2023 | Intergovernmental Relations

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

CITY OF CHARLOTTE

CHARLOTTE

2023 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

MAYOR
Vi Alexander Lyles

MAYOR PRO TEM
Braxton Winston

CITY COUNCIL
Dimple Tansen Ajmera
Dante Anderson
Tariq Bokhari
Edmund H. Driggs
Malcolm Graham
Renee' Johnson
LaWana Mayfield
James Mitchell
Marjorie Molina
Victoria Watlington

CITY MANAGER
Marcus D. Jones

CHARLOTTE

CHARLOTTE CITY COUNCIL
2022-2023

Vi Alexander Lyles
Mayor
Biography

704.336.2241
mayor@charlottenc.gov
600 E. Fourth St.
Charlotte, NC 28202

Braxton Winston
Mayor Pro Tem
At-Large Representative
Biography

704.336.3185
Braxton.Winston@charlottenc.gov
600 E. Fourth St.
Charlotte, NC 28202

Dimple Tansen Ajmera
Councilmember
At-Large Representative
Biography

704.336.2777
Dimple.Ajmera@charlottenc.gov
600 E. Fourth St.
Charlotte, NC 28202

LaWana Mayfield
Councilmember
At-Large Representative
Biography

704.336.3433
LaWana.Mayfield@charlottenc.gov
600 E. Fourth St.
Charlotte, NC 28202

James Mitchell
Councilmember
At-Large Representative
Biography

704.336.3430
James.Mitchell@charlottenc.gov
600 E. Fourth St.
Charlotte, NC 28202

Dante Anderson
Councilmember
District 1 Representative
Biography

704.336.4099
Dante.Anderson@charlottenc.gov
600 E. Fourth St.
Charlotte, NC 28202

Malcolm Graham
Councilmember
District 2 Representative
Biography

704.336.6105
Malcolm.Graham@charlottenc.gov
600 E. Fourth St.
Charlotte, NC 28202

Victoria Watlington
Councilmember
District 3 Representative
Biography

704.336.3435
Victoria.Watlington@charlottenc.gov
600 E. Fourth St.
Charlotte, NC 28202

Renee' Johnson
Councilmember
District 4 Representative
Biography

704.336.3436
Renee.Johnson@charlottenc.gov
600 E. Fourth St.
Charlotte, NC 28202

Marjorie Molina
Councilmember
District 5 Representative
Biography

704.336.3432
Marjorie.Molina@charlottenc.gov
600 E. Fourth St.
Charlotte, NC 28202

Tariq Bokhari
Councilmember
District 6 Representative
Biography

704.336.3431
Tariq.Bokhari@charlottenc.gov
600 E. Fourth St.
Charlotte, NC 28202

Edmund H. Driggs
Councilmember
District 7 Representative
Biography

704.432.7077
edriggs@charlottenc.gov
600 E. Fourth St.
Charlotte, NC 28202

CHARLOTTE

MECKLENBURG FEDERAL DELEGATION
2023 - 2024

Thom R. Tillis (R-Sr.)
www.tillis.senate.gov
@ThomTillis

113 Dirksen Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-6342

10150 Mallard Creek Road, #508
Charlotte, NC 28262
(704) 509-9087

Ted Budd (R-Jr.)
www.budd.senate.gov
@SenTedBuddNC

B85 Russell Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-3154

151 Patton Avenue, #204
Asheville, NC 28801
(828) 333-4130

Alma S. Adams, PhD (D-12)
www.adams.house.gov
@RepAdams

2436 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-1510

10815 David Taylor Drive, #100
Charlotte, NC 28262
(704) 344-9950

Jeff Jackson (D-14)
www.jeffjackson.house.gov
@JeffJacksonNC

1318 Longworth Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-5634

CITY of CHARLOTTE

Charlotte CITY PROFILE

The City of Charlotte, located in Mecklenburg County, is in the Piedmont region of North Carolina and centered between the Appalachian Mountains and the Atlantic Ocean. Charlotte's location, business-friendly climate, educational and health care resources, and recreational and cultural amenities reinforce its status as a growing regional center in the Southeast.

Charlotte is consistently ranked among the fastest-growing cities in the U.S. with an estimated population of 958,788 and is the most populous city in North Carolina and the 15th largest city in the nation.

This City Profile is a look into Charlotte's high quality of life and the many attractions that continue to bring new

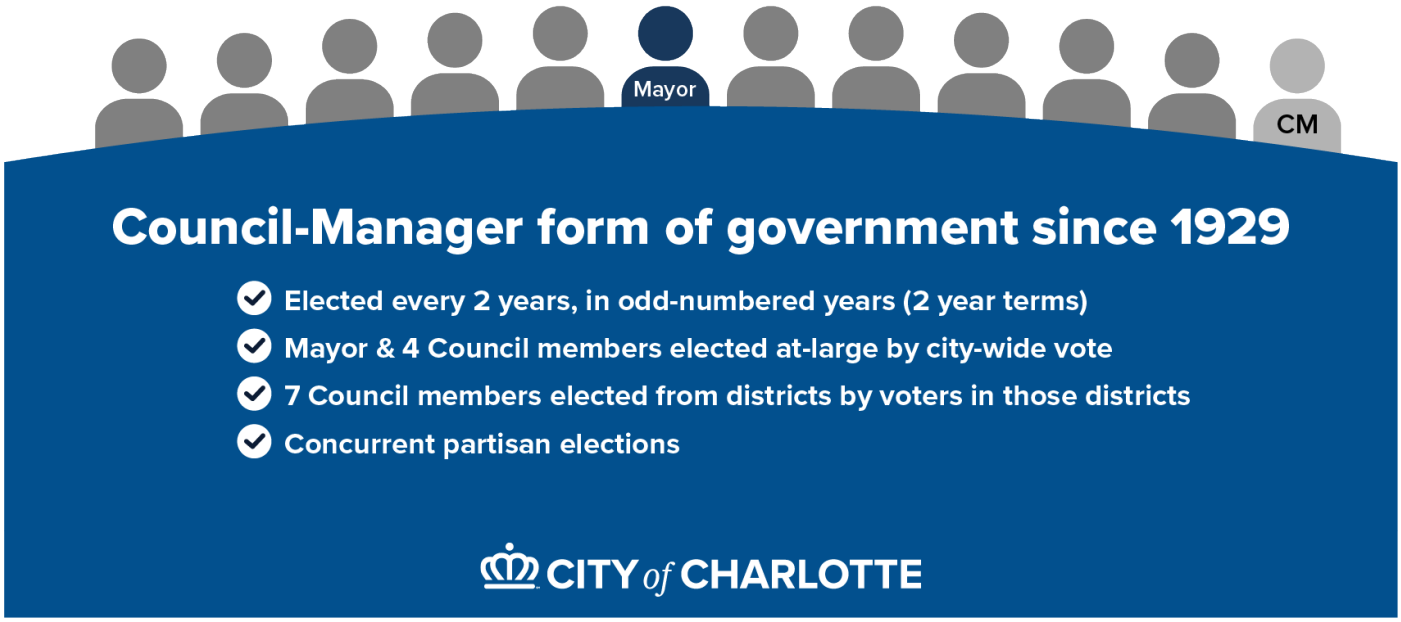
HISTORY AND LOCATION

- ⇒ Charlotte was incorporated in 1768 and became the county seat in 1774.
- ⇒ Referred to as the "Queen City", Charlotte earned its name from the German born Queen Charlotte, wife of England's King George III. The county earned its name from Queen Charlotte's birthplace, Mecklenburg, Germany.
- ⇒ The city presently covers 311.9 square miles of the 546 square miles in Mecklenburg County.

GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

The City of Charlotte has had a Council-Manager form of government since 1929. Policy-making and legislative authority are vested in a governing council consisting of a mayor and 11 additional members elected every two years on a partisan basis. The Mayor and four City Council members are elected at-large by a citywide vote. The remaining seven Council members are elected by district, from voters who reside in each district.

The City Council is responsible for appointing the City Manager, City Attorney, City Clerk, and members of various boards and commissions. City Council enacts ordinances, resolutions, and orders; approves the annual budget; sets the tax rate; and approves the financing of all city operations. The City Manager is responsible for the daily operations of the organization and implementing the policies set by City Council.



TRANSPORTATION AND DISTRIBUTION HUB

Location and infrastructure combine with a robust production workforce to make Charlotte an ideal region for transportation, distribution, and logistics operations. The Charlotte region is strategically located between major ports and inland cities and is within a 12-hour drive of 53 percent of the nation's population. Transportation assets in the region include the Charlotte Douglas International Airport, four interstate highways (I-85, I-77, I-485, and I-40), an inland port, and two intermodal facilities. Charlotte is also the center of the country's largest consolidated rail system with two major rail roads, Norfolk Southern Railway and Chessie-Seaboard Merger (CSX) Transportation.

Foundational to the economic success of the Charlotte region, Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT) leads the state as the top economic engine among airports, according to the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Division of Aviation. For 2021, CLT ranked 6th worldwide for passenger traffic, compared to 18th in 2020.

BUSINESS CLIMATE

Charlotte enjoys a vibrant, active, and highly diversified economy that continuously supports business development and expansion for companies of all sizes. The city has become a key player in attracting new talent and innovative companies while also focusing on supporting the growth of small businesses and startups. Charlotte is a city that works hard and plays even harder, with a booming business landscape that welcomes newcomers into an inclusive and resilient community.

The region's economy, which is the largest in the Carolinas, ranks 23rd in the U.S. for total output and accounts for about 21 percent of the total output of the Carolinas.

Eight Fortune 500 companies are headquartered in Charlotte, including (rank):

- Bank of America (29)
- Lowe's (31)
- Honeywell (94)
- Truist (119)
- Duke Energy (126)
- Nucor (149)
- Sonic Automotive (308)
- Brighthouse Financial (353)

Charlotte is consistently recognized for being a top place to live, work, and play:

- #3 Best Business Climate (Site Selection Magazine, 2021)
- #5 Hottest Housing Market (Zillow, 2022)
- #5 Best Quality of Life (Numbeo, 2022, Americas)

More than 1,000 foreign-owned firms regionwide employ more than 75,000 people from 45 different countries.

RECREATIONAL, VISITOR, AND CULTURAL EVENTS

Charlotte's Venues

Charlotte's eight percent hotel/motel and one percent prepared food and beverage taxes have provided a dedicated resource for the purpose of promoting the city as a destination for convention, business, and leisure travel.

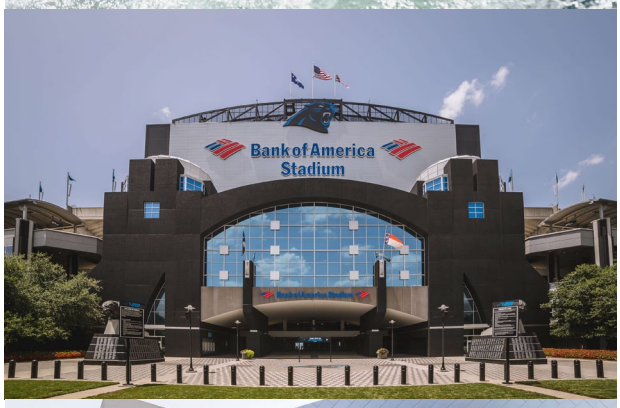
Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority (CRVA), a component unit of the city, focuses on tourism promotions and facility management for venues such as: Bojangles' Coliseum; Charlotte Convention Center; Ovens Auditorium; and Spectrum Center.

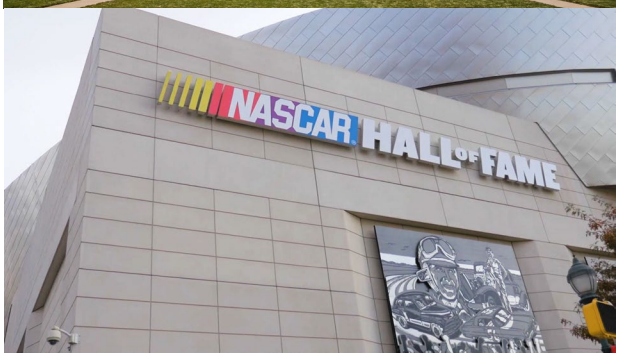
Additionally, CRVA operates the NASCAR Hall of Fame complex. The complex includes the NASCAR Hall of Fame; a 150,000 square foot museum; a 102,000 square foot expansion to the Convention Center, including 40,000 square foot ballroom and NASCAR Plaza; and a 19-story, 393,000 square foot Class A office tower.

Activities and Sporting Events

Charlotte hosts a variety of sporting events and tournaments each year, in addition to three major and two minor league sports franchises.

- The Carolina Panthers of the National Football League (NFL) have played in Charlotte for more than 25 years. The Panthers play at Bank of America Stadium, a 74,867-seat stadium in Uptown Charlotte.
- The Charlotte Hornets of the National Basketball Association play in Uptown Charlotte at the Spectrum Center.
- The Charlotte Knights of Minor League Baseball (MiLB), a Triple-A affiliate of the Chicago White Sox, play at the Truist Field in Uptown.
- The Charlotte Checkers of Minor League Hockey, a top-ranked minor league affiliate of the Carolina Hurricanes, play at the Bojangles' Coliseum.
- The Charlotte Football Club of Major League Soccer kicked off its inaugural season in March of 2022.
- Professional soccer with the Charlotte Independence.
- Bank of America Stadium hosts the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) college football championship and the Duke's Mayo Bowl; a post-season college football game featuring a matchup between an ACC and Southeastern Conference (SEC) team.
- The U.S. National Whitewater Center, located on the Catawba River, is the world's largest artificial whitewater river and the U.S. Olympic training site. The Whitewater Center includes 1,300 acres for activities including whitewater rafting, kayaking, mountain biking, rock climbing, and rope courses.





EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS)

- CMS is a consolidated city-county public school system with approximately 140,406 students. CMS students are educated in 180 schools that include magnet programs that develop the talents of students who have interests in talents in specific areas.

Higher Education

The greater Charlotte region is home to about three dozen institutions of higher learning, including the state's fourth-largest university, the state's biggest community college, and a premier culinary school.

- **University of North Carolina at Charlotte**, a public urban research institution offers bachelor, graduate, and doctoral degrees through eight professional colleges.
- **Central Piedmont Community College** offers nearly 300 associate degree, diploma, and certificate programs at six campuses within Mecklenburg County.

- **Davidson College,** a liberal arts college in Davidson, North Carolina, serves nearly 2,000 students.
- **Queens University** offers 42 majors, 63 minors, and numerous graduate and certificate programs.
- **Johnson & Wales University's** Charlotte campus, home to more than 1,600 students, offers degrees ranging from baking and pastry arts, to fashion merchandising and retailing, to corporate accounting and financial analysis.
- **Johnson C. Smith University** is a Historically Black College and University (HBCU) offering 26 undergraduate or graduate degrees.
- **Pfeiffer University**'s Charlotte campus offers adult learners the opportunity to earn both undergraduate and graduate degrees.
- **Wake Forest University Charlotte Center** continues to have a strong graduate school presence in Charlotte with several top- ranked MBA programs. In March of 2021, Wake Forest University announced, in collaboration with Atrium Health, its plans to build or establish a Wake Forest School of Medicine Charlotte campus.
- **Carolinas College of Health Sciences** is a non-profit public college focused on the health sciences and is located both online and with a physical campus in Charlotte.
- **Northeastern University's** Charlotte campus has offered graduate programs in uptown Charlotte since 2011.

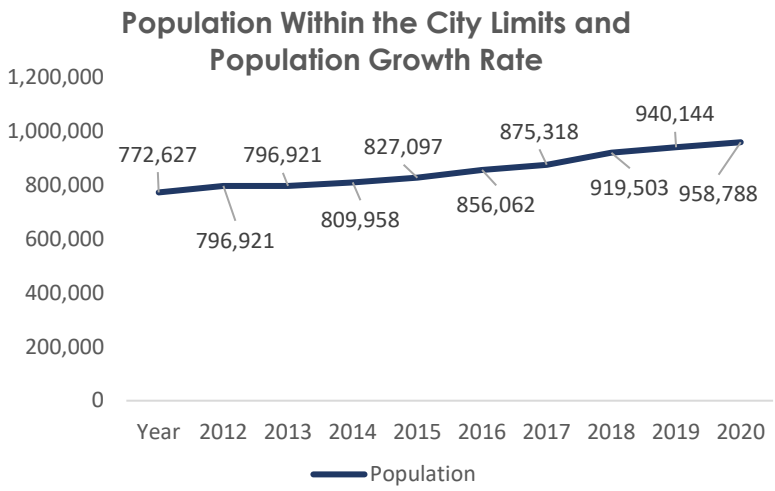
HEALTHCARE

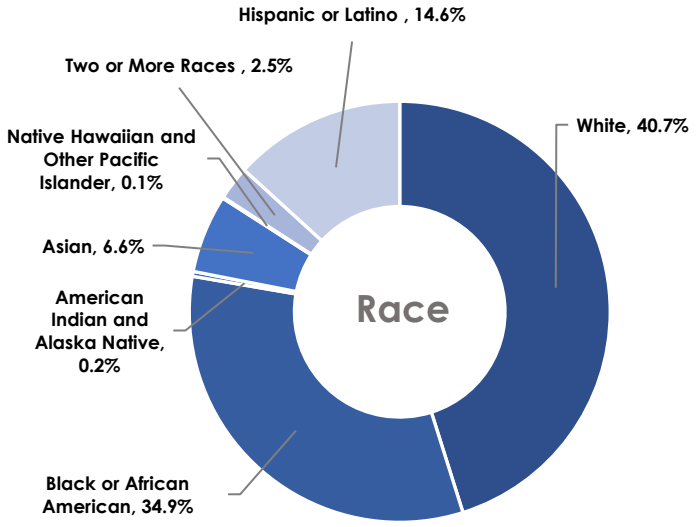
Charlotte and Mecklenburg County are served by a number of healthcare providers ranging from nationally recognized hospital systems to specialized practices.

- **Atrium Health** operates or manages more than 40 hospitals and more than 900 care locations across the Carolinas and Georgia. Atrium Health will partner with **Wake Forest University** to open a four-year medical school in Charlotte in 2024.
- **Novant Health** is a four-state integrated network of physician clinics, outpatient centers, and hospitals. With a 622-bed medical center and more than 700 physicians on staff, Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center is one of the largest medical facilities in the region.

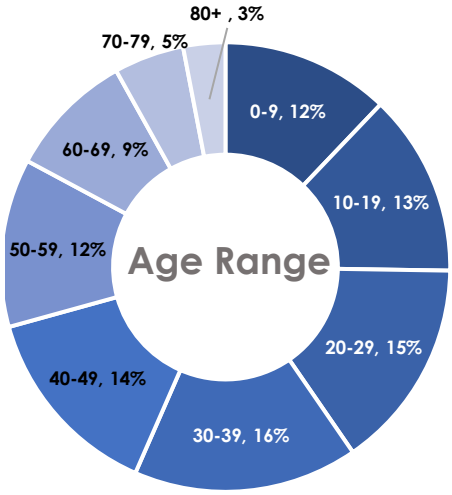
POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

With an estimated population of 958,788, Charlotte is the most populous city in North Carolina and the 15th largest city in the nation. Charlotte has been one of the fastest growing cities in the country, with an average annual growth rate of over 1.7 percent during the past 10 years. Many factors have attracted new residents and businesses to the region, including diverse employment opportunities, a relatively low-cost of living, and the city's unique character. Charlotte is expected to continue to experience a high growth rate. Based on current projections, Charlotte is expected to add over 385,000 new residents over the next 20 years. The charts on this page provide an overview of Charlotte's population growth and current demographics.





Ethnicity: Based on 2020 American Community Survey Data



Age Range: Based on 2020 American Community Survey Data

CITY SERVICES AND AMENITIES

The City of Charlotte appropriates approximately $2.7 billion in operating and capital funds to provide the community with exceptional services and amenities. The following is FY 2021 data for some of the many city-provided services and amenities.

7 NEW COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENTS

1566 AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS FUNDED

373 FIRE CALLS FOR SERVICE

1,002 POLICE CALLS FOR SERVICE

8,723,808 TRANSIT BOARDINGS (BUS, RAIL, SPECIAL TRANSPORT, VANPOOL)

1,300+ DAILY AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS

109,700,000 GALLONS OF DRINKING WATER TREATED AND DELIVERED

87,200,000 GALLONS OF WASTEWATER COLLECTED AND TREATED

45,015+ CURBSIDE HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVING TRASH PICKUP

1,425 SERVICE REQUESTS ENTERED BY CHARMECK 311 PER DAY

22,921,625 TOTAL PAGE VIEWS (CHARLOTTENC.GOV)

CHARLOTTE

2023 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
FEBRUARY 13, 2023

Destination CLT: Continue working with Congress and Administration to secure federal resources for the build-out of the Destination CLT capital program at Charlotte Douglas International Airport

- Secure a Letter of Intent for the federal government to provide federal funding for construction of the fourth parallel runway and north and south end around taxiways
- Secure grant funding for other Destination CLT projects

2030 Transit Corridor System Plan: Continue working with Congress and Administration to secure federal resources for the build-out of the 2030 Transit Corridor System Plan

- Continue positioning high-capacity transit projects for multi-year federal funding commitments
- Secure grant funding for bus system and center city improvements

Immigration: Support federal immigration policies that strengthens our economy and workforce, immigrant families and communities

- Strengthen the H-1B Visa program to continue growing the talent pool for high-demand fields
- Support merit-based solutions that lead to legal status and eventually citizenship
- Support increased funding for resettlement organizations

Sustainability and Resilience: Support federal funding and policies that enable the City to reach its Strategic Energy Action Plan goals

- Support polices and funding to transition fleets to no-emission vehicles and make buildings more energy efficient
- Support polices that incorporate environmental justice and workforce development into sustainability and resilience programs

Infrastructure: Continue working with Congress and Administration to advance the city's plans related to surface transportation, digital inclusion, and environment

- Support policies to improve the transportation network for all users
- Support smart policies that advance next generation personal and commercial mobility systems
- Support policies that advance digital inclusion
- Support policies that advance clean water and drinking water initiatives

CHARLOTTE

2023 Federal Legislative Agenda

Issue: Destination CLT

Position: Continue working with Congress and Administration to secure federal resources for the build-out of the Destination CLT capital program at Charlotte Douglas International Airport

---

Background: The Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT) continues to implement the Destination CLT capital improvements program, a collaboration with our airline partners, the State of North Carolina, and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Over the last 20 years, the presence and growth of CLT and its airline hub have resulted in CLT becoming not only one of the busiest airports in the U.S. but in the world. With a forward-thinking philosophy and a focus on constant growth, CLT sees itself as an Airport of the future. CLT is one of the nation's and world's busiest airports. Our growth has been remarkable, over the several years especially, increasing from 28 million total passengers in 2005 to a record-breaking 50 million total passengers in 2019. In 2022, CLT hosted nearly 48 million passengers and handled 505,589 aircraft arrivals and departures. This continued and sustained growth means CLT is at or near capacity. The airfield capacity enhancement study and terminal capacity enhancement study looked at possible and potential passenger growth forecasts and together form the Airport's master plan. This plan defines the future and long-term airfield and terminal development and helps craft CLT's construction and development through 2035. The build-out of the program provides more opportunities for airlines to schedule flights between Charlotte and other cities throughout the world, nation, and North Carolina.

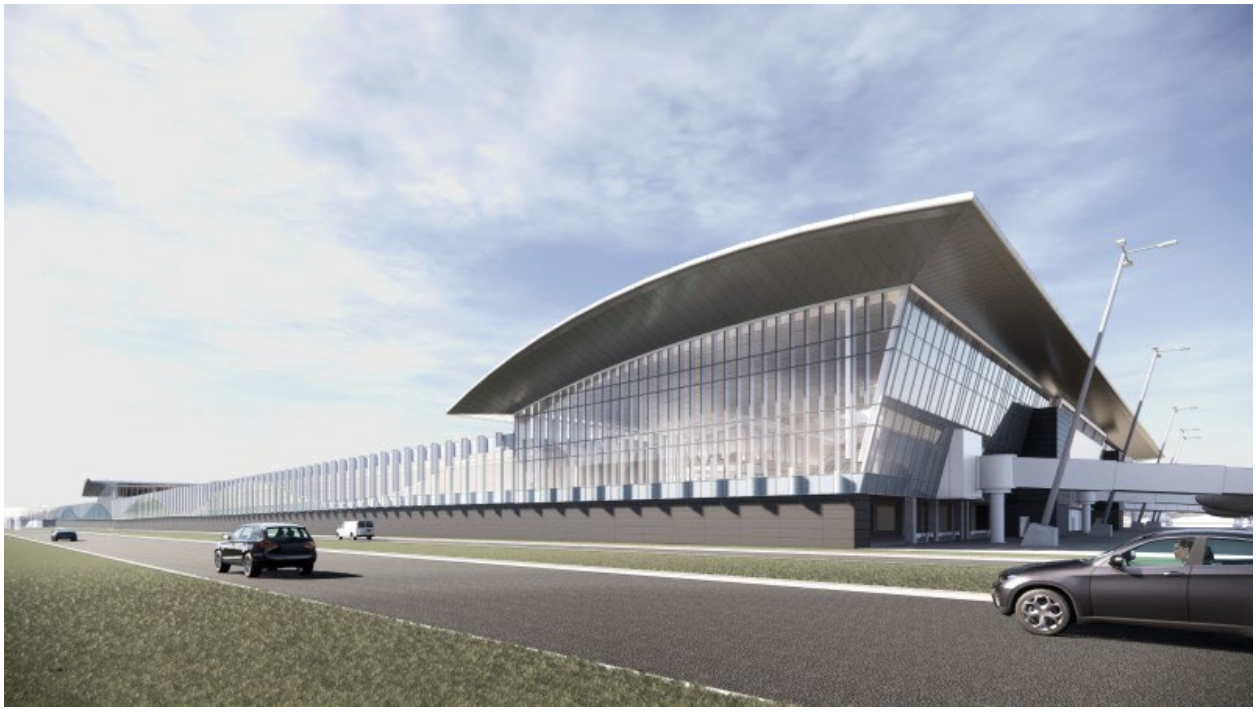
Airfield Improvement Projects: The City of Charlotte supports securing a Letter of Intent for the federal government to commit federal funding for construction of the fourth parallel runway and north and south end around taxiways. CLT has been working with the FAA to access federal funds for construction of the projects, which totals $1 billion. For large airfield development projects, such as a new runway, airports work with the FAA to apply for a Letter of Intent (LOI) to help fund large-scale capacity projects at primary or reliever airports. The LOI would state that the FAA intends to obligate discretionary and entitlement funds from future budgetary authority in an amount not greater than the federal government's share of allowable costs for that project. The FAA issues an LOI to state that reimbursement will be made according to a given schedule as funds become available from Congress each year over the term of the LOI. If approved, then the first tranche of funding would be appropriated to CLT using federal FY 2025 appropriations.

Terminal Development: The city supports securing competitive grant funding through the Airport Terminal Program for Destination CLT terminal projects. Expansions of the Terminal Lobby and Phase II of Concourse A are underway, renovation of Concourse E will start in 2023, and expansions of Concourses B and C are planned over the next 15 years. As future terminal development projects draw nearer, the City pledges to continue working closely with our Congressional Delegation in building support for future federal funding.

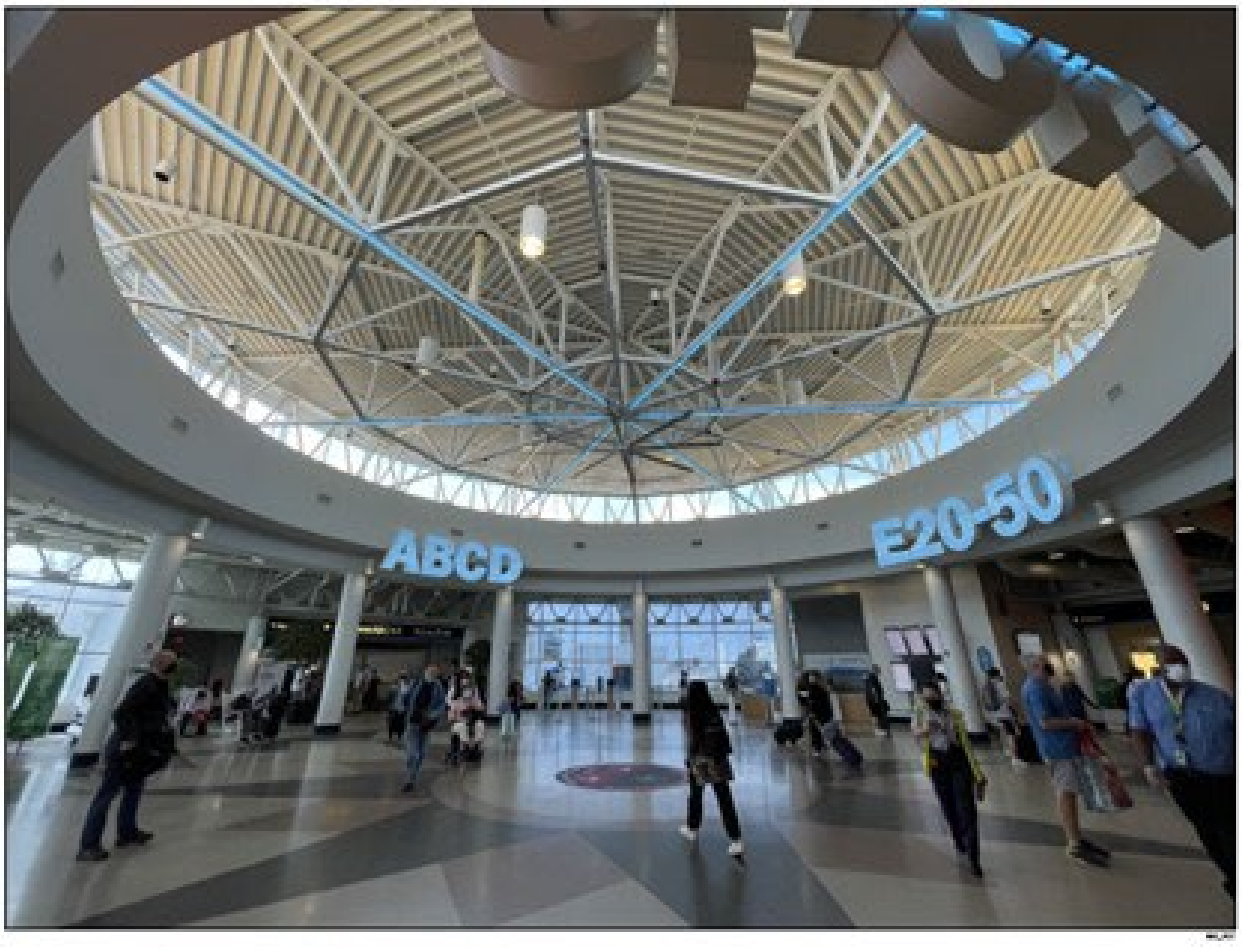
AIRFIELD DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

TERMINAL LOBBY EXPANSION

CONCOURSE A EXPANSION



CONCOURSE E RENOVATIONS



CHARLOTTE

2023 Federal Legislative Agenda

Issue: 2030 Transit Corridor System Plan

Position: Continue working with Congress and Administration to secure federal resources for the build-out of the 2030 Transit Corridor System Plan

---

Background: The Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC) and Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) continue to implement the regional 2030 Transit Corridor System Plan to develop primary transportation corridors that links our area's key centers of economic activity. The long-range Plan supports the comprehensive and mobility plans of the members of the MTC and consists of multiple rapid transit improvements in five corridors, a series of Center City improvements, and bus service and facility improvements throughout the region. Integral parts of the Plan were completed with the opening of LYNX Blue Line light rail service in 2007 in the South Corridor and subsequent extension of that service in 2018 in the Northeast Corridor. City LYNX Gold Line streetcar service commenced in 2015 followed by Phase 2 in 2020. MTC and CATS implemented the Envision My Ride initiative in 2018 to increase the reliability of the current bus system and provide for more frequent bus service and in 2020, launched MetroRAPID Bus Rapid Transit Service between North Mecklenburg and Center City Charlotte.

Center City Improvements: The City of Charlotte continues to implement the Center City Improvements including the Charlotte Gateway Station and Charlotte Transportation Center projects. The Gateway Station will consolidate public transit and intercity transportation modes at Trade and Graham Streets and be implemented through a partnership between the City, North Carolina Department of Transportation, regional stakeholders, and a future private partner. The redevelopment of the Transportation Center into a mixed-use project through a public-private partnership is in the design stage.

Bus System: The city supports the work of the MTC and CATS to continue implementing the Envision My Ride recommendations to improve bus rider experience by examining several infrastructure treatments to improve reliability including transit signal priority and queue jumps for buses, bus stop amenities including shelters, real-time arrival information, and off-board fare payment, bus stop design improvements to ensure that stops are accessible for all users, enhanced transit stops to improve transfer connections between buses and other modes of travel, consolidations, removal, and addition of certain bus stops, and dedicated bus lanes and shared bus/bike lanes. The system has embarked upon replacing its diesel bus fleet with cleaner fuel options including electric vehicles.

Rapid Transit: The city supports the work of the MTC and CATS in advancing planning and design work for the remaining three corridors (North, West, and Southeast), the last phase of the CityLYNX Gold Line, and the extension of LYNX Blue Line light rail service from its southern terminus at I-485 to Pineville and Ballantyne. This work is being undertaken in order to better understand project costs and position the region to access new infrastructure funding for public transportation made available through the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act of 2021. A map of the rapid transit corridors follows on the next page.

Charlotte Area Transit System Zero Emission Transition

The Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) intends to submit a **Low or No Emission Vehicle Program (5339(c)) and Bus and Bus Facilities Program (5339(a)) application** for additional low and no emission vehicles, charging infrastructure, workforce development and additional technologies that will support our transition to zero emissions.

Background

In April 2021, Charlotte City Council approved a pilot program between the Charlotte Area Transit System and eTransEnergy, a subsidiary/affiliate of Duke Energy, to test the performance of battery electric bus (BEB) vehicles and accompanying charging infrastructure across the greater Charlotte metropolitan area.

This 12-to-18-month program is currently testing 18 BEB vehicles from two different manufacturers: Gillig and New Flyer and 10 charging stations from two different charging station manufacturers: Siemens and ABB.

The program launched in April 2022, a year after its approval, and CATS has started service on routes that operate on Charlotte's Corridors of Opportunity. Per the newly released beta Climate and Economic Justice Screening tool developed by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) our BEB fleet is serving communities disadvantaged in climate, clean energy and energy efficiency, clean transit, affordable and sustainable housing, training and workforce development, clean water infrastructure, and the remediation of legacy pollution. (Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, n.d.)

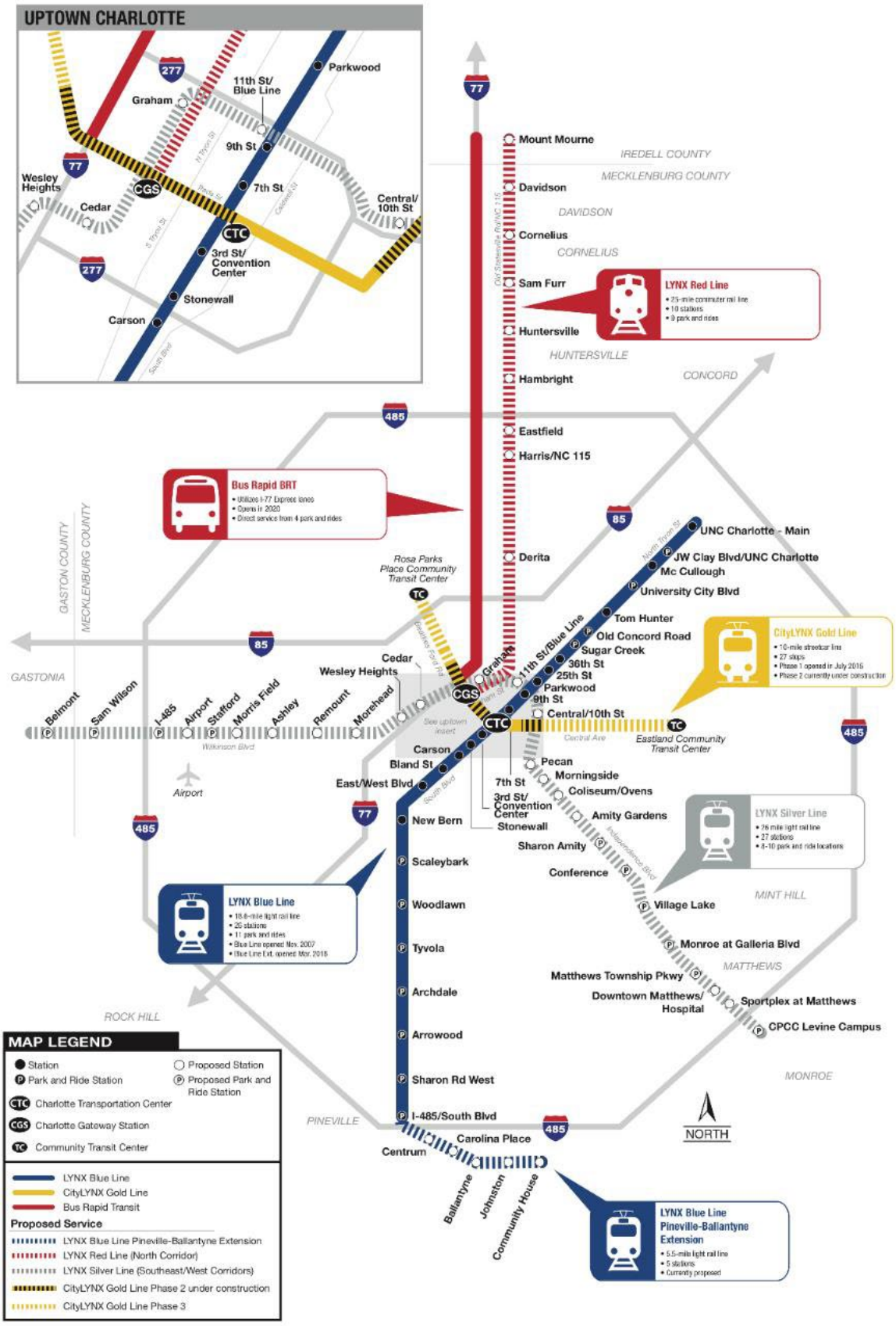
The BEB program also supports our Sustainable and Resilient Charlotte Resolution and our Strategic Energy Action Plan which strives to have city fleet and facilities be fueled by 100 percent zero-carbon sources by 2030 and sets a community-wide goal for Charlotte to become a low carbon city by 2050.

CATS was awarded $3,723,712 through the FY2020 Low or No Emissions Grant (Low No) and that award went toward the purchase expense of the 18 BEBs, accompanying charging infrastructure and additional workforce development training.

A Low-No and Bus and Bus Facilities Grant will enable CATS to further grow the needed vehicles and accompanying infrastructure for this program that has been foundationally crafted for the future of zero emissions. It will support our region and state's transition to cleaner infrastructure and transportation while creating upward mobility opportunities aligned to Justice40 criteria throughout our communities. It will allow us to further support our existing workforce in the development of new skills with this new technology, ultimately ensuring we have workforce that is prepared for our future of zero emissions and infrastructure. Lastly, it will act as a public example of successful electric vehicle technology at work, further supporting the elimination of range anxiety amongst our car-centric population and bringing to the forefront what zero emission technologies provide our communities by way of cleaner and healthier environments to live and play.

CITY OF CHARLOTTE CATS

2030 TRANSIT CORRIDOR SYSTEM PLAN



CHARLOTTE

2023 Federal Legislative Agenda

Issue: Immigration

Position: Support federal immigration policies that strengthens our economy and workforce, immigrant families and communities, and communities

---

Background: The City of Charlotte is a welcoming city, opening her arms to a diverse and inclusive community of residents, businesses, and visitors alike; a safe family-oriented city where people work together to help everyone thrive. Immigrants play an important role in our nation and contribute toward the growth of our economy. This vision is the basis for the 2019 Charlotte Compact on Immigration and the recommendations of the ad hoc City Council Immigrant Community Committee, which seek to maximize the economic and civic contributions of immigrants living in the city, while remaining in conformance with State and federal immigration laws.

H-1B Visas: The city supports the continuation of the H-1B Visa Program and program changes to address spousal and dependent children issues. The H-1B Visa program is intended to help employers, who cannot otherwise obtain needed business skills and abilities from the U.S. workforce, by authorizing the temporary employment of qualified individuals who are not otherwise authorized to work in the United States. The specialty occupations must require the application of a body of highly specialized knowledge and the applicant must have attained at least a bachelor's degree or its equivalent. A common challenge cited by H-1B visa holders is that program policy creates high hurdles for family members to settle in the US and give back to the community. Their visas do not permit recipients to work and there is a worry that volunteering could be in violation of their visa requirements. Dependent children of H-1B Visa holders, who are often brought to the US as young children, may age out of the system, and be required to self-deport due to backlogs in processing green card applications.

Pathways to Citizenship: The city supports merit-based solutions that allow participants in asylum, parole, temporary protected status, and deferred action for childhood arrivals programs to earn and keep legal status that eventually leads to citizenship. Participants in the asylum, temporary protected status, and deferred action for childhood arrivals programs have built careers, started businesses, purchased homes, and are supporting families. Participants view the US as home and a safe haven and are hardworking members of our community who contribute through their work and volunteerism.

Refugees: The city supports increased funding and support of resettlement organizations as they work with refugees in our community. The recent influx of refugees is straining the resources and capabilities of resettlement organizations that are supporting refugees in their transition to this country. The costs of adequate housing, transportation, and other necessities of everyday life are rising in this area, which complicates these organizations' efforts to support all refugees adequately and appropriately.

CHARLOTTE

2023 Federal Legislative Agenda

Issue: Sustainability and Resilience

Position: Support federal funding and policies that enable the City to reach its Strategic Energy Action Plan goals

---

Background: The City of Charlotte continues to implement the Sustainable and Resilient Charlotte by 2050 Resolution and the Strategic Energy Action Plan (SEAP) that accelerates our transformation toward a sustainable economy and promotes smart cities initiatives. The Resolution and SEAP set ambitious municipal and community-wide reduction goals for greenhouse gas emissions in Charlotte. Specifically, the municipal operations plan strives to have Charlotte's fleet and facilities be fueled by 100% zero-carbon sources by 2030 and to become a low carbon city by 2050, emitting less than 2 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per person. Charlotte's biggest sources of greenhouse emissions are in the buildings and transportation sectors.

Fleet Electrification and Infrastructure: The city continues to transition its heavy and medium duty municipal fleet from gas-powered to all-electric. The City will be seeking competitive funding authorized through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act to enable the fleet transition and for charging infrastructure utilizing smart grid technologies for efficient energy use and application.

Energy Efficiency: The city continues to implement its energy efficiency initiatives for municipal and residential buildings. The City supports funding of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program, and also supports building-owner incentives for energy efficiency, specifically for affordable housing, federally assisted and unsubsidized multi-family housing, and incentives that drive energy retrofits of commercial buildings and businesses, as well as boost onsite clean energy generation and beneficial electrification.

Environmental Justice: The city continues to implement policies locally that seek to advance high standards of environmental performance and the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes. The city supports federal policies that strengthen our local efforts.

Workforce Development: The city continues to work with its partner organizations to implement investments aimed at building a skilled and inclusive clean energy workforce by expanding registered apprenticeships and developing clean energy training programs centered in diversity, equity, and inclusion. The city strongly supports federal funding for these efforts.

CHARLOTTE

2023 Federal Legislative Agenda

Issue: Infrastructure

Position: Continue working with Congress and Administration to advance the city's plans related to surface transportation, digital inclusion, and environment

---

Background: The City of Charlotte is committed to advancing strategic priorities related to surface transportation, digital inclusion, and environment. All of these plans serve to make Charlotte a better place to live, work, and play.

Surface Transportation: The city supports policies to improve the transportation network for all users and which serve to advance next generation personal and commercial mobility systems. The city is working with its partners locally and regionally to advance these needs. For instance, the city was recently awarded a Safe Streets and Roads for All competitive grant to implement Vision Zero initiatives related to pedestrian crossings, safe routes to schools, and accessible pedestrians signals. A second competitive grant was also awarded for a Reconnecting Communities grant to commence planning on a study of the existing interchanges at Interstate 77 and West 5th Street / West Trade Street. The city is also examining ways to access competitive grant funding for surface transportation needs that have demonstrable benefits related to public safety, affordable housing, and community and economic development, and for investment in technology, micromobility, and shared mobility options (e.g., rideshare options, autonomous personal and commercial vehicles, e-scooters, bike share, electric car charging stations, etc.).

Digital Inclusion: The city supports policies that advance digital inclusion and enable all persons regardless of income and location to access resources through the internet. The city is partnering locally with the Center for Digital Equity and Mecklenburg County in advancing Digital Inclusion in the community. The city supports competitive grant funding that enables the partnership to achieve these objectives.

Environment: The city supports policies that advance clean water and drinking water initiatives. Charlotte Water is commencing construction of the $380 million Stowe Regional Water Resource Facility in June 2023. The facility will treat wastewater from Mecklenburg and Gaston Counties and will be located along the Catawba River south of NC Route 27. The Towns of Belmont and Mount Holly will close their treatment plants when the facility comes online in 2026 and have their wastewater treated at the new plant. The two towns have received State Clean Water revolving loans from the State of North Carolina to fund their share of construction expenses. There will be a 90-acre community benefit property adjacent to facility.

Charlotte Water is regulated through the Safe Drinking Water Act (1974) and the Clean Water Act (1972). Our utility has a long history of meeting and exceeding standards for drinking water and wastewater treatment.

DRINKING WATER QUALITY

Excellent drinking water quality begins with a high-quality water source. Charlotte Water has intakes on the Catawba River at Lake Norman and Mountain Island Lake. As a member of the Catawba-Wateree Water Management Group, Charlotte Water plays an active part in ensuring water supplies and quality of the river are managed cooperatively for the region for decades to come.

Through Charlotte Water's independently certified laboratory, drinking water is monitored more than 150,000 times throughout the year. Charlotte Water consistently exceeds water quality standards and follows industry guidelines for drinking water management through the Partnership for Safe Water. Daily gallons pumped to the service area average 117.5 million through more than 4,400 miles of pipe network.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT

Charlotte Water owns and operates five regional wastewater treatment plants and two smaller neighborhood plants. More than 80 million gallons of wastewater are treated on average per day. The utility manages pre-treatment through an aggressive system protection program that includes industrial monitoring, facility inspections and targeted industrial education. Wastewater is collected via 4,500 miles of pipe with a 99.99% annual collection rate. All seven plants are recipients of the Peak Performance Award for consistent excellence in permit compliance given by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies. In 2024, Charlotte Water will bring online a new regional wastewater treatment plant to serve Charlotte and the towns of Mount Holly and Belmont.

CHALLENGES

- Lead & Copper Rule Revision –Charlotte Water is already underway with planning and community outreach associated with this revised rule. While Charlotte Water has had excellent lead and copper compliance history and has very low risk of discovering lead service lines in the community, new rules require a great deal of unprecedented inventory and monitoring for utilities nationwide.
- Emerging contaminants – Contaminants such as PFOS and PFOA exist everywhere in our environment but are not yet regulated. The EPA estimates that 20% of PFOS and PFOA contaminant ingestion by a person is through water. Technologies to remove emerging contaminants from drinking water are extremely expensive.
- Funding – For every dollar of capital investment by Charlotte Water, 17 dollars are generated in economic development for the region. Charlotte Water has a long history of leveraging State Revolving Funds to repair aging infrastructure and update critical facilities.

Charlotte's Digital Inclusion Investments

Census American Community Survey data (2021 data which shows impact of first few months of work around digital inclusion under the spotlight of the pandemic)

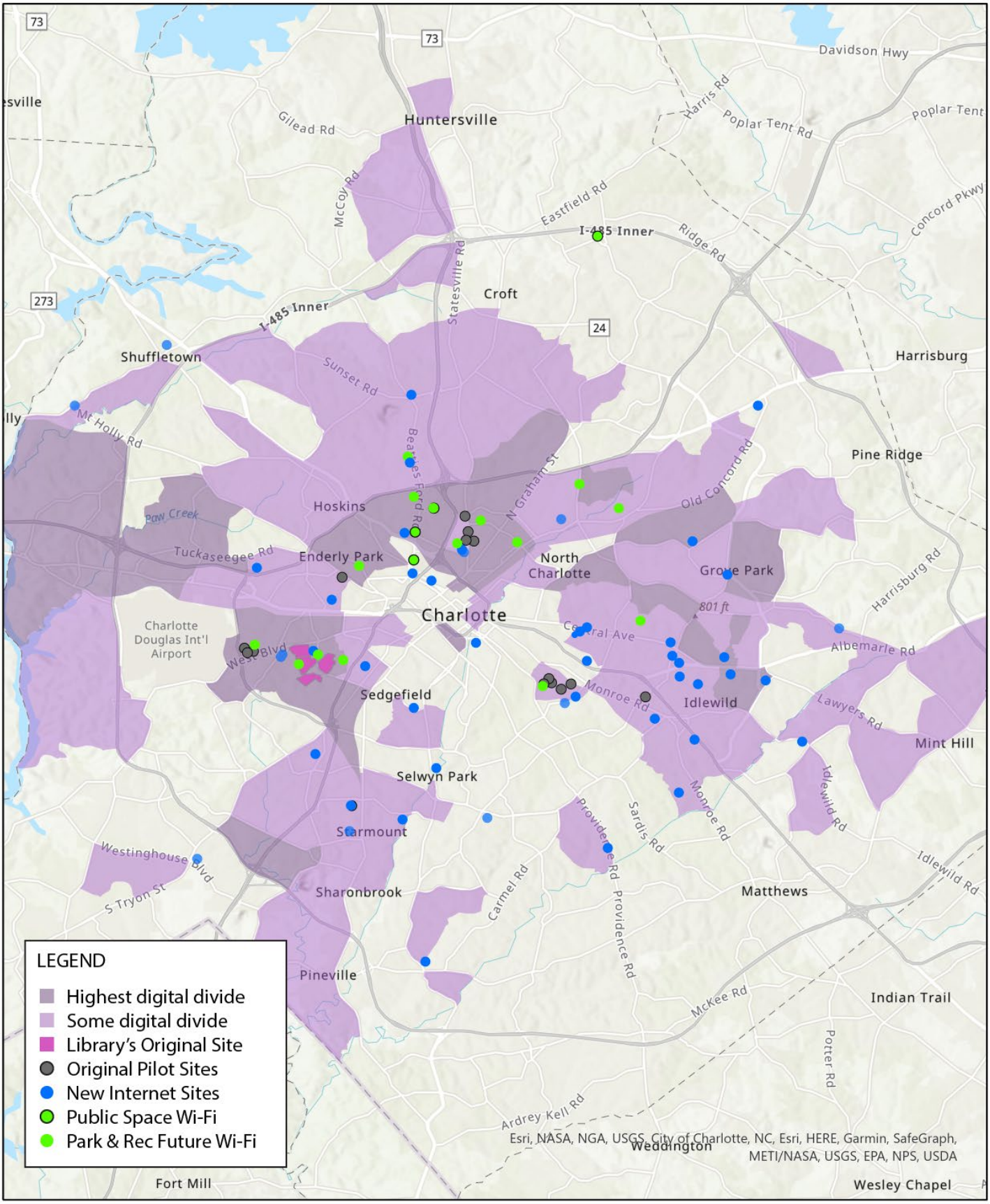
- 38,644 households have no computer or tablet device (2021 data. This is a 25% reduction from 2019)
- 56,015 households have no broadband internet subscription (2021 data. This is a 16% reduction from 2019 data)
- The dominate areas of the digital divide are areas that also reflect higher percentages of the population who receive food and nutrition services.

City of Charlotte Investments in Digital Inclusion:

- $3,250,000 of CARES funds and $567,897 of General Funds spent on:
    - Providing connection for 1,700 households at 14 multi-family sites
    - Public Wi-Fi at 4 public spaces
    - Wi-Fi at 2 community centers
    - Supporting 8 learning labs
    - Piloting the Digital Navigators program through 311 to connect residents to digital inclusion resources and basic tech support
- $38,454 of State Transit Grant funds and Charlotte Area Transit System match and $231,660 of CATS operating funds spent to pilot public Wi-Fi on all city buses, streetcar, and light rail vehicles starting in 2021
- Over $4,637,800 of ARPA funds contracted:
    - 7,900 households connected to secure in-home internet access for 2 years starting by mid-2023 and building up other aspects of digital inclusion and relationships to transfer them to ACP at end of 2-year time frame
    - 15 common areas of apartments serving seniors, residents with disabilities, or providing programed space to support kids doing homework to host digital navigation work
    - Countywide digital navigation program through 311 working with Queens University/the Center for Digital Equity with goal to connect over 10,000 households to the ACP
    - Supporting engagement around city's digital tools, data, and technology to improve access to available resources
- Exploring additional ARPA funded contracts around:
    - Learn to Earn – workforce training connection computer device distributions
    - Unified service platform that improves adoption/use/uptake of essential services offered by the City
    - Public Wi-Fi and improved partner investment coordinated where there are public is expected to use apps to help streamline their activities

City of Charlotte's Partners work on Digital Inclusion sample:

- Over 33,000 laptops have been distributed through local partners including the Library, Honeywell, and E2D
- Coordinating digital literacy, internet investments, and computer distributions through the Center for Digital Equity
- Charlotte Mecklenburg Library piloted a mesh network system to serve households in a surrounding neighborhood, they also provide digital literacy training and on the ground support to residents
- Inlivian, an affordable housing partner, provided secure, wired internet connection for 877 households with school aged children
- Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools deployed hotspots and computers to serve their students and their families
- Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation deploying public Wi-Fi at 14 public parks and recreation facility's parking lots



Digital Divide & Digital Inclusion Investments in Charlotte, 2023

0 2.5 5 Miles

N