

LYNX SILVER LINE LIGHT RAIL

Charlotte City Council

January 3, 2023



Today's Discussion

- What's brought us here
- Transportation, Planning and Development Committee Engagement
- Public & Stakeholder Feedback
- Center City Alternatives Analysis Summary
- Staff Recommendation

What's brought us here

- **2018 – LYNX System Update**
 - Primary goals to serve Charlotte Gateway Station, economic development opportunities and East-West connectivity
 - Assumed at-grade street connections and stations along 11th Street
 - Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) adopted along 11th Street
- **2020 – SLP Design and Environmental Study**
 - More detailed engineering and implementation analysis
 - Led to use of elevated guideway and stations
 - Increasing costs and technical challenges
 - Refined LPA adopted in April 2021 and Jan 2022
 - Ongoing Center City alignment concerns from stakeholders and elected leadership
- **2022 - ULI Study**
 - Notes multi-modal transfer challenges with aerial guideway
 - Opportunities to lower costs and increase ridership by evaluating interlining



TPD Committee Engagement- Center City

- June 13, 2022- Overview of Center City study from ULI process
- November 7, 2022- Presentation of Center City options
- December 5, 2022- Evaluation update and initial public engagement results
- January 3, 2023- Share additional information regarding Center City options
 - *Committee voted unanimously to recommend full council endorsement to reaffirm the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) following 11th Street in Center City.*



Center City Alternatives

1

11th Street Alternative (LPA)

Previously-adopted concept along 11th Street

2

Shared Blue Line Alternative

Silver Line trains share tracks with Blue Line in Center City

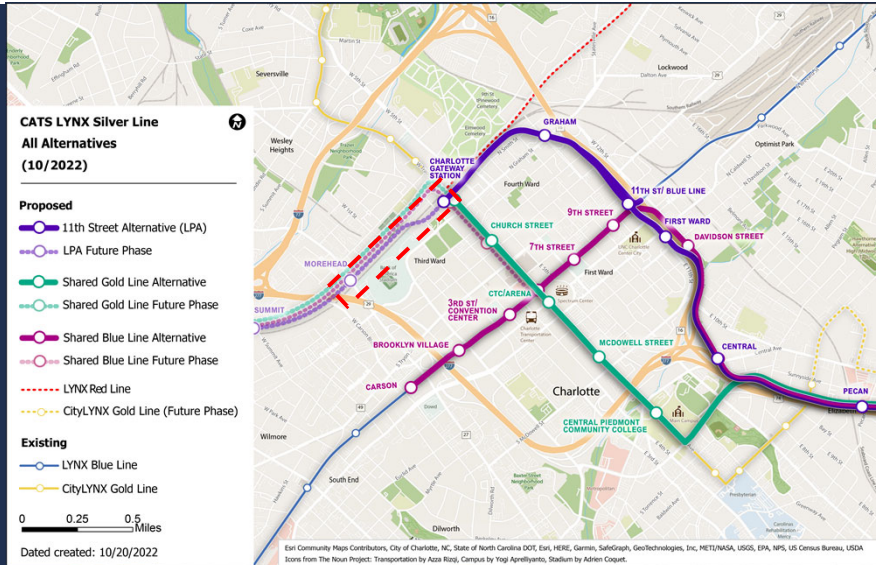
3

Shared Gold Line Alternative

Silver Line trains share tracks with Gold Line on Trade Street in Center City



Potential Morehead Extension



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Public Outreach & Engagement (Fall 2022)



33,000+ Mailers & 600 Hanging Rider Alerts



Social Media & Rider E-blasts



Newspaper Ads, Media Releases & Interviews



Yard Signs



Community/ Stakeholder Meetings, Pop-Ups, and PIO Outreach



1100+ Survey Participants
(public comment period 11/1/22-11/30/22)



100+ Virtual Public Meeting Attendees

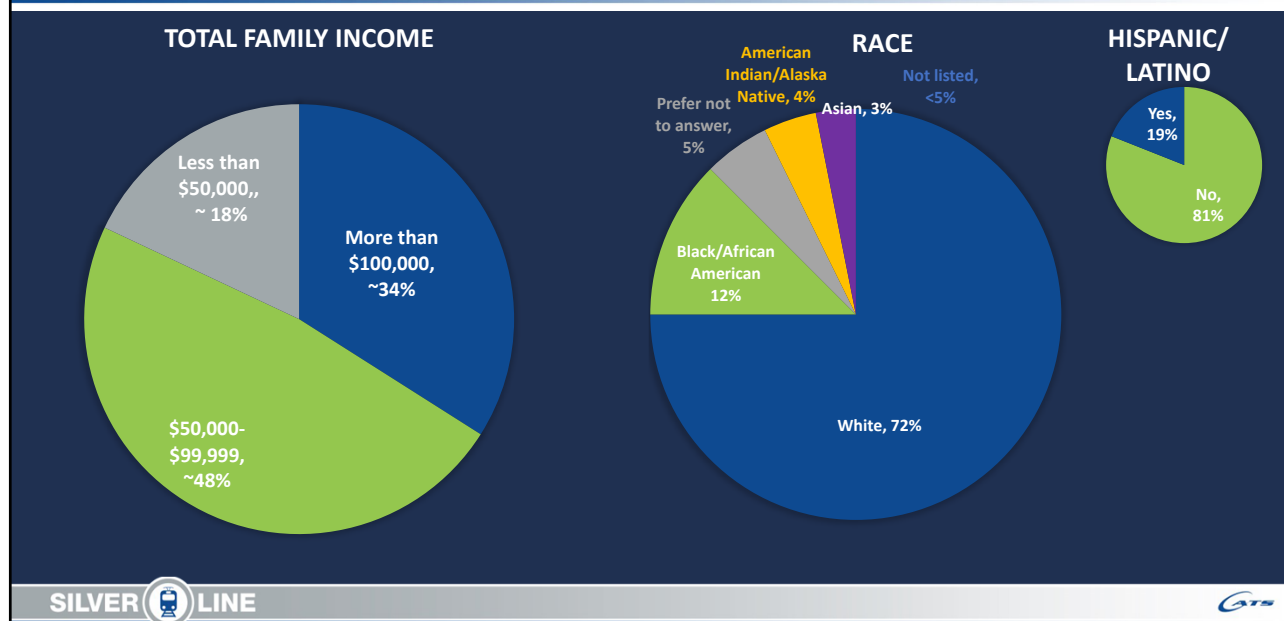


Online Open House November 2022

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Public Survey Demographic Information (900+ responses)



Public Engagement Activities

- Live Virtual Public Meetings - Nov. 1 and Nov. 2
 - With public survey open between November 1 and November 30
- Transportation, Planning and Environment Committee- Nov. 7
- Transit Services Advisory Committee (TSAC)- Nov. 13
- Charlotte Planning Commission- Nov. 14
- Citizen Transit Advisory Group (CTAG)- Nov. 15
- Historic West End- Nov. 17
- Friends of Fourth Ward- Nov. 21
- Uptown Stakeholder Listening Sessions- Nov. 29 and Nov 30



Survey Responses for Center City Alternatives

LPA

- 150 comments
- 39% supportive
- 24% neutral
- 37% opposed
- **Likes** include access to new areas of Center City
- **Dislikes** include alignment that doesn't go through core of Center City and higher cost

Shared Gold Line

- 165 comments
- 43% supportive
- 35% neutral
- 22% opposed
- **Likes** include alignment through core of Center City and more desirable destinations
- **Dislikes** include potential for traffic disruption and roadway reconstruction

Shared Blue Line

- 125 comments
- 23% supportive
- 34% neutral
- 43% opposed
- **Likes** include alignment through core of Center City and lower cost
- **Dislikes** include potential for traffic disruption and need for transfer to CGS and West

Stakeholder Engagement Activities- What we've heard.

Concerns about changes to the adopted LPA

- Schedule delays to Charlotte Gateway Station project/ Amtrak Station
- Impacts to current and future development opportunities
- Vehicle and pedestrian access at Central Piedmont Community College
- Change of Trade Street character
- Comments focused on Ridership as an important variable in this evaluation



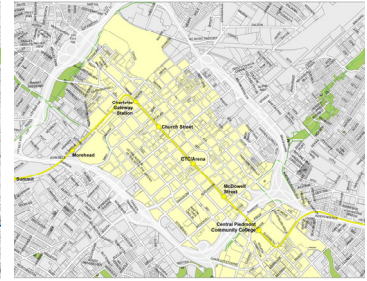
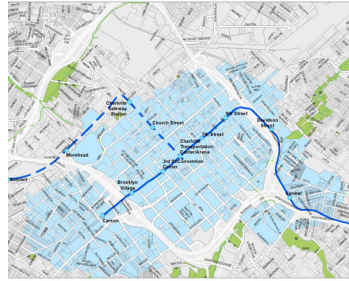
WHAT DOES EACH OPTION (PHASE A) CAPTURE?

- LPA captures more existing residents, households on Uptown's perimeter
- The Blue Line option provides more direct access to jobs in the center of Uptown and new development opportunities north of I-277
- The Gold Line option provides access through the direct center of Uptown to Central Piedmont Community College

LPA

Shared Blue Line

Shared Gold Line



Population*	20,940	13,400	10,500
Households*	10,940	7,700	5,800
Employment *	56,280	90,600	99,900
Walkshed (Acres)	585	1,020	906
Vacant/Underutilized Parcels (Acres)**	250	198	160

*2019 American Community Survey data from the US Census Bureau was used for population, households, and employment.

**2021 Mecklenburg Property Appraiser data was used to identify vacant and underutilized properties

11

LPA Considerations

- Most reliable transit operations
- Integrated station at CGS with Amtrak
- Accesses more development opportunities on north & west sides of Center City and provides high frequency transit in currently underserved areas
- Center City stakeholder buy-in
- Project ridership is not distinguishing between the options based on projected growth

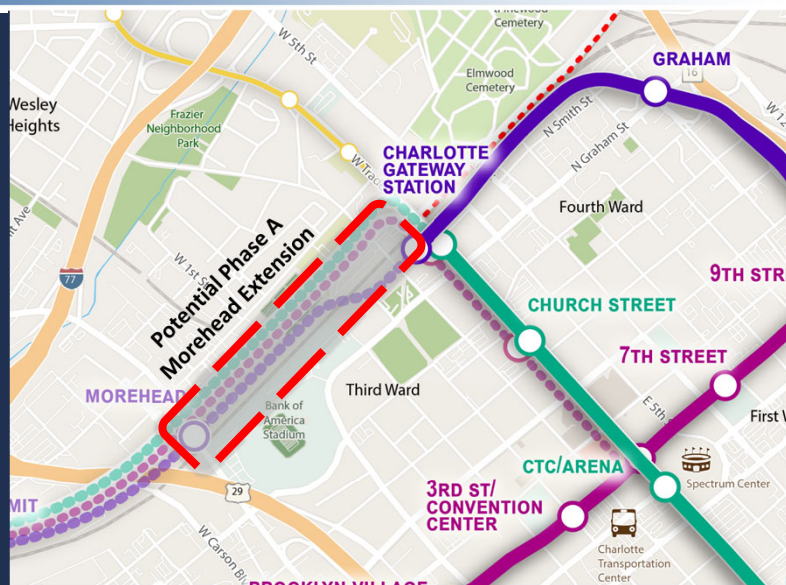


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ATS

Center City Phase A Terminus- Morehead Extension

- Support for Morehead Station noted in Public Survey and Stakeholder engagement
- More direct service to development opportunities and stadium



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January 3, 2023 - City Council Endorsement

1. Center City Alignment Evaluation
 - Per January 3rd Charlotte City Council Transportation, Planning and Development Committee voted unanimously to recommend full council endorsement of the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) following 11th Street
 - Staff supports the committee's recommendation
2. Center City Phase A Terminus- Morehead Extension
 - Staff will continue to evaluate

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Upcoming Meetings

October 26	Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC) information
November 1-2	Live virtual public meetings
November 7	Charlotte City Council Transportation, Planning and Development Committee
November 10	Transit Services Advisory Committee (TSAC)
November 15	Citizens Transit Advisory Group (CTAG)
December 5	Charlotte City Council Transportation, Planning and Development Committee
January 3	Charlotte City Council Transportation, Planning and Development Committee
January 25	MTC action