



**CHARL<sup>o</sup>TTTE**

**MOVES**

TASK FORCE

August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020



# AGENDA

**Welcome & Introduction:** *Mayor Gantt*

**Regional Transit Plan (Connect Beyond):** *Geraldine Gardner*

**Homework Assignment Recap:** *Scott Curry*

**Transformational Mobility Opportunities:** *Taiwo Jaiyeoba / Stephen Stansbery*

**Public Comment:** *Mayor Gantt*

**Next Steps and Meeting Closing:** *Mayor Gantt*



# CONNECT Beyond

A Regional Mobility Initiative

August 20, 2020

# Charlotte Moves Task Force

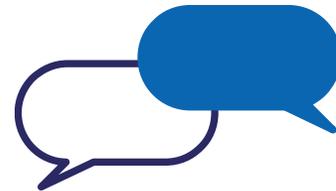


**CONNECT  
Beyond**

# Meeting Objectives



Brief you on the status of the  
CONNECT Beyond Project



Foster dialogue on how CONNECT  
Beyond and Charlottes Moves can  
coordinate



# CONNECT Beyond will...

- **Define** a single, coordinated transit vision
- **Identify** high capacity transit corridors that complement plans and infrastructure
- **Strategize** coordination opportunities
- **Develop** implementation tools





**CONNECT  
Beyond**

# Project Priorities



Increase Economic  
Competitiveness



Improve  
Transportation  
Choices



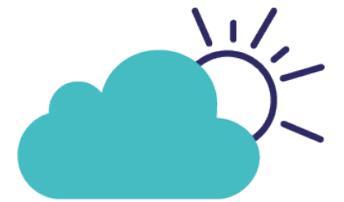
Enhance Public Transit



Promote Sustainable  
Regional Growth



Advance Social Equity

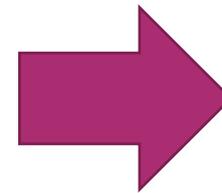
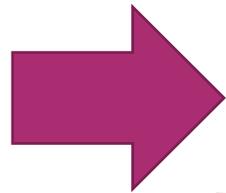


Encourage  
Environmental  
Stewardship

# Transit Engagement



Vibrant Communities – Robust Region

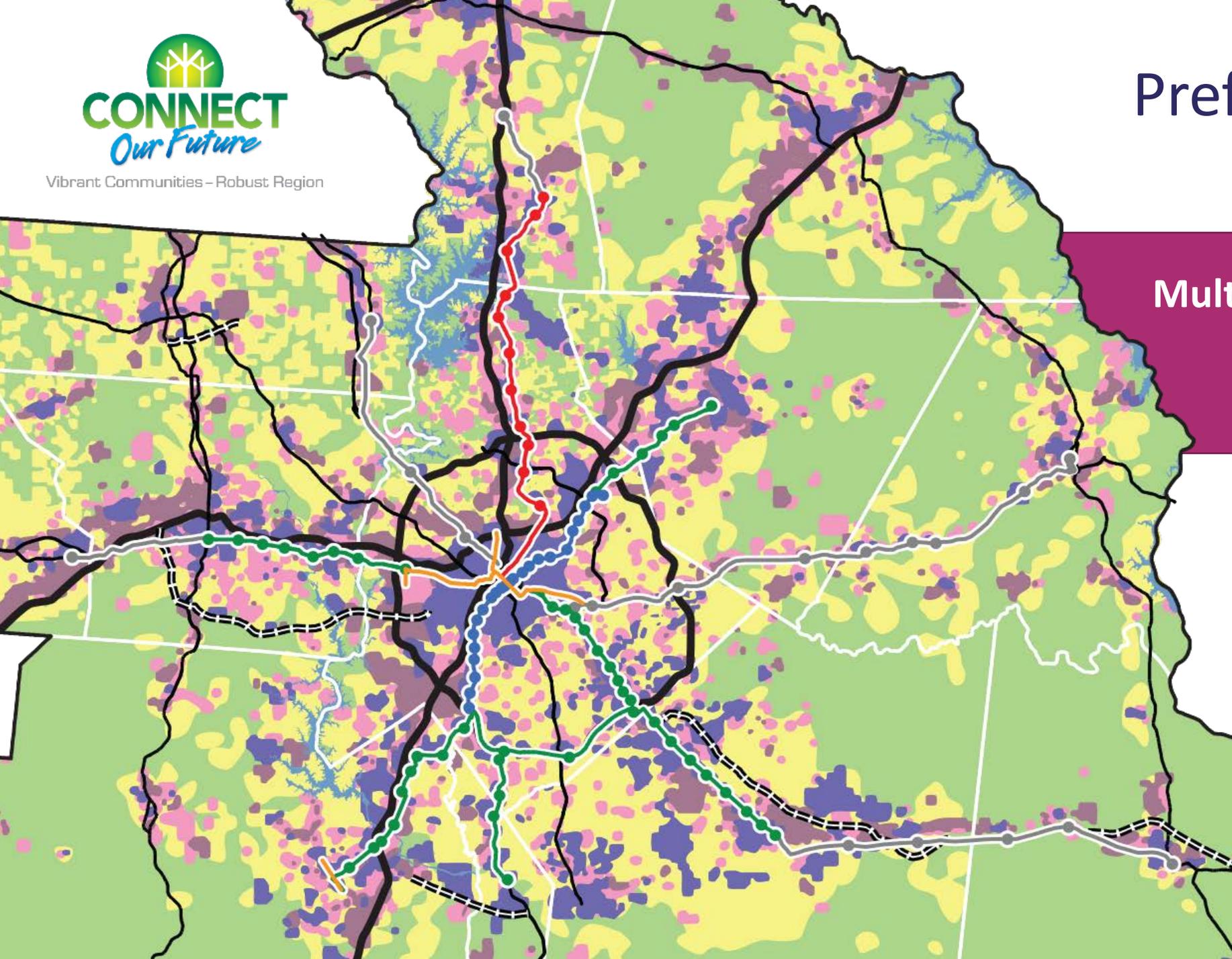


**CONNECT  
Beyond**

A Regional Mobility Initiative

# Preferred Growth Scenario

Multiple Centers Connected  
by  
Regional Transit



## Transit

-  Commuter Rail
-  Light Rail
-  Bus Rapid Transit
-  Streetcar
-  Post-2050

-  Rural Living / Open Space
-  Suburban Neighborhoods
-  Industrial Center
-  Suburban Office & Commercial
-  Mixed-Use, Walkable Centers & Neighborhoods

# Project Management Team



Geraldine Gardner  
*Centralina Regional Council*



John Lewis  
*Charlotte Area Transit System*



Jason Wager  
*Centralina Regional Council*



Michelle Nance  
*Centralina Regional Council*



Jason Lawrence  
*Charlotte Area Transit System*



Bob Cook  
*Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization - MPO Liaison*

# Consultant Team



Jorge Luna  
*Project Manager*



Kevin Walsh  
*Deputy Project Manager*



Sabrina Colón  
*Strategic Communications Lead*



# Project Funding Partners

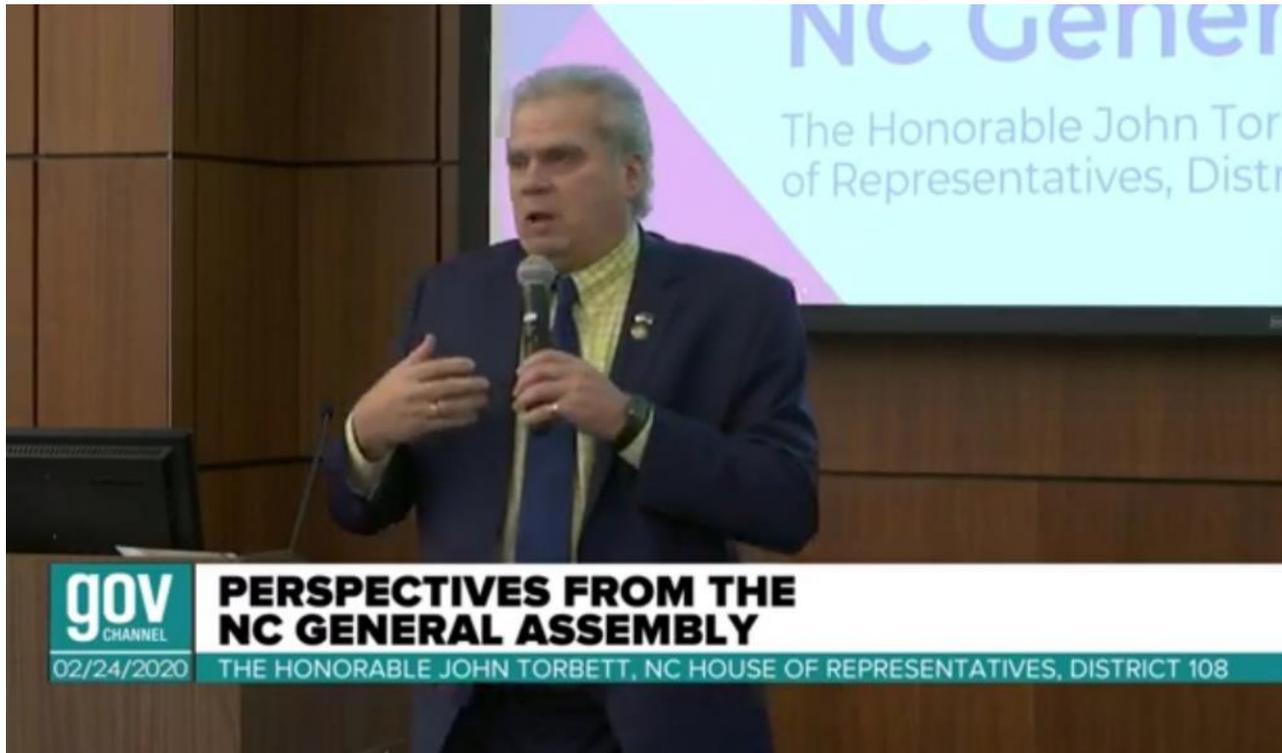


**CENTRALINA**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL





**CONNECT Beyond**  
A Regional Mobility Initiative



# Project Timeline



## STEP 1

# Evaluate Existing Transit Systems

*What are we doing well? Where are the gaps and barriers to mobility?*

Conduct a detailed evaluation of the region's current transit systems, past planning efforts and our partners' previous and current transportation plans. During this time we will also form stakeholder advisory committees and begin our initial public engagement.



## STEP 2

# Identify High Capacity Transit Corridors

**Which corridors within our region would be good candidates for High Capacity Transit to best connect people to jobs, housing, medical services, education and other key destinations?**

High capacity transit includes light rail, bus rapid transit, express bus, and commuter rail. In this step, we will identify high capacity transit corridors that are extensions of current or new corridors in the region.

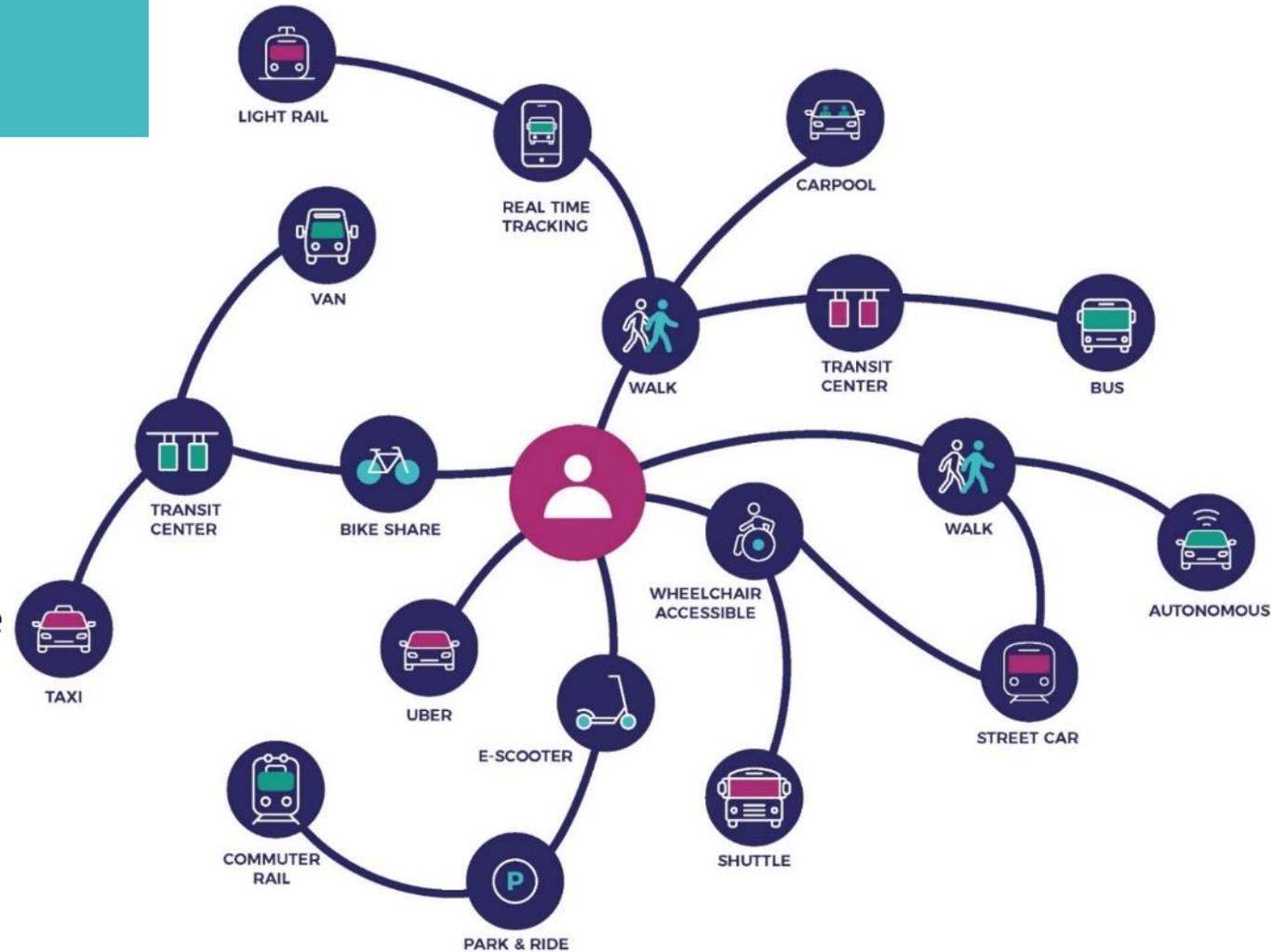


## STEP 3

# Build a Total Mobility Network

**How can we best expand local services to increase transportation options and increase access to high capacity transit corridors?**

Identify the role of transit in a multimodal network that will include a wide variety of transportation solutions, including bus connectors, demand response van networks, bike and pedestrian amenities, integration of ride share companies (e.g. Uber, Lyft, etc.), electric scooters, and other emerging technologies to supplement high capacity transit and commuter rail lines.



## STEP 4

# Develop Implementation Strategies

**How can local transit providers and planning agencies use the results of this initiative?**

In coordination with regional transportation planning organizations, develop implementation strategies for refining, connecting, and expanding the existing transit network that supports the long-term vision and values of our region.



# Project Committees

## Policy

Elected officials and policy experts from across the region (NC and SC).

## Technical

Staff level technical resources.

~~Land use, transportation, health,~~  
economic development, education,  
etc.

## Community Advisory

Key regional influencers.

Engagement via  
government,  
health & human services, economic development, employers, social services, and education.

## CONNECT Beyond Transit Academy

“Deeper dive” forum for committee members, civic leaders and community members.



# How do CONNECT Beyond and Charlotte Moves align?

- Focus Area
- Geography
- Partnerships
- Governance & Funding



Questions



# Homework Assignment: What We Heard



## 1A. What's been particularly insightful/useful?

- **Impressed with existing plans:**

- Charlotte has completed a more comprehensive foundation of transportation/transit planning than we were aware of.
- It's time to move from studies to action.

- **Conversation with peer cities:**

- Communication and coordinated planning are keys to success with the public. We'll need to be clear about how everyone benefits from proposed the proposed network.
- Broward County's success based on the inclusion of multiple transportation modes was an important lesson.



## 1B. What's been missing from the conversation?

- **What about the cost?**

- We need to hear more about the City's priorities, budget, and funding options so that we can execute the plans.
- How much does the grand vision cost?
- What are the funding tools in our toolbox ? What can we really afford?

- **What's the gameplan?**

- After we assemble and endorse the Transformational Mobility Network, what's next?
- Is there an expectation of this group after December to help craft public education and communication strategies around transportation funding or a possible referendum?

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We need to know how much our vision will cost, what are the proposed funding methods, what are the chances of them passing a voter referendum, and if they don't, what are the options?

- Tami Simmons & Ken May



We want to understand how this effort fits in with other regional transportation organizations' plans (CRTPO, MTC, CCOG, NCDOT).

- Stefania Arteaga & Bill Coxe



## 1B. What's been missing from the conversation?

- **What about less flashy modes of transportation?**
  - Rail transit and greenways have understandably been a focus of conversation. What about the basics – like sidewalks and better bus service?
- **Is the mobility landscape shifting underneath our feet?**
  - What's the long-term impact of Covid-19 – particularly on teleworking and the appetite for transit?
  - Will a digital/tech revolution in the transportation sector support better efficiency and reliability of our existing network?



## 2. What are your most important goals and priorities?

### Four very clear themes

1. REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY
2. EQUITY
3. TRANSPORTATION CHOICES
4. GROWTH MANAGEMENT



The two shared goals we agreed upon were equity and regional connectivity.

- Raquel Lynch & David Johnson



## 2. What are your most important goals and priorities?

### **REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY**

- Silver Line & Gold Line
- Finish the greenway network
- BRT to more areas of Charlotte
- Need support from neighboring communities



## 2. What are your most important goals and priorities?

### EQUITY

- Transportation should improve access to opportunity for all to help address Charlotte's social mobility challenges.
- Transportation options should provide access to essentials (jobs, school, grocery, healthcare, childcare).
- We need to pair affordable housing with investment in affordable transportation options (transit/walking/biking).
- Focus on the most vulnerable, least connected areas first, as opposed to the areas that are already "transit-rich".



Ensuring that everyone in Charlotte has access to basic needs is a paramount goal of this effort.

- Danielle Frazier & David Ward



We are aligned in wanting Charlotte to be a Tier 1, global market AND achieve equitable access to strong, healthy and vibrant neighborhoods.

- Janet LaBar & Chris Turner



## 2. What are your most important goals and priorities?

### TRANSPORTATION CHOICES

- Rail, Bus Rapid Transit, Greenways/Bikeways, Sidewalks – ALL ARE IMPORTANT
- Provide a robust network of transportation choices
- Key words: Safe, reliable, affordable, connected



Other transportation choices must  
be on par with the automobile  
experience or better.

- Eric Zaverl & Pedro Perez



## 2. What are your most important goals and priorities?

### GROWTH MANAGEMENT

- Need to manage growth along corridors that are already congested.
- Population and density are increasing, but widening thoroughfares is not a good option in most cases. We need to be able to move more people more efficiently.
- Need to support multiple centers as destinations (employment/education/activity centers)



We need to address traffic congestion... and the cumulative effect of rezoning approvals on daily car trips.

- William Hughes & Karl Froelich



### 3. What's your definition of "greatest need"?

- **Expand / Enhance Transit Network**
  - Rail transit – Silver Line & Gold Line
  - Expansion of high-capacity, high-frequency bus service as a shorter term goal
- **Balanced Investment**
  - Balance key corridors that support regional connectivity with sidewalks and bikeways extending into the neighborhoods (first/last mile)
  - Balance "big ticket" items with "quick wins" – Don't overlook basic things like sidewalks

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The greatest need for the long-term is rail... It should be the foundation of a network that includes buses, bicycles, scooters, ridesharing, etc. to get people the last mile to businesses and homes.

- Sonja Smith & Jim Marascio



We need to balance big ticket items with low hanging fruit that would improve the transit experience and increase ridership.

- Geraldine Gardner & Nick McJetters



The greatest need is regional connectivity with walkability and pedestrian/biking lanes in neighborhoods.

*- Reginald Henderson & Aaron Lay*



### 3. What's your definition of "greatest need"?

- **Start with the most vulnerable, least connected places**
  - Use a data-driven approach with an equity lens to determine places with "greatest need"
  - Ensuring access to critical services (jobs, school, grocery, healthcare, childcare) for all Charlotte residents, and especially for those that can't afford cars.
  - We need to make sure that residents aren't displaced by the affordable options (transit & bike) we build to serve them.
- **Prioritize safety**
  - In the short term this means responding to Covid-19
  - In the long term this means Vision Zero and effective maintenance



We need more public transportation  
(i.e. CATS buses) in underserved  
areas.

- Elyas Mohammed & Betty Doster



Connectivity, reliability and safety....probably the three most important words around mobility.

- Keba Samuel & Ernie Reigel



## Other key thoughts

- We really enjoyed interacting with fellow Task Force Members outside the regularly scheduled video calls.
- We are learning a LOT on the fly!
- We need to think long term. What types of transportation will be most relevant and useful for our children and grandchildren 20 to 30 years from now?
- **We need a reminder at each meeting about the specific scope and mission of the Task Force so that we can prioritize our feedback efficiently toward our ultimate goal/deliverable.**



# Transformational Mobility Opportunities



# YOUR MISSION

## Define a Transformational Mobility Network



**CIVIC  
ENGAGEMENT**



**REVIEW EXISTING  
PLANS**



**ASSESS MOBILITY  
NEEDS**



**DETERMINE  
FUNDING NEEDS**



**RECOMMEND  
MOBILITY NETWORK  
TO CITY COUNCIL**



# Charlotte MOVES: VISION STATEMENT

“Charlotte will provide **safe** and **equitable** mobility options for all travelers regardless of age, income, ability, race, where they live, or how they choose to travel.

An integrated system of transit, bikeways, sidewalks, trails, and streets will support a **sustainable, connected, prosperous, and innovative** network that connects all Charlotteans to each other, jobs, amenities, goods, services, and the region.”



**LIVABLE & CONNECTED**



**HEALTHY & SUSTAINABLE**



**PROSPEROUS & INNOVATIVE**



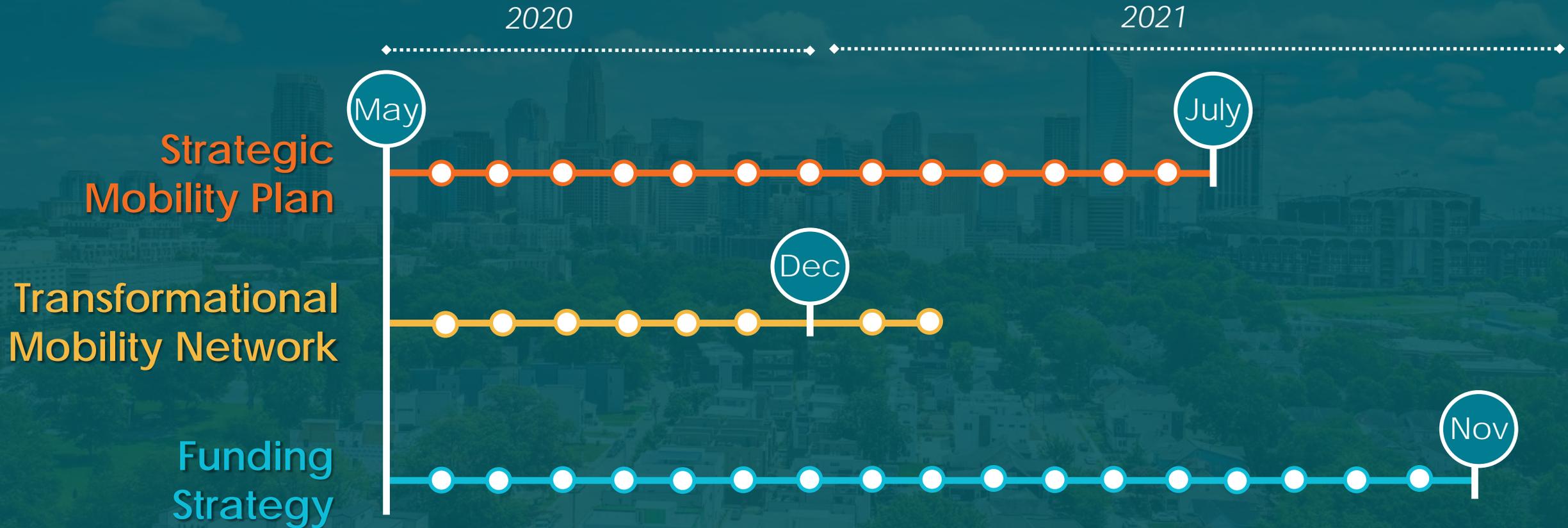
**INCLUSIVE & DIVERSE**



**REGIONAL**

**- From Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan**

# A COORDINATED EFFORT







# Transformational Mobility Opportunities

Existing Transit /  
Transportation  
Plans

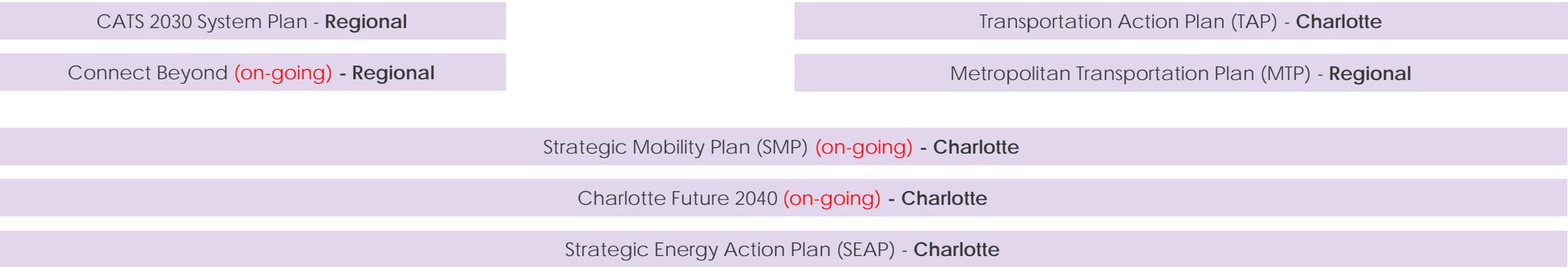
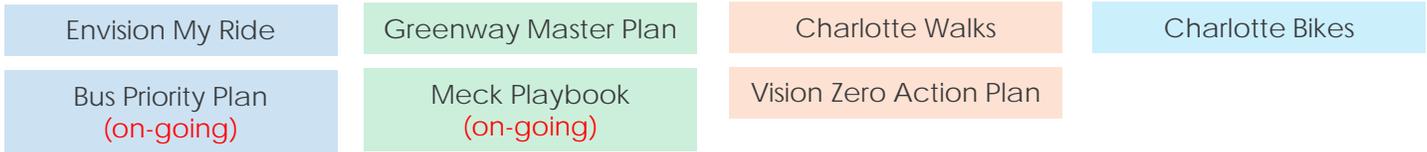
Early Feedback  
from the Task  
Force



Major Categories of  
Potential Investment

1. Rapid Transit Corridors
2. Bus Priority System
3. Greenway System
4. Pedestrian Walkability
5. Bicycle Priority Network
6. Roadway Network

## Framework: Transformational Mobility Opportunities



Supporting Plans & Policies

## Framework: Transformational Mobility Opportunities

	<b>Rapid Transit</b> Corridors    Our complete rapid transit vision	<b>Bus Priority</b> System    Our expanded & prioritized bus network	<b>Greenway</b> System    Our parks & streets for recreation & mobility	<b>Pedestrian</b> Walkability    Our investment in first & last mile mobility	<b>Bicycle</b> Priority Network    Our bicycle vision for all ages & abilities	<b>Roadway</b> Network    Our investment to manage congestion
	Silver Line	Bus Priority Corridors	Silver Line Trail	Mobility Hubs	Uptown Cycle Link	HOV/Managed Lanes
	Blue Line to Ballantyne	Microtransit	Mooresville to Charlotte Trail	Micromobility	Protected Cycle Track Network	ITS Smart Corridors
	Red Line (BRT/Commuter Rail)		Shared Streets			Autonomous Vehicle Infrastructure
	Gold Line (phase 3)		"Green Links" Network			Electric Vehicle Charging
	Regional Bus (high capacity corridors)					Transportation Demand Management (TDM)

Example Projects & Emerging Ideas

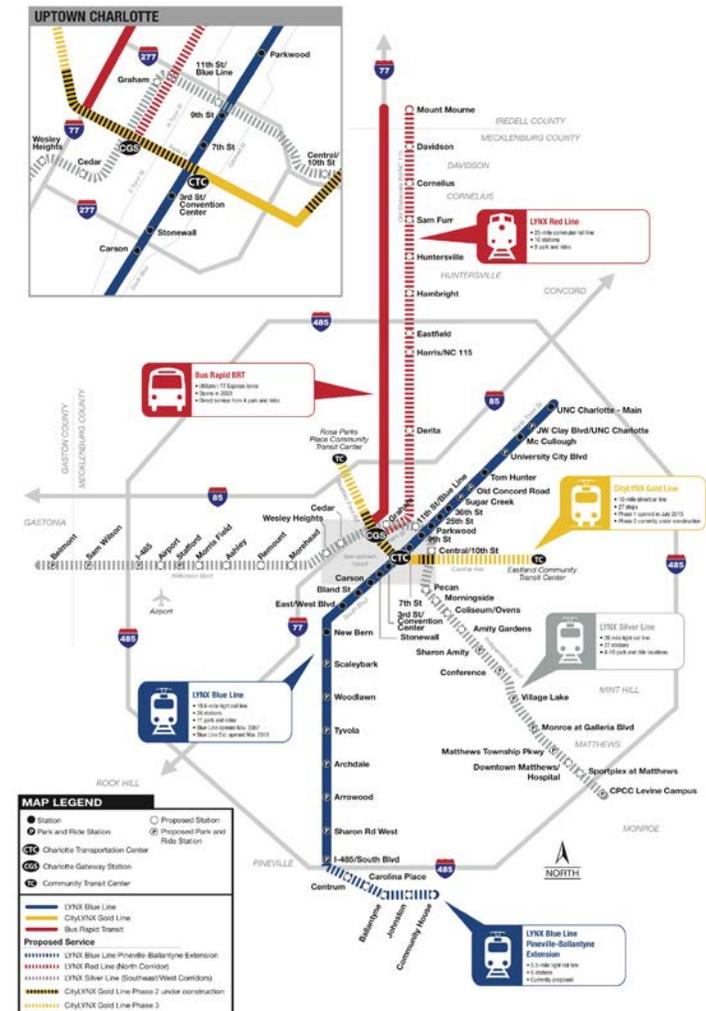


# Transformational Mobility Opportunities

**Rapid Transit Corridors**

Our complete rapid transit vision

- Silver Line
- Blue Line to Ballantyne
- Red Line (BRT/Commuter Rail)
- Gold Line (phase 3)
- Regional Bus (high capacity corridors)





# Transformational Mobility Opportunities

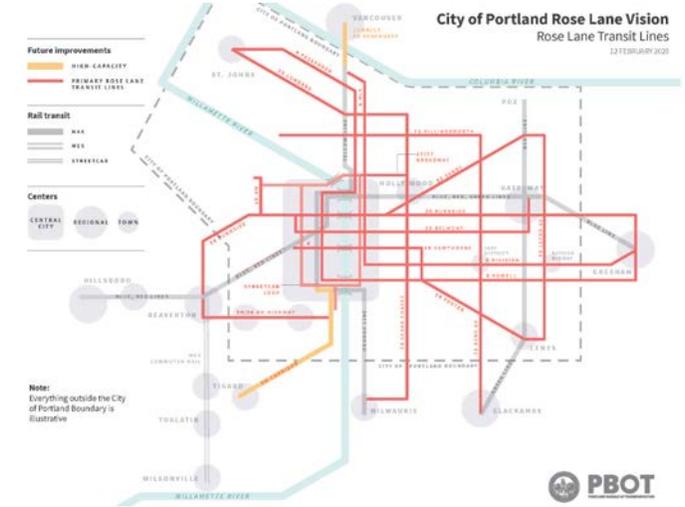
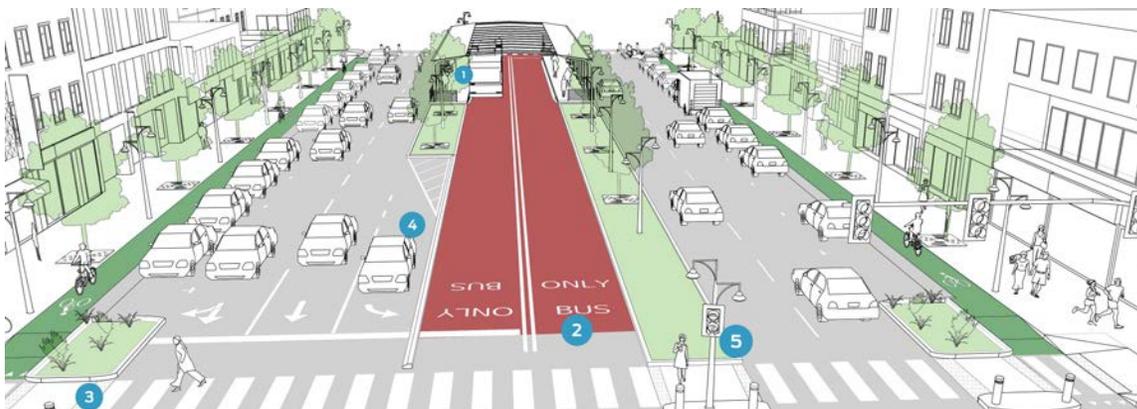
**Bus Priority System**



Our expanded & prioritized bus network

Bus Priority Corridors

Microtransit



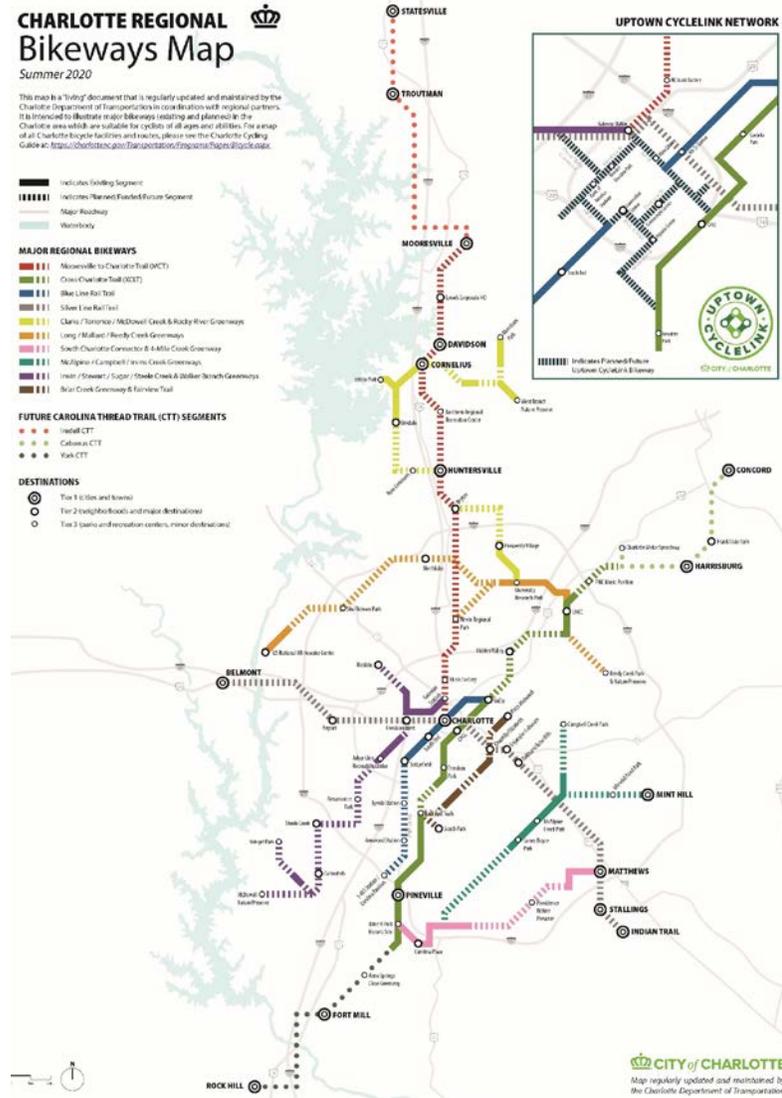


# Transformational Mobility Opportunities

**Greenway System**

Our parks & streets for recreation & mobility

- Silver Line Trail
- Mooresville to Charlotte Trail
- Shared Streets
- "Green Links" Network





# Transformational Mobility Opportunities

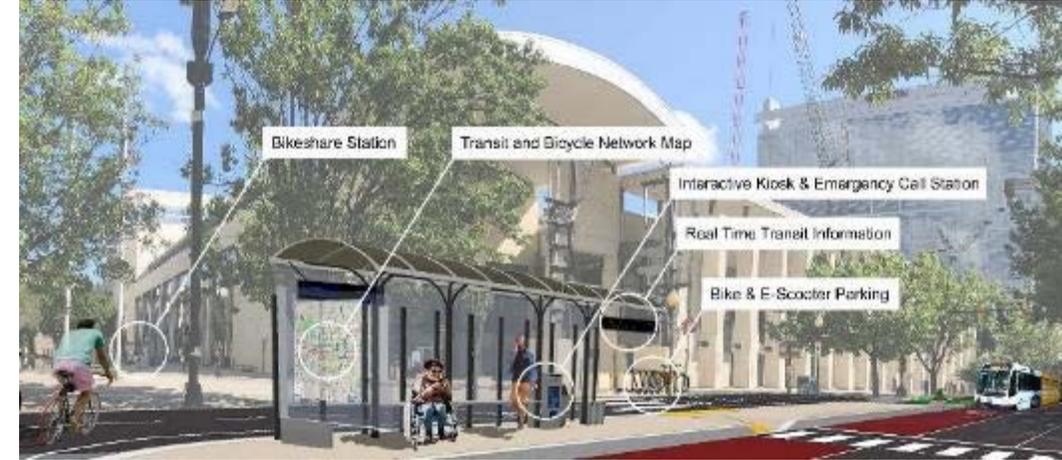
## Pedestrian Walkability



Our investment in first & last mile mobility

Mobility Hubs

Micromobility





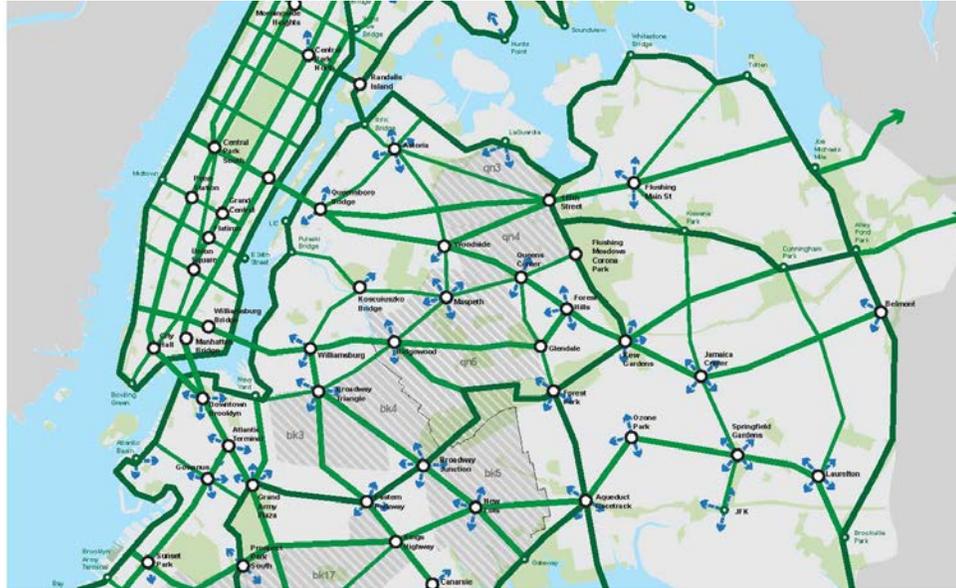
# Transformational Mobility Opportunities

**Bicycle**  
Priority Network

Our bicycle vision for all ages & abilities

Uptown Cycle Link

Protected Cycle Track Network





# Transformational Mobility Opportunities

## Roadway Network



Our investment to manage congestion

HOV/Managed Lanes

ITS Smart Corridors

Autonomous Vehicle Infrastructure

Electric Vehicle Charging

Transportation Demand Management (TDM)





# September Homework (small groups)

Answer the following:

1. When considering the Transformational Mobility Network, **how would you define “transformational”** - (*Capture a few words or phrases to describe*)?
2. **What outcomes and community benefits would you expect** to see 20 years from now as a result of investing in the Transformational Mobility Network?
3. **Reflect on the Transformational Mobility Opportunities and help us “fill up the buckets”** – transportation projects, programs, and services (specific and general answers are welcome)



# Public Comment



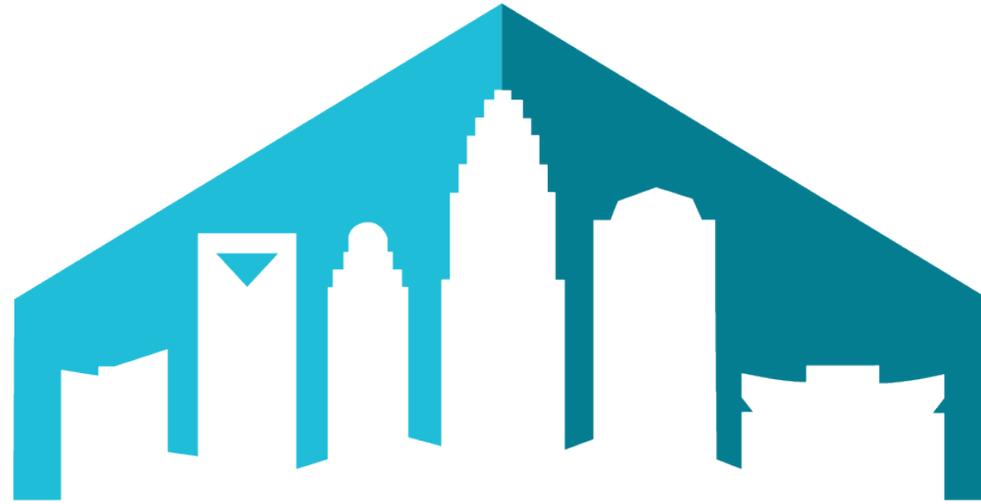
# Next Steps



# CHARLOTTE MOVES PUBLIC SURVEY IS LIVE!

- Please take the survey
- **Please distribute to your professional and personal networks**
- We will share initial results in the coming months

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CharlotteMOVES>



**CHARL<sup>o</sup>TTTE**

**MOVES**

TASK FORCE

**Next scheduled meeting is Thursday, September 17**