



## Budget, Governance, and Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee Meeting Summary

Monday, October 7, 2024  
CH-14 at 2:00 pm

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### COMMITTEE AGENDA TOPICS

- Agenda Overview
- I. Federal & State Legislative Updates
- II. MWSBE Participation in Capital Projects
- III. Charlotte Equitable Development Commission (CEDC) Report Out- Deferred to November Meeting

### COMMITTEE INFORMATION

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**Committee Members Present:** Dimple Ajmera (Chair), Lawana Mayfield and James Mitchell were present, Tiawana Brown and Tariq Bokhari (Vice Chair) were absent.

**Staff Resources:** Shawn Heath, City Manager's Office  
Dana Fenton, City Manager's Office  
Ashleigh Price, General Services  
Steven Coker, Charlotte Business Inclusion

### DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

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#### Federal & State Legislative Updates

Mr. Dana Fenton, City Manager's Office, provided the update and an overview of the staff-proposed issues for inclusion in the city's 2025 federal and state legislative agendas.

Upcoming key dates for agenda development:

- **November 4<sup>th</sup>** – Committee adopts legislative agendas & Committee Chair reports out committee action
- **November 25<sup>th</sup>** – Staff presents proposed legislative agendas at Action Review
- **December 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Committee follows-up on Action Review
- **December 9<sup>th</sup>** – City Council considers and adopts legislative agendas
- **January 6<sup>th</sup>** – Committee prep States Delegation Briefing
- **March 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Committee prep Congressional Briefings

Upcoming US Congress key budget & policy reviews:

- Post-election -
  - Enact FY2025 federal budget
  - Supplemental funding for Federal Emergency Management Agency (e.g. Hurricane relief

- post Hurricane Helene)
- Defense policy
- Farm bill reauthorization
- Convenes January 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Debt ceiling
  - Extension of 2017 Tax Cut and Jobs Act
  - Surface Transportation Act Reauthorization
  - FY2026 Federal Budget

#### Federal Requests

- Mobility – Support reauthorization of the surface transportation program
  - 2024
    - The city has had some success this year while more grants are outstanding
  - 2025
    - City will continue to compete for federal transportation funding and is supportive of Congress reauthorizing the surface transportation programs
- Aviation – Secure funding for the fourth parallel runway and other airport infrastructure projects
  - 2024
    - Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approved a \$290 million Letter of Intent for the fourth parallel runway project
    - City received a \$27 million Airport Terminal Program grant for replacement of boarding bridges
    - Received \$43 million in Airport Infrastructure Grants formula fund
  - 2025
    - Continue compete for federal funding and secure first tranche of funding for fourth parallel runway projects
- Talent & Workforce Development – Support initiatives to boost workforce participation, and energize economic mobility
  - 2024
    - Advocating for immigration policy changes
    - Competing for funding for digital inclusion and Corridors of Opportunities projects
  - 2025
    - Continue 2024 funding requests
    - Support reauthorization of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act that directs funding to local areas
    - Support funding for child-care resources
- Public Safety – Support initiatives to reduce community violence, improve disaster preparedness, and administer justice fairly and quickly
  - 2024
    - Awarded earmark funding for the CARES Team
    - Competing for other earmark funding, such computer aided dispatching system
  - 2025
    - Continue competing for federal funding
    - Advocate for funding for airport security services and boarder security
- Environment – Support funding to build sustainable infrastructure and address impacts of

- forever chemicals and lead-service pipes
  - 2024
    - Advocate for financial assistance for mandated improvements related to forever chemicals and lead-service pipes
    - Competing for sustainability grants, such as Charging and Fueling Infrastructure
  - 2025
    - Continue same pursues as 2024
    - Advocate for legislation to extend to local governments protection from liability claims related to forever chemicals
- Housing – Support creation of more low-income and workforce housing opportunities that meet community needs
  - 2024
    - Received federal funding for housing, such as CDBG, HOME, etc.
    - Advocated for reforms to federal housing voucher programs
    - Completing for earmark funding and for Corridors of Opportunity projects
  - 2025
    - Continue 2024 pursues
    - Support greater financial resources for the Federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program

#### NC General Assembly

- Remainder of 2024
  - Bill to deal with aftermath of Hurricane Helene
- 2025
  - Session reconvenes on January 29<sup>th</sup>
  - Statewide issues to be addressed
    - 2025 – 2027 General Fund State Budget
    - 2025 – 2027 Transportation Budget
    - Gaming
    - Medical cannabis
    - Regulatory reform

#### State Requests

- Mobility – Support the region's efforts to improve its competitiveness and grow the economy through investments to the transportation network
  - 2024
    - Secured access to the O-Line in Mecklenburg Country from purchasing the portion from Norfolk-Southern
    - Seven out of eight local governing bodies in Mecklenburg County support a referendum for voters to consider increasing sales tax by 1% for roadways and public transportation
  - 2025 (and remainder of 2024)
    - Continue working with legislators and stakeholders to advance the draft legislation to enactment
    - Continue working on securing access to the portion of the O-Line from Mecklenburg / Iredell County line to downtown Mooresville
- Aviation – Support the North Carolina Airport Improvement Program and other initiatives to make investments at Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT)
  - 2024

- NC Airport Improvement Program directed ~\$33 million to CLT for capital improvements
    - Capital improvements at CLT enable more flights to be flown from CLT to other NC commercial service airports
  - 2025
    - Continue 2024 efforts
- Public Safety – Support initiatives to reduce community violence, improve disaster preparedness, and administer justice fairly and quickly
  - 2024
    - General Assembly passed juvenile justice legislation to address backlogs in the juvenile justice system
    - Implementing legislation secured in 2023 for civilian traffic investigators
  - 2025
    - Monitor discussions occurring at the NC General Assembly
- Environment – Support Charlotte Water’s initiative to modify its 2002 inter-basin transfer certificate
  - 2024
    - Charlotte Water initiative regulatory process to increase daily water transfer from Catawba River basin to the Rocky River basin due to growth of population in the area which the Rocky River basin serves
  - 2025
    - General Assembly may address reforms to Inter-basin Transfer (IBT) process

During the discussion around the legislative agendas, the Committee requests for further information and discussion included:

- Provide a comparison of city and Mecklenburg County landfill regulations
- Please explain the rationale for the need for protection from PFAS liability
- describe any local authority that exists to enact zoning restrictions with respect to proximity, number, etc., on “arcade” gaming parlors
- provide the 2025 state legislative agendas for the Mecklenburg County court agencies
- Revise the state public safety position to reflect the needs of the Mecklenburg County court agencies
- Provide information about impacts of Hurricane Helene
- On October 16, Councilmember Mayfield requested consideration of an additional position for Housing in the 2025 state legislative agenda

### **MWSBE Participation in Capital Projects**

Mr. Steven Coker, Office of Charlotte Business Inclusion, provided an update on the significant progress made in increasing minority and women-owned business (MWSBE) spending, nearing \$200 million. Mr. Coker also acknowledged that much more work is needed to enhance participation of the approximately 1,700 certified firms to increase utilization.

Mr. Coker highlighted the importance of early engagement, transparency, and proactive strategies in fostering collaboration across departments to maximize inclusion in city projects. He also discussed the necessity of targeted outreach, unbundling contracts, and improving alignment with departments to

identify opportunities for MWSBE firms. Lastly, Mr. Coker mentioned continuing the development of a master utilization plan and the commitment to transparency through effective reporting and dashboards, aiming for Charlotte to become a model for economic development and inclusion.

Ms. Ashley Price, Department of General Services, provided an overview of the City of Charlotte's procurement framework, highlighting the governance structures established by state law and local policies that ensure transparency and alignment with organizational goals. She outlined various procurement methods, including requests for quotes (RFQs), invitations to bid (ITBs), and requests for proposals (RFPs), emphasizing the commitment to maximize participation from minority and women-owned businesses (MWSB).

Ms. Price introduced a "road to growth" framework designed to match contracting opportunities with vendors of all sizes, particularly focusing on a target market for smaller contracts under \$500,000. She detailed the successful pilot program initiated to award contracts within this range, noting that seven of ten identified projects have been awarded and the importance of community engagement and proper licensing for contractors.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.