

City Page

NEWS & INFORMATION FROM THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE

Pedestrian, bicycle connectivity workshops

The Charlotte Department of Transportation (CDOT) is holding public workshops to gather input from residents to help identify citywide projects that can enhance connectivity for bicycle and pedestrian access within Charlotte neighborhoods as part of a Pedestrian and Bicycle Neighborhood Connectivity Study.

Special guest speaker, Mark Fenton, host of the PBS series, *America's Walking*, and one of the nation's foremost experts on walking, will provide insight about the importance of having well-connected neighborhoods. One hour before each workshop, he also will offer an optional walking tour for participants.

During the workshops participants will get the chance to:

- Learn more about the importance and goal of the study
- Review potential pedestrian and bicycle connectivity projects
- Help identify additional connectivity opportunities within Charlotte

Tuesday, Jan. 24, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Optional walking tour begins at 5:30 p.m.
University City Library
301 E. W.T. Harris Blvd.

Wednesday, Jan. 25, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Optional walking tour begins at 5:30 p.m.
Plaza Midwood Library
1623 Central Ave.

Thursday, Jan. 26, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Optional walking tour begins at 5:30 p.m.
Mecklenburg County Parks & Recreation Building
5841 Brookshire Blvd.

Saturday, Jan. 28, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Optional walking tour begins at 10 a.m.
Morrison Regional Library
7015 Morrison Blvd.

Those interested in attending can visit the CDOT Web site at <http://cdot.charmeck.org> for more information.



Straight from the source.

Tune into this weekly news show with host Suzette Rhee as she provides you the latest on City government happenings and issues.



Suzette Rhee

Thursdays • 5:30 pm

Rail corridor construction moves into critical stage

Construction for Charlotte's first rapid transit corridor is moving into a critical new stage. The first of four light rail bridges is under construction over busy Tyvola Road. The construction of the bridge and related infrastructure will cause frequent overnight road closures and daytime delays.

"To lessen the impact on area commuters and local businesses, some of the work will be done at night," said David Leard, South Corridor Project Manager with the Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS). City and contractor staff are working together to coordinate and reduce the traffic congestion and inconveniences.

In February, Center City residents and employees will see construction activity when work begins on the light rail stations and track within the existing railroad right-of-way from Seventh Street to Tremont Avenue. This work will result in a temporary suspension of the Charlotte Trolley for approximately 12 months. During this interruption, CATS is providing shuttle bus service from Historic South End to Center City.



Construction crews already have erected girders for a bridge that the South Corridor Light Rail line will use to travel over Tyvola Road.

To date, construction of the South Corridor Light Rail and Infrastructure Projects include construction of the light rail vehicle facility off South Boulevard, realignment of Clanton Road at South Boulevard, roadbed and track work, road and intersection improvements, sidewalk construction and utility improvements.

When complete in Fall 2007, the 9.6-mile corridor will feature the light rail line as well as road, sidewalk, storm drainage, water, sewer and beautification improvements along South Boulevard, Old Pineville Road and adjacent neighborhoods.

For more information about the South Corridor projects, residents can log onto charlottefuture.com and sign up for email construction updates. Customer service representatives also are available at 311 to answer questions.

Income costs, concerns for small businesses

What are the needs of Charlotte-Mecklenburg small businesses, and how can local government and nonprofit resource providers help them be more successful? What do small businesses think are Charlotte's greatest strengths, and do they consider Charlotte a small-business-friendly city?

These were some of the diverse questions that the City of Charlotte, Charlotte Chamber and Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC) asked on a jointly sponsored telephone survey of 400 Charlotte-Mecklenburg small businesses in September.

The biggest overall finding of the survey is that increasing income and reducing costs are the largest concerns for local small businesses, especially with economic uncertainty such as rising prices and increasing competition in many market sectors.



Approximately 47% of survey respondents indicated their greatest need was either "more money" or "lower expenses."

When asked for a description of their needs, 16.09% said lower taxes, 12.27% said more sales/customers, 9.28% access to capital/more money/finances, and 8.96% improved marketing/advertising/exposure. The combined total of the four answers referring to "more money" or "lower expenses" in some way was 46.60%.

Officials with the City's Small Business Development Program said that the survey results helped the City gain a better understanding of the needs of the small business community in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, and how city-sponsored programs can serve small business more effectively.

The next step by the City, CPCC, and the chamber will be a joint effort to develop activities and programs to better meet the needs of area small businesses.

