

Meeting Minutes

City Council/School Board Subcommittee

June 22

5:00 p.m.

ACPS Board Room

1340 Braddock Road

In-Person with Zoom Access

(Links to this meeting are posted on the [City and ACPS Websites](#))

City Council and School Board Member Attendees:

Mayor Alyia Gaskins

Councilman John Chapman

School Board Chair Michelle Rief

School Board Vice Chair Christopher Harris

ITEM #1: TRANSPORTATION: PARATRANSIT PROGRAM

The Committee received a presentation from Owen Albrecht, Paratransit and Accessible Transportation Manager for the City of Alexandria, on the City's ADA paratransit program. Mr. Albrecht provided an overview of the program's purpose, eligibility requirements, service area, and operating hours. He also reviewed FY2025 ridership and on-time performance, highlighted recent improvements to customer service, fleet operations, communications, and the fare structure, and discussed upcoming initiatives, including travel training, implementation of integrated transportation software, and a mobility pass program.

Committee members discussed how ADA paratransit fits within the City's broader transportation network and explored potential uses of the service for school-aged riders outside of traditional school transportation. The discussion included the distinctions between ADA paratransit and transportation provided under special education law, as well as the limitations of paratransit for transporting younger children. Staff explained that drivers do not have custodial responsibility for riders, cannot guarantee a handoff at destinations, require trips to be scheduled in advance, operate shared-ride service, and must comply with car seat requirements for younger passengers. The Committee also discussed opportunities to coordinate with the City's Therapeutic Recreation program and other City services that support youth with disabilities. Staff emphasized that ADA paratransit is intended to provide the public transportation services required under the Americans with Disabilities Act and is not designed to replace specialized school transportation.

ITEM #2: FY27 WORKPLAN

The Committee reviewed the proposed FY2027 meeting calendar and annual work plan. Members generally supported the proposed topics and discussed ways to improve the effectiveness of future meetings by establishing clear objectives, identifying desired outcomes and deliverables, incorporating framing questions for presentations, and clarifying expected follow-up actions resulting from each discussion.

The Committee recommended moving discussion of legislative priorities earlier in the annual calendar to provide sufficient time for consideration before General Assembly legislative deadlines. Staff agreed to revise the proposed schedule accordingly.

Members also discussed the timing of updates related to the Long-Range Educational Facilities Plan, opportunities for shared facilities and shared services between the City and ACPS, and the importance of providing early information to support future capital planning discussions. The Committee further discussed improving coordination between the City's budget process and ACPS's capital planning schedule, with staff committing to continue coordinating calendars and identifying opportunities for joint work sessions.

The Committee also discussed moving the Youth Employment agenda item earlier in the year so that any recommendations could inform program planning before implementation begins. Staff agreed to review potential adjustments to the annual calendar.

Action Items:

- Staff will revise the FY2027 meeting calendar to move legislative priorities earlier in the schedule.
- Staff will develop objectives, framing questions, and expected outcomes for each work plan topic.
- Vice Chair Harris will draft proposed objectives and discussion questions for future meetings.
- Staff will coordinate with City and ACPS budget staff to identify dates for future joint work sessions.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.