



June 12, 2015

## Residents Learn More about Northeast Corridor Projects



Public meetings were held May 12 and May 14 to gather resident input on the Northeast Corridor Infrastructure (NECI) program. Approximately 50 residents attended the meeting on May 12 at The Oasis Shiner's Center, and 60 residents on May 14 at Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church.

Both meetings kicked off with construction updates on the Blue Line Extension (BLE), and attendees placed comments on project maps to prioritize amenities such as sidewalks, bicycle lanes, on-street parking and landscaping.

The NECI program will create street improvements in transit station areas along the BLE, with the goal of providing the community near the stations safe and comfortable access to transit, whether they walk, bike or drive. The projects are also positioned to support economic development opportunities in accordance with the city's growth strategy.

Employees from Engineering & Property Management, Charlotte Area Transit System, Planning, Charlotte Department of Transportation (CDOT) and Neighborhood & Business Services attended the meetings to provide information and answer questions about projects in this area.

## South McDowell Street Underpass Project Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on May 12 to celebrate the completion of the South McDowell Street Underpass Project and other Center City Projects including:

- East 3rd Street underpass (Interstate-277)
- East 4th Street underpass (Interstate-277)
- West 4th Street underpass (Interstate-77)
- Charlotte Transit Center's Brevard Street sidewalk



Speakers included District 1 Councilwoman Patsy Kinsey, CDOT Director Danny Pleasant and Tom Hanchett of the Levine Museum of the New South.

The city partnered with the Levine Museum of the New South, Charlotte Center City Partners, Mecklenburg County Historic Landmarks Commission, Dilworth Community Association and the Second Ward Foundation High School National Alumni Foundation, Inc. in an effort to make these projects a success. The South McDowell Street underpass project featured the installation of four stainless steel plaques celebrating the history of Charlotte's Brooklyn and Dilworth neighborhoods.

[Click here](#) to see a short video of the ribbon cutting ceremony.

## Cross Charlotte Trail Tour

At the June 1 council workshop, city staff presented the latest updates and proposed next steps of the Cross Charlotte Trail. Staff detailed sections of the trail extending from the PNC Music Pavilion to Pineville, highlighting the economic development and amenities the trail can provide.

The Cross Charlotte Trail will utilize 7.6 miles of existing trails in Charlotte, leaving 18.3 miles to be completed by the city and county. The presentation included a short video, giving council an overhead view of the existing trail near the Metropolitan area that will be utilized in the project. For an up-close look of the areas, several members of council and city leadership embarked on a bus tour of the Metropolitan, Park Road Shopping Center and Belmont/Optimist Park/North Davidson Street areas. Throughout the tour, staff provided council and media with plans for each area and feedback received from residents regarding the trail.

[Click here](#) for a short video of the Cross Charlotte Trail bus tour.

## Community Feedback on the West Trade / Rozzelles Ferry Area

More than 100 residents attended the latest West Trade/Rozzelles Ferry area Comprehensive Neighborhood Improvement Program (CNIP) learning workshop to provide feedback on stakeholder priorities. Attendees included representatives from the Charlotte Housing Authority, business leaders, large land owners and neighborhood leaders, all of whom expressed great energy around opportunities to create both an increased sense of community and improved connectivity for comprehensive change in the area.



*“My wife and I have made a considerable investment in the community because we feel that it is a very vibrant community with so much going on. We feel it’s the next best thing, and we want to be a part of what’s next in Charlotte.” - William Hughes*

Attendees were asked to provide specific recommendations on infrastructure improvements through active participation at multiple work stations featuring specific topic areas. This round of community engagement encouraged small group conversations and allowed attendees to identify priority areas of focus and areas they felt needed no further development. Feedback obtained from this meeting was consistent with priority areas identified through numerous stakeholder interviews and small group sessions conducted over the past six months.

*“The things that I think are important in our neighborhood are the Freedom Drive corridor, all of the businesses that are closed and the vacancies that are in the neighborhood. I hope these issues are addressed to bring businesses to the area and spur some activity.” - Kate Johnson*



The West Trade/Rozzelles Ferry strategy team is in the process of prioritizing its proposed project list to present to the steering team later this summer.

Across the board, themes heard during the workshop validated the ‘big ideas’ heard during previous community engagement efforts. Priorities identified based on the most recent engagement feedback were:

- Improve integration of the community by creating or improving overall connectivity between and within neighborhoods and greenways/parks across the corridors
- Leverage the draw of Uptown and recent development along Morehead to make the area a destination for current residents and for others to come to the West side by attracting high end grocery, retail and entertainment to the area
- Create support for enhanced mobility and transportation options to increase access into, across, and out of the area.



*“We’re really interested in seeing what CNIP can do for this area. We’re looking for a grocery store and other private dollars to come in. At the same time, we’re definitely looking to connect the communities. We want people to see the west side of the city as a destination to come to. Just connecting the dots of the neighborhoods, getting more people to come over here.” - Justin Harlow*

## Whitehall / Ayrley Area Team Identifies Priorities

The Whitehall/Ayrley CNIP team held two community meetings in the spring, with approximately 100 attendees at the first meeting on March 10, and a similar turnout at the follow-up meeting on April 23.

Meeting attendees were asked to provide more specific recommendations on infrastructure improvements through active participation at interactive stations featuring specific geographic areas. Attendees identified the following priorities for the Whitehall/Ayrley area:



- Improve transportation connections within the community by creating or improving overall connectivity between employment centers and surrounding neighborhoods
- Provide locations for more parks or greenways across the area in order to provide recreational activities for both daytime workers and area residents

- Create support for enhanced mobility (walking/biking) and transportation options (widen and improve area roads with bike lanes and sidewalks) to increase access into, within, and out of the area

Next steps will be to prioritize potential projects based on the CIP and CNIP goals, and return to the community with the list of projects in the summer. Teams will also collaborate with Mecklenburg County to share resident feedback regarding county services being included in future CIP planning efforts.

## Central/Albemarle/Shamrock CNIP Community Meeting

On June 4, the Central/Albemarle/Shamrock team held a community workshop to discuss potential projects for the CNIP area. Approximately 75 residents attended the event at the Midwood International and Cultural Center, which included the opportunity to ask questions and weigh in on potential projects that have been identified in the area.



After a presentation highlighting the CNIP process and a review of results from the previous community meeting, attendees were able to spend time with team members and staff ambassadors and receive additional information about potential projects. Information from community meetings will be used to help prioritize CNIP projects in the area. A follow-up community meeting to present recommendations is anticipated for early fall 2015.

For more project information and a list of upcoming CIP and CNIP meetings, click [here](#).