



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

FEBRUARY 2018 CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

SAFETY, Top Priority for CATS

The LYNX Blue Line Extension is now open! Everyone is excited. CATS' first priority is safety and that includes the safety of those interacting along the alignment, as well as those who use and ride our transit system.

Light rail is not new to Charlotte, but with the extension of the LYNX Blue Line, there is a misconception that public transit leads to an increase in crime. However, statistics show that crime along the LYNX Blue Line, on average, has decreased significantly along the areas near stations along the alignment.

In a 2011 published study, academic researchers at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte compared the crime levels at four proposed locations for the LYNX light rail system before the stations were open. Researchers looked at crime levels before and after the initial station site proposals. All four sites saw crime significantly drop after the proposed stations were announced in 2000.

Billie Jo Johnson, chief security officer for CATS, credits the collaborative effort CATS security has had with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department and other law enforcement agencies in Charlotte. "We have a great working relationship with several local, state and federal agencies," says Johnson. When the BLE opens, there will be more than 90 sworn police officers to cover the entire line and facilities. That number doesn't include UNC Charlotte and the CMPD Central Division, University City Division, North Tryon Division, and Eastway Division officers also available to respond to incidents. CATS also provides training to all law enforcement agencies, EMS, Fire and other agency responders that come in contact with the system, so they will know how to properly respond in case of emergencies. CATS also actively meets with the community. "We and our partners participate in public outreach to educate the public and receive feedback," Johnson said.



**NEW CATS
SEE SAY APP**

Report suspicious activity, disruptive behavior, power outages, and safety concerns.

Download for free at:



Throughout the new extension, CATS has over 300 security cameras, as well as blue light phones (emergency phones) at every station, parking facility and surface lots. Blue light emergency phones are connected to a 24-hour communications center and can identify the phone location if the caller is unable to talk. The phones can be used to report suspicious activity and to report crimes. CATS also has security guards and police officers patrolling these locations 24/7, as well as dispatchers monitoring all alignment parking decks and surface lots.

Another safety tool for light rail riders can be found right at their fingertips. The "See Something, Say Something" app allows patrons and citizens to report issues such as suspicious persons or unattended packages to a system monitored by police dispatchers 24/7. Also the app allows for individuals to discreetly take photos by disabling the flash on the phone.

CATS continuously works to find newer and better ways to address issues and concerns and to make all commuters and riders feel safe. For more information on CATS' security measures and tools, visit ridetransit.org.

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