



Charlotte Department of Transportation Memorandum

DATE: July 19, 2013

To: Roger Millar, Smart Growth America

From: Tom Warshauer, Neighborhood & Business Services
Melony McCullough, Charlotte Planning Department
Dan Gallagher, Charlotte Department of Transportation

Re: City of Charlotte Progress Report #1 - Smart Growth America

On behalf of the City of Charlotte, I want to thank Smart Growth America for the 2-day technical assistance workshop you provided for our community. The specific focus of the Charlotte workshop was "Planning for Economic and Fiscal Health" within Charlotte's five Comprehensive Neighborhood Improvement Program (CNIP) areas. This session was particularly timely as elected leaders and city staff are currently considering how to best utilize capital improvement funding to attract new business, reduce tax burdens and create a stronger foundation for long-term fiscal and economic health. In June, Smart Growth America provided us with a "Suggested Next Steps for the City of Charlotte". The following is a status update on our progress to date:

- The City created a web-page to document the 2-day technical workshop and to post the "Suggested Next Steps for the City of Charlotte".
- In June, City Council approved a budget that includes capital funding (subject to a bond referendum) that will fund \$120M in the five CNIP areas over the next 8 years.
- An interdepartmental team has been established to further review the CNIP areas, identify assets and opportunities within each area, conduct citizen and stakeholder engagement within each area and ultimately to prioritize capital investments in each area.
- The interdepartmental team is identifying baseline conditions across an array of measurements for each CNIP area to help track trends over time in each area.

- The City is currently undertaking several other independent initiatives that will shape and benefit the CNIP areas, including:
 - Streetcar – City Council approved funding in the City budget to advance the streetcar project which will link two of the proposed CNIP areas.
 - Zoning Ordinance Policy Assessment – The City is continuing to assess the Charlotte Zoning Ordinance and evaluate a variety of approaches for improving the ordinance to more effectively implement City policies and plans.
 - Prosperity Village Streets – the City is working diligently to implement the village street network to create a “village-like” expectation for new development in this rapidly growing area.
 - Eastland Mall – The City received two proposals for redeveloping the Eastland Mall site. The redevelopment of this site will play an integral role in shaping this CNIP area.

Again, we thank Smart Growth America for their technical assistance and guidance as we embark on transforming the five CNIP areas. We look forward to providing you with a 6-month and 1-year update.