



**Advancing the Plan Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**December 15, 2023**

| Jurisdictions/Organization  | Committee Members Present   | Centralina Staff and Guests Present   |
|---|---|---|
| City of Kannapolis<br>Gaston Economic Development Group<br>Charlotte Regional Business Alliance<br>NC Board of Transportation<br>City of Gastonia<br>Mecklenburg County<br>Mecklenburg County<br>Town of Davidson<br>Anson County<br>Stanly County<br>Centralina Regional Council | Mayor Darrell Hinnant, Co-Chair<br>Pat Mumford<br>Janet Labar<br>Tony Lathrop<br>Councilmember Jennifer Stepp<br>Commissioner Leigh Altman<br>Dena Diorio<br>Mayor Rusty Knox<br>Commissioner Woodburn<br>Andy Lucas<br>Geraldine Gardner | Michelle Nance,<br>Centralina<br>Jason Wager,<br>Centralina<br>Narissa Knight,<br>Centralina<br>Sarah Niess,<br>Centralina<br><br><b>Guests</b><br>Jason Lawrence,<br>CATS<br><br><b>Remote Guests</b><br>Lauren Livingston, City<br>of Charlotte<br>Jorge Luna, HDR<br>Patrick McDonough,<br>HDR |

**Call to Order**

Mayor Hinnant called the meeting to order, welcomed the Committee, and recognized the work for the day: Meeting objectives:

- **Recognize** the Committee’s dedication to this work over the past year.
- **Define** next steps for the Committee, including activities, roles, and responsibilities for 2024
- Provide a **legislative update** related to establishing a governance structure for implementing the “Jellyfish” model.

## **Agenda Items:**

### **Agenda Item 1: Approval of October 20, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Altman motioned, and Councilmember Stepp seconded, and the Committee members approved the October 20, 2023, Advancing the Plan Committee meeting minutes.

### **Agenda Item 2: Committee Work Session and Activities for 2024**

#### **a. Reflections on 2023 Committee Work:**

Centralina's Executive Director, Geraldine Gardner, reviewed the Committee's 2023 goals and Committee activities and accomplishments. Ms. Gardner and Mayor Hinnant recognized the Committee's commitment and noted the Committee's three departing members, Mayor Neisler, Mayor Pappas, and Mayor Bales who are transitioning off the Committee. The Centralina Board Chair will approve replacement Committee members. Ms. Geraldine reviewed key goals for 2024 around developing the governance structure for the preferred model, engaging the legislature, advancing communications/education, and achieving some early wins in 2024.

#### **b. Preferred Model Approach:**

Centralina Deputy Executive Director, Michelle Nance, recapped the building blocks of the "Jellyfish Model" and reviewed the regional benefits of the model and transit coordination. Ms. Nance also presented slides recapping the Committee's prioritization of transit functions of the Jellyfish Model from the October meeting. The Committee participated in engagement around renaming the Jellyfish Model.

#### **c. Legislative Update and Governance Structure:**

Chris Wall, EQV Strategic, briefed the Committee on the most feasible ways to form a governance structure legislatively and an overview of legislative activities that will be needed. Mr. Wall said that is unlikely that amending existing statutes will work, so there will need to be a new statute for the Charlotte region. Mr. Wall also discussed the timing of legislative activities for the short session vs. the long session. He emphasized the need to have local support for this process – before talking to legislators. Ms. Gardner engaged the Committee on legislative readiness activities and the timing of these activities.

#### **d. Communications: Making the Case:**

Ms. Gardner reviewed the communication needs of the Committee in 2024 and emphasized the need for members to communicate with Boards/Stakeholders in early 2024 and on an ongoing basis. Centralina Board will receive a report in January about the Advancing the Plan Committee. Ms. Gardner shared a proposed communication plan with the group and engaged the Committee for feedback and reactions.

#### **e. Looking Ahead – Early Wins:**

Regional Planning Director, Jason Wager, shared details about major CONNECT Beyond implementation activities for 2024 including launching a Transportation Demand

Management plan and implementing transit coordination through Seamless CONNECTIONs. The Committee would like to stay engaged and informed on these activities in 2024.

**Closing Comments**

Mayor Hinnant thanked Committee members for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.