

Regional Transportation Partnership Meeting

Minutes, September 28, 2023

The recording for this meeting can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vgzXqmKXD34>

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	
Katy Miller, DRPT *	x	Ryan Mickles, TJPDC	
Hal Morgan, Jaunt Rural	x	Michael Barnes, VDOT	
Lucas Ames, Jaunt Urban	x	Curtis Scarpignato, TJPDC	x
Kendall Howell, UTS	x		
NON-VOTING MEMBERS		GUESTS/PUBLIC	
Garland Williams, CAT	x	Allison Day, UTS	x
Charmane White, Alb County PS	x	Sean Tubbs	x
Vicky Marsh, UVA Hospital		Hollie Lee, UVA/UTS	x
Peter Thompson, CAA		Ben Chambers, City of Charlottesville	x
Sandy Shackelford, CAMPO	x	Allison Day, UTS *	x
Sara Pennington, Rideshare			
Ted Rieck, Jaunt	x		
Jessica Hersh-Ballering, Albemarle (alternate)	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.

2. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (00:03:43)

Approval of Agenda

Motion/Action: Kendall Howell made a motion to approve the agenda. Ann Mallek seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Katy Miller joined the meeting remotely because she was in Richmond at another meeting and could not make it in person. Ann Mallek made a motion to approve Ms. Miller joining the meeting. Ann Mallek made a motion to allow her to vote and join officially.



Approval of Minutes

Motion/Action: Brian Pinkston made a motion to approve the August 24, 2023 minutes. Kendall Howell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Lloyd Snook abstaining.

3. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE):

None.

4. HOOS DRIVER TRAINING PROGRAM (00:05:36):

Hollie Lee with University Transit Service, presented the committee with the background of the HOOS Driver Training Program. She reported that with the program, they have filled 12 vacancies. She also reported how they completed that goal.

They trained numerous ESL students for a minimum of 60 hours, 66 hours of Class B CDL permit training, and 44 hours of pre-trip training (including pre-trip inspection), plus 34 hours of workplace readiness and customer service readiness training. This is over 200 hours of paid training.

She reported that there were 12 participants that came from four localities who had a 100% training/program completion rate.

Kendall Howell reported on some of the participants who went through the program.

He also shared a program marketing video.

He shared the lessons learned from the program. He said that HR was challenging to navigate. He also noted that it is this program is important to help in raising everyone's staffing needs for transit in the area in a fair manner.

Mr. Howell shared their tips for recruiting to the program. He noted that they will need to look for opportunities to streamline and shorten the human resource hiring process, which can take up to two months.

There was a question-and-answer segment after the presentation.

5. TRANSIT PROVIDER UPDATES (00:43:24)

DRPT – Katy Miller reported that (listen) Amtrak applied to increase the cardinal service to daily service. They just opened for transit ridership program grant cycle.

Jaunt – Ted Rieck reported that Jaunt launched bus electric vehicle study to determine next steps for the vehicles they want to get. They started the rural transportation needs assessment and an operations analysis because they think they may need to expand their types of delivery, including adding outside providers. He said he would like to share a presentation about that in the future.

Albemarle County Public Schools – Charmane White reported that ACPS is not quite at 100%, but they have dramatically reduced the number to just 189 students that are still not getting to school on time. They are continuing to work on getting that number to zero.

She said building effective relationships is critical for leadership. She noted they are working on that in their department. They are also focusing on student management on the vehicles. There is a curriculum called “responsive classroom”, which they are trying to translate into “responsive school bus.”

She also reported that they are looking at how to stabilize the department and become better leaders in Albemarle County.

UTS – Kendall Howell reported that UTS is in their budget revision process. UVA’s fall break is next week. UTS will be adding a few strategic buses to the academic routes.

CAT – *Charlottesville Public Schools*: Garland Williams said there was a transportation meeting this morning and reported they are working on getting background checks sped up for new employees. There are several candidates in the pipeline.

CAT – Mr. Williams reported that as soon as they get the proper driver for the school system, they can focus on getting drivers for the public system. They also have several candidates in the pipeline for CAT. They have a union that has been authorized and they will be negotiating in the next few weeks.

He reported that students using CAT in the City, sometimes upper elementary schools with parents or in a group, there have been zero incidents and the CAT buses have 11 cameras on them. There are no blind spots. If there ever was an incident, the response time is less than 10 minutes.

Mr. Williams also noted that CAT has been working with the County to get their micro-transit program. Mr. Williams said he will give a presentation on that at the next meeting.

7. STAFF UPDATES (MINUTE 1:04:04)

MPO Long Range Transportation Plan update

Sandy Shackelford reported that staff completed their first phase of public engagement with a total of 599 individuals and comments. She said the consultants are currently analyzing the in-person data and 1500+ comments on online maps. She said project prioritization will be forthcoming.

Regional Transit Governance Study

Lucinda Shannon presented on the Regional Transit Governance Study for Region 10. She gave an overview of the study, potential factors for determining board membership/representation, the role of authority in transit planning and decision making, indicators of accountability, current state of transit funding, operating cost estimates, local funding options, estimated revenues from additional sources (including potential sales, lodging, personal property, and/or real estate tax).

Ms. Shannon continued by reporting on next steps, including undertaking the next round of one-on-

one meetings with jurisdictions, finalizing development of governance options, and then develop Phase IV memo and final report.

Mobility Management Program

Lucinda Shannon said she has been meeting bi-weekly with JABA and is anticipating they will be taking calls starting on January 1. They will be collecting data on where transit is not meeting needs and also doing practice runs starting in October. She has been meeting with community partners. She also said they are working on branding for a new name and a corresponding logo. She is looking for funding for that part of the program. They are applying for grants to meet that need.

Ms. Jacobs said it will be important to understand that this is a new program and that the emphasis will be on helping people navigate the existing transit system and identify where there are unmet needs. The program will not be providing new transportation services initially.

8. OTHER BUSINESS (UPDATES AND REMINDERS) (1:21:45)

Mr. Williams said they are working on their Transit Strategic Plan and are doing an analysis, including routes. The first five years will be an optimization study. He said years 6 – 10 are ongoing. He would be happy to do a presentation on that study as well.

Ann Mallek said the CA-MPO and the SAW-MPO had a joint meeting yesterday in Waynesboro where projects that affected both MPO regions were shared.

9. ADJOURN

Ms. McKeel adjourned the meeting at 5:26 p.m.

The next meeting is October 26, 2023 from 4 – 6 p.m. at the Water Street Center, 407 E. Water Street, Charlottesville, VA.