



**Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization
of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission**
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CHART Advisory Committee Meeting
April 2, 2008 Minutes

Present

Members

Stephen Bach
Bobby Burke
James Currie, Chair
Marc Evans
Cal Morris
John Pfaltz, Vice Chair
Linda Seaman
Bill Wuensch

Representing

MPO, Bicycling
MPO, Pedestrian
Albemarle County, Environment
MPO
Albemarle County, Planning Commission
City At-Large
City At-Large
MPO

Not Attending:

James Burton City, At-Large
Jay Gauldin MPO

Staff:

Melissa Barlow TJPDC
Harrison Rue TJPDC
Will Sowers RideShare
Ann Whitham TJPDC

Matters from the Public

There were no matters from the public

Approval of the Minutes

Upon a motion by Mr. Pfaltz, seconded by Mr. Burke, the March 2008 meeting minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

Transportation 101: Travel Demand Management (TDM)

Will Sowers introduced himself to the Committee. Mr. Sowers is the Rideshare Outreach Specialist at TJPDC and has been working closely with Rideshare and TDM Program Manager Lisa Horanyi on TDM strategies for the region.

Mr. Sowers made a PowerPoint presentation about TDM strategies already implemented in the region to alleviate traffic congestion on roadways, save commuters money and reduce CO₂ emissions. These include ride sharing, park and ride lots, tele-working and employee incentive programs. He also discussed strategies that the RideShare program is hoping to implement in the

future, such as GoogleTransit for the CTS service area. [To obtain a copy of the presentation, please contact info@tjpd.org.] Mr. Sowers welcomed questions from the Committee.

Mr. Currie asked if local governments are offering tax breaks to employers who subsidize transit use. This is not currently the case.

Mr. Wuensch asked if RideShare partners with CTS and JAUNT on advertising. Mr. Sowers responded that the three agencies do not partner as much as they could.

Mr. Bach asked which park and ride lots in the region are currently at capacity. Mr. Sowers responded that Zion Crossroads and Waynesboro are at or over capacity. Mr. Bach asked if the RideShare program knows how many ridesharing cars are leaving the lots, but this information is not available.

Ms. Seaman asked if the National Ground Intelligence Center (NGIC) is planning to offer vanpools for its employees. Mr. Sowers responded that RideShare has worked directly with NGIC, but that it is difficult to schedule vanpools because NGIC employee schedules vary greatly.

The Committee discussed the importance of employer-operated vanpools, noting State Farm as the leading example. Ms. Seaman commented that Martha Jefferson Hospital should operate vanpools as well.

The Committee thanked Mr. Sowers for his presentation.

UnJAM 2035 Update

Ms. Whitham provided the Committee with an update on the public participation process leading up to the UnJAM 2035 Regional Summit on Saturday, May 10th. She announced the keynote speaker for the Summit, Reid Ewing, distributed a final draft list of online survey questions, and discussed the format of the half-day workshop.

She also showed the Committee the new UnJAM.org website, which is the communications hub for the long range plan update process.

Draft TIP Amendments:

Ms. Barlow introduced the two draft amendments for Safe Routes to School projects, explaining that the City applied for and was awarded the two grants. The projects will be built at Venable Elementary School and Buford Middle Schools. The amendments obligate funding for the projects.

Other Business

Commuter Rail: John Pfaltz attended a rail meeting and asked about Commuter Rail on a CSX or Buckingham Branch line from Charlottesville to Waynesboro. He acknowledged that there are several impediments, but noted that he has met with County Supervisor Anne Mallek and Cville Rail Chairwoman Meredith Richards about his idea.

Mr. Currie asked about the ridership. Mr. Pfaltz doesn't have a hard figure, but he thinks it needs to be classy with a café/bar car to attract choice riders. He doubts that Amtrak will fund it, but added that the Department of Rail and Public Transportation the Buckingham Branch have a

good working relationship. On May 15th, Buckingham Branch General Manager Gail Wilson will talk to the Rail Historical Society at Ponderosa Steak House. Mr. Bach commended Mr. Pfaltz's work.

Growing Cooler: Mr. Rue introduced concepts from the book *Growing Cooler*, which UnJAM Regional Summit keynote Reid Ewing will present on May 10th.

Mr. Currie asked when the keynote address will be given during the Regional Summit. Mr. Rue suggested that the address should be early on in the agenda. Mr. Pfaltz feels that the max attendance will be at 10am. Ms. Seaman agreed that having a positive message will be good for UnJAM.

Additional Matters from the Public:

There were no additional matters from the public.

The meeting was adjourned.