

2024

Intergovernmental
Relations



FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



2024 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

MAYOR

Vi Alexander Lyles

MAYOR PRO TEM

Dante' Anderson

CITY COUNCIL

Dimple Tansen Ajmera

Tariq Bokhari

Tiawana Brown

Edmund H. Driggs

Malcolm Graham

Renee' Johnson

LaWana Mayfield

James Mitchell

Marjorie Molina

Victoria Watlington

CITY MANAGER

Marcus D. Jones



CHARLOTTE
CHARLOTTE CITY COUNCIL
2023-2025

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Mayor Pro Tem

District 1 Representative

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CHARLOTTE

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2023 - 2024

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2024 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Infrastructure

Mobility: Support the region's efforts to improve its competitiveness and build the economy through investments to the transportation network

Economic Development

Aviation: Secure letter of intent for the fourth parallel runway project at Charlotte Douglas International Airport, which will improve the airport's competitiveness and lead to more economic growth

Economic & Workforce Development: Support the economic development, workforce development, and other programs that grow the economy, attract talent, reduce unemployment and poverty rates, and enable people to generate long-term wealth

Digital Inclusion: Support federal resources to appropriately fund the Affordable Connectivity Program so that all members of the community can access digital opportunities for commerce, workforce readiness, and education

Immigration: Support federal immigration policies that strengthen our economy and workforce, immigrant families and communities by improving the H-1B Visa process, establishing pathways to citizenship, and increasing resources for refugee resettlement

Community

Drinking Water: Support policies and funding to address the impacts of "forever chemicals" and replace lead-service lines to reduce the risks to city employees, customers, impacted communities, general public, and the environment

Housing: Support policies and funding that lead more to more participation in housing voucher programs by private property owners and landlords and placement of more households in safe and affordable dwellings by using more market-specific data to set rents fairly, reducing the risk to private property owners and landlords by reduction of inspection delays and provision of security-deposit assistance, and providing bonuses to new property owners and landlords for participation in the program



CHARLOTTE™

2024 Federal Legislative Agenda

Issue Area: Infrastructure

Issue: Mobility

Position: Support the region's efforts to improve its competitiveness and build the economy through investments to the transportation network

The City of Charlotte will work to advance, in conjunction with our local and regional partners, strategic priorities related to all modes of surface transportation where the implemented priorities will improve the transportation network for all users. The city is aggressively competing for mobility competitive grant funding that have demonstrable benefits such as connecting jobs and housing and investing in the ways we move. Furthermore, investments in technology, micromobility, and shared mobility options (e.g., rideshare options, autonomous personal and commercial vehicles, e-scooters, bike share, electric car charging stations, etc.) that enable the next generation personal and commercial mobility systems are important to regional plans. All of these are vital in connecting business development, housing, economic advancement, sustainability, and safe and equitable mobility.

The city's adopted Strategic Mobility Plan sets forth the mobility investment's to improve and make safer the city's roads and highways, public transportation, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities that are necessary for a growing city like Charlotte. Among the types of projects, the plan includes 506 pedestrian signal upgrades, 380 miles of high frequency bus corridors, 260 miles of sidewalk construction, 200 miles of road widenings, 86 high congestion intersection projects, 70 miles of fiber optic connections, 61 mobility hubs, and 15 microtransit zones. The city secured a federal competitive grant in 2023 through the Safe Streets and Roads for All program to implement Vision Zero improvements around schools.

The city supports funding for improvements to the freight and passenger rail network that improve connections with cities such as: Atlanta, Georgia; Raleigh, North Carolina; Richmond, Virginia; and Washington, D.C., and enables safer operations of all train traffic. The city is considering competing for federal competitive grant funding to replace several at-grade rail / roadway intersections to separate the two modes of traffic to improve safety for all users of the road and improve rail transit times through the city.



CHARLOTTE™

2024 Federal Legislative Agenda

Issue Area: Economic Development

Issue: Aviation

Position: Secure letter of intent for the fourth parallel runway project at Charlotte Douglas International Airport, which will improve the airport's competitiveness and lead to more economic growth

The Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT) continues to implement the Destination CLT capital improvements program, a collaboration with our airline partners, business community, state and federal legislators, and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Over the last 20 years, the presence and growth of CLT and its airline hub have resulted in CLT becoming not only one of the busiest airports in the U.S. but in the world. With a forward-thinking philosophy and a focus on constant growth, CLT sees itself as an Airport of the future. CLT is one of the nation's and world's busiest airports. Our growth has been remarkable, increasing from 28 million total passengers in 2005 to a record-breaking 53.4 million passengers in 2023. The Airport handled 539,066 aircraft arrivals and departures in 2023 compared to 505,589 in 2022. This continued and sustained growth means CLT is at or near capacity.

The airfield capacity enhancement study and terminal capacity enhancement study looked at possible and potential passenger growth forecasts and together form the Airport's master plan. This plan defines the future and long-term airfield and terminal development and helps craft CLT's construction and development through 2035. The build-out of the program provides more opportunities for airlines to schedule flights between Charlotte and other cities throughout the world, nation, and the Carolinas.

The City of Charlotte supports securing a Letter of Intent for the federal government to commit federal funding for construction of the fourth parallel runway and north and south end around taxiways. CLT has been working with the FAA to access federal funds for construction of the projects, which totals over \$1 billion. For large airfield development projects, such as a new runway, airports work with the FAA to apply for a Letter of Intent (LOI) to help fund large-scale capacity projects at primary or reliever airports. The LOI would state that the FAA intends to obligate discretionary and entitlement funds from future budgetary authority in an amount not greater than the federal government's share of allowable costs for that project. The FAA issues an LOI to state that reimbursement will be made according to a given schedule as funds become available from Congress each year over the term of the LOI. If approved, then the first tranche of funding would be appropriated to CLT using federal FY 2025 appropriations.

CLT secured competitive grant funding in 2023 and 2024 through the Airport Terminal Program for renovations of Concourse E and to replace Passenger Boarding Bridges. Expansions of Concourses B and C are planned over the next 15 years. As future terminal development projects draw nearer, the City pledges to continue working closely with our Congressional Delegation in building support for future federal funding.

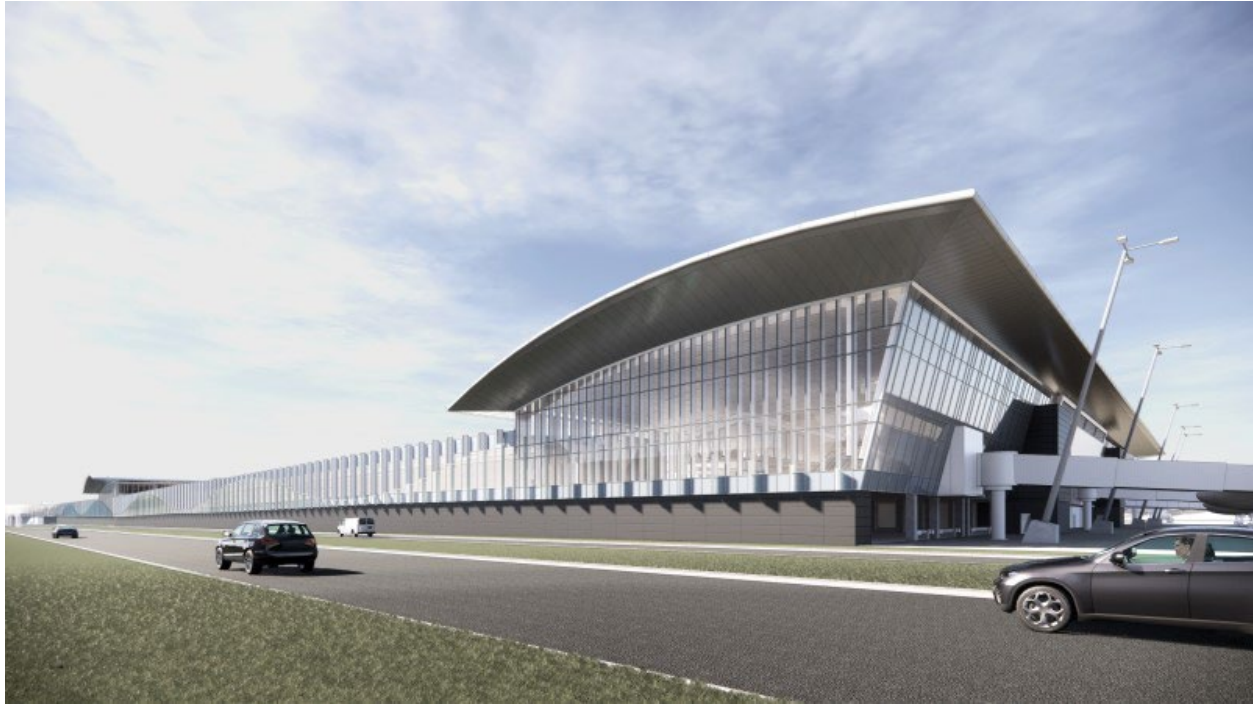
AIRFIELD DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS



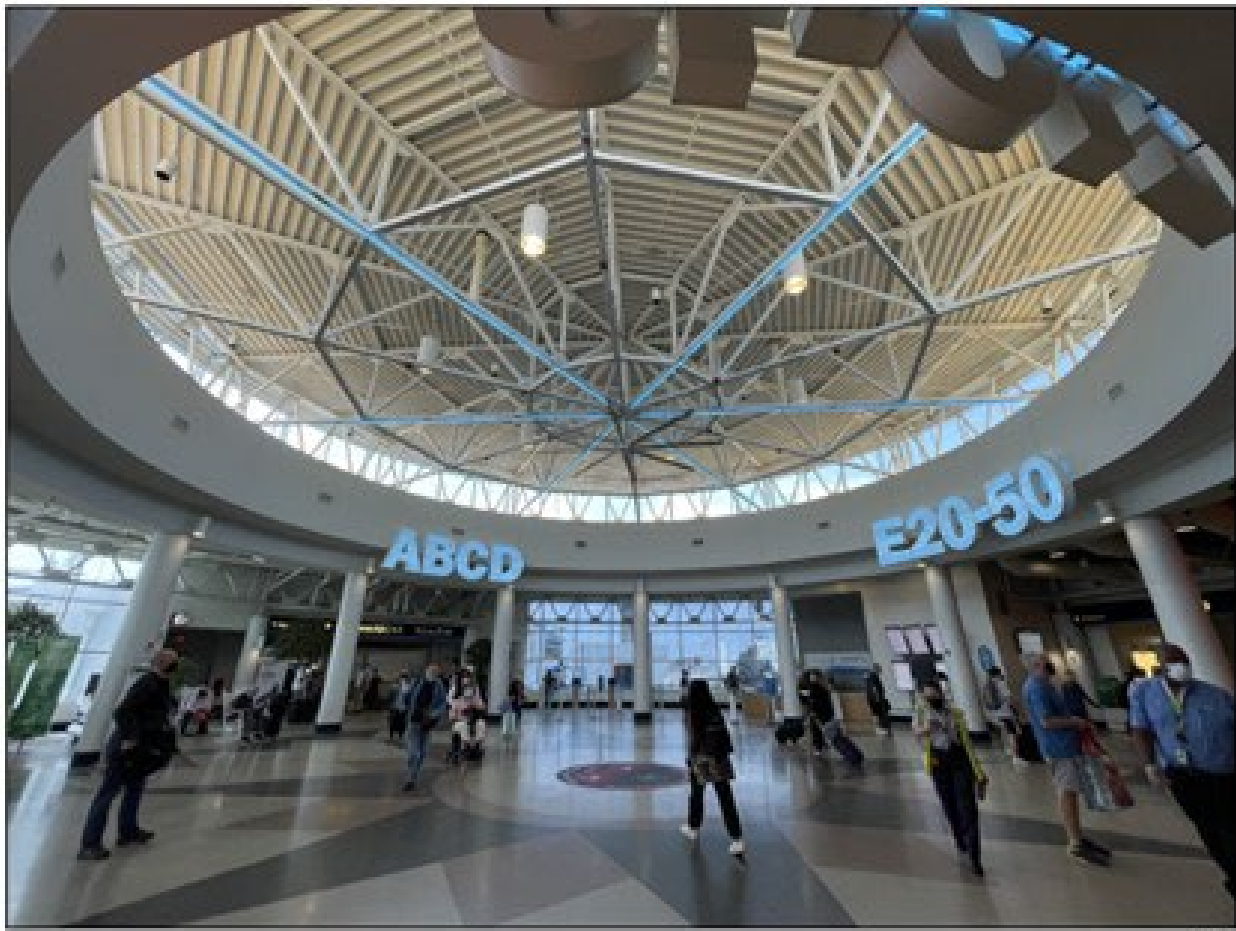
TERMINAL LOBBY EXPANSION



CONCOURSE A EXPANSION



CONCOURSE E RENOVATIONS





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2024 Federal Legislative Agenda

Issue Area: Economic Development

Issue: Economic & Workforce Development

Position: Support the economic development, workforce development, and other programs that grow the economy, attract talent, reduce unemployment and poverty rates, and enable people to generate long-term wealth

The City of Charlotte funds a number of economic development and workforce development initiatives to grow the economy, attract talent, reduce unemployment and poverty rates, and enable people to generate long-term wealth. Oftentimes, these efforts are matched with federal funds that are sourced from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and other federal legislation. The city works with its for-profit and non-profit strategic partners by supporting initiatives to secure federal funding that the partners are embarking upon. One such example is the UNC Charlotte lead effort secure strategy development grant funding through the CHIPS and Sciences Act for the Carolinas Innovation Center for Optics and Metrology.

The city has embarked upon a program in six Corridors of Opportunity to create safe, prosperous communities and build legacies for future generations. The program strives to provide solutions-driven, measurable strategies that produce equitable access, opportunities, treatments, and outcome for Charlotte's low-income communities. The city has been able to advance this effort through a combination of city funding, private and non-profit support, and federal grants. The city was the recipient of four competitive grant awards in 2023 totaling \$17 million. The support of the Congressional Delegation was instrumental in securing this funding. The city be continue working to secure even more funding in 2024.



CHARLOTTE™

2024 Federal Legislative Agenda

Issue Area: Economic Development

Issue: Digital Inclusion

Position: Support federal resources to appropriately fund the Affordable Connectivity Program so that all members of the community can access digital opportunities for commerce, workforce readiness, and education

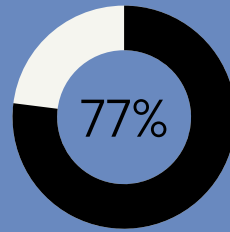
The City of Charlotte is committed to advancing strategic priorities related to digital inclusion. The city supports policies that advance digital inclusion and enable all persons regardless of income and location to access digital opportunities for commerce, workforce readiness, and education. The city is partnering locally with the private sector, non-profit Center for Digital Equity, and Mecklenburg County in advancing digital inclusion throughout the community.

The most profound need in our community is for federal funding to cover a portion of the cost of broadband and internet service for low-income households through the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). Program enrollment, which is administered by the Federal Communications Commission, has been frozen since February 7, 2024, at 23.3 million households nationwide due to the unforeseen need for more households desiring to connect than anticipated. In Mecklenburg County alone, program enrollment is over 75,000 households, which accounts for those participating in both the ACP and the previously Emergency Broadband Benefit program authorized and funded through American Rescue Plan funding. The projected date for shutting down the program is in April 2024. A fact sheet prepared by the Federal Communications Commission stressing the urgency of the funding follows on the next page.

ACP - MEASURING IMPACT

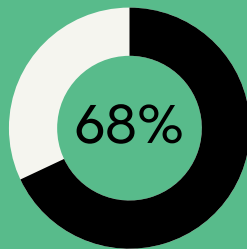
Loss of ACP Means Service Disruptions

More than **three-quarters** of the survey respondents say losing their ACP benefit would disrupt their service by making them change their plan or drop internet service entirely.



Gaps in Service Before ACP

Over two-thirds of survey respondents reported they had inconsistent connectivity or zero connectivity at all before ACP.



80% of this group cited affordability as the reason for having inconsistent or zero service.

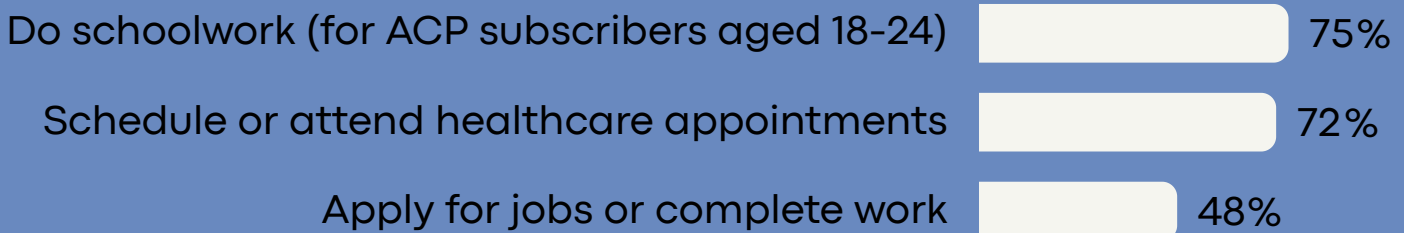
No Internet or Mobile-Only Before ACP

More than half of rural survey respondents reported having either zero internet connectivity or relying solely on mobile internet service prior to receiving their ACP benefit. The same was true for about half of all respondents.



ACP Gives Access to Healthcare, Work, and School

ACP subscribers reported that they use their ACP internet service to:



In December 2023, the FCC conducted a survey of ACP recipients to enhance our understanding of the program's impact, and how the end of the program may impact access to broadband services.

For full survey results visit fcc.gov/acp-survey



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2024 Federal Legislative Agenda

Issue Area: Economic Development

Issue: Immigration

Position: Support federal immigration policies that strengthen our economy and workforce, immigrant families and communities by improving the H-1B Visa process, establishing pathways to citizenship, and increasing resources for refugee resettlement

The City of Charlotte is a welcoming city, opening her arms to a diverse and inclusive community of residents, businesses, and visitors alike; a safe family-oriented city where people work together to help everyone thrive. Immigrants play an important role in our nation and contribute toward the growth of our economy. This vision is the basis for the 2019 Charlotte Compact on Immigration and the recommendations of the ad hoc City Council Immigrant Community Committee, which seek to maximize the economic and civic contributions of immigrants living in the city, while remaining in conformance with State and federal immigration laws.

The city supports the continuation of the H-1B Visa Program and program changes to address spousal and dependent children issues. The H-1B Visa program is intended to help employers, who cannot otherwise obtain needed business skills and abilities from the U.S. workforce, by authorizing the temporary employment of qualified individuals who are not otherwise authorized to work in the United States. The specialty occupations must require the application of a body of highly specialized knowledge and the applicant must have attained at least a bachelor's degree or its equivalent. A common challenge cited by H-1B visa holders is that program policy creates high hurdles for family members to settle in the US and give back to the community. Their visas do not permit recipients to work and there is a worry that volunteering could be in violation of their visa requirements. Dependent children of H-1B Visa holders, who are often brought to the US as young children, may age out of the system, and be required to self-deport due to backlogs in processing green card applications.

The city supports merit-based solutions that allow participants in asylum, parole, temporary protected status, and deferred action for childhood arrivals programs to earn and keep legal status that eventually leads to citizenship. Participants in the asylum, temporary protected status, and deferred action for childhood arrivals programs have oftentimes built careers, started businesses, purchased homes, and are supporting families. Participants view the US as home and a safe haven and are hardworking members of our community who contribute through their work and volunteerism.

The city supports increased funding and support of resettlement organizations as they work with refugees in our community. The recent influx of refugees is straining the resources and capabilities of resettlement organizations that are supporting refugees in their transition to this country. The costs of adequate housing, transportation, and other necessities of everyday life are rising in this area, which complicates these organizations' efforts to support all refugees adequately and appropriately.



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2024 Federal Legislative Agenda

Issue Area: Community

Issue: Drinking Water

Position: Support policies and funding to address the impacts of “forever chemicals” and replace lead-service lines to reduce the risks to city employees, customers, impacted communities, general public, and the environment

The City of Charlotte supports policies that advance clean water and drinking water initiatives. Charlotte Water is commencing construction of the \$380 million Stowe Regional Water Resource Facility in June 2023. The facility will treat wastewater from Mecklenburg and Gaston Counties and will be located along the Catawba River south of NC Route 27. The Towns of Belmont and Mount Holly will close their treatment plants when the facility comes online in 2026 and have their wastewater treated at the new plant. The two towns have received State Clean Water revolving loans from the State of North Carolina to fund their share of construction expenses. There will be a 90-acre community benefit property adjacent to facility.

The city support efforts by the federal government to safeguard our drinking water by considering new mandates to clean up PFAS contamination and replace lead-service lines. Local governments and other entities are expecting the federal government to issue a potential federal mandate in 2024 for the clean-up of PFAS contamination. The costs of the potential mandate as it applies to local governments, which is without funding, would be borne by local governments and utility ratepayers. Adopting the regulations in the absence of federal funding represents a high-cost burden to local governments. Another potential 2024 federal mandate, which is also without funding, would require water utilities to replace lead-service lines that are on private property and not even owned by the utility. This too represents a high-cost burden to local governments.



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2024 Federal Legislative Agenda

Issue Area: Community

Issue: Housing

Position: Support policies and funding that lead more to more participation in housing voucher programs by private property owners and landlords and placement of more households in safe and affordable dwellings by using more market-specific data to set rents fairly, reducing the risk to private property owners and landlords by reduction of inspection delays and provision of security-deposit assistance, and providing bonuses to new property owners and landlords for participation in the program

The City of Charlotte supports reforms to the federal housing voucher programs that lead to more participation in the program by private property owners and landlords and place more households in safe and affordable housing. Private property owners and landlords frequently cite the high cost of complying with program regulations and the inability in some cases to charge market-specific rents. The result currently is that many owners and landlords do not even consider individuals and families with vouchers for leasing as the rental market has plenty of prospective renters able to pay their rent without the use of housing vouchers, which exacerbates living conditions for households seeking safe and affordable housing..