



Charlotte City Council
Transportation & Planning Committee
Meeting Summary for January 12, 2015

COMMITTEE AGENDA TOPICS

- I. **Subject:** University City Area Plan
Action: For information only
- II. **Subject:** Walkability Scan and Charlotte WALKS
Action: For information only
- III. **Subject:** 2015 Committee Meeting Schedule and Future Topics
Action: Adopted the 2015 meeting schedule

COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Present: Vi Lyles, David Howard, Patsy Kinsey, Greg Phipps, Kenny Smith

Time: 3:30 pm – 12:55 pm

ATTACHMENTS

Handouts
Agenda package

DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

Committee Chair Lyles called the meeting to order at 3:30 asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves.

I. **University City Area Plan**

Lyles: We have an hour for this meeting, so I'll ask Debra to dive right in and introduce the University City Area Plan. It's for information only, but more importantly, what we have to look forward to with this plan.

Campbell: Thank you Ms. Lyles. I'm turning this over to Ed McKinney and ask him to introduce the plan, but while I have the floor, I'll go ahead and introduce the second item, which is the Walkability Scan and Charlotte WALKS. This is an item we've deferred a couple of times and we're hoping we can get you all to allow Scott to present this one. We'll need an action

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from you for agenda item III to adopt your meeting schedule for this calendar year, and we've added a number of subject matters that are in your committee. You've got a lot on your plate. With that I'll turn it over to Ed.

McKinney: This is an area plan that we started over a year ago. We've just wrapped up a public workshop in early December, and we are now gearing up for the adoption process. We want to provide a two-step discussion. Today, we're giving you an overview of the process we've been through including the structure and organization of the plan, the key highlights leading up to a follow up meeting with the Committee about the structure leading to adoption process. I'll turn it over to Mandy Vari.

Ms.Vari started the presentation at slide 2 of the attached (University City Area Plan).

Smith: Are we on track for 2017?

Campbell: Yes, we are.

Ms.Vari resumed the presentation at slide 6 of the attached (University City Area Plan).

Lyles: Did you say pain point? What is a pain point example?

Vari: We are having trouble linking our policy documents to our implementation tools, so a way to alleviate that was to work with our rezoning team to make sure the terms we were using and the things we were including in our plan were able to be directly linked to our documents.

Lyles: So, if there was an acquisition of property for a certain type of development and someone had this document, would they clearly understand what the plan recommends?

Vari: It's not that specific, but it uses terms that help us achieve the vision with our ordinances.

Lyles: I think it's important that the Plan is clear.

Vari: We hope it is.

Howard: So, there's language that would make the Plan easier to translate to the zoning side that wasn't there before? Help me understand what the changes are.

Vari: We'll go over the different format changes to the Plan. One of those was to focus on very small geographies, and communicate the types of building orientation one would expect, and the types of treatments we would like to see to activate the pedestrian network, etc.

Howard: But that's what you changed last year. Is this the same?

McKinney: We worked with zoning staff to make sure the policies in place reflect what is happening in the marketplace now and the unique conditions in this area plan. We improved the language and level of detail in our policies so there is a clearer link when talking about

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development proposals.

Campbell: If we are not supporting a type of land use, we are actually communicating that certain types of land use would not be appropriate.

Smith: Regarding this level of detail, how much input does the development community have to mesh with what people are actually willing to build?

Vari: We brought these out to the community and we have worked with stakeholders. We revised any unrealistic policy proposals.

Smith: Is our vision one the people with the money are actually going to follow?

Campbell: Absolutely. Hours and hours of testing were done. I suggest we were very concerned about whether or not we are challenging the development community to build things that will last. We have challenged the community to do better.

Lyles: At the next meeting, tell us how all this works together.

Smith: I envision these processes as a triangle where we have all the stakeholders (staff, development and the community) at the table.

Campbell: I want to also impress upon you the importance of working with the rezoning staff who are talking to the developers on a regular basis in terms of what is feasible or reasonable.

Smith: I'm not trying to critique staff, I just want to make sure all the stakeholders are there so we're not voting on something and getting negative feedback months later.

Howard: I think it's important to have the current stakeholders at the table. We want University City and need people with thoughts about the future. I don't know how you capture that. The research park never took off, and we need to get that going again.

Lyles: I don't know that we're in conflict, but are trying to understand better.

Phipps: We're seeing development in that corridor that's about to take off. You talk about intentionality, but already we're seeing By Right development doing things we might not see as conducive to our vision there right now. Do you envision where we would embark on a corrective rezoning type initiative?

Lyles: This Committee could make that recommendation. This will be back on the agenda a couple of times. Let's talk that through as a committee.

Ms. Vari resumed the presentation at slide 8 of the attached (University City Area Plan).

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Howard: Some time ago we were talking about development in surrounding neighborhoods. First, I'd like to know more about the involvement of the University and how this bumps up to College Downs and other established neighborhoods. Second, what are we doing to ensure we are properly buffering to be respectful of the growth needs of the University as well as abutting neighborhood conditions?

Vari: We'll bring this back.

Howard: To what extent have you communicated with the University area?

Vari: We usually meet with UNCC and University Partners together.

Phipps: At the community meetings they had stations all around to collect feedback.

Ms. Vari resumed the presentation at slide 13 of the attached (University City Area Plan).

Howard: I'd like to do a deeper dive with one of you since it looks like you'll soon be seeking a recommendation.

Campbell: The Plan will be on the Business Agenda for public comment this month.

Lyles: We'll do a deeper dive when they come back. This was an introduction. Next we'll get the book, and then they'll come back and start walking us through it for as long as necessary. Thank you, Mandy. Scott we'll let you jump right in and get started on the Walkability Scan.

II. Walkability Scan and Charlotte WALKS

Mr. Curry started the presentation at slide 2 of the attached (Charlotte WALKS: Taking the Next Steps).

Howard: What can we do to keep people from walking across South Boulevard where there aren't crosswalks to get to a bus stop? How do we marry the walkability conversation with CATS bus stops?

Campbell: We have a Transportation Cabinet made up of an interdepartmental team. Issues like the one you just raised are priorities for the cabinet. There is an internal dialogue and we've had a lengthy conversation about your concern. Our next evolution is how we enhance walkability.

Howard: I live in Steele Creek where there was a pedestrian fatality, and a mid-block crosswalk was later installed. I don't know if a similar crosswalk would work on South Boulevard?

Lyles: I'm going to add that South Boulevard is heavily used by commuters coming into town. We've built communities along South Boulevard where 8,000 people now live, and we have the Trail, retail and services on both sides of the busy street. It's going to require a lot of thought because we are retrofitting. South Boulevard is an area that we need to be sensitive to because we said it is a neighborhood where we want people to come. It's a major concern.

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Mr. Curry resumed the presentation, skipping to slide 28 of the attached (Charlotte WALKS: Taking the Next Steps).

Phipps: Would we prioritize areas with no sidewalk versus changing back of curb sidewalk that currently exists?

Curry: Our funding framework only supports areas where there is no sidewalk.

Mr. Curry concluded the presentation.

Lyles: I wonder if we have time to talk about this among ourselves before we take it to a Council meeting. I think about our current processes and funding, and how is it proposed to be under this? I also think about the old designs of sidewalks being right next to the street, and gaps between new development and existing infrastructure.

Howard: How does this conversation fit into the TAP, because that is where the full list of needs exist?

Campbell: I would suggest that you think about this from a broader perspective as part of your update of the Focus Area Plan.

Lyles: Generally, you have roads, bikes and sidewalks all on one comprehensive document so you're looking at something you can visualize and understand.

Howard: It's really asking if the pedestrian part of the Focus Area Plan is strong enough.

Lyles: Scott, you've got our interest and we'll see you back again.

Smith: Scott is a great resource who has worked with our community. He's a phenomenal resource, and I want to publicly thank him.

Lyles: We still have one more agenda item, and it's the adoption of our schedule.

III. 2015 Committee Meeting Schedule and Future Topics

Lyles: We are scheduled on the second Monday from 3:30-4:30 p.m. I wonder if the Committee wants us to stick to the hour or start earlier and meet for 1.5 hours.

Kinsey: Can we start at 3:00 p.m.?

Phipps: I'd rather start at 3:00 p.m. than end at 5:00 p.m.

Lyles: So you want to meet from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the second Monday?

Mr. Howard made a motion to approve the schedule with the Monday meeting to starting at 3:00 p.m. in lieu of 3:30 p.m. Mr. Smith seconded the motion and everyone concurred.

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The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.



University City Area Plan

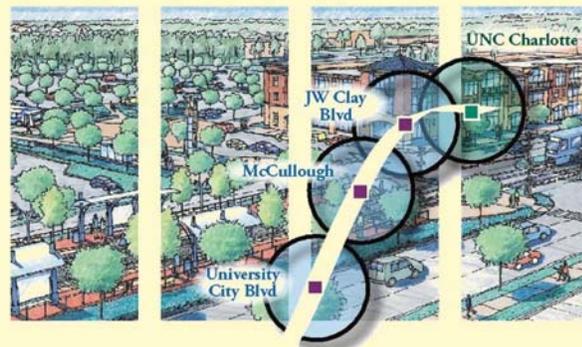
Transportation and Planning Committee

January 22, 2015



Today's Presentation

- **Review of TAP Questions**
- **Planning Process**
 - Elements
 - Process
 - Example
- **Policy Recommendations**
 - Transit Station Areas
- **Next Steps**



TAP Committee Questions:

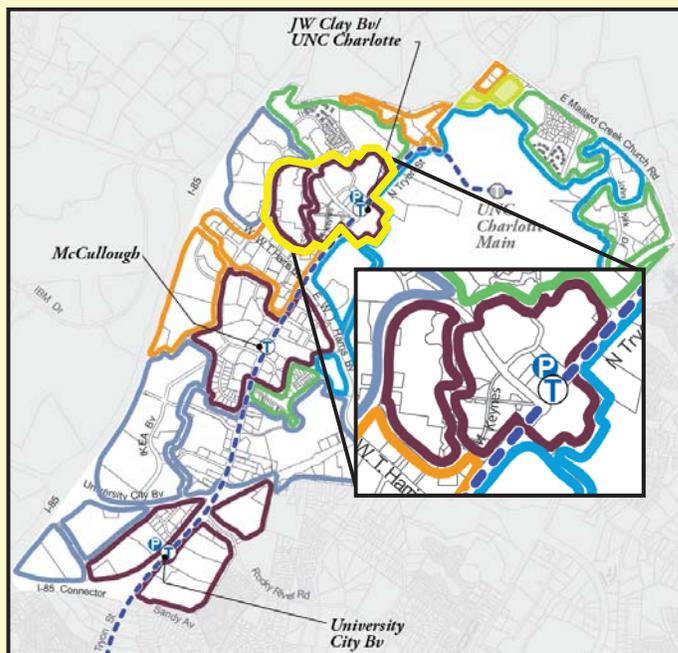
- How were policies developed? Market Study?
- Who have we worked with? UNC Charlotte?
- Land Use Planning Enhancements - “pain points”?
- Protection of established neighborhoods?
- Implementation? Rezoning?

How are policies developed?

Community Input	Market Study	Existing Conditions	Key Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Meetings • Online tools • Phone, email, one-on-one meetings • Neighborhood meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forecast for uses out to 2035 • Strengths and weaknesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Use • Form • Character • Opportunities • Zoning • Infrastructure • Connectivity • Environment • Population & Employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University City Partners • UNC Charlotte • Property Owners

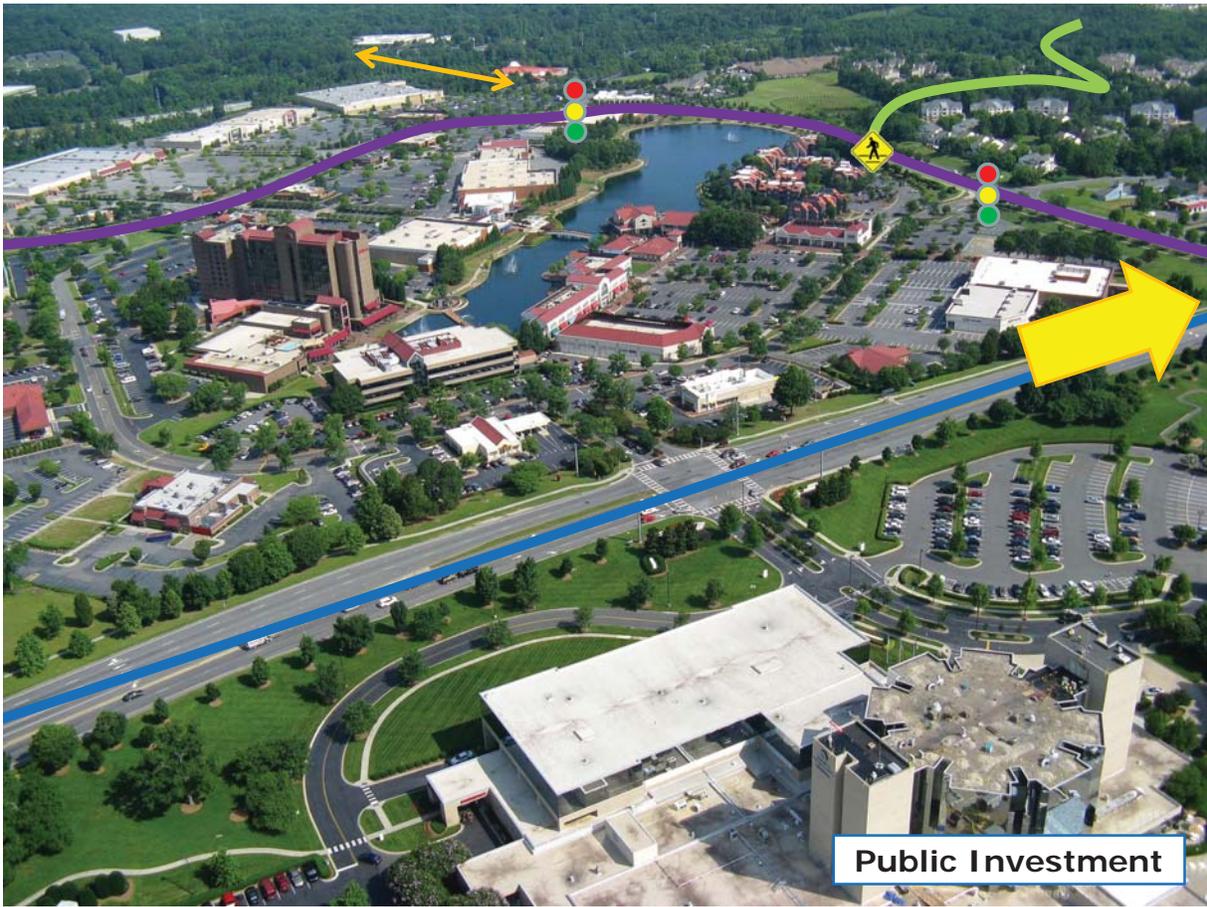
What is included in Policy Recommendations?

Land Use	Community Design	Mobility	Open Space
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate uses • Mix of uses • Ground floor uses • Inappropriate uses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building height, location and orientation • Street activation • Parking location and screening • Ground floor design • Designing for pedestrians 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street connections • Street improvements • Multi-use paths and pedestrian crossings • Block lengths • Driveway access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation • Walking trails • Consolidate open space • Greenways and overland connectors • Gathering places



- Study Area
- Character Area
- Policy Area
 - JW Clay Blvd./UNC Charlotte Transit Station Area



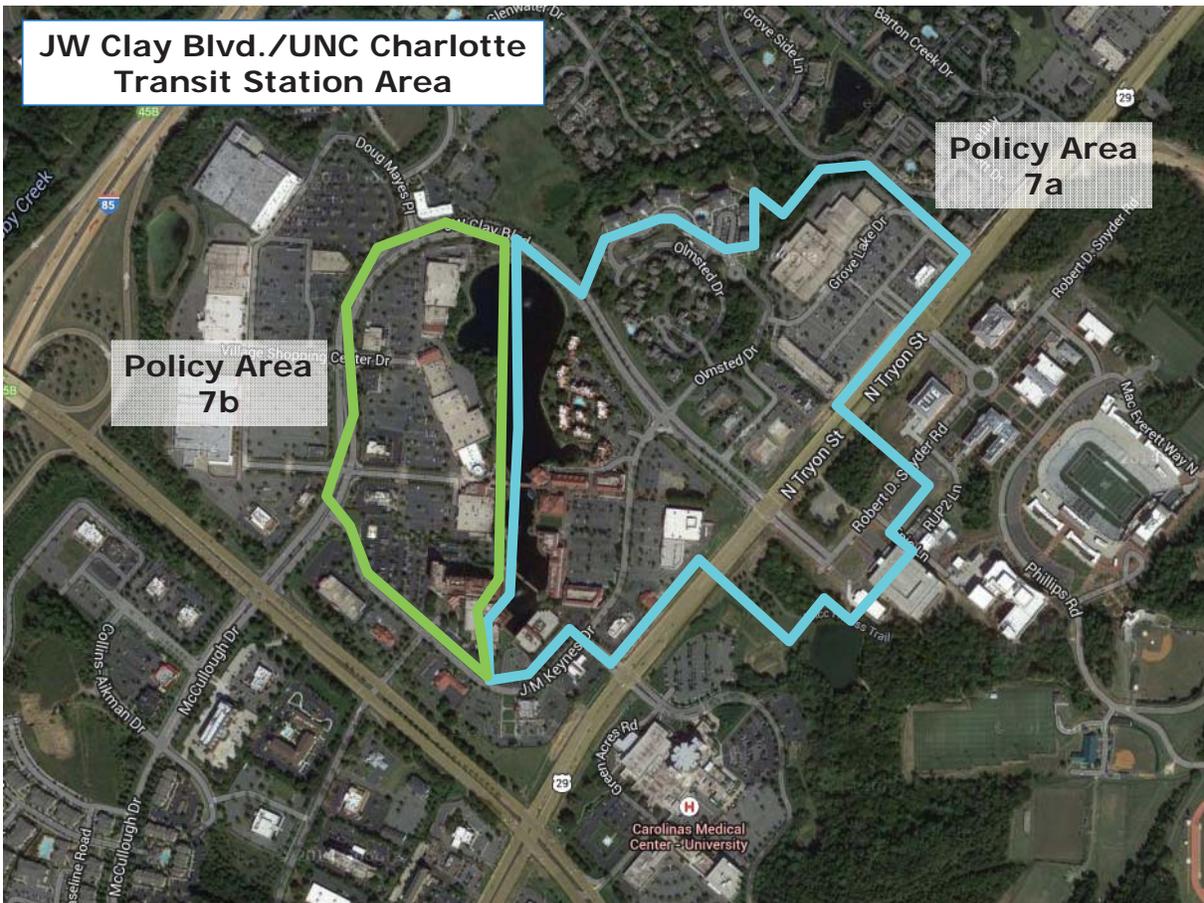


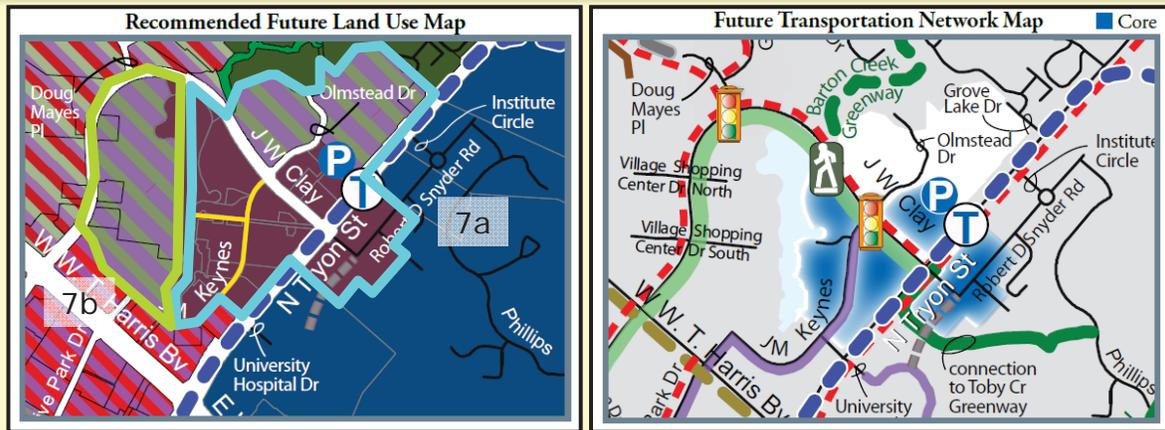
Public Investment



Foundation of
UNC Charlotte

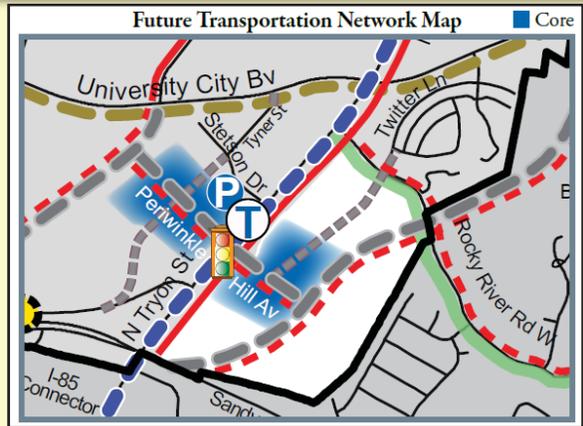
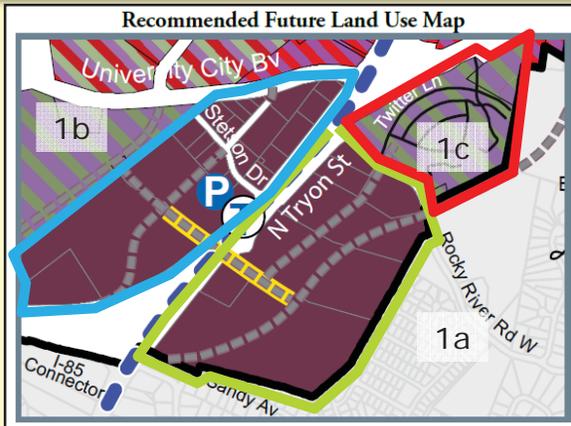
Opportunities





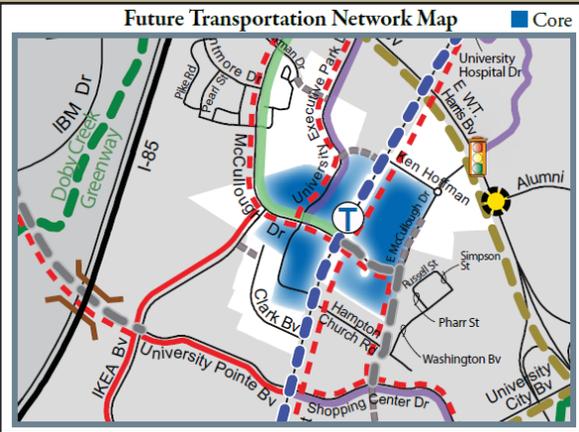
- Written text is an essential part of the policies and works hand-in-hand with these maps
- “Core” of the transit station area
- Active ground floor street
- Parking facilities
- Street activation
- Pedestrian network – building off of the boardwalk
- Lake-boardwalk-open space-greenway → Network



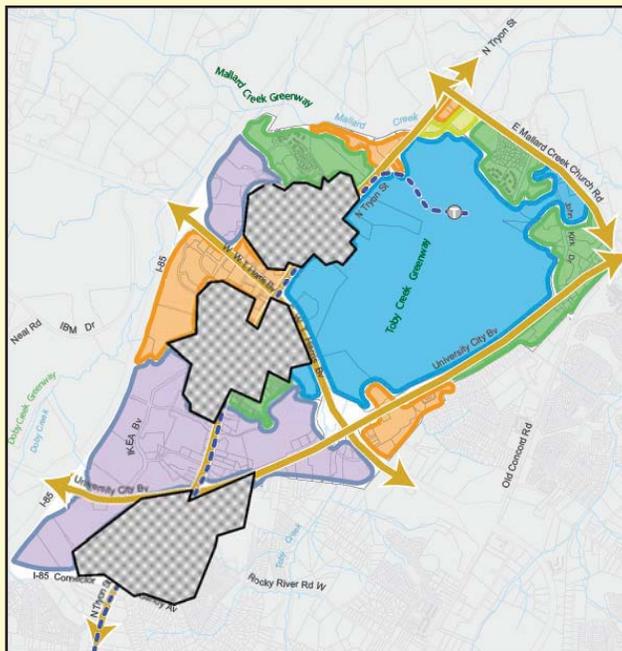


- Future Transit Neighborhood
- Periwinkle Hill Avenue
 - "Core"
- Connectivity
- Variety of residential housing types
- Protect adjacent established Rocky River Village neighborhood
- Open space – stream corridor





- Office/Employment based – supportive uses
- Protect adjacent established Hampton Park neighborhood
- Connectivity of McCullough Dr.
- “Core” policies



Next Meeting

- Covered Transit Station Areas today
- Will cover all other Character Areas next meeting
- Answer remaining TAP questions
 - Established Neighborhoods
 - Implementation



University City Area Plan Next Steps - *Tentative*

2015

Jan. – Planning Committee public comment
– TAP Committee - information

Feb. – TAP Committee referral to Council for public comment
– City Council public comment
– Planning Committee recommendation

March – TAP Committee recommendation

April – City Council Action



University City Area Plan Comments

Email BLEStationAreaPlans@charlottenc.gov

Call Planning Staff at 704-336-5718

Attend Public Comment opportunities at
Planning Committee and/or City Council
meetings

Thank You!

<http://UCAP.charlotteplanning.org>

Updates for Blue Line Extension

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook:

 @BLEupdates

 [Facebook.com/CATSBBlueLineExtensionUpdates](https://www.facebook.com/CATSBBlueLineExtensionUpdates)

Transportation & Planning Committee
Monday, January 12, 2015
3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center
Room 280

Committee Members: Vi Lyles, Chair
David Howard, Vice Chair
Patsy Kinsey
Greg Phipps
Kenny Smith

Staff Resource: Debra Campbell, City Manager's Office

AGENDA

I. University City Area Plan –20 minutes

Resources: Amanda Vari and Kathy Cornett, Planning

The draft University City Area Plan includes three transit station area plans along the Blue Line Extension alignment and surrounding areas. Staff will provide an overview of the planning process, introduce the Plan, describe new techniques used to improve policy guidance for future development and discuss the schedule for Council review and adoption of the Plan.

Action: For information only

Link to the Project website: <http://UCAP.charlotteplanning.org>

II. Walkability Scan and Charlotte WALKS – 30 minutes

Resource: Scott Curry, Transportation

Staff will update the Committee on The Charlotte WALKS effort. The Charlotte Walks initiative will coordinate the City's various efforts related to pedestrian safety and walkability including the walkability scan, and offer recommendations for actions the City can take to make Charlotte a more walkable community.

Action: For information only

Attachment: 1. Charlotte WALKS: Taking the Next Steps.pdf

III. 2015 Committee Meeting Schedule and Future Topics – 10 minutes

Resource: Debra Campbell, City Manager's Office

Review and adopt the proposed 2015 meeting schedule, and review upcoming agenda items.

Actions: Adopt the proposed 2015 Committee meeting schedule and discuss topics to be presented at future Committee meetings.

Attachment: 2. 2015 Proposed Committee Meeting Schedule.doc

- Permitting and Inspection Process Review
- Zoning Ordinance Update
- Auto Oriented Uses
- Parking near Colleges and Universities
- Prosperity Hucks Area Plan
- University City Area Plan
- Transit Oriented Development Review
- Focus Area Plan Review

Next Scheduled Meeting: January 22 at 12:00 p.m.



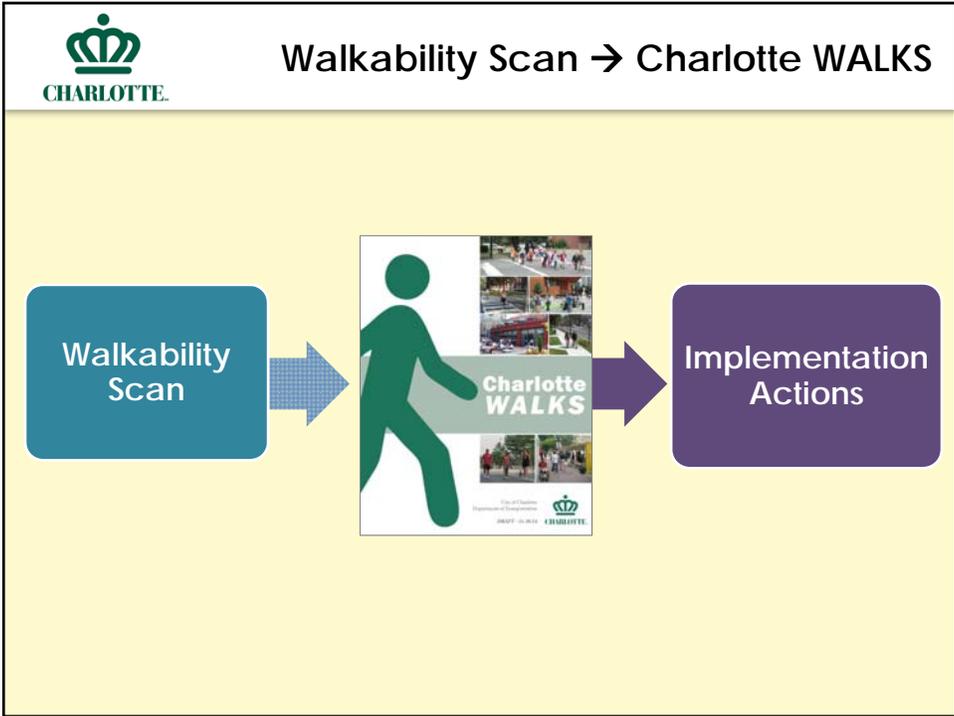
Charlotte WALKS:

Taking the Next Steps

CDOT Pedestrian Program | January 12, 2015



We are all pedestrians



This slide features the Charlotte logo and title 'Walkability Scan → Charlotte WALKS' at the top. The left side has a yellow background with the text 'Walkability Scan' in green and a green silhouette of a woman holding a child's hand. The right side has a dark blue background with a grid pattern and lists the following criteria:

- USEFUL**
 1. Variety of destinations & land uses
 2. Minimal walking distance
 3. Clear & obvious access to buildings
- SAFE**
 4. Separation from traffic
 5. Safe & convenient crossings
 6. Sense of security
- INVITING**
 7. Space to walk
 8. Visual interest & activity
 9. Screening from the elements




CHARLOTTE.

- *Steps Toward a More Walkable Charlotte*




CHARLOTTE.

- Steps Toward a More Walkable Charlotte
- *Charlotte's Ongoing Challenges*




CHARLOTTE.

- Steps Toward a More Walkable Charlotte
- Charlotte's Ongoing Challenge
- *Charlotte WALKS Strategy*




CHARLOTTE.

- Steps Toward a More Walkable Charlotte
- Charlotte's Ongoing Challenge
- Charlotte WALKS Strategy
- *Let's Take a Walk*





- Steps Toward a More Walkable Charlotte
- Charlotte's Ongoing Challenge
- Charlotte WALKS Strategy
- Let's Take a Walk
- *Preliminary Recommendations*

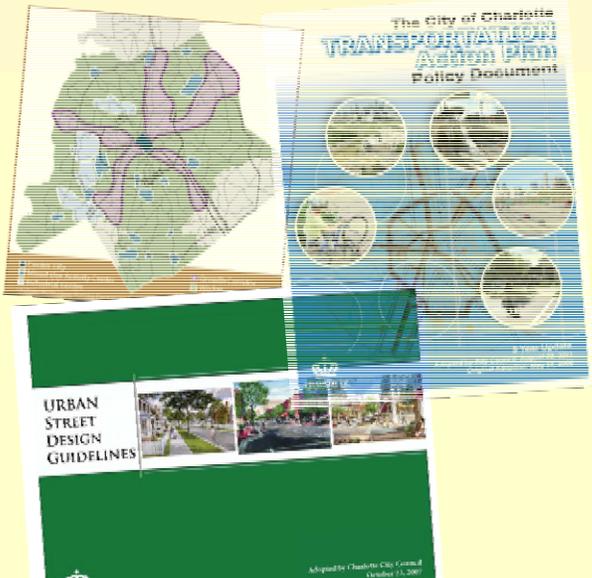


Steps Toward a More Walkable Charlotte

 **Steps Toward a More Walkable Charlotte**

Complete Streets Policies

- Centers, Corridors, and Wedges Growth Framework
- Transportation Action Plan
- Urban Street Design Guidelines
- Capital Investments
- Private Sector Improvements



 **Steps Toward a More Walkable Charlotte**

Better pedestrian environments through capital projects



Before **After**

 Steps Toward a More Walkable Charlotte

Better pedestrian environments through private development



Before After

 Steps Toward a More Walkable Charlotte



We're supporting more transportation choices than we ever have before.



Steps Toward a More Walkable Charlotte



City capital programs
Over 200 miles of new
sidewalks since 2002



Charlotte's Ongoing Challenges



Charlotte's Ongoing Challenges

What do Charlotteans think about walkability?

(National Citizen Survey, 2014.)

- 24% rate the ease of walking as "Poor."
- Peer City Comparison – Charlotte rated lower in
 - Ease of walkability
 - Frequency of walking or biking, instead of driving



Charlotte's Ongoing Challenges

Sustainability Report Card

(Sustain Charlotte, 2014.)

Transportation Evaluation

- Local Trend Grade: B



*Charlotte Department of Transportation
2014 Community Sustainability Award Winner: Transportation*

*We've come a long way,
but we can still do more.*



Charlotte's Ongoing Challenges

Why is Charlotte still such a challenging place for pedestrians?

1950 to 2000

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

Move as many cars as we can as fast as we can.

POPULATION

More than quadrupled from 134,000 to 570,000

AREA

+213 square miles

Growth in Charlotte Following WWII

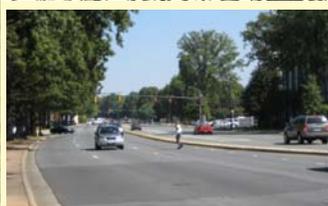
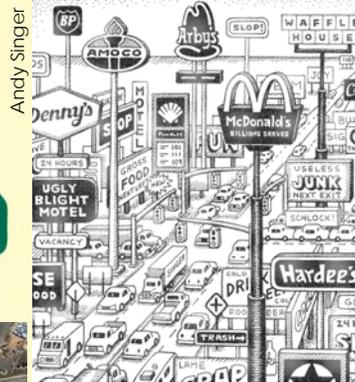


We forgot about walkability.



Charlotte's Ongoing Challenges

Our development legacy...



 **Charlotte's Ongoing Challenges**

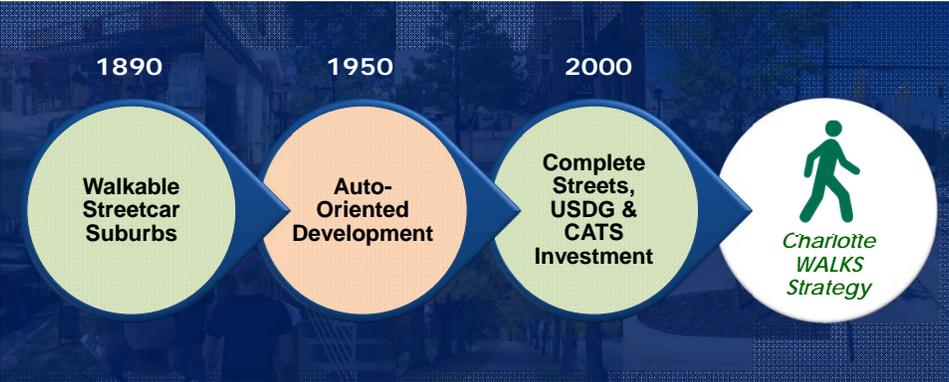
Our development legacy...



...wasn't always like that.

 **Charlotte's Ongoing Challenges**

Our development legacy...



...is getting better.





Charlotte WALKS Strategy



Charlotte WALKS Strategy

It's about more than sidewalks... It's about creating GREAT PLACES



 **Charlotte WALKS Strategy**

What is Walkability?



- USEFUL**
 1. Variety of destinations & land uses
 2. Minimal walking distance
 3. Clear & obvious access to buildings
- SAFE**
 4. Separation from traffic
 5. Safe & convenient crossings
 6. Sense of security
- INVITING**
 7. Space to walk
 8. Visual interest & activity
 9. Screening from the elements

 **Charlotte WALKS Strategy**

✓ **USEFUL**
SAFE
INVITING

Walkability



1 out of 3 isn't good enough



 **Charlotte WALKS Strategy**

USEFUL
✓ **SAFE**
✓ **INVITING**

Walkability



2 out of 3 isn't good enough



 **Charlotte WALKS Strategy**

✓ **USEFUL**
✓ **SAFE**
✓ **INVITING**

Walkability



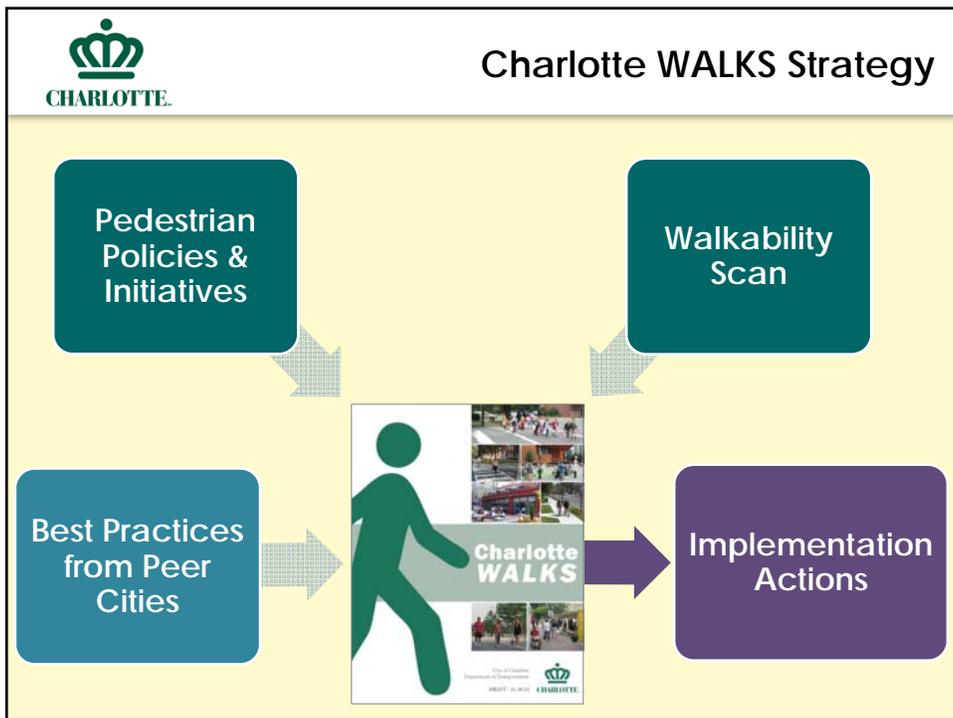


 **Charlotte**

Charlotte WALKS Strategy

- ✓ USEFUL
- ✓ SAFE
- ✓ INVITING

Walkability



 CHARLOTTE.

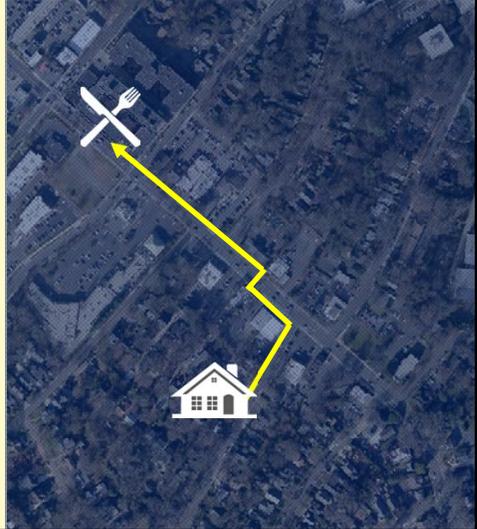


Let's Take a Walk

 CHARLOTTE.

Let's Take a Walk

Walk 1 – Mary **Walk 2 – Samantha**



 **Let's Take a Walk**

Walk 1 – Mary **Walk 2 – Samantha**



 **Let's Take a Walk**

Walk 1 – Mary **Walk 2 – Samantha**



 **Let's Take a Walk**

Walk 1 – Mary **Walk 2 – Samantha**



 **Preliminary Recommendations**



 **Preliminary Recommendations**

1. Safer and more frequent pedestrian crossings
2. Replace back-of-curb sidewalks along busy streets (public & private sector)
3. Review regulations for sidewalk construction in new development







Next Step

- Introduce Charlotte WALKS Strategy at future Council meeting



Questions?



*****DRAFT*****

Transportation & Planning Committee 2015 Meeting Schedule

2nd Monday of each month – 3:30 pm
4th Thursday of each month – 12:00 pm
Room 280
(unless otherwise noted)

January 12 at 3:30
January 22 at 12:00

February 9 at 3:30
February 26 at 1:00
(meeting time changed from 12:00 to 1:00)

March 26 at 12:00
(one meeting/2nd Monday conflicts with NLC Conference)

April 13 at 3:30
April 23 at 12:00

May 11 at 3:30
May 28 at 12:00

June 8 at 3:30
(one meeting/4th Thursday conflicts with Chamber Inter City Visit)

July 13 at 3:30
(one meeting / summer schedule)

August 3 at 3:30
(one meeting / summer schedule)

September 14 at 3:30
September 24 at 12:00

October 22 at 12:00
(one meeting/2nd Monday conflicts with NCLM Conference)

November 9 at 3:30
(one meeting/Thanksgiving holiday)

***No meeting in December pending new Committee assignments.**