



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

**Monday, November 4, 2024
CH-14 at 2:00 pm**

COMMITTEE AGENDA TOPICS

- Agenda Overview
- I. Charlotte Equitable Development Commission (CEDC) Report Out
 - II. Federal and State Legislative Agendas
 - III. MWSBE Participation in Capital Projects

COMMITTEE INFORMATION

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

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

DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

Charlotte Equitable Development Commission Report Out

Ms. Tonya Jameson, Charlotte Equitable Development Commission (CEDC) Chair, provided the report out of the CEDC's work and emphasized the importance of equitable development in community infrastructure, such as sidewalks, lighting, and bus stops, regardless of the neighborhood.

Previously Reported Recommendations

- Capital Projects Dashboard and Community Engagement SOP
 - Recognized the importance of ensuring the community is aware of city projects
 - Mentioned how these tools (dashboard and SOP) can address concerns about project visibility

Joint Recommendations (with NEST Commission)

- Implement a "Housing and ..." Lens in Affordable Housing
 - Focus on affordable housing with wraparound services like workforce development and transportation
- Unlocking Potential of Public Land

- Emphasized using publicly owned land near transit and high-opportunity areas for affordable housing

New Recommendations

- Accelerating Zoning and Rezoning for Affordable Housing
 - Support for fast-tracking zoning and rezoning processes to expedite affordable housing projects, and
 - Recommendation for the city to reapply for the ProHousing grant to help maintain a dedicated team for review.
- Accelerated Zoning and rezoning for Childcare Facilities
 - Urge faster review of childcare facility applications to address closures and the loss of funding.
- Equitable Development Standards for Transit Projects
 - Recommendations for equitable infrastructure in projects like the O-Line and the Gold Line extension.
 - Focus on making sure development near transit projects meets the needs of the residents, with equitable infrastructure and access.

Ms. Gretchen Flores, Planning Department, presented the Catalog of Equitable Development Elements, a report that captures the outcomes of a workshop held by the CEDC. The report outlines key elements of equitable and vibrant communities, specifically focusing on mixed-use centers and transit-oriented development. It connects to the Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan and provides guidance on how these elements can be implemented. The workshop identified primary elements necessary for success, such as walkability, transit options, mixed-use housing, inter-agency coordination, and community engagement. Secondary elements include parks, bike-friendly infrastructure, and creative lighting, while tertiary elements encompass education, healthcare spaces, public art, and small businesses. Additionally, the report highlights the importance of integrating transit options with housing diversity and other complementary uses, emphasizing regional connectivity and the inclusion of green spaces. The report is intended as a guide for advocating, informing, and collaborating on future equitable development efforts.

Federal & State Legislative Agendas

Mr. Dana Fenton, City Manager's Office, provided an update on the federal and state legislative agendas based on the committee's feedback from the previous meeting. The goal is to propose these agendas to the City Council by November 25th, with a final vote expected on December 9th.

2025 Federal Legislative Agenda

- Mobility
 - Continued support for federal programs that match local funds for transportation infrastructure (roads, public transit, rail, etc.), which is due for renewal by 2026.
- Aviation
 - Continued support for the Charlotte Douglas International Airport's capital improvement program, particularly the fourth parallel runway project, with future appropriation requests to Congress.
- Talent and Workforce Development

- Focus on immigration policy, digital inclusion, and workforce development (reauthorization of the Workforce Development Act). Additional emphasis on securing funding for childcare resources, as pandemic-era funding is running out.
- Public Safety
 - Support for additional federal resources for Transportation Security Administration (TSA) staffing at airports and Customs and Border Protection for international terminals.
- Environment
 - Advocate for policies and funding to address federal "forever chemical" mandates. Also, a request for protection from liability risks for municipal services related to water and wastewater. The lead service line issue was removed from the agenda after a review showed minimal concerns in Charlotte.
- Housing
 - Support for affordable and workforce housing, particularly focusing on reforms to housing voucher programs and expanding financial resources for housing programs.

2025 State Legislative Agenda

- Mobility
 - Continued support the region's efforts to improve its competitiveness and grow the economy through investments to the transportation network, such as to advancing the draft legislation previously approved by the City Council and securing access to additional O-Line segment.
- Aviation
 - Support North Carolina Airport Improvement Program, which provides funding for capital improvements at commercial service airports, including Charlotte Douglas. The program has been crucial in expanding infrastructure, such as the new concourse expansion.
- Environment
 - Support growing communities and securing water resources, such as the requests from Charlotte Water and Town of Mooresville for water inter basin transfers.
- Public Safety and Justice System
 - Changes in the city's position regarding public safety were discussed, specifically around zoning restrictions for arcade gaming parlors and increasing the separation distances from sensitive areas like childcare centers, housing, and religious institutions.
 - Planning Department staff is preparing a memo on the issue, and further developments are expected.
- Court System
 - Support Mecklenburg County state court agencies as they seek the allocation of additional state resources for their operations. Specifically, District Attorney's office requested additional resources due to increasing caseloads and the expanded responsibilities regarding victims' rights.

Note: Motion was made and passed unanimously by the members present for the proposed 2025 Federal and State Legislative agendas be adopted as the Budget, Governance, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee's Committee-proposed 2025 Federal and State Legislative Agendas, with the additional amendments to enact zoning restrictions to the "arcade" gaming parlors and the clarity in language used for Customs and Border Patrol funding provided to the committee.

Enhancing MWSBE Participation in Charlotte's Capital Investment Plan

Mr. Steven Coker, Office of Charlotte Business Inclusion, provided an update focused on early engagement of CBI (Charlotte Business Inclusion) office.

Progress To Date

- June: A roadmap for growth was introduced, including a pilot framework for CBI and a minority business utilization plan.
- Summer: Initiated a pilot program with 10 projects, conducted a CBI outreach event, and engaged minority trade associations.
- September: The committee met to review CBI policies, procurement procedures, and the preliminary results of the pilot program.
- October: The committee revisited CBI procurement policies and discussed the next steps in implementing the pilot framework.

Opportunities and Actions

- Early Engagement - Integrating CBI more effectively into project planning phases.
- Project Development - Administering pilot frameworks that promote project opportunities for MWSBEs.
- Targeted Outreach - Implementing tailored outreach efforts through the contractor development programs and outreach to minority businesses.
- Remove Barriers – Improving procurement process, offering training on bid preparation, and providing support for bonding and certification to remove barriers for small businesses.

Early Engagement Workshop

- A workshop was conducted to establish key entry points for CBI involvement in projects. The goal was to engage CBI earlier in the project development phase to enhance participation and capacity building.
- Key outcomes included a consensus on where early engagement should occur and how to create an environment where the City of Charlotte is viewed as an "owner of choice" for minority businesses.

CBI Engagement

- A project timeline was shared, highlighting the importance of early CBI engagement at the planning stage, where key assessments and data collection occur.
- The recommendation is for CBI to engage earlier in the process to provide better results for certified firms and improve the overall strength of the program.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.