

**Committee Members Present:** Ed Driggs (Chair), Malcolm Graham, LaWana Mayfield, and Victoria Watlington. Additional Council members present, MPT James, Kimberly Owens, Ajmera Dimple 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 - March 5, 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 3/5/2026 at 5:00 PM](#)):

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

NCDOT reviewed status and process for the I-77 South Express Lanes Project including an update on recent community engagement commitments. Key takeaways:

- Project history
  - I-77 is one of NC’s most congested corridors
  - CRTPO submitted I-77 S project to NCDOT in 2014.
    - NCDOT and CDOT have been working in lockstep since 2019
    - NCDOT has held nearly 30 small group meetings, 2 formal public hearings and engaged 2,000 people.
  - Construction scheduled for 2030
- Express lanes were chosen for safety of drivers, managing congestion reduces carbon emissions and air quality, managing congestion is also a management tool for growth, reliable travel and private funding sources to deliver needed improvements sooner.
- Illustrative rendering is only 10-15 % complete as required by federal NEPA process. See rendering in presentation material on website.
- Project timeline
  - Currently NCDOT is in a community engagement and feedback period. This said to go on until spring of 2027 and in late 2027 NCDOT will measure community feedback and complete enhanced design. Designs are not final. Until late 2027, the community can provide input- caps, enhancements, community benefits.
- P3 Procurements allows ample time to incorporate feedback from proposers and the community.
- NCDOT covered CRTPO priority key contract terms as well as Tolling Policies and examples of key contract terms for community enhancements where teams will be scored.
- I-526 Examples of Community Enhancements included community infrastructure enhancements and education, employment and economic opportunities.
- Bonus Allocation Funding is additional funding that an MPO can receive by implementing a toll project. This project will be eligible for \$100 million in bonus allocation in addition to the \$600 million in STIP funding. CRTPO determines the project priorities and funds must in Mecklenburg County.

#### **Next Steps & Action**

NCDOT plans to establish a community engagement center, community residents will meet with shortlisted developers, conduct extended listening periods prior to RFP, incorporate community feedback into key contracts in the RFP. Will use the best ideas from different teams to pull new design together. NCDOT will provide City

Council members with requested information.

## **II. Community Area Plan Update**

Staff provided an overview of the Community Area Plan engagement sessions and report on survey. Key takeaways:

- Plan Status
  - There are seven adopted plans: East Inner, Northeast Inner, South Inner, South Middle, South Outer, Southwest Middle, and Southwest Outer
  - There are seven deferred plans: East Middle and Outer, North Inner, North Middle and Outer, Northeast Middle and Outer, West Inner, West Middle and West Outer.
- Engagement Preparations
  - Internal workgroup
  - Intradepartmental leadership and strategic partnerships
  - Feedback & Key Themes
  - Clearer messaging
  - Community touchpoints
  - Updated staff analysis
- Engagement Opportunities and Efforts
  - Multiple engagement opportunities throughout December 2025 – February 2026.
  - Online survey opened January 24 and closed February 28.
  - Multiple engagements included in person and virtual workshops, online survey and neighborhoods meetings.
  - Engagement efforts with various notifications and interactions through the help of city council, social media, phone calls, media outlets, various neighborhood meetings and more.
- Engagement Outcomes
  - Three types of proposed changes
    - Environmental impacts, neighborhood changes and infrastructure
  - Minor additions and revisions
    - Clarity, refinement and additional details
  - Map changes
    - Revised place type designations per engagement
- Note: Staff did not get to complete and cover in full detail their presentation on Community Area Plans update due to the extended discussion on the first agenda item. Staff will be presenting the same material again to full council on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Next Steps**

Staff will present to City Council at the March 9<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting and City Council will vote at the March 23<sup>rd</sup> Business Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm.

### **Next Meeting:**

The next Transportation, Planning, Development Council Committee meeting is April 6, 2026, at 5:00 pm in room 267.