



112 MacTanly Place  
Staunton, VA 24401

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**BRITE Transit Advisory Committee Meeting Summary  
May 8, 2024, 2:30 p.m.**

Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission  
112 MacTanly Place  
Staunton, VA 24401

[\*Click Here for Audio Recording of Meeting\*](#)

	Name	Organization
✓	Amanda Kaufman	City of Staunton
	Jennifer Whetzel	County of Augusta
✓	Leslie Tate	City of Waynesboro
✓	Krystal Moyers	Augusta Health
✓	Mike Kelley	Wilson Workforce & Rehabilitation Center
	Jessica Sawyers	Staunton Downtown Development
✓	Terry Rodgers, Chair	Shenandoah Valley Social Services
✓	Anastasia Triplett*	Blue Ridge Community College
✓	Becky Messer	Transit Service Rider
✓	Paul Terry	Transit Service Rider
✓	Steve Wilson	Virginia Regional Transit
✓	Kyle Trissel*	Department of Rail and Public Transportation

	Name	Organization
✓	Ann Cundy	CSPDC
✓	Devon Thompson	CSPDC
✓	Paula Melester	CSPDC
✓	Alisande Tombarge, City of Waynesboro	
✓	Tammy DuBose, Valley Community Services Board*	
✓	Rodney Rhodes, City of Staunton	
✓	Zach Beard, CSPDC	
✓	Garreth Bartholomew, CSPDC	
✓	Gregory Bruno, Transit Service Rider	
✓	AJ Young, Lifeworks Project*	

**Call to Order**

The May 8, 2024, meeting of the BRITE Transit Advisory Committee (BTAC) was called to order at 2:31 PM by Ms. Terry Rodgers, Chairperson. Pursuant to §2.2-3708.2 of the Code of Virginia, BTAC members may participate in meetings through electronic communication means. Those who attended virtually were indicated by an asterisk; all others attended in person.

**Public Comment**

Chairperson Rodgers opened the floor for public comment. Mr. Gregory Bruno, Waynesboro.Com and frequent and long-time rider of BRITE Transit, commented on the BRITE Bus service to the Remote Area Medical (RAM) Clinic at the Augusta Expo in April 2024, and expressed appreciation for the provision of transportation access to the event for



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those in need of medical care. The Stuarts Draft Link operated a special, one-time only Saturday service (service normally operated Monday-Friday) to directly serve the clinic location.

### **Approve Minutes**

Chairperson Rodgers presented the minutes from the January 10, 2024, BTAC meeting for consideration.

***Ms. Leslie Tate moved, seconded by Mr. Paul Terry, to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2024, meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.***

### **Business**

**Election of Chair and Vice Chair:** Ms. Devon Thompson announced that it was time to conduct an election for BTAC Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. Per the BTAC bylaws, elections for the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson positions were to be held every three years. Ms. Thompson reviewed the criteria and role of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, such as eligibility, duties, and the history of prior Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons. Ms. Thompson indicated that the current Chairperson, Ms. Terry Rodgers, was not eligible for another term per the terms of office, which was a three-year term for no more than one additional consecutive term.

Ms. Krystal Moyers was nominated as Chairperson, and Ms. Tate for Vice Chairperson. The newly elected Chairperson and Vice Chairperson would assume their roles effective July 1, 2024.

***Ms. Messer moved, seconded by Ms. Amanda Kauffman, to approve the election and appointment of Ms. Moyers and Ms. Tate as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, respectively. Motion carried unanimously.***

**BTAC Bylaws Amendment:** Ms. Thompson asked the committee to call for a separate, formal vote for Valley Community Services Board (VCSB) to become a funding partner.

***Mr. Paul Terry moved, seconded by Ms. Moyers, to add the Valley Community Services Board as a funding partner for BRITE Bus Transit. Motion carried unanimously.***

Ms. Thompson indicated that upon adding VCSB as a BRITE funding partner, the BTAC Bylaws would need to be amended to reflect the change to funding partner and voting member of the BTAC. Additionally, Ms. Thompson proposed that this was a good time to add Afton Express representation through a non-voting member. Ms. Thompson indicated that both changes were outlined in the draft Bylaws shared (see attached). Once this body voted on the proposed changes, the amended Bylaws would be presented for adoption by the CSPDC Board of Commissioners at their June meeting.

***Ms. Alisande Tombarge moved, seconded by Ms. Tate, to approve the BTAC Bylaws Amendment as presented. Motion carried unanimously.***

**Valley Community Services Board – New Stop and Funding Partner:** Ms. Thompson reminded the committee that the new bus stop at VCSB's Sangers Lane facility in Staunton went into effect on May 1st, and the 250 Connector route was serving the stop at 8:00 AM, 12:00 PM, and 5:00 PM (eastbound and westbound directions). From an



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operations standpoint, Virginia Regional Transit (VRT) shared that service was going well; additionally, Ms. Tammy DuBose, VCSB, shared that clients were excited about the new stop and were utilizing it. Ms. Thompson noted that once the planned Waynesboro Circulator route modification occurred (highlighted in the BRITE Transit Development Plan), hourly service to VCSB would be provided.

**Staunton Lewis Street Hub Rehabilitation Update:** Ms. Paula Melester provided an update on the Lewis Street Transit Hub renovation project. Construction was progressing on schedule, and excavation and grading work was completed. Ms. Melester indicated that operations at the temporary hub on North Augusta Street were going well, for both drivers and riders.

**ITS – Mobile Data Collection System Update:** Ms. Thompson reported that implementation of the new Mobile Data Collection System (MDCS) neared completion – drivers continued to track data manually and electronically until full accuracy of the electronic system was achieved.

**Afton Express Update:** Ms. Melester provided a brief update on the Afton Express. CSPDC staff had been working with UVA staff to add a new stop at the Fontaine Research Park in Charlottesville. This had been a highly requested stop since service began, but prior to the new construction undertaken it was a challenge to access the facility with larger buses. With said construction, parking at the research park was being diverted to other parking garages, so the addition of the stop would be beneficial to those displaced by the change. Beginning May 28, 2024, two morning and two evening Afton Express trips would serve the research park. Ms. Melester indicated that if the stop was well-utilized during construction, a permanent stop could be evaluated.

**Contractor Update:** Mr. Steve Wilson reported on the following:

- **Staffing:** VRT continued to see an upward trend in staffing with fully endorsed new hires that were onboarded this year, which had alleviated pressure on the transit supervisors.
- **Passio:** VRT was working alongside CSPDC staff to address implementation challenges with the Passio system.
- **Downtown Trolley Summer Hours:** The Staunton Downtown Trolley Summer hours were implemented in the beginning of May.

**Other Business:** Chairperson Rodgers asked if there was any other business to come before the committee.

- **SAWMPO 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Kick-Off:** Mr. Zach Beard, with the Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (SAWMPO), announced the kickoff of the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update process. Mr. Beard likened the LRTP to the BRITE Transit Development Plan (TDP) that BRITE underwent last year, and noted that the plan captured the region's existing transportation conditions, needs, and potential impacts that could be seen in the next 25 years. Additionally, transportation projects were identified that the SAWMPO could advance to address regional needs.

Mr. Beard noted that public engagement would be emphasized for this update and requested that BTAC members provide essential input on transportation needs and barriers faced by disadvantaged communities in the region.



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- **New Transportation Planner & Promotion Announcements:** Ms. Melester introduced the new CSPDC Transportation Planner Garreth Bartholomew. Additionally, Ms. Thompson announced Ms. Melester's new promotion to Director of Transportation.

### **Adjournment**

Chairperson Rodgers indicated that the next BTAC meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, July 10, 2024, at 2:30 PM at the CSPDC office.

There being no further business to come before the BTAC, the meeting concluded at 3:00 PM.