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## INFORMATION:

### **WCNC Story on CityLYNX Gold Line**

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On Tuesday night, WCNC ran a story about the CityLYNX Gold Line and its potential impact on fire operations. The following points were made to the reporter by Deputy Chief Rob Kinniburgh.

The Charlotte Fire Department has been involved in planning efforts since the initial design phase of the CityLYNX Gold Line, Charlotte's newest rail line. Based on input, City Engineering & Property Management made design changes to accommodate emergency response and operations. For example, the Gold Line stop at Myers and Trade Streets was realigned to allow Fire Station 1 apparatus to turn onto Trade Street safely. The outbound track was moved to the left outbound travel lane to allow apparatus positioning near the jail.

The high-voltage overhead catenary lines, which power the rail car, are suspended by support wires over the travel lanes from poles on either side. The lines are 18 feet high, similar to power lines. The Fire Department will deal with the catenary lines in the same manner that they deal with power lines.

CFD apparatus and the Gold Line rail vehicle share the same operating space. CFD is cognizant of the impact emergency operations may have on the rail vehicle and traffic in general. CFD may need to alter vehicle placement or move to a side street at minor incidents to allow the rail vehicle to continue to travel past the incident. Because the rail vehicle is on tracks and can't change lanes, project staff worked with the Fire Department to determine alternate placement strategies for fire trucks.

### **Building Development Planning, Permitting, and Inspection Process Review Update**

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Both Mecklenburg County and the City of Charlotte recognize there are opportunities to enhance services and improve collaboration to provide more seamless service delivery as it relates to the building development planning, permitting and inspection process. As a result, the City and County jointly contracted with Gartner, Inc. to conduct an independent review of current procedures and processes, their effectiveness and efficiencies, and to identify opportunities for improvement that could further customer service and optimize service delivery.

Gartner presented its initial findings and recommendations to City Council and the Board of County Commissioners respectively on December 8 and 9, 2014. Gartner also presented its findings to several industry groups. Staff provided an update to the Board of County Commissioners on March 24, 2015 and will provide the update to Council's Transportation &

Planning Committee on March 26, 2015. The update includes Gartner's final recommendations as well as the road map for moving forward.

Staff have received the final report of Gartner, Inc and it made it available online at <http://development.charmeck.org>. The report is 286 pages. Council may contact Ann Wall at [awall@charlottenc.gov](mailto:awall@charlottenc.gov) for a hard copy.