



**Advancing the Plan Committee Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2023**

Jurisdictions/Organization	Committee Members Present	Centralina Staff and Guests Present
City of Kannapolis City of Charlotte City of Salisbury Gaston Business Alliance Anson County City of Gastonia Gaston County Charlotte Regional Business Alliance City of Kings Mountain Gaston County Mecklenburg County Huntersville Cabarrus County City of Charlotte City of Concord NC Public Transportation Stanly County	Darrell Hinnant Vi Lyles Karen Alexander Pat Mumford Jarvis Woodburn Jennifer Stepp Bob Hovis Janet LaBar Scott Neisler Kim Eagle Leigh Altman Melinda Bales Mike Downs Marcus Jones Lloyd Payne David Rhew Andy Lucas	Michelle Nance, Centralina Jason Wager, Centralina Narissa Claiborne, Centralina Sarah Niess, Centralina Geraldine Gardner, Centralina Guests Jason Lawrence, CATS Patrick McDonough, HDR Amanda Vandergrift, InfraStrategies

Call to Order:

Mayor Lyles called the meeting to order and recognized that these Committee meetings are open meetings. Mayor Hinnant welcomed the Committee and recognized the work for the day:

Committee Meeting Objectives:

- **Confirm** preference for regionally coordinated model and **develop** concepts for remaining building blocks of model
- **Evaluate** pathways for implementing preferred regionally coordinated model
- **Learn** about project updates including legislative activities, grant requests and transit coordination activities

Agenda Items:

1. Approval of July 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion (Commissioner Hovis), Second (Mayor Neisler) and the Committee members approved the July 28, 2023 Advancing the Plan Committee meeting minutes.

2. Building A Jellyfish

Centralina Deputy Executive Director, Michelle Nance, recapped the Advancing the Plan Committee year end goals and suggested that the Committee add two meetings this fall (October and December) in order for the Committee to make recommendations by the end of the year. Ms. Nance presented revised Guiding Principles based on feedback from the Committee and emphasized that these principles should be focused on the traveler/rider. The Committee confirmed these Guiding Principles.

Ms. Nance also revisited the Committee's work from the July meeting and the group's preference for a "Jellyfish Model" focused on regionally coordinated activities aimed at improving rider experience and regional planning. The model has three Building Blocks: Transit Functions, Funding and Formation/Governance. Transit functions for the "Jellyfish Model" were presented in more detail and Committee members engaged in an activity to identify the benefits of the Jellyfish Model for their communities.

Confirming "Jellyfish" as preferred model for regional coordination:

Motion (Mayor Neisler), Second (Commissioner Hovis) and Committee moved to confirm the "Jellyfish Model" as preferred model.

3. Funding Strategies for a Jellyfish

Amanda Vandergrift, InfraStrategies, presented the Committee information on budgets from peer regions to perform "Jellyfish Model" type of activities. Additionally, Ms. Vandergrift presented information on three funding strategies that could be used to fund a "Jellyfish Model" – (1) Vehicle Registration Tax; (2) Rental Vehicle Tax; (3) Incremental Sales Tax (1/4 cent available outside of Mecklenburg). The authority required, revenue potential, tax implications and potential geographic distribution of funds was presented for each funding strategy. Additionally, the Triangle region was presented as an example. Committee members engaged in an activity to identify strengths and weaknesses of these three funding strategies.

4. Pathways to a Jellyfish

Patrick McDonough, HDR, presented 5 pathways available for the region to form a partnership to implement the "Jellyfish Model." Depending on the implementation pathway, the membership of the Board/Parties involved will change. Pathways include: (1) Interlocal Agreement; (2) Joint Powers Agency; (3) Formation under Existing NC General Statutes; (4) New legislation and (5) Amended Legislation. Led by Centralina Executive Director, Geraldine Gardner, Committee members engaged in a discussion on the details of each pathway.

5. CONNECT Beyond Project Updates

Jason Wager, Director of Regional Planning at Centralina Regional Council, gave an overview of CONNECT Beyond's latest implementation activities, including:

- CONNECT Beyond state budget item did not pass.
- Regional TDM Program: A key CONNECT Beyond recommendation is the development of a regional TDM program. This fall the TDM project team is

engaging with stakeholders about the regional TDM plan and will also be working on identifying TDM “hot spots” in the region.

- Seamless CONNECTIONs: CATS has received a grant from NCDOT to increase regional transit coordination through a shared scheduling software, Remix. Received letters of support from City of Gastonia and City of Concord. If implemented, this will improve coordination between transit operators in the region.
- Grants: Centralina submitted two grants for federal funding: (1) Climate and Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) and (2) Regional Infrastructure Accelerator Grant. Centralina has received the CPRG planning grant and EPA has announced related funding opportunities, with a deadline of April 1, 2024.

Closing Comments

Mayor Lyles and Mayor Hinnant thanked Committee members for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting.