



**CITIZENS TRANSIT ADVISORY GROUP (CTAG)
Agenda**

Tuesday, May 16th, 2023

7:30 am to 9:00 am

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center

WebEx Conferencing

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- I. **Call to Order** Edward Tillman, CTAG Co-Chairman
 - II. **Approval of April 18th, 2023 Meeting Summary (p.3-12)**
 - III. **Silver Line Amity Garden Station Change (p.14-20)** Andy Mock
 - IV. **MTC Fare Policy Update (p.22-25)** Kelly Goforth
 - V. **Interim CEO's Comments** Brent Cagle
 - VI. **Other Business**
 - VII. **Adjourn**

CITIZENS TRANSIT ADVISORY GROUP (CTAG)
Meeting Summary
April 18th, 2023
DISCUSSION SUMMARY

Present: Edward Tillman, City of Charlotte, CTAG Co-Chairman
Jeffrey Parker, Board of County Commissioners, CTAG Co-Chairman
Nichel Dunlap-Thompson, Mecklenburg County
Martin Wheeler, Mecklenburg County
Todd Steiss, Town of Davidson
Kevin Walsh, Town of Huntersville
Donald Rhodes, Town of Matthews
Jessi Healey, Town of Mint Hill

Staff: Brent Cagle, Chad Howell, Brandon Hunter, Jason Lawrence, David Moskowitz, Brad Thomas, Rachael Gragg, Paulus Ford

Meeting time 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

The regular in-person meeting of CTAG was called to order at 7:30am by Co-Chairman Edward Tillman (City of Charlotte) and with WebEx conferencing as well.

II. Approval of Meeting Summary from March 21st, 2023 – Approved

III. Formal Recognition of Newly Appointed CTAG Co-Chairman – Jeffrey Parker accepted the position of the Mecklenburg County Board of County Commissioners’ CTAG Co-Chairman.

IV. FY 2024 Operating & Debt Services Budgets / FY 2024-FY 2028 Capital Improvement Plan Recommendations (presentation attached) – **Thurman (Chad) Howell, Charlotte Area Transit System’s Chief Finance Officer provided an executive update of the FY2024 Operating & Debt Service Budgets and FY2024-2028 Capital Investment Plan for CTAG’s recommendation to the Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC).**

Discussion: CTAG had some conversation and questions around the following topics:

- Bus Transition vs. Bus Replacement
- Bus Operations’ Management Company (RATP Dev) Transition/RFP
- Battery Electric Bus (BEB) Cost Breakdown
- Potential Streetcar Fare
- Transfer of Funds (Debt Management)

Resolution: A motion to recommend approval of the FY2024 Operating & Debt Service Budgets and FY2024-28 Capital Investment Plan was made by **Todd Steiss (Town of**

Davidson); seconded by **Nichel Dunlap-Thompson (Mecklenburg County)**. Motion carried unanimously:

V. CEO Comments – Brent Cagle, Interim CATS CEO shared the following with CTAG:

- Security Contract Increase Focus areas:
 - De-escalation Training
 - Ambassadors Program
- Light Rail:
 - Staffing challenges
 - Pay
 - Career Pathways
- Organization Structure and Culture

VII. Other Business – There was an inquiry concerning the newly ratified Bus Operators contract. It was suggested that there wasn't enough time for the Bus Operators' representatives to digest and fully vet the information of the new contract. CATS will engage RATP Dev to fully understand the situation.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at **8:55am**

NEXT CTAG MEETING: MAY 16TH, 2023 AT 7:30 AM

FY 2024 Operating & Debt Service Budgets FY 2024 – FY 2028 Capital Improvement Plan For Citizens Transit Advisory Group Recommendation

Presentation to Citizens Transit Advisory Group
April 18, 2023



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Discussion

- ▶ Budget Process
- ▶ CEO Focus Areas
- ▶ Operating Budget
- ▶ Debt Service Budget
- ▶ Capital Investment Program

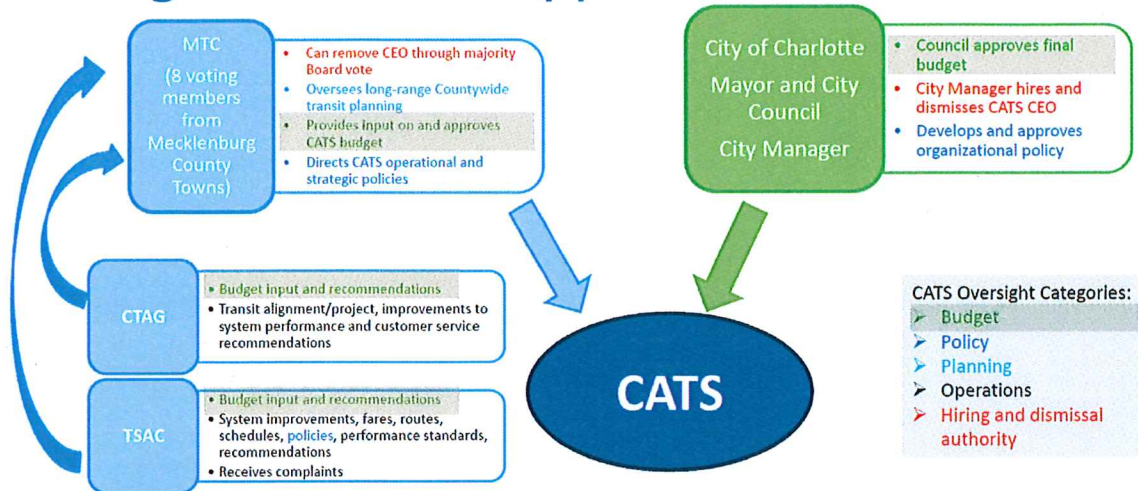


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Budget Review & Approval Process



Source: Management Partners CATS Management Roadmap



CEO Focus Areas

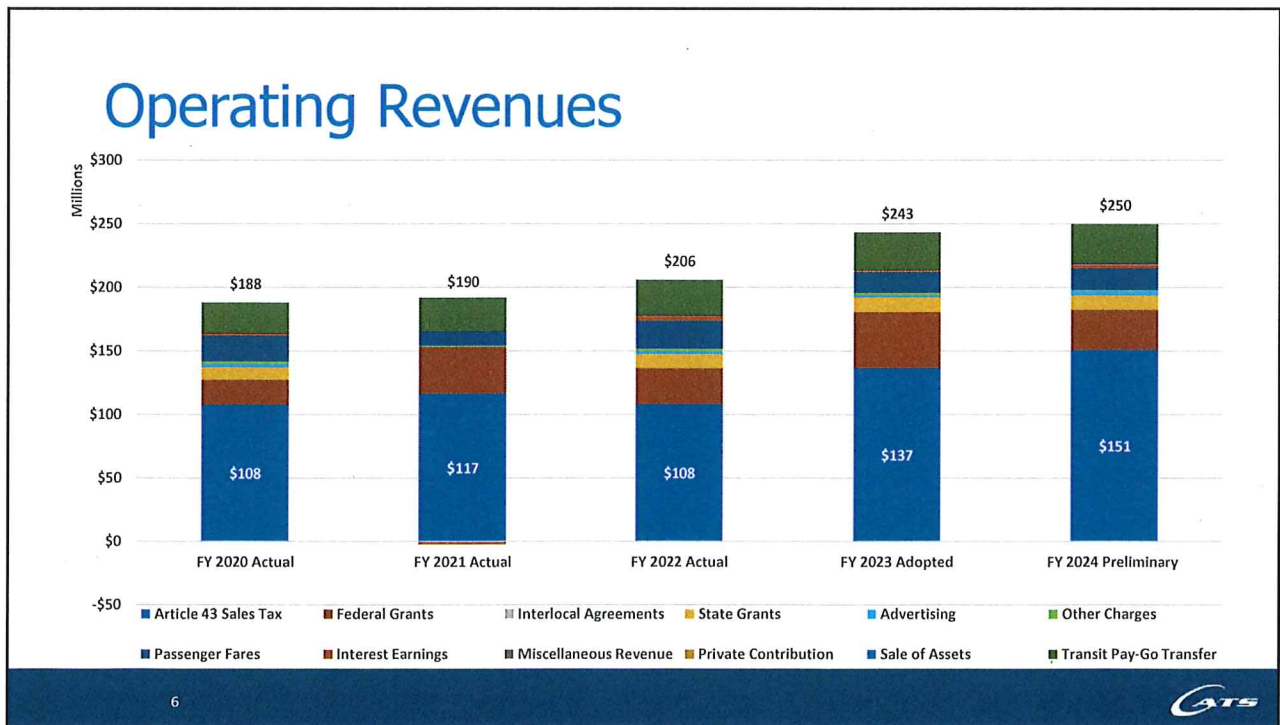
- ▶ Balanced Budget
- ▶ Safety and Security
- ▶ Valuing Employees
- ▶ Maintenance & Asset Preservation



Preliminary Operating & Debt Service

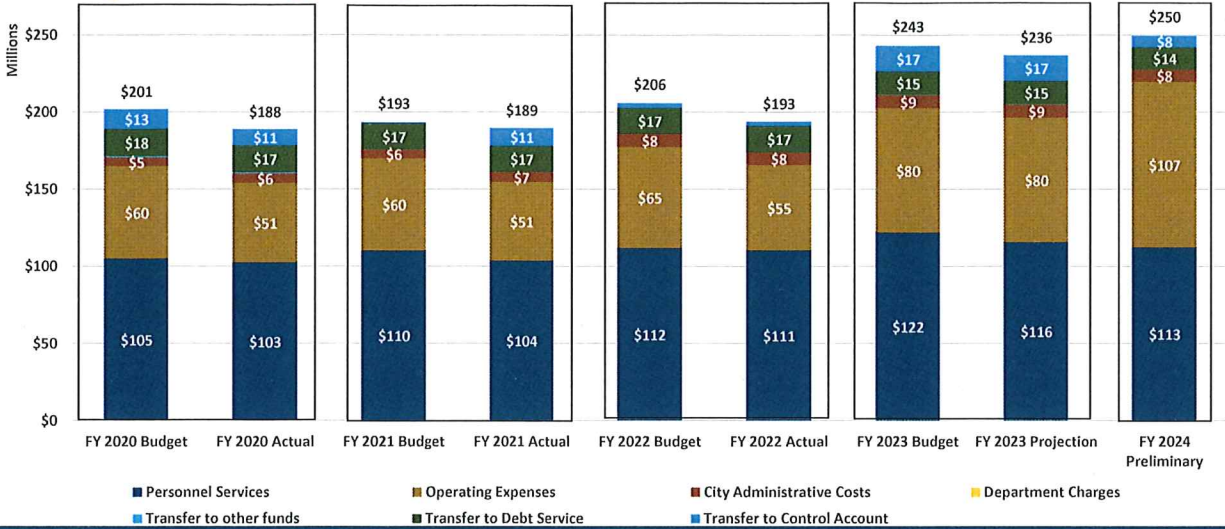


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Operating Expenses



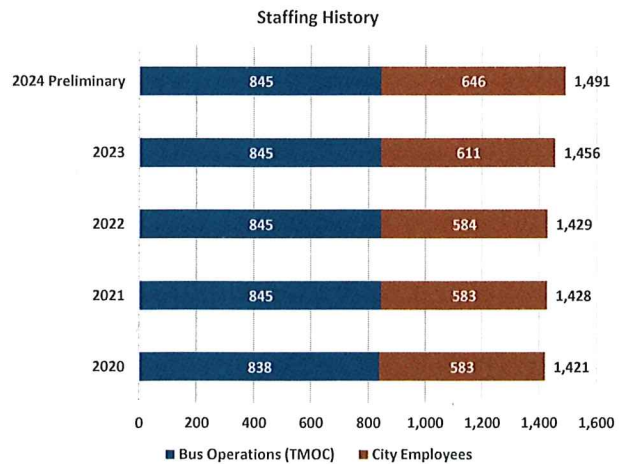
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Enhancements

- ▶ Safety and Security
 - Funding for expanded security contract
 - Funding for operators and employee training
 - Expand the transit ambassador program
- ▶ Valuing Employees
 - eServe Academy – 4 program staff plus funding for 14 apprentices and 10 interns
 - Rate & Compensation Study
 - Right sizing workforce based on operational tempo and current needs – 30 FTEs
- ▶ Maintenance & Asset Preservation
 - Increased preventative maintenance for facilities, bus, and rail



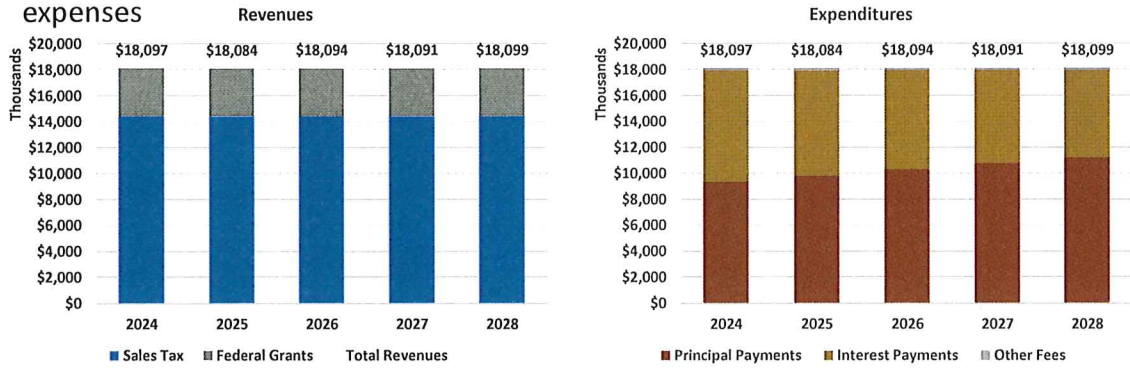
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FY 2024 Debt Service

- ▶ FY2024 Debt Service Budget ~\$18.1 million
- ▶ Transit Sales Tax, Federal and State grant funds pay annual principal and interest expenses



- ▶ No new debt issuance programed for FY 2024



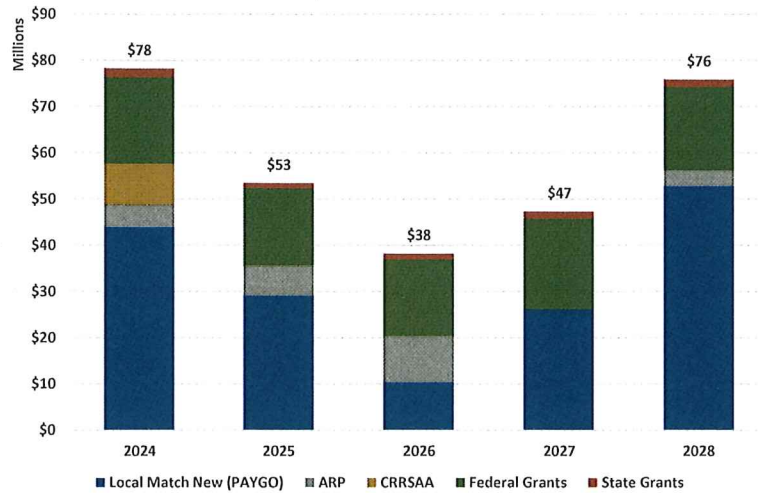
Preliminary Capital Investment Plan



FY 2024 – FY 2028 CIP Sources of Funds

FY 2024 Highlights

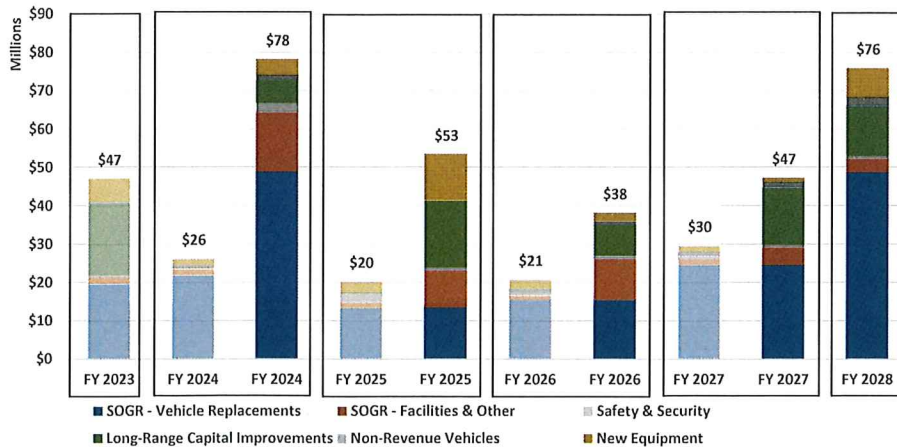
- ▶ Utilizes ~\$27 million in reserve funds to increase bus purchases
- ▶ Utilizes ~\$10 million in reserve funds for other projects and equipment purchases
- ▶ Working with City Finance to develop a long-term funding strategy for future revenue vehicle purchases



FY 2024 – FY 2028 CIP Expenditures

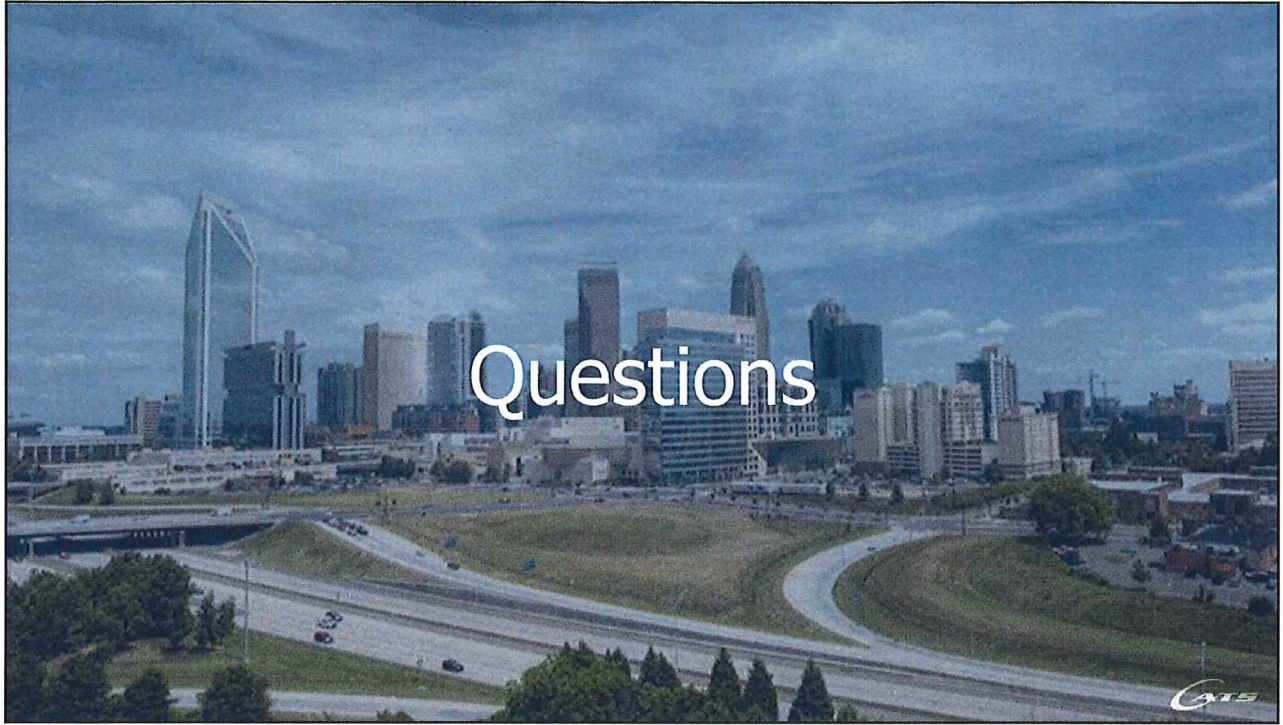
FY 2024 Highlights

- ▶ 37 Replacement Buses
- ▶ 19 Replacement STS Vehicles
- ▶ Transit Planning
- ▶ ADA Improvements
- ▶ Security Improvements
- ▶ Continues prior-year initiatives



Notes:
 1. Shaded columns represent FY 2023 to FY 2027 CIP
 2. FY2024 Preliminary Capital Budget excludes carry over amounts
 3. Excludes Grant-Funded Operating Projects





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ACTION

CITIZENS TRANSIT ADVISORY GROUP

APRIL 18, 2023

The Transit Governance Interlocal Agreement identified that the Citizens Transit Advisory Group is responsible to review CATS Chief Executive Officer’s proposed operating budgets and programs and five-year capital programs and make recommendation to the Metropolitan Transit Commission.

The Citizens Transit Advisory Group (CTAG) received CATS Chief Executive Officer’s proposed budgets, programs and five-year capital plan in March 2023.

CTAG has studied and reviewed all documents and information presented by CATS staff from January thru April 2023, and offers the following recommendation to the Metropolitan Transit Commission:

1. Adopt the FY2024 Operating Budget and Programs (dated April 26, 2023)
2. Adopt the FY2024 Debt Service Budget (dated April 26, 2023)
3. Adopt the FY2024-2028 Capital Investment Plan (dated April 26, 2023)

CTAG’s recommendation was made by **Todd Steiss (Town of Davidson)**, seconded by **Nichel Dunlap-Thompson (Mecklenburg County)** and duly approved by CTAG for presentation to the Metropolitan Transit Commission on April 18, 2023.

Edward Tillman

Edward Tillman, Co-Chair (City of Charlotte)
Citizens Transit Advisory Group

Jeffrey Parker

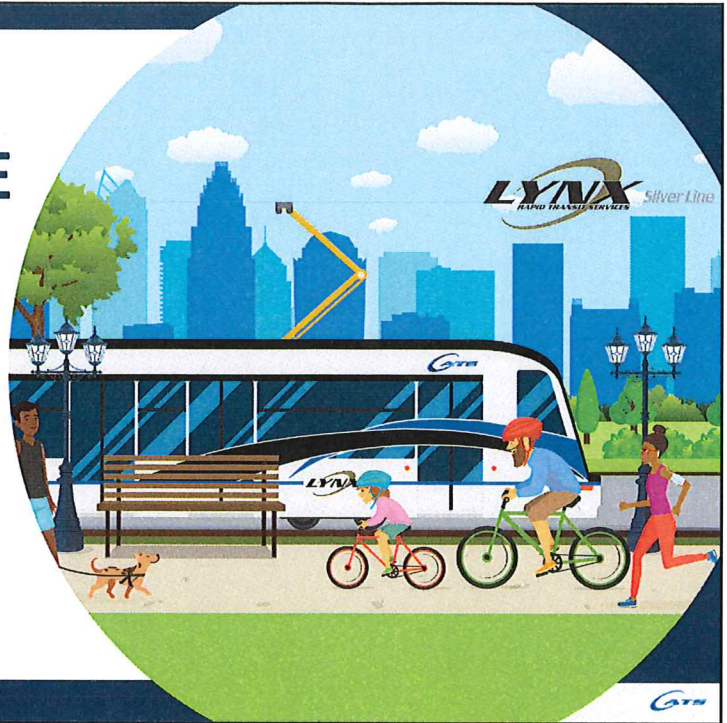
Jeffrey Parker, Co-Chair (BOCC, Mecklenburg County)
Citizens Transit Advisory Group

April 18, 2023

LYNX SILVER LINE LIGHT RAIL

Charlotte Transit
Advisory Group

May 16, 2023



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Agenda

1. Title VI VMF Strategy and Upcoming Public Engagement
2. Upcoming MTC Action Amity Gardens Station Removal



SILVER  LINE

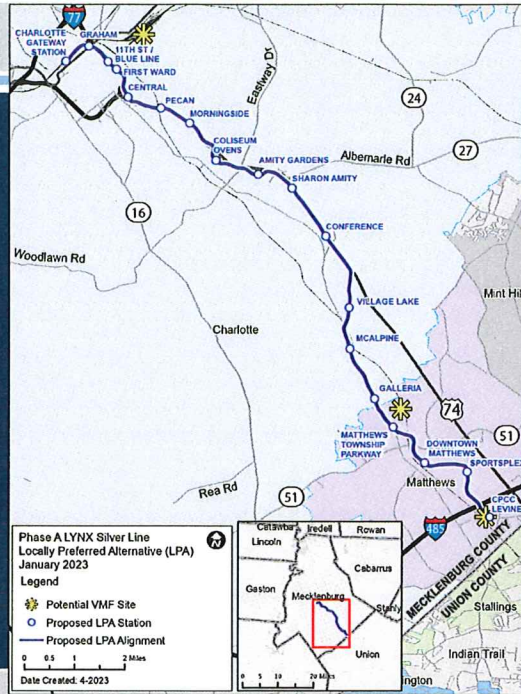


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Title VI VMF Strategy Update

LYNX Silver Line LPA (Phase A)

- Three suitable VMF sites identified
 - North Yard
 - Industrial Drive
 - Near CPCC



SILVER LINE



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Silver Line VMF Strategy

Daily activities split between North Yard and Southeast Corridor

- 1. What is the balance between the North Yard and Southeast Corridor?**
 - 25% North Yard / 75% Southeast
 - North Yard maintain heavy maintenance programming
 - Daily activities split between North Yard and SE Facility
 - Avoids single point of failure operational risk
 - Decreases limitations on Blue Line tracks from Silver Line usage
- 2. What should be the ultimate capacity of the Southeast facility?**
 - Initial sizing to support Phase A needs, but with ability to expand
- 3. What is the preferred site for the facility in the Southeast Corridor?**
 - Options are CPCC Levine and Industrial Dr.

SILVER LINE



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Title VI VMF Strategy Update

FTA Guidance

- Complete a Title VI equity analysis before selecting preferred facility sites
- Compare equity impacts of various siting alternatives based on Census data
- If there are disparate impacts, may only locate at that site or sites:
 - If substantial legitimate justification, and
 - No alternative sites with less disparate impact

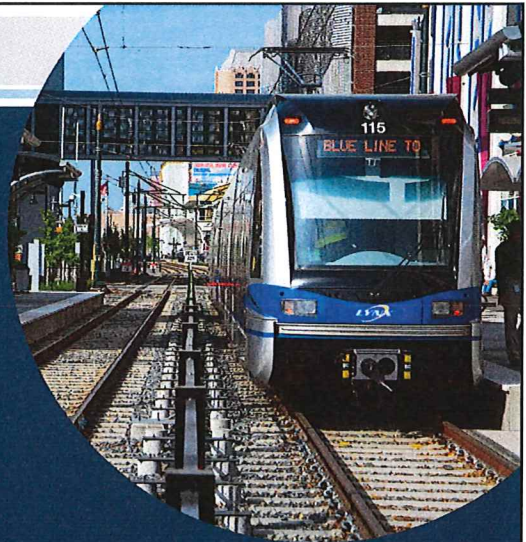
Nexus of Title VI Equity Analysis and NEPA

- Pre-NEPA – assessing equity of three facility sites under consideration
 - Public and stakeholder outreach occurring in Spring 2023
 - Live virtual public meeting on Tuesday, May 23 at 5:30 p.m. via [CATS' YouTube](#)
 - On-going coordination with CATS civil rights
- During NEPA – detailed evaluation of impacts related to preferred facility site(s)
 - Multiple opportunities for continued outreach and engagement

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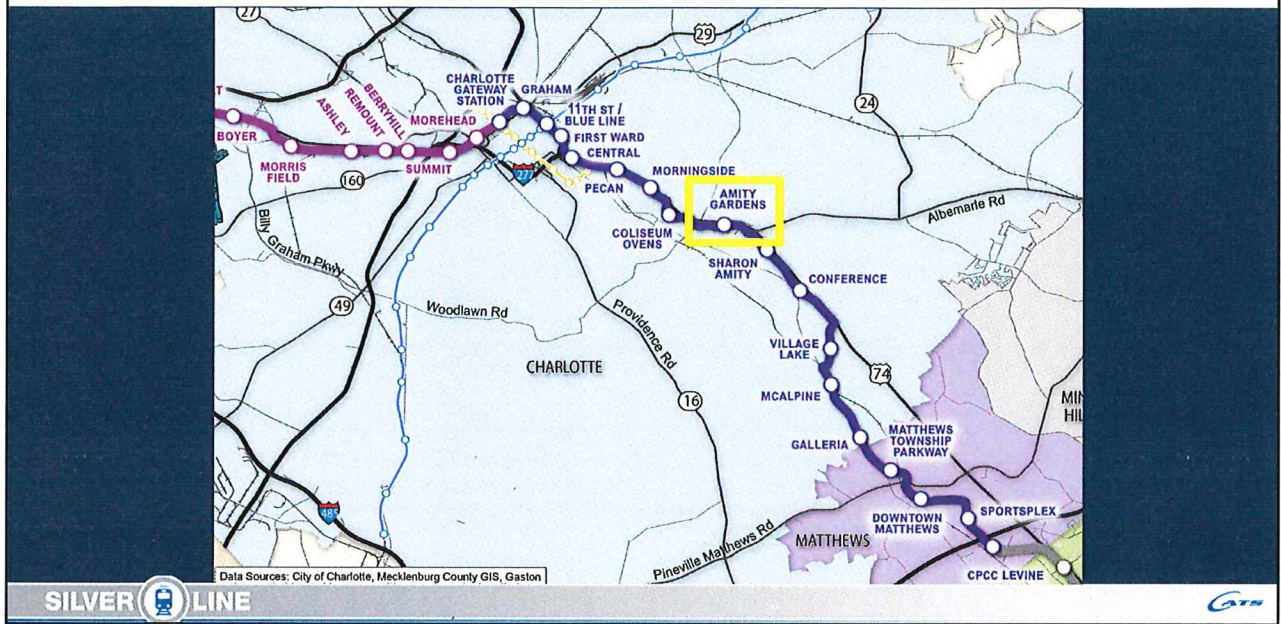
Agenda

1. Title VI VMF Strategy and Upcoming Public Engagement
2. Upcoming MTC Action Amity Gardens Station Removal



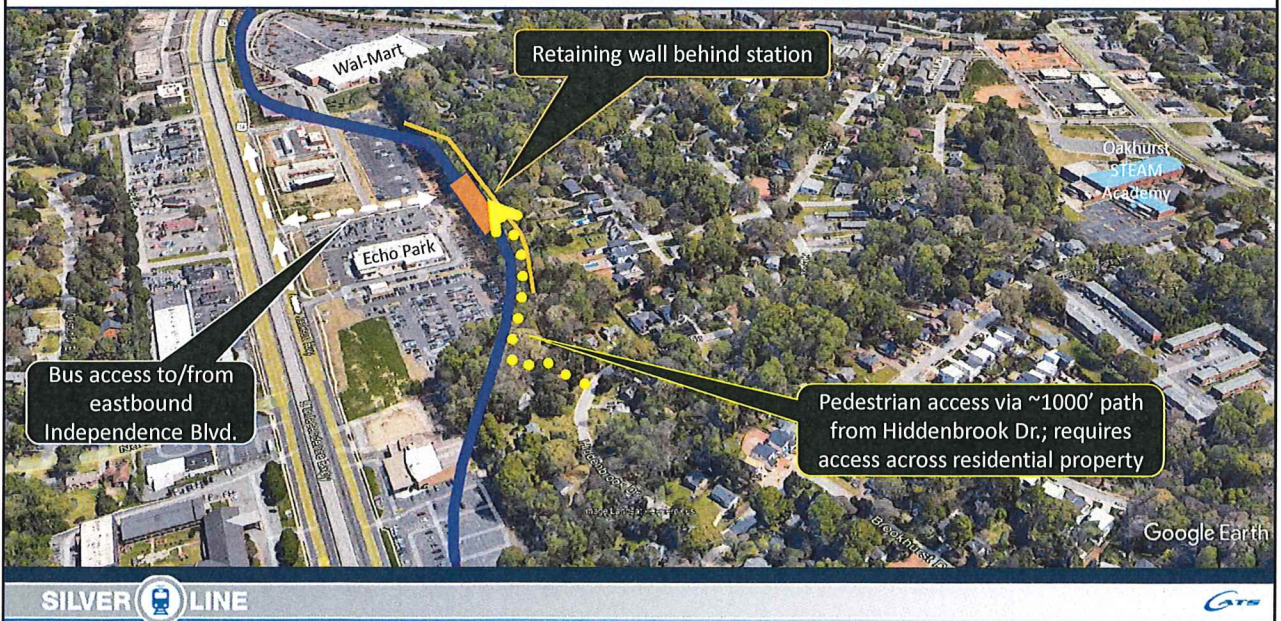
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Amity Gardens Station



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Amity Gardens Station



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Benefits and Risks

BENEFITS



TRAVEL TIME



LOCAL CONNECTIVITY



DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Approx. 2 minutes corridor travel time savings by removing station
- Pedestrian access is limited from Oakhurst and bus and vehicle access is only available from eastbound US 74; Sharon Amity station is close by
- Limited transit-oriented redevelopment opportunity fronting US 74

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Benefits and Risks

RISKS



COST



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS



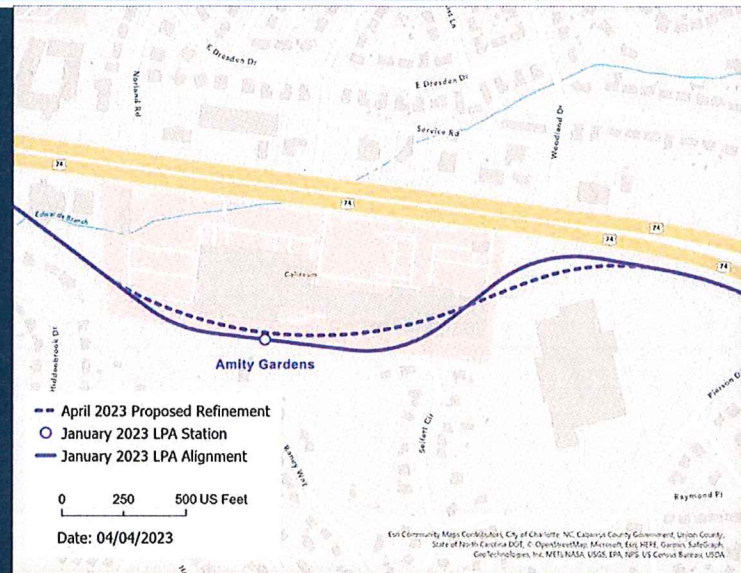
COORDINATION WITH OTHERS

- Approx. \$10-15M savings (year of expenditure) by removing station
- Removing station results in less potential for residential property acquisition on Hiddenbrook Dr., Raney Way, and Seifert Cir.
- Not a distinguishing factor

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May 24, 2023 – Proposed MTC Action Item

1. Amity Gardens Station Removal



SILVER LINE



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Engagement Summary

March 7	Charlotte East
March 14	Oakhurst Neighborhood Meeting
April 4	Amity Gardens Neighborhood Meeting
April 20	District 5 Council Engagement
April 26	Metropolitan Transit Commission- Information
May 16	Citizens Transit Advisory Group (CTAG)
May 24	Metropolitan Transit Commission- Action
	-Progress Design and Environmental Analysis-
September 2023	Environmental Scoping Public Meetings

SILVER LINE



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Thank you!



MTC-02 Fare Policy Update

Citizens Transit Advisory Group
May 16, 2023



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Fare Policy Update

Purpose

- ▶ Fare Policy to be reviewed every 2 years
- ▶ Add Fare Capping
- ▶ Modify University All-Access Pass Fare Policy

- ▶ No proposed changes to Fare Rates or Fare Structure



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Fare Capping

Add new section for Fare Capping Policy

- ▶ Fare capping is the rewarding of a CATS Monthly pass for the remainder of the calendar month after a passenger's monthly spend total reaches the fare equivalent of the cost of a Local Monthly pass.
- ▶ The only fare types which will count toward the monthly Fare Capping spending totals are as follows: Regular Fares for Local Monthly; Weekly; Day Pass; and One Way; No other CATS fare type or reduced fare type will count toward the monthly Fare Capping spending total.



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February 22, 2017 MTC Action (All Access Pass)

- ▶ The All-Access Pass Discount program is based on the premise that if all employees/members of an organization are charged a greater discounted fee that the overall annual All-Access Pass price would be significantly lower for each employee/member but CATS would receive a significant increase in overall revenue from the organization.
- ▶ Future All-Access Pass opportunities: Due to the unique nature of each higher education/business/organization number of enrollment/employees, contactless chip integration, etc., that each request will be brought to the MTC as negotiated.



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University All Access Pass

Modify All Access Pass Policy for Universities

- ▶ \$25 Fee per Student/Faculty/Staff per Semester or \$50 for the entire academic year
- ▶ University must opt-in for all students; Faculty/staff may choose to participate individually
- ▶ Consistent with current UNC Charlotte All-Access Pass Agreement
- ▶ All accredited colleges and universities eligible to opt in
- ▶ No additional MTC approval required if consistent with key terms in Fare Policy
- ▶ Future increases subject to MTC approval, capped at 3% per year
- ▶ Proposed rate based on:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Average Daily Users of All-Access Pass (based on survey)} \\ & \quad \times \text{Monthly Local Pass Fare} \times 4 \text{ months} \\ & \quad \div \text{Total Student Enrollment} \end{aligned}$$



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University All-Access Pass Interest

- ▶ University of North Carolina at Charlotte
 - Current Agreement ends May 2023
- ▶ Central Piedmont Community College
- ▶ Johnson C. Smith University



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Questions?



