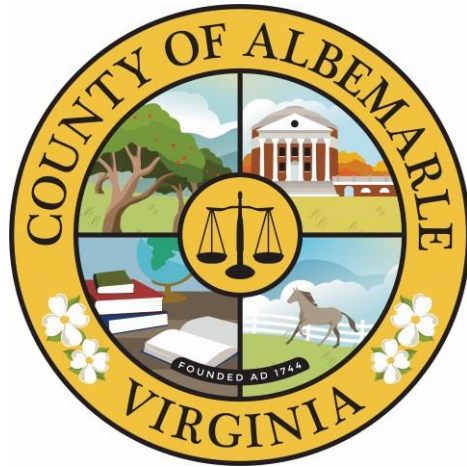


Forming a Regional Transit Authority



Agenda

Review of history of regional transit and governance structures

Review of the role and intents of regional transit authorities

Report on work to date and outreach conversations

Structure of proposed regional transit authority

Draft workplans

Key Efforts at Forming a Regional Transit Authority



2008 – Charlottesville-Albemarle Regional Transit Authority Report



2009 – General Assembly passes legislation to enable the formation of a regional transit authority to plan regional transit services, but did not include state-authorized revenue generation - Charlottesville Albemarle Regional Transit Authority (CARTA)



2016 – Regional Coordination Study looked at the question of setting up a regional transit authority, but recommended setting up a similar body, the Regional Transit Partnership which was created in 2017. The RTP was intended to serve as an interim body, responsible for ushering the development of an RTA.

Key Efforts at Forming a Regional Transit Authority



2022 – Regional Transit Vision Plan identified a clear long-term vision for efficient, equitable, and effective transit service in the region.



2024 – Transit Governance Study, which recommends activating CARTA to serve as an interim entity for regional transit governance and decision making with the ability to expand its role over time.

Role of the Regional Transit Authority

General

- Collaborative multi-jurisdictional entity for identifying and solving transit issues
- Forum for carrying out planning work and working through decisions on difficult shared concerns
- Recommend regional transit priorities
- General oversight of area programs involving transit or congestion mitigation

Planning

- Prepare a regional transit plan for all or a portion of the areas located within boundaries of each member locality
- Long-range transit planning in the area
- Consideration of service expansions and alternatives

Role of the Regional Transit Authority

Funding

- Vehicle for administering and potentially collecting dedicated regional transit funding
- Consideration of funding formulas for service and capital

Federal/State Government

- Advocate for transit needs in the area before federal and state government
- Recommend regional transit priorities (including projects and funding allocations) to federal, state and regional agencies
- Apply for grants and any other funds from the federal or state government or any agency

Work to Date

- Engaging with surrounding localities' staff and UVA leadership to gain an understanding of their transit needs
- Engaging with transit services to hear how their existing plans align with the need for more coordination between jurisdictions and services
- Developing bylaws that are in conformance with CARTA legislation
- Developing a draft work plan for the set-up and initial focus of regional transit authority

Engagement: What We Heard

- Interest in learning more about regional transit needs and ways to address these needs
- An understanding that there is some planning work to be done as a region before dedicated funding is an option
- Opportunities for short-term improvements to services, funding through DRPT demo and TRIP grants
- Unanimous interest in seeing Charlottesville and Albemarle County set up CARTA together
 - Surrounding counties want to see how it goes
 - Acknowledged need for a venue to collaboratively plan and make decisions

2009 Charlottesville Albemarle Regional Transit Authority Legislation (CARTA)

- Describes powers of regional transit authority
- Identifies initial members as City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County
- Identifies other county members (Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa and Nelson) as well as other partners
- Describes other duties and responsibilities

Draft CARTA By-laws

- Initial memberships to include City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County
- Counties of Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa and Nelson as well as private nonprofit tourist driven agencies, higher education facilities in the Charlottesville-Albemarle area and public transportation agencies may join
- Board of Directors:
 - Board of Directors, including two Albemarle County Supervisors, two Charlottesville City Council members, and one member of the governing body of each jurisdiction that joins CARTA as voting members
 - Up to four additional non-voting directors representing the interest of agencies or institutions within the region

Draft CARTA By-laws

- Officers, terms of office, Chair and Vice Chair
- Meetings: regular and special meetings, public hearings, quorums, voting, agendas, minutes, closed sessions,
- Committees:
 - Finance Committee
 - Consists of five members appointed by the CARTA Board
 - Reviews, comments, and recommends on annual budget and adjustments, financial policies, quarterly expenditures, financial statements
 - Technical Committee
 - One staff member from each member locality, plus non-voting members from DRPT and VDOT
 - Review, comments, and recommends on all planning, project and program prioritization, selection, and programming matters
- Executive Director and staff
- Adoption and amendments of bylaws

CARTA Work Plan

General

- CARTA Board approves bylaws, elects chair and vice chair, and designates committees
- Continue outreach to partner counties and service organizations regarding transit demands, needs and opportunities

Planning

- Establish regional transit goals
- Consider transit improvements in services and customer service

Role of the Regional Transit Authority

Funding

- Prepare FY25-26 Budget
- Evaluate staffing and funding requirements
- Prepare grant application for designated service expansion and enhancements
- Identify possible revenue strategies

Federal/State Government

- Advocate for transit needs in the area before federal and state government
- Recommend regional transit priorities (including projects and funding allocations) to federal, state and regional agencies
- Apply for grants and any other funds from the federal or state government or any agency
- Begin developing a package of desired legislative updates

Key takeaways

- Region has a variety of transit needs to service both urban and rural areas. Region is served by multiple transit providers . More investment in transit is warranted as localities seek continuous improvement and improved quality of life.
- For more than 15 years, there have been numerous discussions regarding regional transit governance.
- Existing legislation possess the fundamentals needed to create a regional transit authority.
- Standing up CARTA as a venue to make decisions about transit needs and service provisions is the first step in resolving questions about transit.

Endorsement

- On August 22, 2024, the Regional Transit Partnership unanimously endorsed the formation of the Charlottesville Albemarle Regional Transit Authority.