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**WEEK IN REVIEW:**

<b>Mon (April 7)</b>	<b>Tues (April 8)</b>	<b>Wed (April 9)</b>	<b>Thurs (April 10)</b>	<b>Fri (April 11)</b>
12:00 PM City Manager Quarterly Briefing, Room CH-14  6:00 PM Council Meeting, Meeting Chamber (Food in CH-14)		12:00 PM Housing & Neighborhood Development Committee, Room 280  2:00 PM Environment Committee, Room CH-14  3:00 PM Budget Workshop, Room 267	12:00 PM Community Safety Committee, Room 280	

## CALENDAR DETAILS:

### Monday, April 7

12:00 PM City Manager's Quarterly Briefing, Room CH-14

6:00 PM Council Meeting, Meeting Chamber  
(Food available in CH-14)

### Wednesday, April 9

12:00 PM Housing & Neighborhood Development Committee, Room 280  
**AGENDA:** 2014 Housing Trust Fund development recommendations; Expand the scope of work of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Coalition for Housing

2:00 PM Environment Committee, Room CH-14  
**AGENDA:** Solid Waste Services review and recommendation briefing; Coal ash due diligence review

3:00 PM Budget Workshop, Room 267

### Thursday, April 10

12:00 pm Community Safety Committee, Room 280  
**AGENDA:** Digital dispatch

**ATTACHED:** [April and May calendars](#)

## INFORMATION:

### Google Fiber and the City of Charlotte

*Staff Resources:* Phil Reiger, CDOT, 704-336-4896, [preiger@charlottenc.gov](mailto:preiger@charlottenc.gov)  
Jeff Stovall, OCIO, 704-336-2460, [jstovall@charlottenc.gov](mailto:jstovall@charlottenc.gov)

In February, Google Fiber Inc. contacted the City Manager's office to inform City staff that the City of Charlotte was one of 34 candidate cities being evaluated for Google's high-speed internet service. Shortly thereafter, Google Fiber met with City Staff and explained the process Google would conduct to assess Charlotte's readiness for Google Fiber. Since that time, a small group of City staff lead by Phil Reiger, CDOT Assistant Director and Jeff Stovall, Chief Information Officer, has been working to satisfy Google's request for information by May 1. Specifically, Google is asking the city for information about city infrastructure and construction permitting processes. City staff, in conjunction with county and state partners, are engaged and committed to fulfill Google's request for information. Google has communicated that it will reveal the cities it intends to provide service to no later than December 31, 2014.

Yesterday, Phil Reiger and Jeff Stovall participated in a radio panel discussion on “Charlotte Talks” broadcasted by WFAE-FM. They were joined by an industry professional and an Assistant City Manager from Kansas City, Missouri to discuss the potential Google Fiber offers the City.

City Council will hear more about the project in the weeks and months ahead. Below are a few key facts that may be helpful.

- Google Fiber’s evaluation process is not a competitive process. Google has communicated the intent to provide services to all 34 cities, if Google perceives they can expeditiously build the infrastructure necessary to offer internet services.
- Google is proposing to deploy a residential service by building fiber optic cable to the home. The service will not be available for other uses during the initial phases of the project. Google has suggested that it is working on a commercial business offering but could not speculate when it would be available.
- Google is not asking the city for any financial incentives or public subsidies.
- Finally, the City will not treat Google any differently than it would otherwise treat the other incumbent internet and cable television providers.

The City will be posting information to its website ([www.Charmeck.org](http://www.Charmeck.org)) as it learns more. Google has also posted information about the project to their website (<https://fiber.google.com/newcities/>).

#### **CityLYNX Gold Line Advisory Committee**

*Staff Resource: Ron Kimble, City Manager’s Office, 704-336-4169, [rkimble@charlottenc.gov](mailto:rkimble@charlottenc.gov)*

With the recent announcement of approval to enter project development for Phase 2 of the CityLYNX Gold Line, the City Manager is recommending that the appointed Streetcar Advisory Committee be renamed as the CityLYNX Gold Line Advisory Committee. The CityLYNX Gold Line Advisory Committee is pivotal in ensuring the success of Charlotte’s streetcar system. Members will be asked to confirm their continued commitment to serve on the committee as soon as possible. In the next month, City staff will be meeting with the Advisory Committee to provide an update and hold the first round of public meetings regarding Phase 2 of the Gold Line project.

**ATTACHED: [Full listing of committee members](#)**

#### **Coal Ash Repurpose Due Diligence Update**

*Staff Resource: Rob Phocas, N&BS, 704-336-7558, [rphocas@charlottenc.gov](mailto:rphocas@charlottenc.gov)*

Staff has established a Coal Ash Strike Team to conduct the Council-approved due diligence. The full team has met to review a process for the 60-day study period. One of the first steps is to organize work groups to address questions that were raised. Individual meetings for the work groups are currently being scheduled.

Staff also scheduled two field trips: the first was to the Riverbend Power Plant on Thursday, April 3; the second is to the Asheville Airport on Tuesday, April 8. Council members interested in attending the field trip to Asheville should contact Rob Phocas.

As part of the outreach during the due diligence period, a coal ash webpage was added to the City's website: <http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/FocusAreas/Environment/Pages/Coal-Ash.aspx>.

Additionally, staff will attend Council member LaWana Mayfield's town hall meeting on Saturday, April 5 at the West Service Center to explain the due diligence process and answer questions.

### **2013 Transportation Action Plan Annual Report**

*Staff Resources: Danny Pleasant, CDOT, 704-336-3879, [dpleasant@charlottenc.gov](mailto:dpleasant@charlottenc.gov)*

*Dan Gallagher, CDOT, 704-336-4984, [dgallagher@charlottenc.gov](mailto:dgallagher@charlottenc.gov)*

City Council adopted the *Transportation Action Plan (TAP)* in 2006, and then the 5-year TAP Update in 2011. The TAP is the City's comprehensive transportation plan, and describes the transportation challenges and opportunities facing Charlotte over the next 25 years.

### **ATTACHED: [2013 TAP Annual Report](#)**

The TAP annual report summarizes the achievements, current activities, and challenges for each of the five goals in the TAP. The report will also be made available on the Transportation Action Plan webpage. The TAP defines the transportation goals, policies and multi-modal transportation programs and projects necessary to prepare the city to meet future travel demand.

### **April 8 – Homelessness Point In Time Reporting Press Conference**

*Staff Resources: Mary Gaertner, N&BS, 704-432-5495, [mgaertner@charlottenc.gov](mailto:mgaertner@charlottenc.gov)*

*Pam Wideman, N&BS, 704-336-3488, [pwideman@charlottenc.gov](mailto:pwideman@charlottenc.gov)*

On Tuesday, April 8, County Commission Chairman Trevor Fuller and UNC Charlotte Provost Joan Lorden will join City Council member Patsy Kinsey for a press conference to announce the results of the January 2014 Homeless Point in Time (PIT) Count and the newly created partnership with the Urban Institute at UNC Charlotte for annual homelessness reporting. Representatives of the Homeless Services Network, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Coalition for Housing and the team from the Institute for Social Capital will also attend. The press conference begins at 9:00 am at UNC Charlotte Center City.

A PIT Count is required annually by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and is intended to provide a snapshot of how many people are sheltered as a result of homeless programs, and unsheltered on any given night. The PIT Count for Charlotte-Mecklenburg was conducted on January 29, 2014.

The partnership between the City, County and UNC Charlotte for annual homelessness reporting was created by a Catalyst Grant from the Foundation For The Carolinas.

### **Charlotte Recycle it! Week 2014**

*Staff Resource: Victoria O. Johnson, SWS, 704-336-3410, [vojohnson@charlottenc.gov](mailto:vojohnson@charlottenc.gov)*

The City of Charlotte proclaimed April 7-11, 2014 as Charlotte Recycle it! Week. Solid Waste Services will use this week as an opportunity to further educate residents on the importance of recycling everywhere and Recycle it! program participation through various community events. Charlotte Recycle it! Week 2014 events include:

#### *April 7*

BigBelly Bin Recycling – CMGC

600 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street

11 am – 2 pm

Staff will educate pedestrians on the use of the BigBelly recycling containers and on other recycling opportunities available in Uptown.

#### *April 8*

Recycle it! Everywhere - Uptown

2 Wells Fargo Atrium

3-5 pm

Attendees will have an opportunity to learn more about recycling opportunities, including tailgate recycling, through interactive activities.

#### *April 9*

Mayors Youth Employment Program Career Discovery Day – The Park Expo

800 Briar Creek Road

9 am – 1 pm

Staff will participate in the City's industry exploration event to educate youth on careers available within Solid Waste Services. There will also be a technology demonstration and an area promoting joint sustainability initiatives with Keep Mecklenburg Beautiful.

#### *April 10*

Telling our Story – Solid Waste Association of North America Community Engagement & Marketing Session

Raleigh, NC

Staff will be presenting and participating in a panel discussion to promote the department's efforts surrounding community engagement.

#### *April 11*

Southend Recycling – Food Truck Friday

East Park Avenue & Camden Road

5-9 pm

Join staff to learn more about recycling opportunities in SouthEnd.

In addition to week-long community events, Solid Waste Services will also use tools such as social media, web postings and e-mail blasts to promote recycling.

### **March 22 Metropolitan Transit Commission Meeting Summary**

*Staff Resource: Carolyn Flowers, CATS, 704-336-3855, [cflowers@charlottenc.gov](mailto:cflowers@charlottenc.gov)*

#### *Fare Increase Public Hearing*

The Public Hearing allowed the public to comment on the proposed fare increase of twenty cents on the current base fare; fares for other services would also be increased from 7-12.5%. MTC's Fare and Financial Policies recommend a fare increase every two years to ensure that fare revenues keep pace with inflation and reflect a fair-share contribution by the riders to the system's operating costs. Transit expenses will exceed income by \$2.8 million next year if fares are not increased. Key cost drivers include fuel, utilities, personal services and risk insurance, costs which are largely not under CATS' control. CATS covers a larger service area than other NC cities and has more frequent service and longer hours, so CATS' fares trend higher. CATS' fares are in line with other systems with rail and express buses. CATS began advertising the proposed fare on January 23, 2014 on buses and trains through notification on vehicles and the media. If there is no fare increase in FY2015, there will need to be a reduction of 26,354 service hours to balance the budget.

Twelve members of the public made comments opposing the proposed fare increase during the Public Hearing. Many cited concerns about the impact of an increase on lower-income transit-dependent riders. Several stated that household budgets have increased costs for fuel, heat, water, food and other necessities; if transit fares also increase, that will be too much for fixed budgets to absorb. Some speakers suggested ways to increase revenue without raising fares, such as fixing inoperable fare boxes, or urged CATS to come up with alternative revenue sources. Speakers also cited concerns about customer service issues, bus and rider cleanliness and route scheduling concerns.

At its regular meeting on Wednesday, March 26, 2014, MTC considered two action items. Three information items were deferred for the April meeting:

#### *NCDOT FY2015 Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Program Grant*

The MTC unanimously approved the resolution to approve continuation of the TDM Program to promote and develop TDM programs at area businesses and organizations. TDM encourages using alternative forms of transportation including carpooling, vanpooling, riding public transit, biking and walking. NCDOT's grant will provide 50% of funding for TDM activities for FY2015 in the amount of \$103,417.

#### *2014 State Legislative Agenda*

The MTC unanimously approved the resolution identifying MTC's 2014 State Legislative Agenda to support HB375 to increase the maximum allowable length of buses to 60 feet. This will allow the transit system to achieve greater efficiency through additional seating capacity per trip. The current length of 40 feet was legislated in 1955.

*Title VI Fare Equity Analysis*

Deferred until April after completion of the public comment period for the proposed fare increase.

*CIP – Rapid Transit and Other Key Capital Projects*

Deferred until April, when it will be part of the budget action item.

*5307 and 5310 Funding*

Discussion of these two types of federal funding programs was deferred until April, when it will be placed on the action item agenda.

*CATS CEO Report*

Under the CEO's report, Carolyn Flowers discussed:

**a. Financial Update:**

Recent sales tax receipts of \$7.4 million reflect holiday season spending. Staff continues to monitor sales tax receipts to make sure CATS stays on budget.

**b. Ridership Update:**

Ridership was affected by the weather in February. The three snow days significantly impacted on-time performance and route schedules. CIAA attendance was down this year, and CATS' ridership during the CIAA was commensurately lower. The CIAA signed a contract to continue holding the tournament in Charlotte for six more years after this year's tournament completed. Uncertainty this year about whether the tournament would continue to be held in Charlotte in the future may have affected attendance. With this resolved CATS hopes to see a rebound next year.

**c. Legislative Update:**

Staff recently traveled to Washington, DC to advocate for the transit reauthorization bill and continued funding for local projects. The transit reauthorization bill expires in September and provides funding for highways as well as transit.

The next MTC meeting will be April 23, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

[March 6 Economic Development & Global Competitiveness Summary](#)