



## COVID is tough...but we're here to support you!

COVID has created a new environment since March and we know it's affected the way that you work – whether it be working from home or commuting into work using your mode of choice.

CATS wants you to know that we have measures in place to keep you safe. Here's how:



- **Increased sanitation practices.** CATS has engaged in a strict sanitation routine that involves high-frequented surfaces of buses and light rail vehicles being cleaned during layovers, meaning every time the vehicle comes into the Charlotte Transportation Center and/or when it comes to the end of the line, such as at LYNX I-485 Station and LYNX UNC Charlotte Station. This includes the handrails, poles, the operator's area, floors, seats, and interior panels. We have implemented contamination protocol on all vehicles and increased our disinfecting efforts. This includes cleaning surfaces with hospital-grade disinfectants and a disinfectant fogger on light rail vehicles. CATS Facilities are cleaned and disinfected thoroughly daily.



- **Free masks.** With the Governor's mandate, we know that everyone is required to wear a mask when traveling. We wanted to make sure we made it easy as possible to wear one, so we have employed multiple mask blitzes, in which we hand out FREE, reusable masks at LYNX stations, transit centers, bus stops or stop by our customer service office Charlotte Transportation Center to pick one up. We hope to see you at our next mask blitz. Check out our Twitter @CATSRideTransit to see when our next one is and we hope to see you there.



- **Social distancing.** If you have ridden our vehicles lately, you'll notice that we have blocked off many seats to align with social distancing practices. These are there to ensure that you as a rider can be separated from fellow passengers. We work to ensure customer loads do not exceed 20 passengers per bus.



- **Maybe bus isn't for you?** We still are offering Vanpool! This will allow for you to join a carpool route with less people than on a bus or light rail vehicle. Sign up by contacting [vanpool@charlottenc.gov](mailto:vanpool@charlottenc.gov).

# WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



We want to support you and your organization the best we can, so we want to hear from you. We've crafted a survey to gain your feedback.

Please fill out the survey [HERE](#) so that we can best support you as we navigate these challenging times.

In the meantime, we have a resource from the Association for Commuter Transportation that helps you navigate how to best support transportation methods for your employees found [HERE](#). If you want any further support please email [ETCInterest@charlottenc.gov](mailto:ETCInterest@charlottenc.gov).



## CityLYNX Gold Line UPDATE

**We know you've heard a lot in the news about the CityLYNX Gold Line project, but here are the facts:**

- The Hawthorne Lane Bridge is currently open to pedestrian and bicycle traffic.
- The Hawthorne Lane Bridge is delayed to vehicular traffic potentially until December. Why? The contractor has been pouring concrete on the bridge in preparation for rail installation. The contractor did not pour the concrete per the design plans resulting in incorrect elevations. The elevation differences must be fixed before rail can be installed.
- This delay will NOT cost the taxpayers any additional funds. According to our contract, costs associated with re-doing work is the contractor's responsibility.
- The city has committed additional personnel to push the contractor to meet its commitments and deliver a quality project to Charlotte residents. This includes construction inspectors who check behind the contractor's work to ensure it meets the project specifications per our contract. The city has identified construction deficiencies and the contractor has had to address the deficiencies. Had these deficiencies not been caught when they were, the scope and magnitude of the re-work required – as well as the associated delays – would have been greater.



# Updates On The LYNX Silver Line Project

The Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) is continuing its mission to expand transit and mobility options through the 2030 Transit Corridor System Plan. The proposed LYNX Silver Line, a key component to the plan, is a 26-mile light rail line from Gaston County through Center City Charlotte, to the Town of Matthews with a potential terminus in Union County.

The LYNX Silver Line is currently in Pre-Project Development or “Early Scoping”. Staff are currently making tweaks and refinements to the adopted alignment (also known as the LPA, Locally Preferred Alternative). Community feedback is an important part of this process!

Starting Tuesday, September 15, CATS will present several refined LYNX Silver Line alignment options for the to the public. CATS will host a series of live virtual public meetings, which includes a presentation and an opportunity for Q&A with the project team. The 26-mile alignment has been sectioned into six focus areas to allow the project team and public to concentrate on particular areas of interest.

<p><b>Tuesday, September 15, 2020</b> 5:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Focus Area 1:</b> Wilkinson Boulevard (City of Belmont to I-485)</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, September 16, 2020</b> 5:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Focus Area 2:</b> Wilkinson Boulevard (I-485 to West Morehead Street)</p>	<p><b>Thursday, September 17, 2020</b> 5:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Focus Area 3:</b> Center City (West Morehead Street to Charlottetowne Avenue)</p>
<p><b>Tuesday, September 22, 2020</b> 5:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Focus Area 4:</b> Independence Boulevard (Charlottetowne Avenue to Idlewild Rd)</p>	<p><b>Thursday, September 24, 2020</b> 5:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Focus Area 5:</b> Independence Boulevard (Idlewild Rd to just south of I-485 at CPCCLevine)</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, September 29, 2020</b> 5:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Focus Area 6:</b> Union County Extension</p>

## Become an ETC Partner

Interested in becoming an ETC partner and learning how your company can earn discounts on CATS passes? Contact [ETCinterest@charlottenc.gov](mailto:ETCinterest@charlottenc.gov).

Stay informed and up to date about what’s going on at CATS. Let us know your feedback!



Register to receive updates!

