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

OCTOBER 2016 CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

We've Got The Power

Overhead Catenary System

The light rail is powered by eight traction power substations that are placed approximately every mile along the alignment. These substations convert AC electrical current-the current supplied to residences-to DC electrical current, which is used to power the light rail.

Steel poles are placed about every two hundred feet, usually between the northbound and southbound tracks, to support the overhead catenary system (OCS). The OCS connects to the traction power substations to supply electricity to the light rail.

After the poles have been installed, a crew strings the OCS wires between the poles. Each light rail vehicle has a pantograph on top that transfers electrical power from the OCS to the light rail vehicle.

Safety is Top Priority

Safety is top priority! Before the BLE opens for revenue service, it goes through a five-month period of rigorous testing to ensure its safety and reliability. There are two testing periods, each approximately two or three months in duration. The first period tests the software, communications, and signals to ensure that the systems are working together properly. The second period tests the full system, including the light rail vehicles. During various phases of testing, light rail vehicles will be moving along the tracks but will not be in service.

As track construction continues, please be mindful of construction vehicles entering and exiting the median. For your safety, only cross North Tryon Street at designated pedestrian crossings. Do not walk through construction zones.

Setting Traction Power Substation at North Yard

High rail vehicle working on OCS

OCS Power Lines

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.

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