



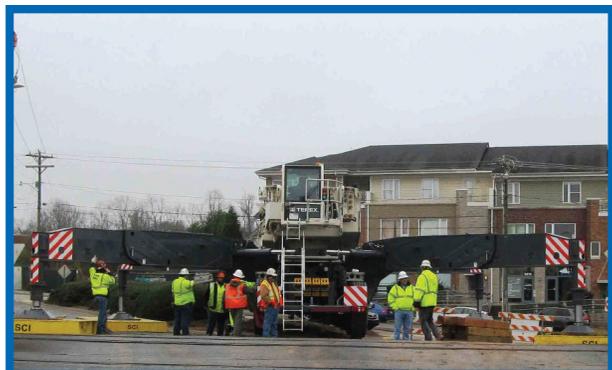
Businesses are accessible and welcome your patronage. Look for these signs to stop in and support these businesses along the Blue Line Extension alignment.

FEBRUARY 2016 CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Schedules are subject to change based on weather, site or unforeseen conditions.

Craighad Road Bridge Update

Crews brought in a special crane to set the girders on the bridge that span across Craighad Road. This crane, called the TEREX 1000, has a 1,300 ton lifting capacity – that's 2.6 million pounds! **There are only three cranes with this lifting capacity in North America.** The TEREX requires 500,000 pounds of counterweights to keep it stable throughout the construction operation. The crane and its outriggers were so massive, it took up the whole width of Craighad Road!



Before crews can begin setting girders, the bridge bearings (a component of the bridge which provides a resting surface between bridge piers and the bridge deck) need to be installed on the piers and end bents. The bearings will allow just enough movement, usually from heat expansion or cold contraction, to reduce stress on the structure.

In early January, crews set the first box beam girder. This light rail bridge has three box beam girders that span the width of the railroad tracks. The box beam girders are designed to support the light rail as it shifts from one side of the Norfolk Southern tracks to the other side, without obstructing the railroad tracks beneath. Each box beam girder weighs approximately 280,000 pounds.



The Blue Line Extension construction team coordinated closely with Norfolk Southern Railroad to set the girders over the railroad tracks safely. Crews set the girders in short windows of time, usually spanning only a couple of hours at a time, while there was no train traffic.

Throughout February, crews will be setting the remaining three spans of girders. When complete, this bridge will extend 735 feet. The mechanically stabilized earth wall adjacent to North

Davidson Street and just south of Craighad Road will be 53 feet tall at its highest point. Crews will be using lane closures and flagging on North Davidson Street to safely set the final girders. Stay connected by signing up for Notify Me on ridetransit.org or follow us on Facebook and Twitter (@BLEupdates) for traffic impacts and construction updates.

To receive automatic email notifications about upcoming work, road closures or detours or public meeting information, please sign up under the Notify Me tab on the website at www.charlottefuture.com.

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER AND FACEBOOK >>>

 @BLEupdates

 [Facebook.com/CATSBlueLineExtensionUpdates](https://www.facebook.com/CATSBlueLineExtensionUpdates)