



**Charlottesville- Albemarle
Metropolitan Planning
Organization**

**REGIONAL TRANSIT VISION
STUDY PROPOSAL**

November 19, 2015

- Define a possible transit future for the Charlottesville City-Albemarle County area;
- Define the various ways in which the city, the county, the University and other institutions (e.g. Monticello) could organize to , fund, manage and coordinate services;
- Identify the benefits that could be achieved and the obligations of the partners; and make specific recommendations on how to proceed.

The 2008 study concluded that a Regional Transit Authority including services for CAT, JAUNT and UTS would be beneficial. While the study resulted in legislative authority to create a regional authority, it did not receive legislative approval for funding powers. Additionally, the recommended option for ongoing operational and system changes were estimated at over \$10,000,000 per year with recommended initial capital costs estimated between \$42,000,000 and \$138,000,000. Other than receiving legislative authority to create a Regional Transit Authority, no other facets of the study were implemented.

On August 6, 2015, The Planning & Coordination Council (PACC) comprised of representatives of the City of Charlottesville, Albemarle County and the University of Virginia asked the TJPDC / Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization to review this previous study, update the relevant areas and provide a report back to PACC. **The understood goal of the updated report is to review organizational and governance options for regional transit service organization or partnership opportunities and to consider alternate combinations of partnerships and/or governance structures between CAT, JAUNT and UTS.** In anticipation of this request, the TJPDC/MPO included work on a Regional Transit Vision Study in its FY2016 & FY 2017 Unified Work Program funding with VDOT. The TJPDC is to provide a proposed scope of services for this study to PACC on November 19th.

The TJPDC proposes to conduct a Regional Transit Vision study to evaluate the possibility of creating a regional transit partnership and other steps to enhance transit service in the region.

The overall intent of the Regional Transit Vision project is to identify the feasibility for an integrated regional transit governance, funding and decision-making model for the Charlottesville-Albemarle MPO area, as well as a related operational structure. The project will include a stakeholder outreach process to consider a path forward for potential transit service integration in the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County and adjoining localities with improved service and cost-effectiveness. The project addresses several issues, including:

- Transit service area boundaries of current and potential future regional service.
- A range of governance and partnership structure options, identifying the benefits and limitations of each, along with a final recommendation on a transit governance structure for the region.
- Review of current and potential federal, state, local and private funding sources and expenditures for expanded service with consolidated service control.
- Analysis of the potential of the recommended structure to support the development of the transit network into an overall regional transportation plan.

GENERAL SCOPE OF WORK BY MPO

1. Project Management
 - a. Develop project management plan.
 - b. Conduct overall project management.
 - c. Conduct project meetings.
 - i. Compile meeting notes.
 - d. Coordinate with Steering Committee.
2. Review Previous Regional Transit Plans and Comprehensive Plans of Stakeholders
 - a. Review 2008 Regional Transit Authority Study.
 - b. Review Comprehensive Plans of the City of Charlottesville, Albemarle County and University of Virginia.
 - c. Assess whether previous conclusions and recommendations can be retained or need to be updated or modified or not relevant to this effort.
3. Data Collection and Review
 - a. Gather, review and update existing transit data for the CAMPO region, including but not limited to fixed route structure, service frequencies and headways, ridership statistics, paratransit service, transfer facilities, vehicle sizes, fares, cost of service, etc.
 - b. Obtain multi-regional data and demographics for C-A MPO and Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO for potential growth opportunities.
 - c. Identify and collect any outstanding data requisite for the Regional Transit Vision's analysis.
 - d. Obtain and compare budgets for revenue sources and expenditures.
 - e. Contractual and payment agreements between all parties.
4. Peer Region Review and Evaluation
 - a. Review public transit systems in peer regions with comparable population, college inter-connectivity and land use patterns (peer regions may be similar or dissimilar in terms of transit service).
 - b. Evaluate system coverage, service type, frequencies, ridership, and operating expenditures and subsidies in peer regions versus the CAMPO region.
 - c. Illustrate the correlation between investment and system performance.
5. Public Outreach and Engagement
 - a. Conduct meetings with stakeholder staff, steering committee members, transit riders, elected officials, social service agencies, the business community, groups representing minority and low-income populations, environmental groups, and other relevant parties.

DELIVERABLES

1. Project Work Plan / Detailed Scope of Work

Prior to commencing the study, the MPO and steering committee will be responsible for creating a detailed scope of work.

2. Project Meetings and Management

The MPO will be responsible for holding project meetings and project management as outlined in the Scope of Services.

3. Working Papers

The consultant will create working papers associated with each task identified in the scope of work where applicable. These working papers will be presented to the project's steering committee for review and comment, and will serve to apprise PACC of the study's findings and progress. These papers will form the basis of the chapters to be incorporated into the Final Report. The papers will not necessarily be completed in chronological order, but will serve as working papers that may be written and developed concurrently where appropriate.

4. Stakeholder Engagement

The MPO will be responsible for conducting stakeholder outreach and managing stakeholder input as outlined in the scope of services.

5. Final Report

Building on the working papers, the MPO will be responsible for creating a Final Study Report. The report shall document the methodologies employed and include technical appendices where appropriate. The report will include an executive summary identifying key study findings, conclusions and recommendations.