MINUTE 1:38:30)**

**Albemarle County Public Schools** – William Shifflett had to leave the meeting early, so there was no report.

**University Transit Services** – Scott Silsdorf reported that UTS is in the midst of considering options for GPS tracking, equipment upgrades on security cameras, and a battery-electric bus that is going to be at CAT on April 3 will be coming to UTS directly afterwards. (see below)

He also shared that their on-demand service (Safe Ride) is being pulled in-house fully at the end of June.

He said they have an annual survey which will be launched on April 8. He is trying to get more students to participate in this year's survey.

**CAT** – Mr. Williams said April 3 will have a demonstration on an electric CAT bus and a school bus on the back property of CAT. They will be extending invitations to a select group of folks to participate.

He also said they are finishing up Chapters 4 and 5 of their TSP. The entire TSP will be done by June 30. They will be taking the TSP to Council for approval. Ben Chamber said there will be a presentation to the RTP at a future meeting

**Jaunt** – Mike Murphy reported that there is a UVA student who he is working with on sustainability. He has been in touch with someone at another university. He signed a letter of support for Virginia Tech's automated vehicles. Their microtransit is focused on the work they are doing in Crozet. He said he could present that at a future meeting. They are also looking at battery electric vehicles and are discussing infrastructure at their location. They are also continuing their rural transportation assessment group. They hope to wrap that up in the near future.

**DRPT** – Katy Miller reported that the Virginia Breeze expansion has been decided. Hampton Roads through Cville. The FRA long distance study – New York to Houston that would come through Charlottesville, Roanoke and Bristol. They are working on getting letters of support. They are working on their Six Year-Improvement Plan.

## **8. OTHER BUSINESS (MINUTE 1:41:47)**

Ann Wall gave an update on her, Ben Chambers' and Christine Jacobs' meeting on focusing on the Regional Transit Authority. They are working on formulating a set of bylaws, staffing, and structure. The next thing is outreach. They are looking to other jurisdictions to visit with them and understand

what their needs might be and what might make an RTA an attractive group. They are also doing work documenting how we got here and what are the opportunities for an RTA.

Ben Chambers said they are trying to figure out how to get dedicated transit funding and they need to gather a foundation on what the RTA does.

## **9. ADJOURN**

Ms. McKeel adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

The next meeting is on April 25 at the Water Street Center from 4 – 6 p.m.