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INFORMATION:

June 4-6 – Open Houses for Brookshire Blvd. and WT Harris Blvd. Roadway Classification Studies

Staff Resource: Brian Horton, CDOT, 704-432-5237, bhorton@charlottenc.gov

Earlier this year, CDOT initiated roadway classification studies for two high-capacity thoroughfares within the City—Brookshire Blvd. (NC 16) and WT Harris Boulevard (NC 24). The studies' purpose is to establish the planning and design approach for each thoroughfare. Since roadway classifications may vary by segment, the studies' results will help guide future decisions for transportation projects and land development decisions.

Thus far, the technical team has evaluated existing conditions and compared trade-offs between likely classifications. The team included the City's *Urban Street Design Guidelines* and NCDOT's new *Complete Streets Design Guidelines* in the trade-off analyses.

On June 4, 5, and 6, CDOT will sponsor the following open houses:

Monday, June 4, 5-7 p.m.
University City Partners, Ben Craig Center
8701 Mallard Creek Road

Tuesday, June 5, 5-7 p.m.
Hickory Grove Baptist Church
6060 Hickory Grove Road

Wednesday, June 6, 5-7 p.m.
Cook Memorial Presbyterian Church
3413 Mount Holly – Huntersville Road

CDOT encourages the public to attend and provide their opinions about potential recommendations on access management, multi-modal design, and integrating existing or future land uses with the characteristics of each thoroughfare.

June 5 – I-277/I-77 Loop Study Workshops

Staff Resource: Vivian Coleman, CDOT, 704-336-4275, vcoleman@charlottenc.gov

On Tuesday, June 5, a public workshop will be held for the I-277/I-77 Loop Study from 3:30 to 7 p.m. at the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center. The public is encouraged to attend at any time during the workshop, and provide comments about the findings to date.

The study is being managed by the Charlotte Department of Transportation. The recommendations for the I-277/I-77 Loop around Uptown are expected to focus on future capacity and operational and safety conditions. The primary recommendations of this study will be to define candidate projects for MUMPO's 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan.

The Loop Study has been funded through transportation planning funds allocated by the Mecklenburg-Union Metropolitan Planning Organization (MUMPO), as well as by the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

May 23 Metropolitan Transit Commission Meeting Summary

Staff Resource: Carolyn Flowers, CATS, 704-336-3855, cflowers@charlottenc.gov

At its meeting on Wednesday, May 23, 2012, the MTC had no action items and heard two information items:

Market Research

Staff reported on the results of CATS' annual customer review. Compared to previous years, the customer base is trending slightly younger, with an average income level comparable to the level reported in 2002. Riders reporting full- or part-time employment increased slightly, perhaps a sign of economic recovery. The percentage of customers who have been riders for a year or more continues to rise, as does their likelihood of riding CATS in the future. Three items have risen in importance into the top ten: on-time service, convenient locations for pass sales and easy phone access to route availability. Reasonable fares were among the items ranked below the top ten in importance. The main areas customers rated as high in importance but perceived CATS' service as low in performance were in safety from crime, on-time service and reasonable travel time. CATS will continue to focus on the Core Customer Service attributes of top ten in importance to customers while working to improve in the areas customers rated as high in importance but perceived performance gaps in CATS' delivery.

Advertising Policy Update

Transit advertising revenue has exceeded projections in its first year. Staff continues to explore additional revenue opportunities since there is persistent financial uncertainty for transit funding at the state and federal level. Staff is working on ways to increase revenue further through increased fleet availability, plans for advertising at stations and the Charlotte Transit Center (CTC) and developing a public-private partnership to reduce costs through the farebox with advertising and naming rights. Two additional areas of potential revenue are allowing alcohol ads and expanding the policy on government speech advertising. Alcohol ads are regulated by the ABC Board and are already visible in the community on billboards and at sporting events, as well as at other City assets such as the Airport and Arena. Interior ads would not be allowed for alcohol. The current government speech advertising policy allows only ads that promote or inform the public about a governmental service, program or activity. Staff proposes to align with the existing City policy for banners in the City's rights of way, including promoting non-profit regional tourist attractions and promoting or celebrating the

City, its neighborhoods, civic institutions, or public activities or events in the City. The potential revenue stream for government speech expansion is \$250,000-\$400,000; for alcohol advertisements, the revenue stream is estimated to be \$600,000.

CATS CEO Report

Under the CEO's report, Carolyn Flowers discussed:

a. Democratic National Convention (DNC) Update:

The CTC will relocate for the DNC to a site at the intersection of Third and Mint Streets. CATS will have bus bays for the relocated service with temporary shelter and clear signage. There will be a main passenger shelter with climate controlled, ADA-accessible amenities including restrooms. Customer Service, Security and Transit Ambassadors will assist customers. Buses will be on detour, and staff expects heavier traffic with potential delays on detour routes. Extra standby buses will be available for those routes that run behind due to increased traffic delays. There will be limited Gold Rush service. Rail Operations will operate from the I-485 station to the Stonewall station. A bus shuttle will operate between the Carson station and the relocated CTC for customers needing bus-rail connections. Transit Ambassadors will work at key rail stations. While private operators will provide the majority of service for delegate shuttles, private companies will not be able to meet all needs. CATS will apply for an FTA waiver to operate a portion of delegate shuttles and will charge for this service. There is potential for CATS to operate all bus modes, including Special Transportation Service for disabled delegates, and some train services. The plan is subject to change with evolving direction from the federal government.

b. Budget Update:

A proposal to cap the state gas tax could have a long-term structural impact on CATS' financial plan, as the gas tax is a funding source for transit programs throughout the state. MTC members voted unanimously to allow staff to send a letter of concern to the Mecklenburg delegation, expressing concern and letting them know the impact of a gas tax cap to transit and specifically to CATS.

c. Labor Negotiations Update:

The Bus Operations Division is currently conducting labor negotiations to renew the bus mechanic contract.

d. Rodeo Update:

CATS paratransit staff recently participated in the North Carolina Public Transportation Association Bus Rodeo. CATS came in second overall in the state and again won the safety award. CATS participated in the international bus rodeo in Long Beach, CA and finished in the middle of the competition. The rail team will compete in Dallas in about a week. Local team winners will be introduced to MTC members at the June meeting.

The next MTC meeting will be June 27, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.