Council-Manager Memo #13
Wednesday, February 15, 2012

CHARLOTTE.

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INFORMATION:

CATS–BLE Presentation to Joint Legislative Committee on Transportation Oversight and President Obama's FY2013 Transportation Budget

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BLE – Joint Legislative Committee on Transportation Oversight Presentation

Last Friday, CATS CEO Carolyn Flowers made a presentation on the status of the Blue Line Light Rail Extension (BLE) to the N.C. State Joint Legislative Committee on Transportation Oversight. The presentation was followed by a presentation from Deputy Secretary of Transportation for Transit Paul Morris on the State of North Carolina's role in the project. These presentations were made to fulfill the statutory requirement for the joint committee to "review" the project prior to the signing of the State Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) between the City and NCDOT that formally commits the state share of funding for the BLE.

The BLE presentations were followed by presentations on the proposed Red Line Regional Rail project. The joint committee was briefed on the history of the project from inception in the 1990s until NCDOT became involved with the project in late 2010. Deputy Secretary Morris briefed the committee on the financing plan that is before the counties of Mecklenburg and Iredell, towns of Mooresville, Davidson, Cornelius and Huntersville, and City of Charlotte.

Approximately a dozen committee members were in attendance. Committee members asked several questions about the projects. The questions raised about the BLE were more clarifying as they appeared to ask for more information about points made in BLE presentation. The questions raised about the Red Line appeared to be more fundamental as they revolved around the issues raised by Iredell County and the state's involvement in the project. Overall the dialogue was very good with the committee and staff was appreciative of the chance to present. A signing ceremony is being planned for early late winter/early spring.

BLE –President's Budget

President Obama released his FY2013 budget including the Transportation Budget. Included in the President's budget was $70 million designated for the Blue Line Extension in the New Starts Budget. The BLE was the only new project added to the New Start process for FY2013. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) also released ratings for the BLE with the FTA rating project as a Medium-High Overall and a Medium-High for Local Financing.

***City Source* Tells Stories of Citizen Service**

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City Source is the City of Charlotte's unique 30-minute program for citizens to learn about the City's services as well as how its employees serve the community. The program airs the first and third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. on Cable 16 (Time Warner Cable), AT&T U-verse

and is streamed LIVE online at www.charlottenc.gov.

In the Feb. 16, edition viewers will see Mayor Anthony Foxx and how he and others are providing a positive influence to local youngsters. Viewers will also see how City employees are working to become energy champions, how fire inspections prevent fires, how to nominate CMPD's finest for the Police Community Relations Awards, and a profile of the Charlotte Fire Department's historic vehicle fleet.

This information is also promoted in CMail, the City's electronic newsletter emailed to more than 1,100 subscribers and distributed by City departments whose services, programs and employees are featured in an upcoming episode. **See attached flier (2. CitySource.pdf)**