AGENDA

Welcome & Introduction: Mayor Gantt

Regional Transit Plan (Connect Beyond): Geraldine Gardner

Homework Assignment Recap: Scott Curry

Transformational Mobility Opportunities: Taiwo Jaiyeoba / Stephen Stansbery

Public Comment: Mayor Gantt

Next Steps and Meeting Closing: Mayor Gantt
August 20, 2020

Charlotte Moves Task Force
Meeting Objectives

- Brief you on the status of the CONNECT Beyond Project
- Foster dialogue on how CONNECT Beyond and Charlottes Moves can coordinate
CONNECT Beyond Study Area

- 2 States
- 12 Counties
- 5,000 Square Miles
- 2.5 Million People
- 4 Metropolitan Planning Organizations
- 1 Rural Planning Organization
- 3 Councils of Government
- 17 Transit Providers
- Numerous Private Operators & Non-Profit Transportation Services
CONNECT Beyond will... 

• Define a single, coordinated transit vision

• Identify high capacity transit corridors that complement plans and infrastructure

• Strategize coordination opportunities

• Develop implementation tools
Project Priorities

- Increase Economic Competitiveness
- Improve Transportation Choices
- Enhance Public Transit
- Promote Sustainable Regional Growth
- Advance Social Equity
- Encourage Environmental Stewardship
Transit Engagement
Preferred Growth Scenario

Multiple Centers Connected by Regional Transit
Project Management Team

Geraldine Gardner  
*Centralina Regional Council*

John Lewis  
*Charlotte Area Transit System*

Jason Wager  
*Centralina Regional Council*

Michelle Nance  
*Centralina Regional Council*

Jason Lawrence  
*Charlotte Area Transit System*

Bob Cook  
*Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization - MPO Liaison*
Consultant Team

Jorge Luna
Project Manager

Kevin Walsh
Deputy Project Manager

Sabrina Colón
Strategic Communications Lead
Project Funding Partners
Project Timeline

- Evaluate existing transit systems
- Identify high capacity transit corridors
- Build a total mobility network
- Develop implementation strategies

Community and Stakeholder Education and Engagement

18 Months
What are we doing well? Where are the gaps and barriers to mobility?

Conduct a detailed evaluation of the region's current transit systems, past planning efforts and our partners’ previous and current transportation plans. During this time we will also form stakeholder advisory committees and begin our initial public engagement.
Which corridors within our region would be good candidates for High Capacity Transit to best connect people to jobs, housing, medical services, education and other key destinations?

High capacity transit includes light rail, bus rapid transit, express bus, and commuter rail. In this step, we will identify high capacity transit corridors that are extensions of current or new corridors in the region.
How can we best expand local services to increase transportation options and increase access to high capacity transit corridors?

Identify the role of transit in a multimodal network that will include a wide variety of transportation solutions, including bus connectors, demand response van networks, bike and pedestrian amenities, integration of ride share companies (e.g. Uber, Lyft, etc.), electric scooters, and other emerging technologies to supplement high capacity transit and commuter rail lines.
How can local transit providers and planning agencies use the results of this initiative?

In coordination with regional transportation planning organizations, develop implementation strategies for refining, connecting, and expanding the existing transit network that supports the long-term vision and values of our region.
Project Committees

Policy
Elected officials and policy experts from across the region (NC and SC).

Technical
Staff level technical resources.
Land use, transportation, health, economic development, education, etc.

Community Advisory
Key regional influencers.
Engagement via government, health & human services, economic development, employers, social services, and education.

CONNECT Beyond Transit Academy
“Deeper dive” forum for committee members, civic leaders and community members.
How do CONNECT Beyond and Charlotte Moves align?

- Focus Area
- Geography
- Partnerships
- Governance & Funding
Questions
Homework Assignment: What We Heard
1A. What’s been particularly insightful/useful?

- **Impressed with existing plans:**
  - Charlotte has completed a more comprehensive foundation of transportation/transit planning than we were aware of.
  - It’s time to move from studies to action.

- **Conversation with peer cities:**
  - Communication and coordinated planning are keys to success with the public. We’ll need to be clear about how everyone benefits from proposed the proposed network.
  - Broward County’s success based on the inclusion of multiple transportation modes was an important lesson.
1B. What’s been missing from the conversation?

• **What about the cost?**
  
  - We need to hear more about the City’s priorities, budget, and funding options so that we can execute the plans.
  - How much does the grand vision cost?
  - What are the funding tools in our toolbox? What can we really afford?

• **What’s the gameplan?**
  
  - After we assemble and endorse the Transformational Mobility Network, what’s next?
  - Is there an expectation of this group after December to help craft public education and communication strategies around transportation funding or a possible referendum?
We need to know how much our vision will cost, what are the proposed funding methods, what are the chances of them passing a voter referendum, and if they don’t, what are the options?

- Tami Simmons & Ken May
We want to understand how this effort fits in with other regional transportation organizations’ plans (CRTPO, MTC, CCOG, NCDOT).

- Stefania Arteaga & Bill Coxe
1B. What’s been missing from the conversation?

- **What about less flashy modes of transportation?**
  - Rail transit and greenways have understandably been a focus of conversation. What about the basics – like sidewalks and better bus service?

- **Is the mobility landscape shifting underneath our feet?**
  - What’s the long-term impact of Covid-19 – particularly on teleworking and the appetite for transit?
  - Will a digital/tech revolution in the transportation sector support better efficiency and reliability of our existing network?
2. What are your most important goals and priorities?

Four very clear themes

1. REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY
2. EQUITY
3. TRANSPORTATION CHOICES
4. GROWTH MANAGEMENT
The two shared goals we agreed upon were equity and regional connectivity.

- Raquel Lynch & David Johnson
2. What are your most important goals and priorities?

**REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY**

- Silver Line & Gold Line
- Finish the greenway network
- BRT to more areas of Charlotte
- Need support from neighboring communities
2. What are your most important goals and priorities?

**EQUITY**

- Transportation should improve *access to opportunity* for all to help address Charlotte’s social mobility challenges.
- Transportation options should provide *access to essentials* (jobs, school, grocery, healthcare, childcare).
- We need to pair affordable housing with investment in *affordable transportation options* (transit/walking/biking).
- Focus on the most vulnerable, least connected areas first, as opposed to the areas that are already “transit-rich”.
Ensuring that everyone in Charlotte has access to basic needs is a paramount goal of this effort.

- Danielle Frazier & David Ward
We are aligned in wanting Charlotte to be a Tier 1, global market AND achieve equitable access to strong, healthy and vibrant neighborhoods.

- Janet LaBar & Chris Turner
2. What are your most important goals and priorities?

TRANSPORTATION CHOICES

- Rail, Bus Rapid Transit, Greenways/Bikeways, Sidewalks – ALL ARE IMPORTANT
- Provide a robust network of transportation choices
- Key words: Safe, reliable, affordable, connected
Other transportation choices must be on par with the automobile experience or better.

- Eric Zaverl & Pedro Perez
2. What are your most important goals and priorities?

**GROWTH MANAGEMENT**

- Need to manage growth along corridors that are already congested.
- Population and density are increasing, but widening thoroughfares is not a good option in most cases. We need to be able to move more people more efficiently.
- Need to support multiple centers as destinations (employment/education/activity centers)
We need to address traffic congestion... and the cumulative effect of rezoning approvals on daily car trips.

- William Hughes & Karl Froelich
3. What’s your definition of “greatest need”?

- **Expand / Enhance Transit Network**
  - Rail transit – Silver Line & Gold Line
  - Expansion of high-capacity, high-frequency bus service as a shorter term goal

- **Balanced Investment**
  - Balance key corridors that support regional connectivity with sidewalks and bikeways extending into the neighborhoods (first/last mile)
  - Balance “big ticket” items with “quick wins” – Don’t overlook basic things like sidewalks
The greatest need for the long-term is rail... It should be the foundation of a network that includes buses, bicycles, scooters, ridesharing, etc. to get people the last mile to businesses and homes.

- Sonja Smith & Jim Marascio
We need to balance big ticket items with low hanging fruit that would improve the transit experience and increase ridership.

- Geraldine Gardner & Nick McJetters
The greatest need is regional connectivity with walkability and pedestrian/biking lanes in neighborhoods.

- Reginald Henderson & Aaron Lay
3. What’s your definition of “greatest need”?

• **Start with the most vulnerable, least connected places**
  - Use a data-driven approach with an equity lens to determine places with “greatest need”
  - Ensuring access to critical services (jobs, school, grocery, healthcare, childcare) for all Charlotte residents, and especially for those that can’t afford cars.
  - We need to make sure that residents aren’t displaced by the affordable options (transit & bike) we build to serve them.

• **Prioritize safety**
  - In the short term this means responding to Covid-19
  - In the long term this means Vision Zero and effective maintenance
We need more public transportation (i.e. CATS buses) in underserved areas.

- Elyas Mohammed & Betty Doster
Connectivity, reliability and safety....probably the three most important words around mobility.

- Keba Samuel & Ernie Reigel
Other key thoughts

• We really enjoyed interacting with fellow Task Force Members outside the regularly scheduled video calls.

• We are learning a LOT on the fly!

• We need to think long term. What types of transportation will be most relevant and useful for our children and grandchildren 20 to 30 years from now?

• **We need a reminder at each meeting about the specific scope and mission of the Task Force so that we can prioritize our feedback efficiently toward our ultimate goal/deliverable.**
Transformational Mobility Opportunities
YOUR MISSION

Define a Transformational Mobility Network

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
REVIEW EXISTING PLANS
ASSESS MOBILITY NEEDS
DETERMINE FUNDING NEEDS
RECOMMEND MOBILITY NETWORK TO CITY COUNCIL
Charlotte MOVES:
VISION STATEMENT

“Charlotte will provide safe and equitable mobility options for all travelers regardless of age, income, ability, race, where they live, or how they choose to travel.

An integrated system of transit, bikeways, sidewalks, trails, and streets will support a sustainable, connected, prosperous, and innovative network that connects all Charlotteans to each other, jobs, amenities, goods, services, and the region.”

- From Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan
A COORDINATED EFFORT

Strategic Mobility Plan

Transformational Mobility Network

Funding Strategy

May
Dec
July
Nov

2020
2021
Seattle, WA
Precedent

Map with corresponding “project/program pages”
Transformational Mobility Opportunities

Existing Transit / Transportation Plans

Early Feedback from the Task Force

Major Categories of Potential Investment

1. Rapid Transit Corridors
2. Bus Priority System
3. Greenway System
4. Pedestrian Walkability
5. Bicycle Priority Network
6. Roadway Network
Framework: **Transformational Mobility Opportunities**

- **Rapid Transit Corridors**
  - Our complete rapid transit vision

- **Bus Priority System**
  - Our expanded & prioritized bus network

- **Greenway System**
  - Our parks & streets for recreation & mobility

- **Pedestrian Walkability**
  - Our investment in first & last mile mobility

- **Bicycle Priority Network**
  - Our bicycle vision for all ages & abilities

- **Roadway Network**
  - Our investment to manage congestion

Supporting Plans & Policies:

- CATS 2030 System Plan - **Regional**
- Connect Beyond (on-going) - **Regional**
- Transportation Action Plan (TAP) - **Charlotte**
- Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) - **Regional**
- Strategic Mobility Plan (SMP) (on-going) - **Charlotte**
- Charlotte Future 2040 (on-going) - **Charlotte**
- Strategic Energy Action Plan (SEAP) - **Charlotte**
Framework: **Transformational Mobility Opportunities**

### Rapid Transit Corridors
- Silver Line
- Blue Line to Ballantyne
- Red Line (BRT/Commuter Rail)
- Gold Line (phase 3)
- Regional Bus (high capacity corridors)

### Bus Priority System
- Bus Priority Corridors
- Microtransit

### Greenway System
- Silver Line Trail
- Mooresville to Charlotte Trail
- Shared Streets
- “Green Links” Network

### Pedestrian Walkability
- Mobility Hubs
- Micromobility
- Protected Cycle Track Network

### Bicycle Priority Network
- Uptown Cycle Link

### Roadway Network
- HOV/Managed Lanes
- ITS Smart Corridors
- Autonomous Vehicle Infrastructure
- Electric Vehicle Charging
- Transportation Demand Management (TDM)

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**Example Projects & Emerging Ideas**
Transformational Mobility Opportunities

Our complete rapid transit vision

- Silver Line
- Blue Line to Ballantyne
- Red Line (BRT/Commuter Rail)
- Gold Line (phase 3)
- Regional Bus (high capacity corridors)
Transformational Mobility Opportunities

Bus Priority System

Our expanded & prioritized bus network

Bus Priority Corridors

Microtransit
Transformational Mobility Opportunities

Greenway System

Our parks & streets for recreation & mobility

Silver Line Trail
Mooresville to Charlotte Trail
Shared Streets
“Green Links” Network

Charlotte Regional Bikeways Map

Upcoming: Cycling Network

Silver Line Trail
Mooresville to Charlotte Trail
"Green Links" Network
Transformational Mobility Opportunities

Pedestrian Walkability

Our investment in first & last mile mobility

Mobility Hubs

Micromobility
Transformational Mobility Opportunities

Bicycle Priority Network

Our bicycle vision for all ages & abilities

Uptown Cycle Link
Protected Cycle Track Network
Transformational Mobility Opportunities

Roadway Network
- HOV/Managed Lanes
- ITS Smart Corridors
- Autonomous Vehicle Infrastructure
- Electric Vehicle Charging
- Transportation Demand Management (TDM)

Our investment to manage congestion
September Homework (small groups)

Answer the following:

1. When considering the Transformational Mobility Network, **how would you define “transformational”** - (Capture a few words or phrases to describe)?

2. **What outcomes and community benefits would you expect** to see 20 years from now as a result of investing in the Transformational Mobility Network?

3. **Reflect on the Transformational Mobility Opportunities and help us “fill up the buckets”** - transportation projects, programs, and services (specific and general answers are welcome)
Next Steps
CHARLOTTE MOVES PUBLIC SURVEY IS LIVE!

- Please take the survey
- Please distribute to your professional and personal networks
- We will share initial results in the coming months

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CharlotteMOVES
Next scheduled meeting is Thursday, September 17