

Regional Transportation Partnership Meeting

Draft Minutes, April 27, 2023

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

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	
Neil Sherman, DRPT		Ryan Mickles, TJPDC	x
Hal Morgan, Jaunt Rural	x	Michael Barnes, VDOT	x
Lucas Ames, Jaunt Urban		Curtis Scarpignato, TJPDC	
Becca White, UTS	x		
NON-VOTING MEMBERS		GUESTS/PUBLIC	
Garland Williams, CAT	x	Jessica Hersh-Ballering, Albemarle	x
Charmane White, Alb County PS	x	Ben Chambers, Charlottesville	x
Vicky Marsh, UVA Hospital		Trevor Henry, Albemarle	x
Peter Thompson, CAA	x	Matt Lawless, Town of Scottsville *	x
Sandy Shackelford, CAMPO	x	Bethel Kefyalew, DRPT *	x
Sara Pennington, Rideshare			
Ted Rieck, Jaunt	x		
Juwhan Lee, CAT	x		
Kendall Howell, UTS (alternate)	x		
Katy Miller, DRPT (alternate) *	x		

* Remote attendance

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Regional Transportation Partnership Chair, Diantha McKeel, presided and called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Motion/Action: Ann Mallek joined remotely due to being stuck in a traffic jam coming back from Richmond. Brian Pinkston moved to allow Ann Mallek to join remotely. Hal Morgan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Ann Mallek officially joined the meeting.

She invited those at the meeting to introduce themselves.

2. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (MINUTE 3:52)

Approval of Agenda

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



Approval of Minutes

Motion/Action: Brian Pinkston made a motion to approve the March 23, 2023 minutes. Hal Morgan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

3. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 5:07):

Matt Lawless said it was his pleasure to be an occasional participant in the Partnership meetings in the past. He reported that he will be moving to Vermont for a new job. He will keep in touch and compare policy notes through meeting information online.

Javier Raudales and Lincoln Lewis will be taking up the reins in Scottsville. He thanked Jaunt for their help in getting bus stop and bench in Scottsville. He made mention of the progress that the RTP has made and looks forward to seeing the progress yet to come. He continued by thanking those with whom he has worked. He said he is heading to a part of the country where the taxes are higher and the transit infrastructure is more robust and headway times are 20 minutes. He said it demonstrates a different level of commitment on their part. He said Charlottesville is heading in the right direction led in part by the expertise on the RTP.

4. CAT 2022 REVIEW AND LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023 (MINUTE 9:40):

Presentation and Discussion

Garland Williams introduced Bethel Kefyalew with Virginia DRPT.

Ms. Kefyalew gave an overview of CAT's 2022 programs and processes. One of the key takeaways from her presentation is that any of the programs that CAT has undertaken or would like to undertake requires a great deal of time and interaction with other government agencies. Patience and persistence are key in getting those programs to launch and run successfully.

Mr. Williams gave a presentation on CAT pre-Covid, during Covid, and post-Covid. He also noted that Routes 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 12 all serve Albemarle County. He also shared proposed CAT routes. He continued by reporting on CAT's revenues and expenditures.

He spoke on the future of service levels, improved service, drivers and mechanics, micro-transit, reliability and frequency, and adding service to Route 2.

Ann Mallek arrived in person to the meeting.

Mr. Williams also shared revenue assumptions and breakdowns for FY24 from the City Manager's proposed budget with a total of \$11,995,775.

He continued by sharing specific network improvements, including improved services between routes, additional weekend service coverage, and new coverage area.

He covered the Phase I implementation actions, including weekday and Saturday service for route 2A and 2b and Route 11.

The implementation also includes micro-transit, one of their priorities for FY24. Mr. Williams noted that the micro-transit service will be available from 6:30 am – 9:00 pm Monday through Saturday in the US-29 zone and the Pantops zone. He continued by discussing revenue and expenditure assumptions for micro-transit in FY24.

Lucinda Shannon will send Garland Williams' presentation to the RTP Board.

There was a question-and-answer session after Mr. Williams' presentation.

5. CHARLOTTESVILLE BIKE/PED UPDATE (MINUTE 53:15):

Ben Chambers presented the board with an update on Charlottesville's bike/ped priorities. He also shared how the City Staff have developed prioritizations for proposed sidewalk and bike facilities in Charlottesville.

Mr. Chambers discussed the challenges and opportunities for feedback.

He continued by listing the next steps on how to move ahead effectively and noted that there will be future engagement with stakeholders for feedback on their draft priorities.

5. MPO TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN (TIP) OVERVIEW (MINUTE 1:08:36):

Sandy Shackelford gave a presentation on the update on the TIP by first explaining what the TIP is. She noted that the next TIP will cover FY24-27. She described the project development process.

Ms. Shackelford noted that there are two sections of the TIP, the highway improvement side and the transit side, and explained how they are grouped. She gave a few examples of the groupings and the logic behind grouping similar projects.

Minute 1:20:17 - Ms. McKeel thanked Becca White for her service at UTS and for her position and aid in helping to get the RTP started and continuing to be successful. There was cake and other refreshments served to celebrate her retirement.

6. TRANSIT PROVIDER UPDATES (MINUTE 1:30:00)

Albemarle County Public Schools – Charmane White reported that they have been doing a lot of strategic work about the driver shortage. Once they have the plans finalized, she will be able to share with the board. She also noted that they have an RFP out to address the driver shortage. Lastly, she shared that ACPS has two electric busses and will be looking to add two more electric busses for the next school year. Those busses will stay in the urban ring so they can stay close to the EV infrastructure.

Jaunt – Ted Rieck shared that Jaunt is finishing up their FY24 budget. He also shared that DRPT recommended them for funding to conduct a micro-transit analysis in their service zone to see if it makes sense for Jaunt. He noted that they have asked for money for an electric bus implementation study. He reported that Jaunt will be working with North Dakota State University on creating a rural needs assessment. They specialize in working with agencies like Jaunt.

UTS – Becca White reported that graduation will be occurring May 20-21 on grounds. The day after graduation, there will be number of road closures on grounds, including Alderman, McCormick and Lane Roads for three months, and Massie Road will be closing for a month. Ms. White reported that the decision has been made to stay at the transit depot in Millmont.

Kendall Howell reported that battery electric busses will begin to be implemented into the fleet starting with infrastructure this summer. The four busses are scheduled to begin service in mid-November.

Ms. White noted that the fleet will be completely replaced by electric battery busses within 15 years.

CAT – Garland Williams reported that they have hired a consultant, Kenneth Moore, to complete CAT’s Transportation Strategic Plan (TSP). He noted that they are in the transition period of installing a new radio system, their radios went down for two days, unexpectedly. He said that has been remedied. Lastly, they will be focusing on hiring transit drivers in July.

Charlottesville Public Schools – Mr. Williams said they are still heavily marketing to find drivers for school busses.

DRPT – Katy Miller shared that the draft Six Year Improvement Plan (SIP) is published and available on the open data portal on DRPT’s website. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please fee free to reach out to her. She continued by reporting that the VDOT public meeting for the Culpeper District for the published SIPs drafts will be on May 2.

7. STAFF UPDATES (MINUTE 1:49:17)

Lucinda Shannon shared that in the aforementioned SIP, the Mobility Management Program was recommended for funding. She said there will be a determination on that program in July. She also reported that Staff has put out an RFP for a One Call Center for that program.

Sandy Shackelford reported that at the next MPO meeting on May 24, VDOT will be giving a presentation on the state’s EV infrastructure deployment. She also said that the MPO is already talking about the next round of Smart Scale and the Long-Range Transportation Plan, so there will be upcoming discussions about those in June and July.

Christine Jacobs reported for Rideshare that they applied for a technical assistance grant for a strategic plan. It was recommended for funding when Rideshare applied, and they are awaiting final approval on it.

8. OTHER BUSINESS (UPDATES AND REMINDERS) (MINUTE)

None.

9. ADJOURN

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

The next meeting is May 25 from 4 – 6 p.m. at the Water Street Center, 407 E. Water Street, Charlottesville, VA.