



*Thomas
Jefferson*

Planning District Commission

Sustainable solutions to regional issues

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To: TJPD Commissioners
From: Melissa Barlow, Director of Transportation Programs
David Blount, Legislative Liaison
Date: November 6, 2008
Reference: Regional Transit Authority (RTA) resolution

Purpose: The purpose of this memo is to introduce a resolution for Commission consideration that endorses legislative initiatives related to 1) a Charlottesville/Albemarle RTA and 2) options for funding transit and non-transit projects.

Background: At the October Commission meeting, you discussed efforts to form a Regional Transit Authority for Charlottesville and Albemarle. Of particular mention were provisions in the proposed enabling legislation that would allow the RTA to include other localities in the region (as well as other local entities such as UVa and JAUNT) at a future time. Additionally, a local one cent sales tax was touted as the preferred mechanism for funding transit improvements and other delayed transportation projects in the two jurisdictions. Rural county Commissioners at the meeting, and in subsequent follow-up, expressed support for allowing the RTA to expand in the future, but said there was no interest at this time in joining the authority or levying an additional sales tax in their locality.

Issues: Last week, the Joint Working Group (JWG) established by the two localities to craft enabling legislation for the RTA, met with area legislators to discuss separate bills for both the RTA and funding options. One legislator stated that official support of these initiatives from the Planning District Commission would be beneficial, so that legislators from various parts of the state could see that this region's other localities support the transportation endeavors being pursued by the City and County. Accordingly, the attached resolution is presented for your consideration and approval.

Action Needed: Endorse attached resolution.