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INFORMATION:

SE Corridor (Silver Line) Status Update

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On October 26, 2011, in response to the Independence Boulevard Taskforce recommendations under the ULI Rose Fellowship, the Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC) voted to reverse a previous MTC policy reserving the center of US 74 for future Light Rail Transit use. The MTC also instructed staff to develop a process and plan/schedule for an alignment study to evaluate a rail transit alignment in the broader Southeast Corridor that is not in the median of Independence Boulevard and does not limit the alignment alternatives solely to Monroe Road. The MTC further instructed staff to evaluate a connection between the new alignment and the Central Avenue Streetcar.

Since that decision, CATS, CDOT and Planning have continued to work with the Independence Citizens Taskforce group to educate them on the history of what has been studied in this corridor and the principles and objectives that governed the previous studies. To date, staff has met with the group five times. The two initial meetings were to work out next steps; the following three meetings were educational sessions. CATS provided a presentation on the history of the previous transit alternatives studied and the goals, objectives and principles that were used in the decision making process that lead to the previous technology and alignment recommendations. CDOT provided a presentation on the history of the highway studies, including the managed lane studies, and an update on the current Independence Boulevard widening project underway by NCDOT. Finally, Union County staff provided a presentation on the land use planning effort they are undertaking along the portion of US 74 that will become US 74 Business after the Monroe Bypass is complete.

CATS has budgeted funds for a study update for the SE Corridor in FY14 and has submitted a grant application for federal Alternates Analysis funds that would allow it to accelerate the beginning of the study by 6 months to 1 year. These are competitive grant funds and staff hopes to learn if its application has been successful by October, 2012.

Meanwhile, CATS, CDOT, and Planning continue to work with the Citizens Taskforce as they work to re-examine their vision, guiding principles and goals for what they want the Corridor to become in the future.

New Street Maintenance Superintendent

Staff Resource: Danny Pleasant, CDOT, 704-336-3879, dpleasant@charlottenc.gov

The Charlotte Department of Transportation (CDOT) is pleased to announce the hiring of Mr. Saleem Khattak as the new Street Maintenance Superintendent. Saleem has over 25 years of experience in the transportation and public works industry. His experience spans positions in Chapel Hill, NC, Tampa FL, the City of Colorado Springs, and the Colorado Department of

Transportation (Denver Region). He holds both a bachelors and masters degree in Civil Engineering and has led organizations of similar in size and mission to Charlotte's Street Maintenance Division.

The CDOT conducted a national search to fill the superintendent position that was vacated when Layton Lamb retired.