

**GRTC Development Committee**

Meeting Date: April 16, 2026

Meeting Time: 1:30pm

Meeting Location: GRTC Board Room

**Committee Members:**

Barb Smith, Chair

Dave Anderson

Terrell Hughes

**Virtual:**

Odie Donald

**Staff Participants:**

Sheryl Adams

Joe Dillard Jr.

Kevin Hernandez

Dexter Hurt

Adrienne Torres

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order once quorum was established. Members noted that one committee member was running a few minutes late prior to the official start of the meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to allow Mr. Odie Donald to participate virtually. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the previous meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

**Action Item: Expansion Allocation Framework**

Staff presented the proposed Expansion Allocation Framework regarding future service expansions, frequency increases, and microtransit service requests initiated by jurisdictions or businesses. The framework proposed evaluating services on a spectrum of “regional” versus “local” benefit, with associated funding participation percentages assigned accordingly.

Staff explained that the framework included service examples such as Route 1, 1A, Route 7 frequency improvements, Route 18, Route 19, and several microtransit zones. Staff clarified that route replacement microtransit services were excluded from expansion classifications because they were intended to provide existing service more efficiently rather than represent net new service.

Committee members discussed concerns regarding how percentages were determined within the proposed framework. Questions were raised regarding the methodology and metrics used to justify specific percentage allocations and whether the framework relied too heavily on subjective determinations. Staff shared that consultant analyses, route performance data, corridor activity, density, and ridership information were utilized to help establish percentage recommendations.

Discussion also focused heavily on the long-term sustainability of expansion services and the financial implications for both GRTC and participating localities. Members emphasized the need for additional multi-year financial modeling to better understand the long-term impact of maintaining existing grant-supported services once grant funding expires.

Committee members discussed how the framework aligned with the FY28 Regional Public Transportation Plan currently under development. Staff noted that three future service scenarios are being evaluated as part of that planning effort, including baseline, moderate growth, and unconstrained growth scenarios.

Several members expressed concern that adopting a rigid framework too early could unintentionally discourage future regional expansion opportunities, particularly in outer jurisdictions with limited financial capacity. Discussion included examples involving Goochland, Hanover, Ashland, Powhatan, and Chesterfield County services.

Staff provided historical context regarding transit expansion requests, explaining that most service expansions historically originated from jurisdictions working collaboratively with GRTC and were generally accompanied by local financial participation.

The committee further discussed the financial sustainability of demonstration and pilot services funded through grants, particularly microtransit pilots. Members noted the importance of understanding how services could continue after grants expire and whether localities would be willing or able to assume larger funding responsibilities.

Mr. Odie Donald requested additional discussion regarding Chesterfield County's approach to pursuing technical assistance grants and demonstration grants before implementing services. Staff and committee members acknowledged lessons learned from prior assumptions regarding long-term funding sustainability.

Committee consensus generally supported continuing to evaluate the framework while prioritizing additional financial modeling and sustainability analysis before formal adoption. Members emphasized the importance of developing repeatable and defensible criteria for future service expansion decisions.

Staff advised that updated financial projections and alternative funding scenarios would be prepared following the release of pending grant award decisions and ahead of the upcoming Finance Committee budget discussions.

Direction to Staff

The committee directed staff to:

- Continue refining the proposed Expansion Allocation Framework.
- Develop additional financial modeling scenarios showing the impact of maintaining or reducing current grant-supported services.
- Provide additional productivity, ridership, and sustainability data.
- Coordinate further discussions with impacted localities regarding potential future financial participation.
- Integrate future framework discussions into the FY28 Regional Public Transportation Plan process.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:27pm with no further business discussed.