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**City Council
Follow-Up Report**

August 6, 2014

June 9, 2014 – Council Business Meeting

I-277/I-77 Loop Study

Staff Resources: Debra Campbell, Planning, 704-336-2671, dcampbell@charlottenc.gov

Danny Pleasant, Transportation, 704-336-3879, dpleasant@charlottenc.gov

During the Mayor and Council Topics, the City Council requested that staff provide a report on pedestrian mobility on the south end to determine if there are policy issues. The Pedestrian Mobility Update was included in the June 25 follow up report which is attached below for reference. As a follow up to the Pedestrian Mobility Update, staff has provided an update on the study regarding the I-277/I-77 loop around uptown Charlotte.



25-- June FUR.pdf

In 2012, the City of Charlotte in collaboration with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CRTPO) prepared a comprehensive study of the I-277/I-77 Loop around Uptown Charlotte. The study resulted in the *I-277/I-77 Loop Strategic Plan*. The *I-277/I-77 Loop Strategic Plan* focuses on the evaluation of existing and future conditions of the Uptown Loop, which includes the Belk and Brookshire Freeways and a portion of I-77. City staff presented findings of this work to the City Council at their January 14, 2013 Dinner Briefing.

The purpose of the *I-277/I-77 Loop Strategic Plan* is to define current and future functions of the Loop and evaluate the future capacity, operational and safety conditions. The plan includes potential concepts for consideration in the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, formerly known as the Long Range Transportation Plan. The I-277/I-77 Loop Study is the first phase of a multi-phase effort to nominate candidate projects into the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

The Plan recommends 21 potential concepts including a variety of interchanges and segments along I-77 and I-277 around the Loop. While the plan does not include final design, it conceptually defines options for further evaluation when nominated candidates become projects. The CDOT will learn more in December of this year through the State Transportation Improvement Program process regarding specific projects, funding amounts and timeframes. City staff will update City Council after the first of the year.

The *I-277/I-77 Loop Strategic Plan* can be found at:

<http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/Transportation/PlansProjects/Pages/Uptown%20Loop%20Study.aspx>

July 28, 2014 – Council Business Meeting

Youth Council

*Staff Resource: Tom Warshauer, Neighborhood & Business Services, 704-336-4522,
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During the Citizens' Forum, the City Council requested staff work with Mr. Nicholas Little regarding his request to establish a youth council.

Staff has spoken to Mr. Little about his concept for an organization of millennials, ages 18- 24. Staff has offered to support his work primarily through the City's Need a Speaker? Program that provides civic groups access to City and County staff knowledgeable on the topics they are interested in. Mr. Little has yet to develop his focus of work or determine how broad that focus may be. Youth, safety, environment, sustainability, biking, planning, food, clean ups, tree planting, economic development – there are many areas in which a millennial group could decide to volunteer.

The City currently partners with the County to fund a contract to help Generation Nation manage the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Council for high school teens. This is the second year of that program. For more information on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Council, please see the attached document that highlights The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Council.



Youth Council
Snapshot.pdf



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**City Council
Follow-Up Report**

June 25, 2014

June 9, 2014 – City Council Business Meeting

Pedestrian Mobility Update

Staff Resources: Debra Campbell, Planning, 704-336-2671, dcampbell@charlottenc.gov

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During the meeting, Council requested a pedestrian mobility update in response to a recent newspaper article about pedestrian mobility in Charlotte.

The Charlotte Department of Transportation (CDOT) recognizes and supports the emerging interest of the community in pedestrian and bicycle accommodation and safety. Over the past decade, City Council has supported CDOT in taking steps to better balance the interests of motorists with those of pedestrians and bicyclists. Some of those steps include the following:

- increasing funding for sidewalks and bicycle network improvements,
- developing and adopting the Transportation Action Plan, which places a priority on multi-modalism,
- developing and adopting the Urban Street Design Guidelines and the corresponding adjustment to the development code, and
- recruiting the first Pedestrian and Bicycle Program managers.

Through these efforts, the City has taken great strides in improving its pedestrian and bicycle environment, but as the recent *Charlotte Observer* article suggests, the City still has much work ahead. Transportation staff is preparing a Walk Charlotte Strategy as part of this evolving work. The CDOT recently hired a new Pedestrian Program Manager, who will continue to develop the strategy over the next year, which includes South Boulevard and similar centers and corridors throughout Charlotte. Staff will provide City Council with regular updates on the Walk Charlotte Strategy beginning in September/October.



The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Council is a non-partisan program of GenerationNation in partnership with the City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, and CMS. The youth council engages teens to:

- Increase student knowledge about and interest in local government, civic issues, community problem-solving, and leadership. Civic literacy is a 21st century skill.
- Increase opportunities for meaningful youth involvement in policy and decision-making.
- Highlight civic issues of importance to children and youth.
- Network with youth from schools, neighborhoods, and perspectives across the community.
- Offer youth as a resource for community leaders.

Impact

Over 112 teens participated in youth council meetings and activities in 2013-14. The youth represent the widely diverse Charlotte-Mecklenburg community. Youth attend 28 public, charter, religious, and independent high schools and live in neighborhoods across the community. There is diversity in gender (65% female 35% male), race/ethnicity (44% Black, 40% White/Middle Eastern, 10% Hispanic, 7% Asian), economics (living in public housing to gated communities), and factors such as religion, LGBTQ status, physical handicaps, political ideologies, career interests, and having non-English speaking parents.

Youth are recruited through school leadership, guidance counselors, teachers, student government and newspaper advisors, local governments, youth organizations, social media, news media, and other ways.

The youth council invested necessary time in 2013-14 to introduce the program to officials and to build youth knowledge about civic issues and local government. 100% of youth participants interacted with a public official, learned about local government, and engaged on a local issue. The youth council offered:

- 81 hours for interaction with officials at meetings, forums, and town halls.
- 150 hours for learning about community issues and the different perspectives.
- 95 hours for learning about local government and how it is structured, funded, and governed plus career exploration, business/community relations, and other related topics.

Plans for 2014-15 include

- Encourage elected bodies and executive staff to refer more issues to youth for recommendations/ feedback, and increase opportunities for youth to bring issues of importance to public officials.
- Because so many youth need to build knowledge about the community, pilot a Youth Leadership Charlotte-Mecklenburg program to strengthen the youth council.
- Increase use of technology to connect youth and to highlight student voices.
- Attendance by youth representatives at ICMA, NC Youth Legislative Assembly, and NLC conferences, and a bus tour to learn about community projects and needs.



2013-14 activities included

- Regular meetings and opportunities for deeper engagement on local issues through service-learning, leadership, research and education, and student voice.
- Meetings with leaders to learn about local government and civic issues, and share feedback.
 - Charlotte mayor, city manager, and city council members
 - Mecklenburg County manager, BOCC members, and staff
 - CMS Superintendent, executive staff, and school board members
 - Leaders from Centralina Council of Governments, Connect our Future, Mecklenburg Livable Communities Plan, business/community leaders
 - Planned and led introductory joint meeting with city, county, and CMS officials
- Attending city council, county commission, and school board meetings
- Investing time to learn about, discuss, share feedback on community issues including
 - How Charlotte-Mecklenburg works, community history, leadership, structure
 - Community growth, planning and land-use, including green-space, parks, libraries, roads, housing, and infrastructure
 - Mayor issue, why council-manager form of government works
 - Education, afterschool programs, charter schools, services for youth
 - Governance of Charlotte airport and other state-local issues
 - Inter and intra governmental collaboration and bipartisanship
 - Prioritizing, funding, and budgeting for government services, needs, and wants; public budgeting, capital and operating budgets; Mecklenburg County bonds
 - Local government services, funding, structure, governance
 - Taxes, economic development, jobs, and workforce development
- Creating a 168-page youth candidate guide to educate peers and the public about candidates running for Election 2013 offices (Mayors and council in Charlotte and towns plus Board of Education Districts 1-6) and local government. In FY2015, the guide will feature BOCC candidates and county government.
- Leading a youth forum to interview candidates for Charlotte mayor. Video clips were shared on the web for community use and classroom study. In FY2015, the forum will feature BOCC candidates.
- Representing Charlotte-Mecklenburg youth at multiple community events and 2 annual conferences; learning about Charlotte-Mecklenburg history, policy, and growth through community bus tour and other hands-on experiences.
- Using student voice to report on and share youth perspectives on local government, current events, and civic issues.
- Through dialogue, research, and meetings with officials, identifying issues impacting children and youth for potential youth council focus in FY15.