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WEEK IN REVIEW:

Mon (May 20)	Tues (May 21)	Wed (May 22)	Thurs (May 23)	Fri (May 24)
5:00 PM Council Zoning Meeting, Room CH-14		5:30 PM Metropolitan Transit Commission, Room 267	12:00 PM Transportation and Planning Committee, Room 280	

CALENDAR DETAILS:

Monday, May 20

5:00 pm Council Zoning Meeting, Room CH-14

Wednesday, May 22

5:30 pm Metropolitan Transit Commission, Room 267
AGENDA: Gold Rush agreement; Transit funding finance team

Thursday, May 23

12:00 pm Transportation and Planning Committee, Room 280
AGENDA: MUMPO memorandum of understanding; Park Woodlawn area plan; Road design and fire response team

[Click here to view the May and June calendars.](#)

INFORMATION:

Summary of May 15 Council Budget Adjustments Meeting

Staff Resource: Randy Harrington, Budget & Evaluation, 704-336-5013, rjharrington@charlottenc.gov

The annual Council Budget Adjustments meeting on the FY2014 & FY2015 Operating Budget and the FY2014-FY2018 Capital Investment Plan was held on May 15. A summary of the May 15 Budget Adjustments votes is provided below. Council's next meeting on the budget is the Straw Votes meeting on Wednesday, May 29 at 12:00 p.m. in Room 267.

Proposed adjustments receiving five or more votes that will move on to May 29 Straw Votes meeting:

- Operating budget adjustments:
 - Keep Charlotte International Cabinet as a Financial Partner at current \$156,121 funding level and do not transition it to an office within Neighborhood and Business Services (Barnes)
 - Add an internship program to support Council member constituent support needs; \$82,940-\$160,000 (Mitchell)
 - Delete Two of the three recommended Charlotte Business INclusion program positions; \$175,525 in FY2014 and \$159,987 in FY2015 (Mayfield)
- Capital budget adjustments:
 - Reduce Cross Charlotte Trail by \$15 million, from \$35 million to \$20 in funding (Mitchell)
 - Delete Park South Dr. Extension; \$8,630,000 (Fallon)
 - Delete CIP Scenario Two with 3.17 cent property tax increase (\$816.4 million package) and replace with Scenario Four 2.78 cent property tax increase plan (\$821.2 million package) (Howard)

- Add UNCC Informatics; \$10 million (Howard)
- Add Red Line Commuter Rail study support; \$250,000 (Howard)

Proposed adjustments not receiving five or more votes:

- Operating budget adjustments
 - Delete Rental Assistance Endowment Payment; \$2 million (Barnes)
 - Reduce Arts & Science Council funding by \$1.5 million in FY2014 and FY2015 (Dulin)
 - Delete Centralina Council of Governments funding; \$175,542 in FY2014 and FY2015 and reallocate funding to sidewalk program (Dulin)
- Capital budget adjustments
 - Delete recommended property tax increase (3.17 cents), delete General CIP (\$816.4 million), and initiate referendum on property tax increase for Nov. 2013 (Cooksey)
 - Replace the portion of property tax rate increase funding Joint Communication Center (\$68 million) using the following funds: \$63 million local funds identified for CityLYNX Gold Line, \$2 million from Rental Assistance Endowment Payment, and \$3 million (\$1.5 million reduction in FY2014 and FY2015) from Arts & Science Council (Dulin)
 - Delete Upgrade Traffic System Signal Coordination (\$15 million), Upgrade Traffic Control Devices (\$19 million), South Division and Park South Police Stations (\$18.7 million), Northeast Equipment Maintenance Facility (\$8.6 million), and Sweden Road Maintenance Yard Replacement (\$22.6 million); Total delete is \$84 million (Pickering)

City Launches Special Webpage for Uptown Events

Staff Resource: Tabitha Warren, Corporate Communications & Marketing, 704-336-5526, tcwarren@charlottenc.gov

The City has launched a one-stop information source when large-scale events such as Food Lion Speed Street (May 23-25) are held uptown. The site builds on the successful DNCinfo.charlottenc.gov page – a key component of communicating with businesses, residents, commuters and visitors prior to and during the DNC. Staff has re-engaged these more than 2,800 DNCinfo subscribers by sending a courtesy notification inviting them to continue to receive information for other large scale events. Additionally, staff has over 3,700 subscribers in its database who have requested to receive the Street Use Notice, event notices and CMail (the City's biweekly news update). The size of the database is over 6,500 at this time.

At <http://UptownEvents.CharlotteNC.gov> readers will find:

- Information on what an extraordinary event is;
- Speed Street event information;
- Traffic updates;
- Information on getting around uptown;

- A real-time traffic map;
- Safety information;
- The City's noise ordinance;
- How to report something suspicious.

Citizens can also sign up to receive updates via email or text. Additional information on street closings and other details of Food Lion Speed Street can be found in the next item.

Food Lion Speed Street 2013 Event Schedule and Street Closings

Staff Resource: Joe Yanicak, CDOT, 704-336-5531, jyanicak@charlottenc.gov

The annual Food Lion Speed Street festival will be held Thursday, May 23 through Saturday, May 25 in Uptown Charlotte. The main concert stage will be located at MLK Blvd and Caldwell Street. The stage will host two evening concerts and a variety of activities during the day. College Street, Trade Street and Church Street will remain open throughout the festival.

A brief schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, May 22	9:30 a.m.	Streets close for set-up
Thursday, May 23	Noon – 11:00 p.m.	Festival Open
Friday, May 24	Noon – 11:00 p.m.	Festival Open
Saturday, May 25	Noon – 11:00 p.m.	Festival Open
Sunday, May 26	8:00 a.m.	Streets re-open

A map of the event site indicating dates and times of street closures is attached below.

During the festival, commuters should expect significantly heavier traffic and congestion during morning and evening rush hours. In order to decrease congestion, CATS will re-route several buses away from College Street and increase the frequency of the LYNX Blue Line service.

Information regarding street closures and event details will be communicated to Uptown businesses and residents through the Street Use Notice and Center City Partner’s website. Additionally, CDOT will issue a press release with street closure information. All this information, as well as additional public safety information, will be available on <http://UptownEvents.CharlotteNC.gov>

[Click here to view the Speed Street street closure map.](#)

CMPD Steele Creek Division Station Certified as LEED Gold Facility

Staff Resource: William Haas, E&PM, 704-336-4625, whaas@charlottenc.gov

On May 8, the U.S. Green Building Council notified the project architect, Little & Associates, that CMPD Steele Creek Division had achieved LEED Gold status, making it the City's first Police Station designated as such since City Council adopted its Policy for Sustainable City Facilities in September 2009. The project received 65 of 110 possible points. To achieve LEED Gold, a project must score between 60-79 points.

The 12,500 square foot facility at the corner of Westinghouse Boulevard and South Tryon Street opened in August 2012 and houses a staff of 112. It is located in a highly visible and accessible location. Sustainable and energy-saving project elements included insulated concrete formed walls, geothermal heating and air-conditioning system, lighting sensors, water efficient landscaping, water use reduction measures, white roofing membrane and concrete parking lot.

Construction of another station, CMPD Eastway Division, will begin this month. A groundbreaking ceremony will be held 2 p.m. Monday, May 20. This new station will be at the corner of Central Avenue and Merry Oaks Road and will also house Neighborhood and Business Services Northeast Service Area Team. This facility will be the first City facility to seek Green Globes certification. The City anticipates a 3-globe rating (4 possible globes), which is roughly equivalent to a LEED Gold rating. The general contractor for the project is Southside Constructors, Inc., which is the same general contractor used for the Steele Creek Division Station.

Report on Proposed General Assembly Regulatory Reform Legislation

Staff Resources: Dave Weekly, E&PM, 704-336-4103, dweekly@charlottenc.gov

Regina Cousar, CMUD, 704-336-3589, rcousar@charlottenc.gov

Dana Fenton, City Manager's Office, 704-336-2009, dfenton@charlottenc.gov

On April 19, staff reported on the Regulatory Reform Act of 2013 (SB 612) filed in the North Carolina General Assembly that would preempt local environmental ordinances and regulations that are more stringent than state and federal laws and regulations that regulate the field. The legislation would also implement "fast-track" permitting of storm water management systems and plan approvals for erosion and sediment control. The Senate passed SB 612 on May 15 with modest amendments to the preemption of local ordinances and regulations and the original version of the "fast track" permitting and plans approvals intact.

In addition to SB 612, HB 480, Environmental Permitting Reform, passed the House on May 14. It directed the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) to implement a "fast track" permitting process for storm water management systems only by July 1, 2016. The House passed version of HB 480 also addressed liability concerns in the "fast track" process which SB 612 does not.

In general, the "fast track" language currently found in both SB 612 and HB 480 could lead to

unintended consequences significantly impacting the City's ability to safeguard the environment and mitigate the effects of development on public infrastructure and private property specifically related to storm water runoff and water quality. Such a process would lead to the issuance of permits without technical review by the City, which increases the risk of design errors and omissions. Such design errors and omissions could result in problems in later phases including redesigns, delays, violations, fines, litigation, and impacts to downstream properties.

While the modified "fast track" process in HB 480 is imperfect, it is probable that this modified process will be substituted by the House into SB 612, and is more than likely to survive the legislative process. Accordingly, City staff will be closely watching the development of the "fast track" process by the EMC to ensure City concerns are addressed.

City staff will continue pursuing changes to the preemption language in SB 612 that would strike down portions of local environmental ordinances and regulations administered by City departments that are more stringent than state and federal laws and regulations. These include the Post Construction Controls, Industrial Wastewater Pretreatment, Erosion Control, Nutrient Controls, Stream Buffers, and Storm water Detention ordinances. A number of environmental assessments, controls, and permits designed to ensure safe drinking water, such as Federal Energy Regulatory Commission authorization and the interbasin transfer certificate, are based on the mitigation effects that some local governments have enacted through the years. The City Council adopted stricter provisions based upon input received from stakeholders in the community and state and federal environmental agencies.

On May 13, staff attended a meeting convened by the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce with stakeholders including REBIC, Homebuilders Association, and other groups to discuss SB 612 preemption issues. Mecklenburg County staff attended the same meeting to discuss the likely impacts upon County ordinances and regulations. The preemption issue has also prompted statewide attention in the media. Locally, both the *Charlotte Business Journal* and the *Charlotte Observer* have run articles. City staff will continue updating the Council as appropriate.

May 17 State Legislative Update

Staff Resource: Dana Fenton, City Manager's Office, 704-336-2009, dfenton@charlottenc.gov

The Week 16 Legislative Report includes updates on bills of interest to the City of Charlotte. The Senate will be releasing its budget recommendations early next week, which the City will be closely watching. The House of Representatives released its tax reform plan on May 16.

[Click here to view the Week 16 Legislative Update.](#)

ATTACHMENTS:

[Click here to view the City Council Follow-Up Report](#)

Contents include:

--Gold Rush and CityLYNX Gold Line Fare Considerations

[Click here to view the March 28 Transportation and Planning Committee Summary](#)