



**WHAT'S INSIDE:**

Page

**Information:**

December 11 – Design Public Hearing for the Proposed Grade Separation of the CSX Transportation Railroad and the Norfolk Southern Railroad .....	2
November 28 Metropolitan Transit Commission Summary .....	2-3
<i>City Source</i> Tells Stories of Citizen Service .....	4

## INFORMATION:

### **December 11 – Design Public Hearing for the Proposed Grade Separation of the CSX Transportation Railroad and the Norfolk Southern Railroad**

*Staff Resource: Tim Gibbs, CDOT, 704-336-3917, [tjibbs@charlottenc.gov](mailto:tjibbs@charlottenc.gov)*

On December 11, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Rail Division will host an informal Design Public Hearing to discuss proposed changes to the CSXT and Norfolk Southern Mainline Railroads in Center City Charlotte. The project involves a grade separation of CSXT and Norfolk Southern (NS) railroads and closing the North Church Street/CSXT railroad crossing. The meeting will be held from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. in Room 266 of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center. NCDOT staff will provide participants with an opportunity to view conceptual plans, ask questions and voice their concerns about the grade separation project.

The project cost is estimated at \$129 million. Its goals are to enhance safety and reduce noise, emissions and energy use while improving rail operations and increasing efficiency for freight and passenger rail. There will not be a formal presentation and interested individuals may attend this informal hearing any time during the above noted hours. Input received will be taken into consideration as work on the project progresses.

A map of the project area is **attached** at the end of this document.

### **November 28 Metropolitan Transit Commission Meeting Summary**

*Staff Resource: Carolyn Flowers, CATS, 704-336-3855, [cflowers@charlottenc.gov](mailto:cflowers@charlottenc.gov)*

At its meeting on Wednesday, November 28, 2012, the MTC had one action item and heard one information item:

#### *2013 State and Federal Legislative Agendas*

MTC's 2013 State and Federal Legislative Agendas were discussed in the September 26, 2012 MTC meeting. Securing funding for operations and rail expansion will continue to be a major thrust of MTC's legislative agenda. To create better opportunities for future bus service, the agenda also includes urging the state legislature to increase maximum bus length from 45 feet to 65 feet, which would allow the use of articulated buses on high ridership routes and for BRT service. MTC members unanimously approved the 2013 State and Federal Legislative Agendas.

#### *Transit Station Area Plan*

The Charlotte Mecklenburg Planning Department led the interdepartmental effort to develop the Transit Station Area Plan. Development of station area plans for the BLE has been underway since 2001. A station area plan is a policy document that makes recommendations but does not implement decisions. For example, the document may suggest that an area be rezoned, but the document does not rezone the area. Three public workshops were held in October and November to solicit public input on the plan. Public comments centered on the

greenway/ multi-use trail around stations, parking issues, building height near transit stations, expanding the NoDa neighborhood preservation area, and how stations are located. The wrap-up public meeting is scheduled in January 2013 with plan adoption scheduled for Spring 2013.

#### *CATS CEO Report*

Under the CEO's report, Carolyn Flowers discussed:

**a. Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) Impacts:**

The MAP-21 act now requires that a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) include a transit representative on the board as a voting member. This region's MPO, the Mecklenburg Union MPO (MUMPO), expanded following the 2010 census to cover the area north of Statesville and most of Union and Lincoln counties. MUMPO has formed a subcommittee to come up with a new Memorandum of Understanding to adjust its membership. Since CATS is the only operating transit agency within MUMPO's boundaries, MTC will need to appoint a representative to MUMPO in the future.

**b. Ridership and Funding:**

Ridership for the year tracks about 0.3 percent higher than last year. CATS continues to work on improving ridership numbers. Sales tax revenues are ahead of budget, but there are issues with receiving appropriated funds from the state and federal governments. The federal continuing resolution has slowed appropriations; the state response is also slower.

**c. Five Year Anniversary for the LYNX Blue Line:**

November marks the five-year anniversary for the LYNX Blue Line. Today, CATS recognized the 24,440,385<sup>th</sup> rider, who was a regular rider on his way to work. Staff at the Light Rail Facility had a five-year celebration as well.

**d. Staff Update:**

Rocky Paiano, General Manager of Rail, will retire on November 30, 2012. He has been with CATS for over ten years. Allen Smith, his successor, comes to CATS with experience from Houston.

#### *Other Business*

MTC members voted unanimously to cancel the December 2012 MTC meeting.

Mayor Foxx suggested that an extended meeting, such as the workshop held in November 2010, may be appropriate for the first quarter of calendar year 2013. He said if the region is committed to a multi-modality transit system, many decisions must be considered to keep projects moving forward. Building the transit system locally, regionally, and with input from the state must be considered, as well as the possibility of developing a regional transit governing body. Funding sources will be an important factor in the region's ability to grow the transit system.

The next MTC meeting will be January 23, 2013 at 5:30 p.m.

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

*Staff Resource: Sherry Bauer, Corporate Communications & Marketing, 704-336-2459, [sbauer@charlottenc.gov](mailto:sbauer@charlottenc.gov)*

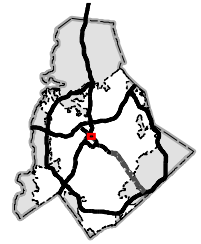
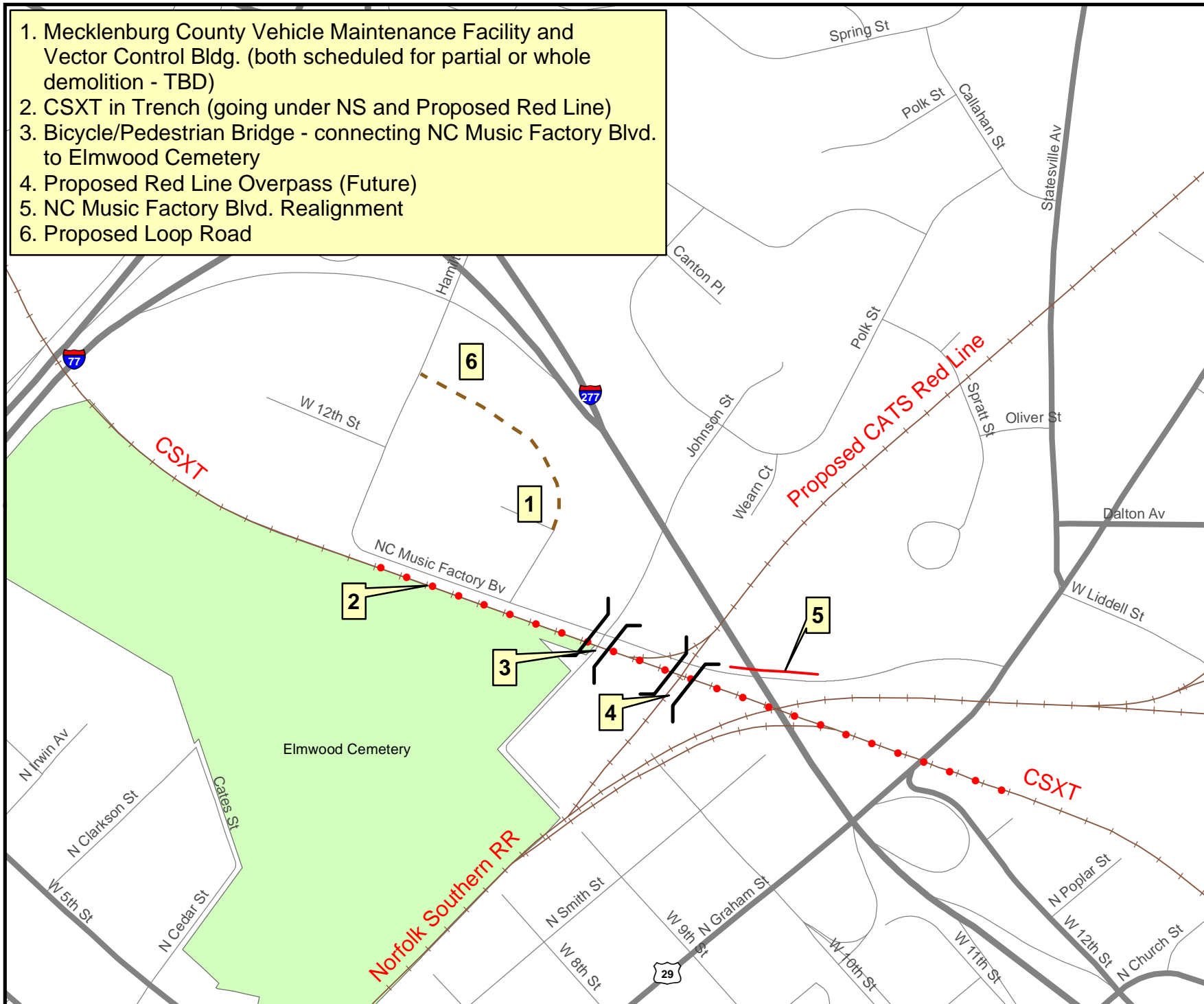
*City Source* is the City of Charlotte's unique 30-minute program for citizens to learn about the City's services as well as how its employees serve the community. The program airs the first and third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. on Cable 16 (Time Warner Cable), AT&T U-verse and is streamed LIVE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

The Dec. 06 – Dec. 19 episode explores the Energy Production & Infrastructure Center at UNCC with Mayor Foxx, recruitment of women at CMPD, and details on the police department's Eastway Division. There's also a Council Spotlight focusing on the Environment. John Autry and Beth Pickering give their feedback on the potential City-County Sustainability Plan.

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. Click [here](#) to view a list of upcoming stories.

# Norfolk Southern/CSXT Mainline Grade Separation Project

1. Mecklenburg County Vehicle Maintenance Facility and Vector Control Bldg. (both scheduled for partial or whole demolition - TBD)
2. CSXT in Trench (going under NS and Proposed Red Line)
3. Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge - connecting NC Music Factory Blvd. to Elmwood Cemetery
4. Proposed Red Line Overpass (Future)
5. NC Music Factory Blvd. Realignment
6. Proposed Loop Road

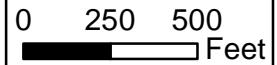


## Thoroughfares

- Freeway
- Major - Class II
- Existing Major
- Major - Class III
- Existing Minor
- Proposed Freeway
- Proposed Major
- Proposed Minor

## Spheres of Influence

- City Limits
- Charlotte Sphere of Influence
- Adjoining Municipalities and Their Spheres of Influence



Planning & Design - GIS  
 February 2, 2012  
 GIS\Maps\  
 NorfolkSouthern\_CSXTMainline.mxd

