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WEEK IN REVIEW:

Mon (June 27)	Tues (June 28)	Wed (June 29)	Thurs (June 30)	Friday (July 1)
3:45 PM Environment Committee, Room 280 4:30 PM Council Closed Session, Room 267 5:00 PM Council Business Meeting, Room 267 6:30 PM Citizens' Forum, Room 267		12:00 PM Community Safety Committee, Room CH-14	11:30 AM Housing & Neighborhood Development Committee, Room 280 1:00 PM Restructuring Government Committee, Room 280	

CALENDAR DETAILS:

Monday, June 27

- 3:45 pm Environment Committee, Room 280
AGENDA: Consideration of a citizen advisory committee on the environment
- 4:30 pm Council Closed Session, Room 267
- 5:00 pm Council Business Meeting, Room 267

Wednesday, June 29

- 12:00 pm Community Safety Committee, Room CH-14
AGENDA: Youth Protection Ordinance

Thursday, June 30

- 11:30 am Housing & Neighborhood Development Committee, Room 280
AGENDA: Assisted-multi family housing at transit station areas
- 1:00 pm Restructuring Government Committee, Room 280
AGENDA: Boards and commissions with autonomous authority

June and July calendars are attached (SEE BOOKMARKS ON LEFT).

AGENDA NOTES:

Citizens' Forum – Newell-South Neighborhood Improvement Project

Staff Resource: Cary Chereshkoff, E&PM, 704-336-7040, cchereshkoff@charlottenc.gov

At the June 27 City Council Meeting, residents of the Newell-South neighborhood have signed up to speak “for” and “against” the project. This memo is to inform Council of the history and status of the project.

Background:

Newell-South NIP is bounded by North Tryon Street, Old Concord Road, and W. Rocky River Road. The Newell-South NIP area includes several smaller neighborhoods: Autumnwood, Charcon Heights, and Mecklenburg Acres. Autumnwood is the only neighborhood within the NIP area with an organized HOA. Autumnwood HOA has reached out to share information regarding the project with all residents in the project area.

The project proposes sidewalks on Owen Blvd., Gray Dr., Kemp St., Creekstone Pl., Blue Rock Dr., Rockland Dr. and Autumnwood Lane. An overland connector to the future Toby Creek Greenway is proposed on a portion of Rockland Drive. Storm drainage improvements and

street trees are also proposed. A map of the project area is **attached (SEE BOOKMARKS ON LEFT)**.

Planning and Design for the Newell-South Neighborhood was included in the 2006 Bonds. Real Estate and Construction is funded with the 2010 Bonds. Newell-South NIP was selected based upon key objectives voiced by the community during the 2002 Newell Area Plan, and consistent with the 2006 Quality of Life Study. These objectives included protecting Newell's environment, creating a bicycle and pedestrian friendly community with safe access to schools, parks, places of worship, UNCC campus, as well as providing effective public transit, and recreational and cultural resources to the area.

Public Involvement:

During the Planning Phase (2007-2008) staff held three public meetings. Residents representing all neighborhoods, within the Newell-South NIP area, including Autumnwood HOA, attended. During the meetings, residents identified and prioritized neighborhood issues which resulted in the creation of five alternatives. The residents voted on which alternative they preferred to see move forward into the design phase. Attendees were given opportunities to review the exhibits and ask questions with project team members throughout the public involvement process.

The Newell-South Project was put on hold for 15 months while awaiting approval of the 2010 bonds. In November 2010, the neighborhood bonds were approved and residents were informed that the Real Estate Acquisition Phase would begin.

Current Status:

A postcard announcing the Real Estate phase was sent in November 2010. This resulted in project opposition, specifically from the Autumnwood HOA.

On March 8, 2011, the project team met with Autumnwood HOA and some residents from other areas of the Newell-South NIP. After the meeting, the project team evaluated petition information provided by Autumnwood HOA. The majority of the opposition seemed to come from residents living on and near Autumnwood Lane. The project team evaluated emails and phone calls, both for and against the project from residents within the entire NIP area. The team considered the high strategic drivers that the Newell Area Plan and the public involvement process had identified, such as safe connectivity to a future transit corridor and safe connection to the future Toby Creek Greenway extension (item #38 on June 27 agenda). In addition, staff agreed that Autumnwood Lane mainly serves the portion of the neighborhood closer to Old Concord Rd, where there is no existing sidewalk to connect to. Taking all of these things into consideration, the team agreed that the sidewalk along Autumnwood Lane could be eliminated at this time.

The remaining proposed sidewalk within the Newell-South NIP provides an integral connection to the future Toby Creek Greenway, and to the future BLE Transit Corridor. The project team recommends this work remain in the project. If the overland connector on Rockland Dr. is not

constructed, the greenway may not come into the neighborhood, but may terminate at a point north of the neighborhood.

On May 3, 2011 the project team and Councilmember Barnes met with the residents. An extensive list of questions was presented to the project team by the residents. Answers were sent via email to the residents. Since then, staff has met face to face on 24 properties to help the property owners understand the specific impacts on their properties. The majority of the concerns have focused on planting strip widths, sidewalk proximity to homes, and tree save. Modifications to planting strip widths have been made to the proposed design to accommodate these concerns where possible.

Agenda Item #49 – Streetcar Starter Project Real Estate Services

Staff Resource: Jim Schumacher, City Manager's Office, 704-336-3656, jschumacher@charlottenc.gov

The June 27 agenda includes approval of contracts with four firms for real estate services on the Streetcar Starter Project. Due to the federal funding in the project, the firms must meet federal DBE program requirements, not the City's SBO Program. The firms did not initially submit the necessary documentation for the federal DBE program, but are working to complete it. Staff is trying to work with these firms to complete the appropriate documentation and allow the contracts to be approved on June 27 because:

- Environmental documents for the Streetcar Project were approved last week, and beginning the real estate services as soon as possible will benefit the project schedule.
- Certain appraisals must be completed and submitted to the FTA by August 30.
- To support the local firms in doing this work.

Staff expects the DBE information to be available Monday, and plans to provide that information to the City Council. If the information is not available, the item can be removed from the agenda for later action.

INFORMATION:

NCDOT Draft Complete Streets Planning and Design Guidelines

Staff Resources: Danny Pleasant, CDOT, 704-336-3879, dpleasant@charlottenc.gov

Tracy Newsome, CDOT, 704-353-0778, tnewsome@charlottenc.gov

On June 17 the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) released a review draft of their Complete Streets Planning and Design Guideline Framework. This draft represents a significant step toward implementing the Complete Streets Policy adopted by the North Carolina Board of Transportation in July, 2009.

Complete streets are designed to provide safe and comfortable travel for people of all ages and abilities, whether they are traveling by car, bicycle, transit, or on foot. Last year, the USDOT

also established the expectation that federally-funded projects include designs that serve all users.

Charlotte's Urban Street Design Guidelines (USDG) provided NCDOT with a successful and proven approach for designing complete streets. When NCDOT formed an advisory group to develop their Complete Streets Planning and Design Guidelines, NCDOT staff requested a CDOT staff person to serve as co-chair of that group.

NCDOT's complete streets framework includes many similarities to Charlotte's USDG. These similarities include:

- recognizing and providing for a variety of complete street types,
- defining and applying a collaborative design process,
- establishing a framework for applying complete street designs to a variety of different area types, and
- describing flexible street cross-sections that encourage bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the construction and modification of NCDOT roadways.

NCDOT has provided a 60 day comment period for their draft.

Runnymede Lane Emergency Water Main and Street Repairs

*Staff Resources: Angela Berry, CDOT, 704-432-5259, aberry@charlottenc.gov
Barry Shearin, CMU, 704-391-5137, bshearin@charlottenc.gov*

Runnymede Lane between Barclay Downs Drive and Michael Baker Place continues to be closed for repairs. Contractors have finished laying the replacement water main and are in the process of testing and disinfecting it before putting it into service. Roadway repair work is also continuing. CDOT signal timing staff continues to monitor traffic flow. Despite the afternoon and evening storms, good progress has been made and work is on schedule to reopen two lanes by the end of the day Friday, July 1.

June 22 Metropolitan Transit Commission Meeting Summary

Staff Resource: Carolyn Flowers, CATS, 704-336-3855, cflowers@charlottenc.gov

At its meeting on Wednesday, June 22, 2011, the MTC took action on one item and heard two information items:

Uptown Circulator Service (Gold Rush) Contract

The Uptown Circulator Service, commonly called the Gold Rush, is a fare-free service that has operated in the Uptown area since 2002 and was recently extended to encompass Johnson C. Smith University, Central Piedmont Community College, and Presbyterian Hospital. Charlotte Center City Partners (CCCP) offsets the operating costs of the Gold Rush service through contributions received from Uptown employers. Although the current contract does not expire until 2014, CATS and CCCP would like to enter into a new contract that provides a minimum contribution from CCCP of \$325,000 per year, with the flexibility to adjust the amount and

levels of service based on operating costs and fundraising by CCCP. A milestone date near the middle of the fiscal year will allow CATS to adjust service if necessary based on the level of fundraising by CCCP for each fiscal year. The MTC voted unanimously to approve the new contract.

Center City Access Study – Charlotte Gateway Station (CGS) Operation Assessment

When CGS is completed, transit in Charlotte will move from a one-hub bus system centered at the Charlotte Transportation Center to a two-hub system. At NCDOT's request, CATS examined programming needs for the CGS and surrounding area for integration with their future rail plans. Design guidelines were developed into three tiers, from basic facility requirements that must be met in Tier I, to preferred but not essential guidelines in Tier II. Tier III items are design restrictions, such as that bus patrons should not have to cross non-transit traffic to access bus bays and that security services in the station should be coordinated among providers to prevent gaps in coverage. The project gives a framework for developing the bus transit aspects of the multimodal station, which will serve Amtrak at the state and national level, integrate Greyhound national bus transit, and serve CATS' Red Line, Gold Rush, Sprinter and local and express bus routes.

Countywide Transit Services Plan (CTSP)

The main components of the CTSP are the five-year bus plan, which develops service adjustments and recommendations as well as cost planning and capital development recommendations, and the guiding principles to match service levels with demand to create a more streamlined and efficient service throughout the region, while operating in a financially constrained environment. Staff reviewed sample route adjustments and the trade-offs that may be made to streamline and extend service, as well as a sample of how bus routes may change to integrate with the light rail line when the Blue Line Extension (BLE) is completed. A new route is proposed for Highway 51 that will be funded through a grant and will connect Carolina Place Mall and the Matthews Park and Ride.

CATS CEO Report

Under the CEO's report, Carolyn Flowers discussed:

a. Security Update:

Staff reviewed plans for the Transit Center for the upcoming July 4 Uptown events. MTC members were also briefed on the FBI's recent request for the public's help in identifying an individual who acted in a suspicious manner in a restricted area along the light rail line.

b. Legislative Update:

Restrictions in the State budget that precluded NCDOT's making funding commitments for the Blue Line Extension and Red Line were removed in the final version. Funding for the State Maintenance Assistance Program (SMAP) was reduced in the final budget by 6%; CATS had budgeted for a 4% reduction.

c. Upcoming Procurements:

Upcoming procurements for the BLE include a Risk Assessment consultant, appraisal

services and legal services for title and ROW. Other procurements will be for bus maintenance filters and Blue Line video services.

d. Miscellaneous:

- The FTA Quarterly meeting will be in Atlanta on Thursday, June 23.
- MTC will not meet in July as there are no action items on the agenda.
- The Ribbon Cutting for the renovated North Davidson Street Bus Facility will be July 28 at 10:00 a.m. MTC members are invited and encouraged to attend.
- CATS is developing grant applications for two federal grants.

Other Business

Bus and paratransit Rodeo winners were introduced to MTC members as the best of the best. STS winners included Henry Minnet, a multiple-year winner for his paratransit driving skills, in first place, followed by Janine Miller and Tawanda Buckhalter for second and third place. Lonny Earnhardt won first place in the bus operator competition, his thirteenth first place win, followed by Carmen Alaman and Junior Bush. The winning team in the bus maintenance technician competition was Craig Patch, Troy Andrews and Billy Belcher.

In the light rail operator rodeo, Metro Coston won first place, followed by Harry Ruiz and Florence Howard. Rail mechanic winners were Patrick Mills, Robert Hudgins and Sammie Allen.

In the state competition, STS contestants brought home the Overall System Trophy for the fifth consecutive year. STS won the safest Urban Dial-a-Ride system in the state for the third consecutive year.

Lisa Bowden is the CATS Customer Service Champion for the year. MTC members applauded video showing her exceptional driving skills while driving an express bus in an HOV lane when a vehicle pulled into the lane from stopped traffic.

The next MTC meeting will be August 24, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

June

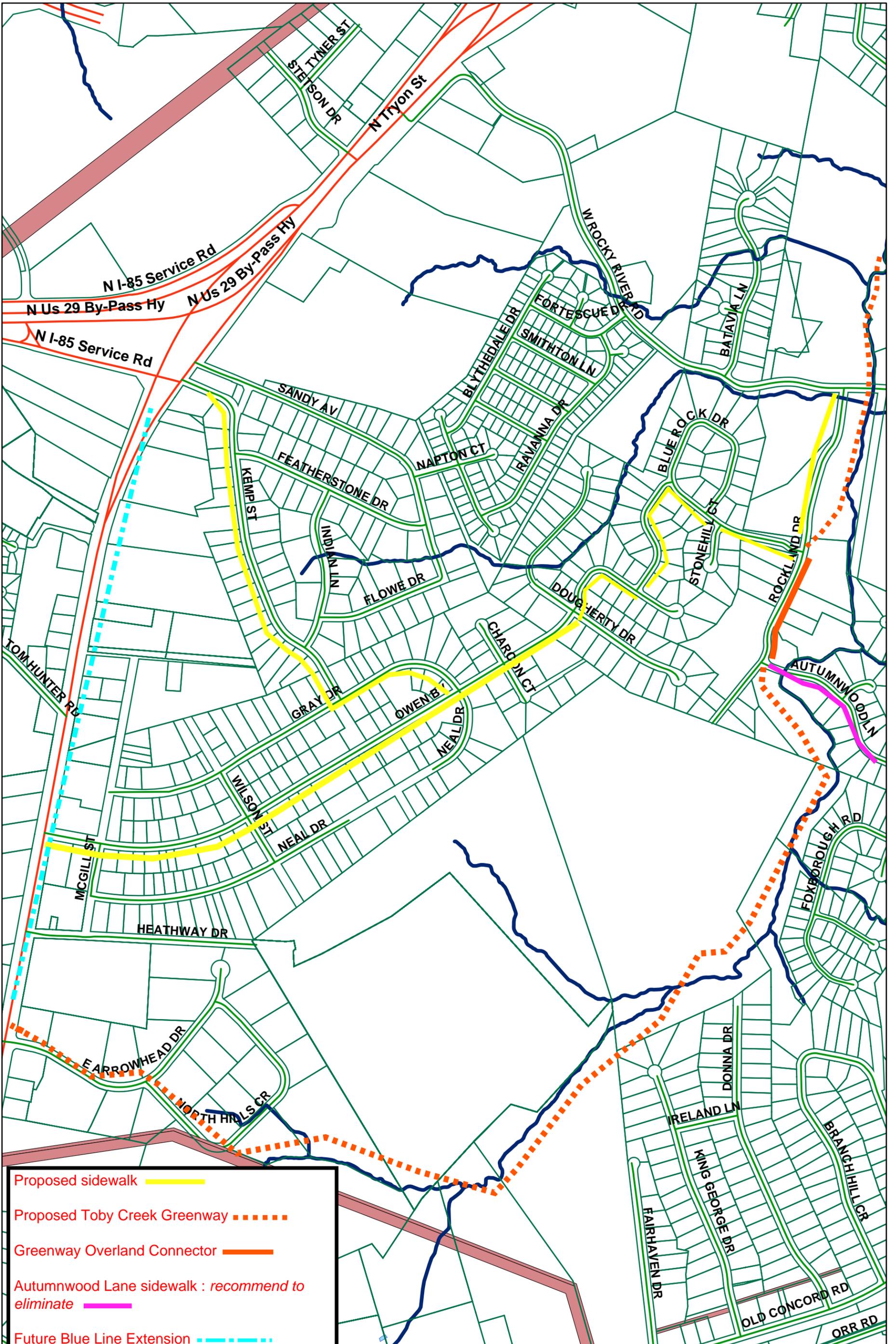
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 12:00p Budget Adjustments & Straw Votes, Room 267	2 12:00p mtg cancelled Community Safety Committee, Room 280	3	4 9:00a District 4 Document Shredding and Safety; Smokey Bones BBQ & Grill parking lot, 8760 J.M. Keynes Blvd
5	6 2:00p Economic Development Committee, Room 280 3:00p Redistricting Committee, CMGC 8 th Floor Innovation Station 4:00p Governmental Affairs Committee, Room 280 5:00p Council Workshop 7:30p Citizens' Forum	7	8 12:00p mtg cancelled Housing & Neighborhood Development, Room CH-14	9 3:30p mtg cancelled Economic Development Committee, Room 280	10	11
12	13 11:45a City Attorney Interviews, Room CH-14 3:30p mtg cancelled Transportation & Planning Committee, Room 280 5:00p Council Business Meeting/Budget Adoption	14	15 12:00p Community Safety Committee, Room 280	16 6:30p mtg cancelled District 5 Leadership Appreciation Event, Room 267	17	18
19	20 3:30p Transportation & Planning Committee, Room 280 5:00p Zoning Meeting	21	22 5:30p MTC Meeting, Room 267	23 12:00p mtg cancelled Restructuring Government Committee, Room 280 3:30p mtg cancelled Economic Development Committee Room 280	US Conference of Mayors Annual Meeting Baltimore, MD	
US Conference of Mayors Annual Meeting Baltimore, MD		Charlotte Chamber Inter City Visit Seattle, Washington				
26	27 3:45p Environment Committee, Room 280 4:30p Closed Session, Room 267 5:00p Council Business Meeting 6:30p Citizens' Forum	28	29 12:00p Community Safety Committee, Room CH-14	30 11:30a Housing & Neighborhood Development, Room 280 1:00p Restructuring Government, Room 280		

2011

July

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1	2
3	4 HOLIDAY INDEPENDENCE DAY	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 3:30p mtg cancelled Economic Development Committee, Room 280	15	16
17	18 3:30p Economic Development Committee, Room 280 5:00p Zoning Meeting	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 3:30p Transportation & Planning Committee, Room 280 5:00p Council Business Meeting 6:30p Citizens' Forum	26	27 5:30p MTC Meeting, Room 267	28	29	30
31						

2011



- Proposed sidewalk —
- Proposed Toby Creek Greenway ⋯
- Greenway Overland Connector —
- Autumnwood Lane sidewalk : *recommend to eliminate* —
- Future Blue Line Extension - - -