



CHARLOTTE

## Committee Chair Updates

July 6, 2020

Committee	Page #
<a href="#">Budget and Effectiveness</a>	No meeting in June
<a href="#">Great Neighborhoods</a>	No meeting in June
<a href="#">Intergovernmental Relations</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">Safe Communities</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Transportation, Planning, &amp; Environment</a>	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">Workforce &amp; Business Development</a>	<a href="#">7</a>

**Committee Members:** Tariq Bokhari (Co-Chair), Braxton Winston (Co-Chair), Larken Egleston, James Mitchell and Matt Newton

**Committee Purpose Statement:** The committee reviews and recommends intergovernmental relations policies and relationship-building activities in the state and federal legislative and executive branches.

**Committee Chair Update:** Since the last Strategy Session, the committee has not met.

The NC General Assembly will be finishing up its 2020 short session by Saturday, July 11, with the primary task being the consideration of vetoes issued by the Governor. The adjournment resolution has members returning to session on September 2 to consider the appropriation of federal funding received in response to the pandemic and adjourning sine die the following day on September 3. This is the only time that the NC General Assembly has resolved to return to Raleigh between now and the November 2020 general election.

The US Congress and the Administration are focused on the next round of emergency relief and are preparing for negotiations. The size and scope of the next round will depend in part on the success of state-level reopening efforts and whether the economic downturn begins to reverse. An expected date range for passage is by mid-August.

The House of Representatives is considering an infrastructure funding package known as the Moving Forward Act (HR 2 – DeFazio). HR 2 authorizes \$1.5 trillion in federal funding over five years for roads, bridges, transit systems, schools, housing, rural broadband, public lands, clean energy, health care and water. It is unclear whether the Congress would be able to pass such a measure in the next few months.

In preparation for the 2021 sessions of the US Congress and NC General Assembly, the Intergovernmental Relations Committee will begin work on the 2021 State and Federal Legislative Agendas at its September 21 meeting. If any Councilmembers have any legislative requests for the 2021 State and Federal Legislative Agendas that they would like for the Committee to consider proposing to the City Council, please contact Dana Fenton to ensure that you will be scheduled for the September 21 Committee meeting. Mr. Fenton will be sending an e-mail to the Council elaborating on this opportunity.

**Next Meeting:** The next committee meeting is scheduled for September 21.



## Safe Communities Committee Update

July 6, 2020

**Committee Members:** Larken Egleston (Chair), James Mitchell (Vice Chair), Dimple Ajmera, Renee Johnson and Victoria Watlington

**Committee Purpose Statement:** The committee reviews and recommends policies to make neighborhoods safe, healthy and inclusive; including policing, and fire protection.

### **Committee Chair Update:**

The Committee met on June 23, 2020 to discuss charges to the Committee that were made at the June 8 Council Business Meeting. The City Manager reviewed the three items that were charged to the Committee:

- 1) The Budget Adoption stipulation to scrutinize and adjust police spending and policy;
- 2) Council Resolution to review CMPD's alignment with the '8 Can't Wait' initiative; and
- 3) Recommendations from Council Member Graham.
  - Full report on June 2, 2020 protests and CMPD actions
  - Recurring reporting on excessive force complaints against CMPD officers
  - Hosting public input sessions on policy and procedure regarding de-escalation of tense situations and managing crowds of protesters, and
  - Studying national best practices for police reform.

The City Manager discussed how it is important to get clarification from the Committee on the specific expectations for these charges to ensure alignment with the deliverables.

The City Manager also shared that the FAQ provided addresses questions and other clarifications to current inquiries and provided an overview page of current reform requests along with the requests received from specific groups. The City Manager shared initial findings on our 20 peer cities to note whether the city has either adopted, partially adopted, or taken no action on the '8 Can't Wait' initiatives. The City of Charlotte reviewed the 8 items for alignment with current CMPD policies and provided an overview report to Council. The goal is for continued improvement and to adopt other changes that fit the needs of the Charlotte community.

Deputy Chief Jennings reported that there have been 1,600 responses so far to the CMPD community survey. The priority areas being selected the most at the time of the meeting were crime prevention, crime fighting, and accountability and transparency. Other feedback on reforms CMPD should consider included incorporating more de-escalation training and early intervention system enhancement. Jennings also provided an update on the availability of the camera footage from the June 2<sup>nd</sup> incident, discussed how new uniform gear for the Civil Emergency Unit Officers will allow body cameras to be attached, and that reaffirmed that holster monitors for officers were in process of being installed.

Council Member Watlington presented a workplan with a timetable of 12 weeks to review 25 CMPD policies using the knowledge of an advisory group serving on a Task Force. The Safe Communities Committee members would comprise five of the 12-member Task Force. Based on CM Watlington's motion, the Committee voted unanimously to discuss the proposed workplan and formation of a Task Force with full Council at the July 6<sup>th</sup> Strategy Session.

**Next Meeting:** The next committee meeting is July. The date is TBD. The meeting will be virtual.



## Transportation, Planning, and Environment Committee Update

July 6, 2020

**Committee Members:** Julie Eiselt (Chair), Larken Egleston (Vice Chair), Ed Driggs, Matt Newton, Braxton Winston

**Committee Purpose Statement:** The committee reviews and recommends policies to build and maintain a comprehensive transportation network and placemaking strategies that encourage connection between neighborhoods and employment centers.

**Committee Chair Update:** Since the last Strategy Session the committee met on May 18 and June 22, 2020 and discussed the following:

### **Charlotte Moves Task Force-**

Sarah Hazel presented an update on the Charlotte Moves Task Force. The task force was formed to address mobility and transportation issues in Charlotte. The first task force meeting was held May 14, 2020.

### **Primary Goals of the Task Force:**

Civic Engagement, Review Existing Plans, Assess Mobility Needs, Determine Funding Needs and Recommend Mobility Network to City Council

Task Force Website and input can be found on the City's YouTube and Facebook pages, ongoing comments can be found at [charlottenmoves@charlottenc.gov](mailto:charlottenmoves@charlottenc.gov) and on the website is located at [https://charlottenc.gov/Mayor/Charlotte Moves Task Force](https://charlottenc.gov/Mayor/Charlotte_Moves_Task_Force)

**Timeline:** The task force aligns with both the Strategic Mobility Plan and the Charlotte Future 2040 Plan as they continue in the implementation process. The process will include review of existing policies and programs such as 2030 Transit Plan; Charlotte Walks, Charlotte Bikes, and the Capital Investment Plan.

### **4<sup>th</sup> Street Bus Pilot—**

John Lewis updated the Committee on the combined CATS/CDOT bus bike lane pilot on East 4<sup>th</sup> Street, which created a single combined bus/bike lane from McDowell Street to the Charlotte Transportation Center. This pilot had such positive feedback from both a rider and mobility stand point that the pilot has been continued. With the repaving of 4<sup>th</sup> street this bus/bike lane will come with permanence in the future.

4<sup>th</sup> Street had a high bus frequency per hour/390 weekday trips, a high proximity to major destinations and a lower impact to traffic volumes. The benefits and purpose of 4<sup>th</sup> Street would mitigate traffic congestion, improve bus travel time and reliability, as well as emphasize safety separating bus traffic from personal vehicle traffic. The right lane of 4<sup>th</sup> Street is restricted to CATS Busses, school buses, bicycles, scooters, and emergency vehicles.

Operation results showed buses traveled over 30% faster and on-time performance at the transit center improved. Survey results showed: 15% of riders would increase their transit usage if more bus lanes were implemented, 83% of cyclist felt an improved sense of safety and comfort, and 76% of bus operators would like the lane to become permanent.

CDOT incorporated additional bike improvements through uptown. The opportunity arose to utilize new technology, two floating bus stops were instituted at 4<sup>th</sup> and Church and, 4<sup>th</sup> and Tryon that enable the bike lane to remain through the corridor and reduce conflicts between buses and bicyclists. The floating bus stop moves out into the bike lane and allows the bike traffic to continue. Bicyclists must yield to pedestrians boarding the bus. Other corridors throughout the city are being considered to add additional treatments like bus only lanes, que jumpers, greater utilization of transit signal priority, and other adjustments and amenities.

## **Growth and Infrastructure**

Ed McKinney gave an update of the Growth and Infrastructure Investment activity, schedule, and next steps.

Growth and Infrastructure investment goes back to Council discussion around a number of rezoning cases tasking the Planning and Transportation Departments to look at new actions on traffic congestion and the impact it has in areas of high growth around our corridors and activity centers.

Specific areas of focus are: Transportation Impact, Mitigation and Demand Management; Transit Priority Corridor Investment and Targeted Capacity Investment Areas.

Understanding the challenge: Charlotte is the center of the region and is an importer of jobs. The regional pressure of that on the transportation system bares the need to provide for and manage our transportation system regionally. Over half of our employment base commutes from outside of Mecklenburg County and our transportation corridors are influenced by and serve an important regional economic role in addition to our local land use vision.

Charlotte is growing on a spoke cross section, the naturally limited network of corridors and multiple activity centers results in commute patterns that are equally in-town, a north/south direction; and cross-town - east/west direction. That puts pressure on the transportation network where those corridors cross. Focusing on connectivity and intersections in question is part of the solution. That unique pattern; north/south, east/west; is a challenge moving forward.

The growth and infrastructure areas of focus propose a set of actions to manage land use and development impact focused on transportation impact through mitigation and demand management, transit priority corridor investment, and targeted capacity investment areas.

## **Next Steps**

- Strategic mobility plan; draft ordinances and guidelines; develop and test alternatives – later this fall.
- Transit priority corridor investment; identify and cost pilot projects
- Targeted capacity investment areas; working quickly to target those projects to get them built as quickly as possible

## **Tree Canopy Action Plan**

Alyson Craig gave an overview of the Tree Canopy Action Plan and how it relates to the Comprehensive Plan and the UDO. The tree canopy is important to a healthy and sustainable community, open space, transportation choices, health safety, and equity. The Tree Canopy Plan will be guided by the vision and values of the Charlotte Future 2040 plan. The Tree Canopy Plan will inform tree policy and promotion within several initiatives at the forefront of the city's effort to plan for the future.

Key deliverables of the plan are: an analysis and inventory of Charlotte's tree canopy; community driven tree canopy policy recommendations for Charlotte Future 2040 Plan; ordinance concepts for the UDO; and a final report summarizing recommendations.

## **Goals of the plan:**

- honest dialogue on trees in our community,
- build a consensus,
- act on urban forestry master plan

The plan will have data driven and informed best practices, adjust codes and policies to align with community priorities, and lay out a clear point of contact for questions and concerns.

The project start-up began with gathering information ordinance analysis and peer city review, examining existing conditions, and later moving into stakeholder and public engagement.

### Engagement Schedule

First stakeholder meeting early in June

First Public meeting in July

Both meetings will discuss; Canopy data, tree policies and ordinance concepts, and  
The introduction of the Tree Ordinance Academy

The stakeholder group is made up of an equal balance of stakeholders with development experience and stake holders with environmental /conservation experience. The stakeholder meetings will be held every two weeks via Zoom and recorded.

Tree Canopy Action Plan Consultant Partners are a key part of the plan:

Urban Canopy Works - has led urban forest master plan projects across the country including Charlotte's 2017 Urban Forest Master Plan. For this project they will be leading the public engagement, policy and final report recommendations.

Center for Watershed Protections - a non-profit organization conducting applied research and translating science into practical guidance for policymakers. They have developed calculators and research that places the right tree in the right location to accomplish the specific water quality, shade, aesthetic, and other functions desired by our residents. For this project they will lead data analysis of trees and waterways and also review ordinances and formulation of ordinance concepts.

The Tree Canopy Action Plan is designed to be a companion plan diving a little deeper than the Comprehensive Plan can go, and the UDO is the tool where much of this is implemented. Doing this right now is critical to make sure we are complimenting what is happening in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan and we are advising tree policies as related to the Comprehensive plan.

### Center City 2040 Vision Plan

Michael Smith, Charlotte Center City Partners and Christopher Beynon, Consultant from MIG, gave an overview of Center City Partners 2040 Vision Plan process. The guiding principles of the plan are to be bold and courageous, to build an even greater city, and make it a people first plan where we need to build out our transit and streets in favor of pedestrians, bicycles, and other mobility choices. We will learn from our history and remedy past actions that divided our people and our neighborhoods. Sustainability is paramount, Charlotte must be resilient, and Center City is for everyone.

The Plan study area includes uptown and a two-mile ring from Trade and Tryon. The engagement approach guiding principles build broad ownership of the plan, reach new people, build capacity and social capital.

Four Community engagement events have been hosted where 777 ideas were collected. Some of the ideas included improved public transportation, more family appropriate activities, affordable housing options, and more retail variety among many other ideas. More details can be found on the plan website: [allin2040.com](http://allin2040.com).

The plan steering committee consist of 30 people from across the Charlotte community, Co-chaired by Clay Armbrister, JCSU President and Jennifer Appleby, President of Wray Ward.

The Plan process had intended to last 18 months. With the health and economic crisis brought on by COVID-19 as well as the recent racial and social issues, there is a need to take a step back to reflect how the impact of this new reality will further shape the plan. Over the next several weeks more summer engagement activities have been planned to review plan content, have conversations that relate to social injustices, the pandemic, and how actionable recommendations can be made to this plan to address these challenges.

Christopher Beynon, Consultant from MIG introduced the vision framework elements. Framework goals for center city are: easily accessible mobility; complete affordable neighborhoods; healthy, safe communities; inclusive economy and

growth; parks, open spaces and natural areas; resilient urban environments; education, care and enrichment for all; and distinct identity and destinations.

The emerging strategies come together in emerging focus areas to reflect our vision and values in the coming years: Cedar yards area, Silver & Blue line crossing, Tryon Street in Uptown, medical school opportunity, East Trade/Government District, North End, Brevard Street, West Trade Corridor and South End Gateway. These emerging focus areas work together to leverage both public or private investment to direct investment into areas of underinvestment.

Objectives of the plan are to: catalyze new development opportunities and affordable housing in Uptown; to bridge 277 to the north; leverage light rail investment for public amenities; create a new transit hub and signature public spaces to bring the community together.

Next steps in this process: in late summer - community feedback from online workshop; steering committee meeting #4, survey via website, social media and low-tech outreach. In the fall - refined recommendations and community feedback, online workshop #2, and review draft plan. Early Winter - final plan adoption.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2020



## Workforce & Business Development Committee Update

July 6, 2020

**Committee Members:** James Mitchell (Chair), Tariq Bokhari (Vice Chair), Dimple Ajmera, Malcolm Graham and Renee Johnson

**Committee Purpose Statement:** The committee reviews and recommends policies to create a thriving economic climate where businesses are connected to highly skilled talent and technologies.

**Committee Chair Update:** Since the last Strategy Session the committee met on May 11 and June 8, 2020 and discussed the following:

### May 11, 2020

#### State of Economic Development

Tracy Dodson highlighted the work the Economic Development Department had engaged in during the stay at home order. She noted that although the department pivoted to address the urgent needs of small businesses, great work continued on numerous projects in Economic Development's portfolios of Business Recruitment, Business Innovation, Talent Development and Great Places.

#### Small Business Task Force Update

Tracy Dodson discussed work being conducted to connect our small business community with resources they needed during the pandemic. Ms. Dodson presented an overview of the Comprehensive Strategy that was also presented at the Small Business Recovery Task Force meeting on May 12, 2020.

Discussions with small businesses, interactive forums and research evolved into the first sets of the Open for Business initiative. Under this initiative a weekly mentorship series, an Open for Business dashboard, and the micro business relief fund were established. Ms. Dodson also provided information on the Thrive & Survive initiative for phases one through three and discussed next steps to deploy capital to small businesses & resource partners, a workforce readiness portal to prepare residents for new careers, and a stand up Open for Business platform with critical information needed for small businesses, workforce and residents.

#### Charlotte Business INclusion (CBI) Update

Kay Elmore provided an overview on CBI's program history and highlighted the program's component of a larger city-wide strategy which leverages city contracting opportunities to address disparity and promotes inclusion.

Thomas Powers provided an overview of the CBI's background and discussed the disparity study findings. Kay Elmore reviewed the actions that have been taken based on the 2017 Disparity Study findings and highlighted the new software, Inclusion CLT, and the success strategies for MWSBE firms.

#### Small Business Month Activities

Christi Floyd provided an update on activities scheduled for May during Small Business Month. Ms. Floyd highlighted the #31daysofBiz campaign, which spotlighted one business every day in May. The businesses, nominated by resource partners, were also spotlighted on the Charlotte Business Resources website (CBRBiz.com) and will be featured on the EpiCentre billboard. A Survive & Thrive webinar was held on May 12<sup>th</sup> in partnership with EO Accelerator, AMP Up and the National Black MBA Charlotte. AMP Up kicked off their webinar series on May 20<sup>th</sup>.



June 8, 2020

**Charlotte Business INclusion Policy Revisions Discussion based on Disparity Study Considerations and Charlotte Business INclusion Advisory Committee (CBIAC) Recommendations**

Phil Reiger provided an overview from the May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting on CBI's Disparity Study considerations, policy revisions and to address the Committee's remaining questions on CBI's policy revisions to support reaffirmation of the former Economic Development Committee's vote from 2018. The information was presented to the full Council on June 1<sup>st</sup> anticipating the Workforce & Business Development Committee's vote.

Mr. Reiger gave background information on the content of previous meetings, which included a review of the 2017 Disparity Study considerations, and seven policy amendments below:

**2017 Disparity Study Considerations**

- Consider 20.9% as basis for annual aspirational MWBE goal
- Continue efforts to unbundle contracts
- Expand use of subcontracting goals to address identified disparities
- Consider separating the use of SBE and MWBE subcontracting goals
- Continue counting MWSBE participation towards subcontracting goals
- Expand SBE Designated Contracts Strategy
- Consider establishing business size thresholds for MWBEs
- Consider personal net worth thresholds for MWBEs
- Consider implementing mandatory subcontracting requirements
- Implement centralized diversity management software

**Policy Amendments**

1. Provide history of and legal justification for adoption of 2017 Disparity Study
2. Give bidders twenty-four hours to finalize CBI Form 3
3. Change **"Breaking Down Work"** Good Faith Effort\* from fifteen points to ten points
4. Change **"Negotiating in Good Faith with MWSBEs"** Good Faith Effort\* from fifteen points to ten points
5. Increase the duration of SBE certification from three years to four years
6. Eliminate the ability to count a single MWSBE towards a MWBE Goal and SBE Goal on a single contract. Firm would count towards either the MWBE Goal or SBE Goal
7. Lower construction subcontracting threshold from \$300,000 to \$200,000 which benefits certified MWSBEs through:
  - *adequate bonding at \$200k rather than \$300K which many certified firms cannot meet*
  - *creating "right size" opportunities for smaller firms to grow into larger jobs, while gaining experience and increasing capacity*
  - *Increasing the pool of available opportunities to set goals and improve participation on contracts at lower levels*

*VOTE: Councilmember Graham made the motion and Councilmember Ajmera seconded the motion to affirm the former Economic Development Committee's vote on August 27, 2018, September 24, 2018 and December 20, 2018, recommending revisions for the Charlotte Business INclusion Policy for a vote at the City Council Business Meeting on June 8, 2020. The vote was unanimous.*

### **Urban Main**

Tracy Dodson discussed enhanced efforts around the city's corridors as a result of the City Manager's budget that was rolled out in May. Since then, a core team consisting of Tracy Dodson, Taiwo Jaiyeoba, Liz Babson, Pam Wideman and Cherie Grant have met weekly to discuss a new focus to be more results driven around corridor revitalization across city departments.

Erin Gillespie provided an update on the Urban Main community initiative, which focuses on commercial revitalization for neighborhood business districts. Ms. Gillespie discussed her work to date over the last two years with the Advisory Committee, neighborhood leaders, businesses and property owners to develop a neighborhood strategy for the Beatties Ford Road and LaSalle Street areas. Several meetings were held to engage the groups in workshops, training and surveys. A virtual community presentation is being planned to discuss next steps.

Todd DeLong provided an overview of three public/private redevelopment projects planned along Beatties Ford Road and Rozzelles Ferry Road. The city is working with the community and developers to create a positive impact on the neighborhoods and bring new tenants to the area. A new pilot program, Business Interior Upfit Grant, will assist businesses to maintain the inside structure of their buildings (example, HVAC, plumbing, etc.).

### **Industry-Specific Talent Development Programs**

Emily Cantrell provided an update on the city's Industry-Specific Talent Development Programs, including Project P.I.E.C.E and RENEW. Over the last six months, the city has reviewed their workforce development and talent development programs to create an overarching talent development program to provide jobs for residents and new job creation. Due to COVID-19 delays and service delivery, the city has extended two contracts through September with our workforce training partners. Council provided additional funding through the CARE Act stimulus budget for RENEW, which will provide paid skilled trade and advanced technology training to 50 participants and guaranteed job placement.

### **AMP Up Program**

Jerriane Jackson provided an overview of the Amp Up Program, designed in 2018 by Economic Development, Procurement and Charlotte Business INClusion to prepare minority owners for growth and expansion. The seven-month program features Interises's Streetwise MBA curriculum and participants meet bi-weekly to finalize their growth plan. To date, 28 businesses have graduated from the program. Cohort three is in partnership with Atrium Health and applications will be accepted through August 3<sup>rd</sup> ([CharlotteBusinessResources.com](http://CharlotteBusinessResources.com)). Classes will start on August 25<sup>th</sup>. Monthly educational webinars are also being held for AMP Up alumni.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2020.