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## INFORMATION:

### **Ongoing Negotiations Between Bus Operators and Transit Management Company**

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Transit Management of Charlotte, managed by McDonald Transportation, and the United Transportation Union, the union representing bus operators for CATS bus services, are in negotiations to renew the three year contract that expired this summer. Since the expiration of the original contract, both parties have executed multiple small contract extensions as they attempted to reach a fair compensation package while balancing operation costs. Both parties have agreed to use a federal mediator to assist in negotiating contract options. The first meeting with the mediator is scheduled for November 8. The current contract extension is set to expire on Monday November, 11.

CATS contracts with McDonald Transportation, a private management company, to employ transit bus drivers, manage day-to-day operations and to conduct union negotiations. Transit Management of Charlotte is the subsidiary of McDonald Transportation that directly employs the bus drivers. This is a normal structure for transit systems in North Carolina and is utilized to comply with federal and state law.

Federal law requires that public transit enterprises that receive federal funds, such as CATS, allow for the continuation of collective bargaining rights of bus drivers and mechanics. However, North Carolina law does not allow cities, the state or any level of government to enter into any kind of agreement with labor organizations as the bargaining agent for public employees. In order to comply with both state and federal law, it is necessary for CATS bus drivers and mechanics to be employed by a private professional management company contracted with CATS.

CATS management, the Metropolitan Transit Commission and the City of Charlotte appreciate United Transportation Union's commitment to continue operating the bus system while both management and labor work to find common ground and a workable agreement through an avenue of continued discussions and negotiations.

### **Charlotte to Test "Smart" Parking Meters**

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On November 7, the City will begin a 90 day test of new parking meters. Twenty-seven meters will be located in the 300 and 400 blocks of S. Brevard Street. Known as "smart meters," these devices offer enhancements that current coin-only parking meters do not offer, such as:

- Credit card payment
- Prepayment options to prevent violations for motorists that need to park before payable parking hours begin

- Programmable meter hours
- Variable pricing capability
- Immediate malfunction notification
- Electronic back office data collection
- Solar power

At no cost to the City, two different smart meter products will be tested for functionality and operational effectiveness. Through an on-line survey, the City hopes to learn if motorists have a preference for the enhanced meters. Staff also hopes to better understand motorists' payment preferences and experience. Finally, staff are interested in the overall appropriateness of smart meters for on-street use in Charlotte. Moving beyond the testing period, the City will use the feedback from motorists and staff's operational experience to make informed decisions about the replacement of parking meters.

The Charlotte Department of Transportation welcomes everyone to park in the smart meter spaces, and provide information by filling out the on-line survey: <http://parkit.charmeck.org>

**Corporate Communications & Marketing Wins "Eastland Memories" Award**

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Environmental Holdings Group and the *Charlotte Business Journal* recently hosted the "Eastland Mall Greatest Memories" contest to honor the history of one of Charlotte's most memorable retail/entertainment centers. The City of Charlotte's GOV Channel won second place for an entry called 'Eastland Makes Its Mark on the Community'. The story features several residents who came together to celebrate the impact and legacy of the venue. The City is planning to permanently display a piece of the award—a retro Food Court sign from inside the mall—in the Government Center for visitors and future generations to celebrate innovative public-private partnerships and the power of a community.

The video can be viewed at the link below:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yl-66tAq9Tk&feature=youtu.be>