



MEMORANDUM

TO: Arlanda Rouse, Civil Rights Officer
FROM: Pamela White, Service Development Manager
Charlotte Area Transit System -CATS
SUBJECT: Title VI Review of Proposed Partial Route Discontinuation of Route 60 Tyvola Road
DATE: November 16, 2015

The Route 60 Tyvola was altered in the June 2015 Service Change. As a result of the route alteration, CATS discontinued unproductive portions of the routing. The Countywide Transit Service Plan (CTSP) 2012-2017 recommended a significant change to the Route 60 Tyvola Road. Due to the ever changing transit climate, CATS is proposing partial CTSP change to the Route 60 Tyvola Road. CATS is responding to a new Veterans Administration Hospital on West Tyvola Road and the Route 60 Tyvola Road is the closest route to the hospital's location. Also, Route 60 Tyvola Road connects to the LYNX Blue Line which offers a convenient and reliable transferability between modes. Seeking to minimize the impact to the current passengers, CATS proposes to discontinue the portions of the Route 60 on Yorkmont and West Boulevard between Water Ridge Parkway and Renaissance Place. Also the two limited service portions of the route would be discontinued. The new service to Perimeter Pointe Parkway (on every trip of the new Route 60 Tyvola Road) will be on West Tyvola. The Limited service to Beam Road will be completely discontinued. The Route 10 West Boulevard will continue to serve New Renaissance place and new limited service from the Route 2 Ashley Park will serve locations on West Blvd, and Yorkmont Road including the old airport terminal during shift times. In addition to the structural route changes CATS is proposing to add Saturday service.

According to the US Census Report, the Route 60 Tyvola Road operates within Census tracts with disproportionately high percentage of low income and minority residents. See map attachments.

Although a substantial portion of the regular service Route 60 Tyvola Road is proposed to be discontinued, all major destinations would continue to be served by other CATS routes. Customers along the discontinued portions of the regular service have either transit service alternatives within a half-mile or new limited trips designed. Customers on the limited service trips to the Coffee Creek Office Park on Beam Road will no longer have two trips in the morning and two trips in the evening. If the proposal is approved, the implementation will be in February 2016.

Route Elimination Background

Route 60 Tyvola Road is a local bus service providing crosstown service between the LYNX Tyvola Station and Renaissance Place on West Boulevard. The base route between LYNX Tyvola Station and Renaissance Place on West Boulevard operates weekdays (6:20am-10:31pm). Two round trips (limited service) between LYNX Tyvola Station and Lake point Business Park and Cross Beam Drive operates on weekdays outbound (7:20am, and 7:55am) and inbound (5:05pm and 5:30pm).

Minority Population by Residence

Minority population is defined as non-white persons, those of Hispanic origin, or those not having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East. Using 2010 Census data, the average minority population (Non-White and Non-Hispanic) within the Mecklenburg County 46.6%, Census units with minority population greater than 46.6% is defined as predominantly minority areas. The Route 60 operates in seven minority Census Tracts. The total minority population within the Route 60 service area is 84.3%. Charts of the minority population for each Census Tract are included in Attachment #1.

Low-Income Population by Residence

Low income means a person whose median household income is at or below the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) poverty guidelines. The DHHS Poverty guideline thresholds are based on household sizes and incomes. The 2010 US Census used nearly identical thresholds to define poverty. Using 2010 Census data the Percentage of Poverty individuals in the Mecklenburg County is 13.6%. Census units with population greater than 13.6% are defined as predominantly low-income areas. A chart of the low income statistics in which the Route 60 operates is included in Attachment #1. Overall, the average Low Income population in the Census Tracts of the Route 60's service area is 24.3%.

Determination of Disparate/Disproportionate Impacts per Ridership Survey

The United States Census Bureau's American Community Survey (2008-2012) defined minimum household income for a household of three people to be above the poverty line as having an annual household income of more than \$18,284. According to the responses, 9 respondents or 40% indicated that their household income was below the poverty level. 9 or 40% respondents indicated that their household income was positively above the poverty level for a three person household and 2 or 10% of respondents did not answer that question.

The majority of the respondents surveyed did not indicate that they were living at or below the poverty level. In comparison, 75.7% of the population in the Route 60's Census Tracts is above the poverty level. The majority of ridership utilizes the stops in the City Park/South Stream area or at LYNX Tyvola Station. These locations will maintain the same level of

service. Although the route structure is changing on Route 60, the new routing will still provide service from LYNX Tyvola Station to the City Park/South Stream area.

Analysis Conclusion:

CATS has concluded that the proposed adjustments do not have a disparate impact on minorities. Route 60 does qualify as a minority bus route, but the onboard survey did not identify any disparity. But staff has concluded there is the potential of having a disproportionate burden on low income riders, who when surveyed appeared disproportionately high in comparison to the low income residential and system-wide numbers.

Public Outreach and Customer Input

On November 10, 2015 and November 11, 2015, CATS held public meetings to discuss changes to the Route 60 Tyvola Road. As part of those meetings, CATS personnel discussed the proposed changes to the Route 60 Tyvola Road. The meeting notification was printed in English and Spanish. Notice was also published to the CATS website, where the electronic notices were posted translated into more than 50 languages. The meetings were held at The Retreat at Renaissance Place located at 3240 New Renaissance Way from 11:00am until 12:30pm and the Charlotte Mecklenburg Public Library West Boulevard Branch located at 2157 West Blvd from 5:30pm until 7:30pm CATS provided notification of the meeting utilizing CATS email subscriber, printed notice in the Charlotte Observer, La Noticia, The Charlotte Post, and a press release to the local media. The meeting was designed to discuss the proposed changes to the Route 60 Tyvola Road. There were 8 total participants that attended both meetings. During both the public meeting and the onboard customer survey customers were informed of the route changes and were asked to give their feedback.

Assessing the Service Alternatives

In the Countywide Transit Services Plan (CTSP), CATS recommended for the Route 60 SouthPark/Tyvola to be consolidated with the 235 Jackson Park. This consolidation would have created fare inequities due to an increase in fare on the Route 60 Tyvola Road. Also the discontinuation of the Route 235 would have reduced service to the Amay James Recreation Center. Although this proposal eliminates service to Renaissance Place, customers will still have the ability to transfer to and from the Route 10 West Boulevard, on West Boulevard. As a result, CATS recommends only partial implementation of the Route 60 Tyvola Road CTSP concept.

Mitigation Actions Taken to Offset the Effects

The major effect of the proposed change is the discontinuation of the portion of the Route 60 on Yorkmont and West Boulevard between Water Ridge Parkway and Renaissance

Place and the two limited service variants. The 2.26-mile section of Yorkmont and West Boulevard is approximately 34.5% of the total route miles. The limited service variants are approximately 3.15% of the route miles. On average 44 daily riders use stops along these portions of the route on weekdays. 3 riders will no longer have any bus service or will be outside of one-half mile of existing bus service, 37 of these daily riders (84%) will have service within one-half mile of the Route 10, 60 or 235, and 4 riders will have service on the new limited service trips to the old airport terminal.

Currently, Route 60 operates between Tyvola Station and Renaissance Plane every 30 minutes in the peak period and 50 minutes in the off peak on weekdays. Between Renaissance Place and Uptown the Route 10 West Boulevard operates every 15 minute for the majority of the day and 30 minutes in the late evening. The frequent service on the Route 10 will allow easier more dependable transfers to and from the Routes 10 and 60 on West Boulevard at Old Steele Creek. As a part of the February Service Change the Route 2 Ashely Park will make three shift time trips to Yorkmont Road to better serve customers traveling to the old airport terminal area. Lastly Saturday service will be added to the Route 60 Tyvola Road to ensure that workers and veterans can travel to the Veterans Hospital during the hours and days of operation.

Attachments

Attachment #1- Route 60 Census Information

Attachment #2-CATS Minority Service Area

Attachment #3 CATS Poverty Area Tracts with Routes

Attachment #4 CATS Poverty Area Tracts with Routes and Stops

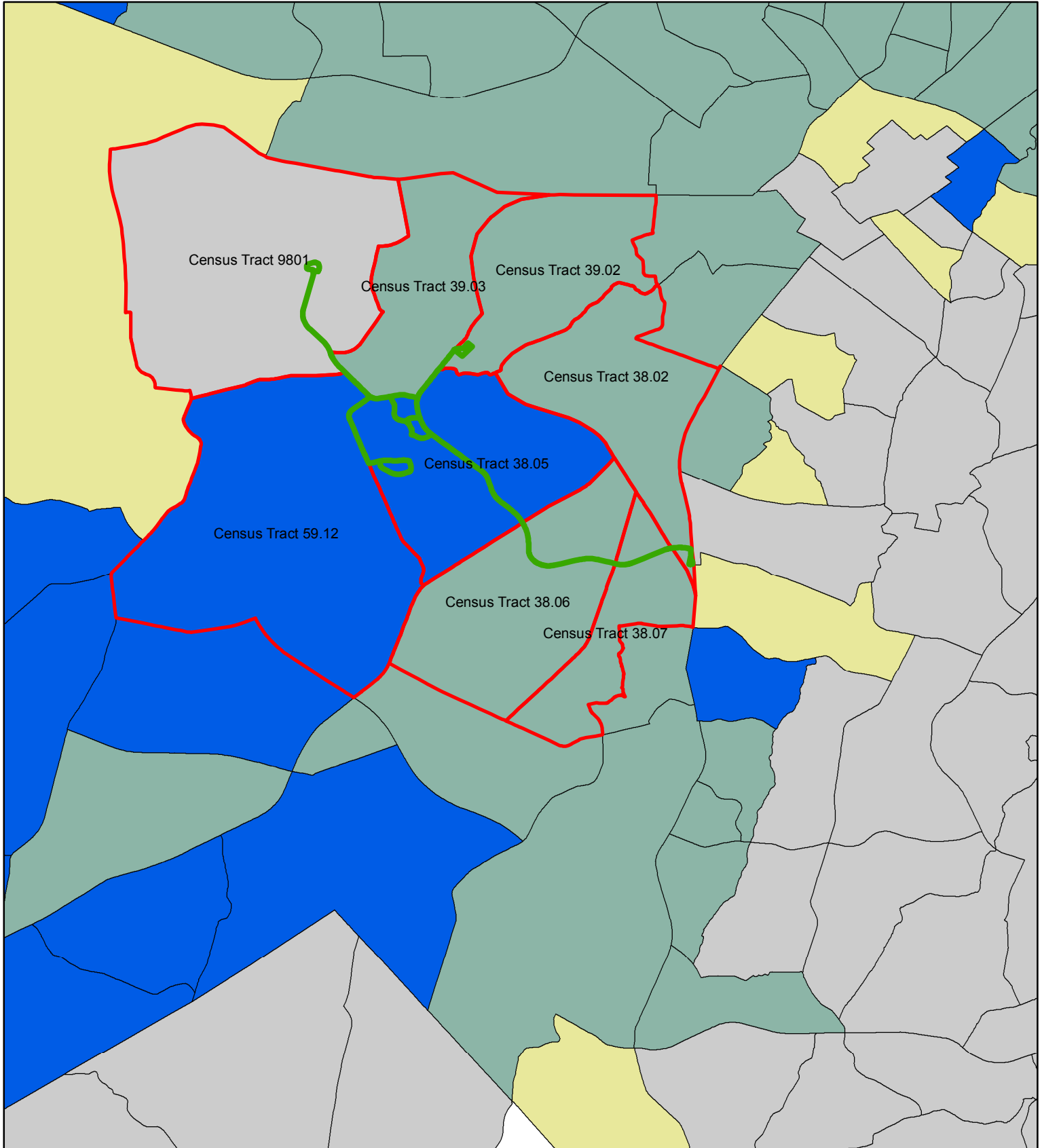
Attachment #5 CATS Poverty Area Tracts

Attachment #6 CATS Minority Service Area with Routes








Attachment #7 CATS Minority Service Area with Routes and Stops

Attachment #8 Route 60 Tyvola Road

Route 60 Tyvola Road Discontinued Portion Title VI Equity Analysis Map



Legend

-  Route_60
-  Route_60_Census_Tracts
-  Poverty Census Tracts October 2014
-  Minority Census Tracts October 2014
-  Minority_Census_Tracts_063014
-  CATS October 2014 Service Area
-  Both Poverty and Minority Census Tracts

