



Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission

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Memorandum

TO: CHART Committee
FROM: MPO Staff
DATE: August 24, 2009
RE: Next Steps: The Future Role of the CHART Committee

With the completion of most required MPO documents, the Long Range Transportation Plan, the Transportation Improvement Plan, the Unified Planning Work Program and the Public Participation Plan, all the major programs that the CHART Committee advises on have been completed in the past year. With this lull in the planning and approval of required federal documents, it has been difficult to find a niche for CHART. It is the hope of TJPD staff, in conjunction with the CHART Committee, to define a clear project and purpose for the committee during this interim period.

The CHART Committee currently has no bylaws of its own. The Committee is defined as an extension of the MPO Policy Board. Article IV, Section 2 of the MPO Policy Board's bylaws outline the CHART Committee or Citizen Advisory Committee as follows.

Long Range Plan Citizen Advisory Committee – The MPO shall appoint a citizen committee to develop and recommend updates to the long range (CHART) plan for review by the MPO Technical Committee and Policy Board. The Committee will meet frequently as needed during the plan updates and no less than annually during the interim years to evaluate plan progress and recommend amendments and updated project description.

This description restricts CHART to only advising on the Long Range Transportation Plan. While the LRTP is an important aspect of the Committee's work, CHART's role has moved beyond this limited capacity.

While this issue of direction has been discussed in previous Committee meetings no clear consensus has been reached. TJPD staff believes that the CHART Committee would be an excellent platform to organize and encourage public participation in transportation planning, particularly multimodal transportation options. The Public Participation Plan focuses on making transportation planning information available to the public; it does not consider how to encourage public participation. Other options include creating a guiding document for the construction and establishment of the next long range transportation plan or establishing Committee bylaws in order to ensure that this type of uncertainty does not affect CHART in the future. Given these, and other possibilities for CHART's future, it is the hope of TJPD staff that CHART can establish a beneficial and worthwhile direction that satisfies all involved.