

**Committee Members Present:** Ed Driggs (Chair), Malcolm Graham, Renee Johnson and Victoria Watlington. Additional Council members present, Kimberly Owens, Dimple Ajmera J.D. Mazuera Arias, Dante Anderson and Joi Mayo.

**Committee Purpose:** Reviews and recommends policies designed to promote mobility, environmental stewardship and planned growth.

**Staff Resource:** Liz Babson, Deputy City Manager

**Meeting Summary – April 6, 2026:**

At the March 5, 2026 meeting, the Committee discussed the following (meeting materials are available at [City of Charlotte - Meeting of Transportation, Planning and Development Council Committee on 4/6/2026 at 5:00 PM](#)):

**I. Policy Referral – I-77 South Express Lanes Project**

NCDOT presented to the committee an update of the I-77 South Express Lanes Project, focusing on Community engagement, design revisions and responses to public and council inquiries.

- Community Engagement Center (CEC)
  - The CEC is located at 1023 W Morehead St within the project corridor.
  - Hours: Mon–Fri 10am–6pm, Sat 9am–1pm.
    - Provides:
      - One-on-one meetings with project staff
      - Project information
      - Space and resources for surrounding communities
- Engagement to date:
  - 32 completed appointments (29 in-person, 3 virtual)
  - 3 scheduled upcoming appointments
  - 5 hotline calls for booking help
- Early observations:
  - High engagement levels
  - Many visitors arrive with specific concerns
- Themes for Community Feedback, key concerns and NCDOT responses include.
  - Project Design Alternatives; Community requests for alternative designs.  
NCDOT: continuing NEPA work, considering tunneling, and working with four design teams to reduce impacts.
  - Toll Pricing Equity; Concern about tolls affecting low-income residents.  
NCDOT: exploring tools such as toll rate caps, HOV 3+ free travel, transit incentives, and low-income discounts.
  - Neighborhood & Environmental Impacts; Focus on minimizing construction impacts.  
NCDOT: following NEPA requirements, offering community benefits, and providing more engagement.
  - Lack of Information; NCDOT response: extended listening period, active engagement through the CEC, updated online resources.

- Project Website
  - Updates Website includes Updated maps, Updated FAQs, Online scheduling for CEC appointments  
Hotline support
- Resident and City Council Inquiries
  - All resident inquiries submitted online or by email have been answered.
  - NCDOT is responding to councilmember questions weekly.
  - 49 responses completed
  - 6 in progress
- Design Revision Updates: Reducing Project Impacts
  - Significant design changes have been made to shrink the project footprint and avoid property and park impacts.
    - Examples include:
    - Ramp Modifications
    - Reduced impacts near Ann Marie Drive
    - Greatly reduced impacts to Dr. Charles L. Sifford Golf Course
    - Reduced impacts to Frazier Park
- Use of Retaining Walls
  - Eliminated impacts to Dinkins Cemetery
  - Reduced/avoided impacts to:
    - Ramblewood Park
    - Southern Pine Blvd buildings
    - Irwin Creek Greenway & Revolution Park
    - Abbott Park
- Roadway Alignment Changes
  - Stacked express lanes avoid impacts to historic Pinewood-Elmwood Cemetery
  - No impacts to Wesley Heights, Biddleville Park, North Pinewood Cemetery
  - Reduced/eliminated impacts near McCrorey Heights
  - No additional right-of-way needed near Brookshire Freeway
- Preliminary Map Comparisons
  - Comparisons of November 2025 vs. March 2026 designs show:
    - Additional retaining walls
    - Meaningfully reduced right-of-way needs
    - Greatly reduced park and golf course impacts

## II. MPTA Update

- The MPT has established four standing Committees; each has a chair and vice chair
  - Executive Committee
  - Finance & Audit Committee
  - Operations & Safety Committee
  - Planning Committee
- Adopted Bylaws and a Code of Ethics
- Mayor appointed a Working Group to act as a Liaison and conduit of information from the MPTA to full Council
  - Council Member Driggs
  - Council Member Owen
  - Council Member Watlington

Meeting adjourned at 6:31 pm.

**Next Meeting:**

The next Transportation, Planning, Development Council Committee meeting is May 4, 2026, at 5:00 pm in room 267.