



Community Investment Plan Newsletter

September 25, 2015

CNIP community meeting updates



Enthusiasm remained high on the westside when the W. Trade/Rozelles Ferry Road Comprehensive Neighborhood Improvement Program (CNIP) team hosted 74 stakeholders at a community meeting last month at Johnson C. Smith's Mosaic Village.

The team presented a list of 115 potential candidate projects identified at previous community meetings, highlighting projects such as the West 4th St. extension. The team also explained the multi-phase vetting process that will allow the most viable projects to emerge. The process includes:

- Removal of projects that duplicate existing work
- Removal of projects ineligible for CNIP bond money
- Selection of projects that offer one or more of the following features:
 - Near shovel-ready and therefore could be completed quickly
 - Ability to leverage current opportunities and partnerships
 - A mix of small and large cost projects
 - Opportunity to serve as a catalyst project to attract partner funding

The meeting then focused on 23 projects that rated favorably based on the CNIP goals and neighborhood criteria. After the presentation, stakeholders were divided into breakout sessions where they were able to ask questions and provide feedback on the community's priorities.

Although funding is not anticipated for implementation of all projects at this time, the input from the workshop will be shared with the CNIP Coordination Team as they continue to identify key projects to move forward.

LYNX Silver Line

In 2011 the Metropolitan Transit Commission directed CATS to prepare for a LYNX Silver Line/Southeast Corridor Transit Study. The project officially began in February 2015. CATS, city staff, NCDOT, and the Town of Matthews have been developing a proactive public engagement plan, analyzing existing conditions and setting goals for the project. The study, which is anticipated to be complete by the end of June 2016, has three overarching goals:

- Define a fixed rail guideway alignment that serves future transportation needs and promotes the land use plans/policies of both the Independence Boulevard Area Plan and the Town of Matthews.
- Provide an interim transit strategy that utilizes the future managed lanes proposed on Independence Boulevard.
- Coordinate with land development strategies to protect and preserve the fixed guideway alignment.

During the month of August, the team conducted three public meetings where residents participated in interactive exercises and map activities. The purpose of the activities was to gain a better understanding of how the public feels about various types of rail and bus operating scenarios, opportunities, and constraints within the Southeast Corridor.

Full survey data and comments are currently being summarized; however, here are a few highlights of the information thus far:

- A total of 189 residents attended the three workshops.
- The majority at the Matthews and Uptown Library workshops agreed that rail in the corridor should have an efficient and reliable travel time, even if significant property must be acquired for a dedicated right-of-way. A slight majority of people attending the Midwood International and Cultural Center agreed with this.

Work during the month August also included continued preparation of bus route recommendations for the Southeast Corridor as well as the Independence Boulevard express lanes.

Data team scores big at Charlotte Business Journal's CIO Awards

In August, Jan Whitesell accepted the Best Big Data Project award at the Charlotte Business Journal's annual CIO of the Year awards. The award was for her team's work on the city's CIP.

When the CIP process started, the city didn't have funds to onboard a technology to collect data and analyze projects within the plan. The solution was to use existing tools and highly skilled staff to create a comprehensive technical platform. The team used over 200 datasets in ESRI's Model Builder and technology with ArcMap and Tableau to create eight databases, an ArcGIS online map service, eight storybook dashboards, a Virtual Charlotte data browsing application and an [online portal](#).



The team utilized these technologies to report existing conditions in each strategy area, ensuring that all consultants had a common baseline of data from which to start their analysis. It also relieved city GIS analysts from having to provide multiple copies of very large datasets to all of the consultants.

The data allowed strategy teams to assess where opportunities and challenges existed in project areas. It also helped departments coordinate upcoming projects within the same area and hold joint public meetings where all projects were represented.

By using in-house data, staff and technology tools, the project saved an estimated \$250,000 in data gathering and analysis, and reporting costs from outside contracts.

The project team included: Andrew Bowen (N&BS), Steven Castongia (CDOT), Rebecca Hefner (N&BS), Jason Lawrence (CATS), Evan Lowry (Planning), Katie Mayr (CDOT), Sou Moua (E&PM), Lori Quinn (I&T), Thomas Ricard (Storm Water Services), Keri Shearer (I&T), Jan Whitesell (Planning – Project Lead) and Samantha Willis (Storm Water Services).

Cross Charlotte Trail in the news

Over the summer, members of the Cross Charlotte Trail team were interviewed on [WFAE Charlotte Talks](#) to discuss the trail progress, and the transportation and economic development benefits of trail-oriented development.

Over the next several months, city staff will work with the consultant team to finalize the Cross Charlotte Trail Master Plan and alignment study. City staff will bring several agenda items to Council in September and October with regard to the master plan and coordination. These items will include planning and design contracts for new segments of trail, two interlocal agreements with Mecklenburg County and developer agreements with at least two developers regarding construction of parts of the trail.

Upcoming Meetings

Prosperity Village CNIP

CrossWay Community Church (6400 Prosperity Church Road)

Sept. 29, 6-8 p.m.

Sunset Beatties Ford CNIP

Friendship Missionary Church (3400 Beatties Ford Rd)

Sept. 29, 10 a.m. – noon; 1-3 p.m.; 4-6 p.m.

Central/Albemarle/Shamrock CNIP

Midwood International & Cultural Center (1817 Central Avenue)

Oct. 1, Drop-in 6 – 8 p.m.

BLE Meetings

The Oasis Shriners (604 Doug Mayes Place)

Oct. 13, 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Charlotte Mecklenburg Public Library, Main (310 N. Tryon Street)

Oct. 14, Drop-In Only 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Sugaw Creek Church (101 W Sugar Creek Road)

Oct. 15, 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

For more CIP and CNIP information, visit [Charlotte Future](http://CharlotteFuture.com).