

Resolution Supporting a Regional Transit Authority and Funding Options for Charlottesville and Albemarle

WHEREAS, the Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the City of Charlottesville (City) and the County of Albemarle (County) have been working for two years on development of an expanded and enhanced regional transit service for its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the three entities adopted a vision statement for a Regional Transit Authority (RTA) and are interested in expanding transit service to developing areas and providing faster, more frequent service to the existing system; and

WHEREAS, a subcommittee of elected officials established by the two localities has been meeting almost weekly since August to craft enabling legislation for the next General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the enabling legislation for the RTA outlines a governance structure for the Authority, which includes provisions for other localities and entities in the region to be potential partners in the authority; and

WHEREAS, those working group discussions have also identified a need to fund priority transit and transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, the state's six-year transportation program was reduced \$1.1 billion earlier this year and state officials recently announced a transportation revenue reduction of another \$2 billion; and

WHEREAS, the City and County have a list of priority projects, including an enhanced transit system, that have been unable to advance and that will not be started in the foreseeable future, due to lack of funds; and

WHEREAS, the City and County need to "catch up" on delayed transportation projects and advance others, while moving forward with transit improvements to meet growing needs; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission supports the pursuit by Charlottesville and Albemarle to obtain enabling authority 1) to establish a governance structure for a Regional Transit Authority, and 2) to generate revenue for transit and transportation projects through identified and sustainable revenue sources.

Approved at the TJPDC meeting on November 6, 2008.

Attested:

Connie Brennan, TJPDC Chair