CHARLOTTE

City Council
Follow-Up Report

April 27, 2012

April 23, 2012 - City Council Business Meeting

Light Rail Vehicle Propulsion Component

Staff Resources: Rocky Paiano, Transit (CATS), 704-432-5020, rpaiano@charlottenc.gov
John Trunk, Transit (CATS), 704-432-2560, jtrunk@charlottenc.gov

At the April 23rd 2012 City Council meeting, Council requested whether the light rail vehicle propulsion work was going to be conducted in the state and, if so, whether training programs would be available.

On April 25, 2012, CATS staff contacted Siemens' Customer Service Manager and Product Manager in response to Council's questions. According to Siemens, the LRV propulsion component repair services will be performed by the Rail Systems Division of Siemens Industries, Inc. in their Alliance, Nebraska facility. This is their Center of Competence facility for all Siemens light rail propulsion equipment operated in the United States.

At this location, Siemens technicians and Quality Assurance personnel will diagnose and categorize the problem and then determine the best means to perform repairs. They also stated that they may perform the repair work at this facility or they may send out the repairs to another one of their facilities. In either case their technicians would conduct full functional tests before returning the repaired item to CATS. If the item to be repaired needs to be expedited, they may be able to exchange the part for another in the Nebraska warehouse. This would significantly reduce the turn-around time, typically within 48 hours.

Due to the immediate need and the complexity of this work, training CATS staff to perform this function would not be cost effective nor practical at this time.

CATS staff plans on meeting with Siemens on May 1st to discuss the possibility of future LRV purchases for the BLE project. Staff plans to take this opportunity to also discuss the possibility of performing future LRV repairs in the Charlotte area.

Out of School Time Proposals

Staff Resource: Tom Warshauer, Neighborhood & Business Services (Community & Commerce), 704-336-4522, twarshauer@charlottenc.gov

During the dinner briefing presentation, Council member Barnes requested the percentage of children participating in the program who were under the 30% AMI threshold.

FY '12 Out of School Time Program - Student Area Median Income (AMI)

Program	# Students Contracted to be Served Monthly	Average # Students Served Monthly	*50% of AMI ($16,150 - $44,400))	*80% of AMI ($43,000 - $70,950)
Bethlehem Center	100	59	92% (54 students)	8% (5 students)
CMS ASEP	160	120	95% (114 students)	5% (6 students)
Greater Enrichment Program	375	353	89% (315 students)	11% (38 students)
St. Paul Baptist Church	48	43	81% (35 students)	19% (8 students)
YWCA	200	192	100% (192 students)	0

*Reporting requirements at 50% and 80% of AMI(not available at 30%)

Cankerworm Update

Staff Resource: Don McSween, Engineering & Property Management (Landscape Management), 704-336-3459, dmcsween@charlottenc.gov

Following the coyote update presentation, Council requested a cankerworm update.

Prior to the spring 2008 aerial spray, the average winter 2007 catch was 801 females per trap. The average trap count this winter was 154 females. The highest counts this year were around the Highway 51/Rea Road area, Lansdowne neighborhood and University/Derita area. Cankerworms are more prevalent in areas not treated with the aerial spray, which covered 68,000 acres or about 40% of the city. Contractors working for the City have banded more than 5,000 large willow oaks along City streets this year. More banding is slated for areas of high counts this November. For more information, citizens have also been encouraged to access the webpage by typing in cankerworm.charmeck.org into their internet web browser.

Campaign Signs on Johnston Road in Ballantyne

Staff Resource: Walter Abernethy, Neighborhood & Business Services, 704-336-4213, wabernethy@charlottenc.gov

During the Council business meeting, Mayor Pro Tem Cannon indicated that he observed someone on Monday morning, April 23rd, picking up campaign signs along Johnston Road in the Ballantyne area. Mayor Pro Tem Cannon requested staff follow up with the agency allowing the gentleman to remove the campaign signs.

Code Enforcement followed up with Mayor Pro Tem Cannon to get more details on the signage issue. It appears that the property owner in the Johnston Road area had not given permission to post campaign signs on his property. Johnston Road is state maintained, however property permission is still required to post signage. City staff believes that Mayor Pro Tem Cannon observed the removal of the signs by the property owner's agent. Code Enforcement will reach out to the property owner and provide a copy of the following state signage regulations:

Campaign Signs on State Maintained Roads

In August 2011, the NC General Assembly enacted into law Senate Bill 315 which permits the placement of campaign signs on state maintained roads. The new legislation takes precedence over the City's local sign ordinance with respect to state maintained roads. This means that political signs are permitted on state maintained roads with the following restrictions:

- No sign shall be permitted in the right-of-way of a fully controlled access highway (i.e. I-77, I-85, I-277, I-485, etc.)
- No sign shall be closer than three feet from the edge of the pavement of the road
- No sign shall obscure motorist visibility at an intersection
- No sign shall be higher than 42 inches above the edge of the pavement of the road
- No sign shall be larger than 864 square inches
- No sign shall obscure or replace another sign

The new law applies only to "campaign" or "political" signs and does not include any other type of sign. The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will be enforcing these new regulations. The time frame for permitted political signs on state maintained roads begins on October 1, 2011 and ends on the 10th day after the primary or general election. Citizens who have questions about placement of political signs on state roads may contact Lewis Mitchell of NCDOT at 704-596-6900.

The City's Code Enforcement Division will continue to enforce Charlotte's sign ordinance for all other sign categories and on City maintained streets. A map listing by specific location for state maintained roads may be accessed via http://virtualcharlotte/ clicking first on the "Transportation" box and then the "State Maintained Streets" box.