



YOUR MOBILITY, YOUR WAY



Earth Day, Every Day

Earth Day looks different this year compared to last year, but that doesn't mean we can't make conscious choices to help our air!

Mecklenburg County Air Quality analyzed air quality data collected during the pandemic and found some good news:

- Concentrations of fine particulate matter, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide and ozone were all lower than average.
- Near-road monitoring stations measured greater decreases in fine particulate matter, carbon monoxide, and nitrogen dioxide than area-wide monitoring stations.
- Ozone concentrations were lower than what would have been expected based on the meteorological conditions during this time period.

Did you know outdoor air pollution ranks in the top ten killers on Earth? Inhaling air pollution takes away at least 1-2 years of human life. Cleaner air can add up to four months of your life. This means we must continue the momentum as we return to the office and more entertainment venues open.

Ninety percent of ozone (air pollutants) in Mecklenburg County is caused by auto exhaust. During a heavy traffic jam, pollutants outside can seep into your car, making the air inside your car 10 times more polluted than typical city air.

It's time to ditch the car a couple trips a week to help your health. Maybe that means taking the bus Uptown for dinner (**one bus can take up to 40 cars off the road**) or biking to pick up a few items at the grocery store. Whatever you choose, consider how you're adding to our community's air quality and your own personal health.

Put it Out. All the Way. Every Time.

When traveling along the LYNX Blue Line, at a CATS bus stop or using a CATS Park and Ride, it is important to practice fire safety, including being a responsible smoker. You must: **Put it Out. All the Way. Every Time.**

City ordinance does not allow smoking on any city-owned property, this includes all CATS properties, like the LYNX Blue Line platforms. If you smoke around the LYNX Blue Line or CATS property, remember to properly dispose of all smoking materials in the appropriate receptacles. Do NOT discard cigarettes in mulch or potted plants. Mulch is a combustible material that can be easily ignited by improperly discarded smoking materials. Hundreds of small and large fires are started this way every year.

If you see anything smoldering in a landscape bed, put it out if you can and report it. If the burning material is not thoroughly wet or removed, it can re-ignite. Report any smoke or fire by calling 9-1-1.

Contact our customer service team with any questions at **704-336-7433**.

We want to hear from YOU!

We know it's been about a year since we've been in quarantine and rocking our home offices. However, we know that you may be thinking forward regarding your return to the office.

We want to hear from you on how we can best support you! [Please take our survey](#) on what your plans are.

Not sure yet? That's OK! We want to help. Set up a time to chat with us about how to best support your employee's mobility needs by emailing ETCInterest@charlottenc.gov. We can talk about [vanpool](#), transit pass discounts, [hybrid telework plans](#) and more!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Charlotte Area Transit System, in partnership with Arts+ will host Ride with the Music again this spring. This free concert series will bring live music to various CATS locations on Friday evenings in May.

Ride with the Music will highlight local performers across a variety of musical genres.

Performers	Date/Time	Location
Yung Citizen	5/7/2021; 5:00-7:00pm	UNC Charlotte Station (Performers in plaza)
Piedmont Temperance Movement	5/14/2021; 5:00-7:00pm	East/West Station (Performers along southbound side near ramp)
Jason Jet	5/21/2021; 5:00-7:00pm	36th Street Station (Performers on landing leading up to station in front of lotus mosaic)
KeAndra Davis	5/28/2021; 5:00-7:00pm	7th Street Station (Performers along northbound side next to Imaginon)

Rack and Ride

CATS invites you and your bike to ride for FREE May 16 to 22, 2021 whenever you rack and ride on any CATS service. Simply ride your bike to the nearest CATS bus stop, LYNX Blue Line station or park and ride location. Then, load your bike onto the rack and enjoy a convenient, relaxed, and FREE ride to your destination.

To ensure your safety, remember these tips:

1. Remember to always alert the operator before loading/unloading your bike.
2. Make sure the operator sees you before you step in front of the bus to retrieve your bike.
3. Remove the hook from the tire of your bike and lift it out of the rack. Do Not Step Into Traffic.
4. LYNX Riders must not block the aisle or doors with your bicycle.
5. If the rack is empty, return it to the upright position.



WHEELS OF PROGRESS



CATS is conducting a study to identify future service opportunities and transit projects for bus rapid transit (BRT) in Charlotte's North Corridor. The corridor includes the Towns of Cornelius, Huntersville, Davidson and Mooresville in Iredell County.

Throughout 2021, CATS and its consultant team will utilize existing data to determine enhancements to current MetroRAPID BRT service and identify capital projects that complement the service.

After completion of the study, potential enhancements may include:

- Implementation of all-day service (including nights and weekends)
- New CATS park and ride locations
- New I-77 Express Lane Direct Connects
- Integrated BRT stations into mixed use developments



2030 TRANSIT CORRIDOR SYSTEM PLAN



CityLYNX Gold Line

CityLYNX Gold Line streetcar testing continues with nighttime testing with daytime, pre-revenue testing in May.

Updates include:

- Hardware for the new streetlights have been installed. All streetlights have been energized except for two blocks on Hawthorne Lane between 5th Street and 7th Street. Duke Energy will energize these in April. The project team is working to determine whether a hardware, tie-in or other issue is keeping the lights from being energized and is working with Duke on a schedule. There will be more on this task in next month's update.
- The contractor continues to work with Duke Energy to remove wooden poles that held the temporary streetlights. This work is 90% complete.

- The contractor continues to install pedestrian signals project-wide.
- The contractor has completed the retaining wall along Frazier Avenue, and the nearby sidewalk and driveways have been poured. All sidewalks on the westbound side of Beatties Ford Road between French Street and Mill Street have been poured. Sidewalks have also been poured on Hawthorne Lane between Sunnyside Avenue and the bridge. The sidewalk on Park Avenue near the traction power substation is complete.
- In-street vehicle testing, including new traffic/streetcar-specific signals, continues in preparation for revenue service.

Gold Life Safety Tips:

CATS is conducting streetcar testing for the CityLYNX Gold Line. Testing is occurring around the clock from French Street on Beatties Ford Road, through Uptown on Trade Street, to Sunnyside Avenue in Elizabeth.

Residents & business patrons should anticipate interacting with the streetcar vehicle at any time. Vehicle testing will continue until the CityLYNX Gold Line streetcar begins revenue service.

Rail safety is everyone's responsibility.

Remember:

1. No parking on the tracks at any time. You could be subject to towing and/or a citation/fine.
2. Obey ALL posted signage.
3. Always expect a streetcar. Look both ways before crossing the street.

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.

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

 [@CATSRideTransit](https://twitter.com/CATSRideTransit)

 [/CharlotteAreaTransitSystem](https://www.facebook.com/CharlotteAreaTransitSystem)

Register to receive updates!

