



Businesses are accessible and welcome your patronage. Look for these signs to stop in and support these businesses along the Blue Line Extension alignment.

NOVEMBER 2017 CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Fall And Winter: Landscape Crews Marching Down North Tryon To The Finish Line

Earlier this year, landscape crews installed a variety of trees along the outside edges of the North Tryon Street roadway. Many of these trees have shown us spring and summer blooms, and now we're excited to see the bright colors of their fall foliage.

The latest additions to the Blue Line Extension landscape are the smaller shrubs and ornamental grasses now being planted in the medians of North Tryon Street. These plantings are designed to create a colorful green vista along the edges of the light rail alignment.

Kourtnie Vincent, CIP Landscape Architect/Certified Arborist and Landscape Manager for the City of Charlotte, designed the landscaping, and explained some of the challenges in choosing the plants for these areas.



In front of Mallard Point Shopping Center at Institute Circle is a Harvest Moon Southern Sugar Maple.

“The plants have to be relatively short, so that they don't interfere with the required 300-foot sightlines for the train operators,” she said. “They need to be durable, capable of surviving the vehicle exhaust, winter salt treatments on nearby pavement and the notorious heat of Charlotte summers. They also must be relatively low maintenance, to be cost-effective for CATS and the City of Charlotte.”



In the median at JW Clay Station are Parson's Juniper and Variegated Clumping Liriope.

At the same time, Kourtnie also tried to ensure that there would be interesting patterns along the roadway and some variation as the seasons change. The plantings for the left turn lanes at each intersection are symmetrical and are different from one intersection to the next.

By next spring all plantings should be completed and beginning to thrive. During your first ride on the BLE next March, you'll be able to appreciate the creative plantings and variations all along the North Tryon Street corridor. Make sure to get a window seat to check out the patterns and colors planted in the medians that took months of work to install. Also, there will be a landscape surprise in store for all of us in the spring. Enjoy!

To receive automatic email notifications about upcoming work, road closures or detours or public meeting information, please sign up under the Notify Me tab on the website at www.charlottefuture.com.

**FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
AND FACEBOOK**



@BLEupdates



Facebook.com/CATSBLEExtensionUpdates