



CHARLOTTE

## City Council Committees

### Chair Updates

June 7, 2021

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In addition to the Committee report outs, meeting materials and summaries can be viewed on the City website at:

<https://charlottenc.gov/citycouncil/committees/Pages/default.aspx>

**Committee Members:** Ed Driggs (Chair), Julie Eiselt (Vice Chair), Dimple Ajmera, Malcolm Graham, and Renee Johnson

**Committee Purpose Statement:** The committee reviews and recommends policies to ensure the city has a strong and sustainable financial plan and maintains operational efficiency and effectiveness.

**Committee Chair Update:** Since the last Strategy Session, the committee met on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and discussed the following.

### Virtual Meeting Options

The Committee discussed how to address any policy considerations for resuming in-person meetings. Public Health Director, Gibbie Harris joined the meeting to provide context on the current health recommendations and considerations. Harris stated that the executive order through the Governor has changed significantly, removing the majority of restrictions from the state of emergency (SOE) order; masking is no longer mandated, and, in most cases, capacity is no longer limited.

Deputy City Attorney, Lina James presented a high-level overview of virtual meetings since much of the topic has been covered in previous committee meetings. She distinguished between electronic and remote meetings and discussed remote participation. The city had an electronic meeting statute prior to the pandemic which provides broad authority for a public body to meet remotely. It requires that the city must provide notice, location, and access for the public to listen to official meetings of public bodies. In October 2020, the Council adopted a new remote meetings policy. Due to the SOE order, Council had the ability to meet remotely including for purposes of voting and a quorum and that continues to be in place as long as there is a statewide declaration of emergency. Rule 28 of the Mayor and Council Rules of Procedure applies to telephonic and electronic meeting attendance. The county does not have an equivalent to this rule or a written charter. Currently in Rule 28, telephonic and electronic attendance at meetings are limited to:

- Committee Meetings (due to illness or injury, and may vote)
- Council Meetings:
  - Emergency meetings, or
  - Regular or Special meetings where:
    - Quorum necessary;
    - Due to weather, civil unrest, emergency, etc.; and
    - Meeting needs to continue to avoid re-notice or to take action for matters that cannot be delayed.

The outstanding question is, once the SOE is lifted will the Council revert back to the broad statutory requirement for electronic meetings and Council's rules for procedures for when electronic meetings are allowed. The area of concern is how it will impact quorums and voting and particularly the effect on closed sessions. Current, telephonic and electronic Committee attendance rules require at least 48 hours' notice by staff if someone cannot participate due to illness or injury.

It was noted that Council did not have a provision for spontaneous participation in virtual meetings prior to COVID. This was provided by the SOE so, as it stands, Council would revert to the rules of procedure as described, which provides for virtual meetings in the enumerated circumstances. The Attorney's Office recommended, absent new legislation, the non-limitation of virtual meetings extends just until the end of the SOE to avoid the meeting being subject to challenge. To clarify the Attorney's Office noted that that does not mean Council's actions would be subject to challenge or determined to be in violation, it is just uncertain. Baker does not anticipate the SOE to go away within the next few

weeks.

**Vote:** MPT Eiselt made a motion to modify the October 2020 council approved virtual meetings policy with a sunset provision that ends unrestricted virtual participation for Council once the state of emergency is lifted and then return to the previous policy (Rule 28). Council Member Graham seconded the motion and it passed 4:1.

**Vote:** CM Ajmera made a motion to refer the review of Rule 28b to full Council for feedback on what changes are necessary. Johnson made a substitute motion: Recommendation to full Council Review conditions in Rule 28 to broaden its provisions related to virtual participation in Council meetings and consider other procedures. CM Ajmera seconded the motion and the substitute motion passed 3:2.

**Vote:** CM Graham made a motion that if Council meets in person then the public (who address Council) must participate in person. MPT Eiselt seconded the motion. The vote carried 3:2

Due to meeting time constraints, the Committee decided to meet again in June to address redistricting.

**Current referrals:**

Topic	Policy Question
Census Data and Redistricting Considerations	What should our decision-making framework be for assessing census data and plans for redistricting?  <i>Charge: Based on delayed release of census data, review and evaluate the city's options for proceeding with or postponing elections. Develop principles and options for redistricting and decision-making available under the law for consideration by council so the city is prepared for next steps when census data comes in. (made Feb 8, 2021)</i>
Citizen Advisory Committee on Governance recommendations	What recommendations from the Citizen Advisory Committee on Governance should be adopted by Council? <b><i>Committee recommendation made to discuss with full Council options for consideration of four-year staggered terms.</i></b>
Virtual Meeting Options	Are any updates recommended for full Council's consideration around the provisions for virtual meetings/participation?

**Committee Members:** Malcolm Graham (Chair), Braxton Winston (Vice Chair), Tariq Bokhari, Julie Eiselt, and Victoria Watlington

**Committee Purpose Statement:** The committee reviews and recommends policy related to comprehensive initiatives designed to create affordable housing and provide opportunities that align with creating great neighborhoods.

**Committee Chair Update:** The committee has not met since the last Council Strategy Session.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday June 16, 2021 at noon.

**Current Referrals:** none outstanding

**Committee Members:** Tariq Bokhari (Co-Chair), Braxton Winston (Co-Chair), Larken Egleston, 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 met on May 18, 2021 and discussed the following:

Information was provided on the work of the NC General Assembly. Topics reviewed included the workflow of the General Assembly, State budget and pandemic related appropriations issues, and key statewide issues such as criminal justice reform, police recordings, municipal elections, development related legislation, and business development.

The committee also received an update on the status of the implementation of the city's legislative agenda. The State Budget proposal is expected to be released by the Senate in the next several weeks and the General Assembly has started the process of appropriating the federal dollars received through the American Rescue Plan. There was committee discussion around the municipal elections schedule, and a subsequent request for the City Attorney to brief the City Council on related potential legal considerations. After the meeting, proposed legislation was filed in the Senate to clarify that local governing bodies can delay their 2021 elections to 2022 in the event the needed census data was not available to adjust electoral districts in time (Senate Bill 722). There was also committee discussion about State legislation addressing the digital divide and related Federal efforts.

The committee received information on the work of the US Congress and updates on congressional deliberations on an infrastructure plan, efforts to decrease the digital divide, and mask mandates at airports and other forms of public transportation.

**Next Committee Meeting**

The next committee meeting is scheduled for June 21, 2021.

**Current Referrals:** none outstanding



## Safe Communities Committee Update

JUNE 7, 2021

**Committee Members:** Larken Egleston (Chair), Dimple Ajmera, Renee Johnson, Greg Phipps, and Victoria Watlington

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

**Committee Chair Update:** Since the last Strategy Session, the Committee met on June 1 and discussed the following:

### Street Racing and Aggressive Driving

Captain Dave Harris of the CMPD Special Events and Transportation Division reported that the department began receiving an increase in calls for aggressive driving and street racing during the fall of 2020. CMPD organized a multi-tiered task force approach to address it citywide. The Task Force consisted of the Motorcycle Unit in the Transportation Division, DWI Task Force, and patrol and traffic officers. There was also an undercover element which was used to gather information and photos at the meet ups. A partnership with the District Attorney's office was also established to address the racing and reckless driving. On April 19, 2021, CMPD was able to take the investigation results to a grand jury which resulted in 55 indictments. Additionally, a judge signed off on a total of 30 warrants and citations. As a result, CMPD was authorized to seize 85 cars.

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, CMPD with the assistance of outside law enforcement agencies (Gaston, Cabarrus, Iredell, Union, York Counties, and the Town of Matthews) carried out the search warrants, with photos of the suspects and vehicles. Captain Harris reported that there was no use of force, fights, or incidents during the operation. There were 50 arrests on that day and 65 cars seized. A few of the cars that were not obtained were either wrecked, sold, or repossessed.

The operation has also resulted in more than 2,500 traffic stops that resulted in 3,500 violations, including speeding, reckless driving, driving while impaired, and spontaneous racing. Additionally, a letter from Chief Jennings was sent to over 300 persons indicating that their vehicles were seen present at a location where organized aggressive driving, reckless driving, and/or unlawful racing was taking place and advised that further violations would result in an investigation of the individual and/or their car. CMPD believes an impact has been made through these efforts to curb street racing.

### Family Justice Center

Ms. Kunze reported that the city is interested in collaborating on the project but would like more specifics regarding a detailed budget, operations plans, and location and land acquisition. The city intends to follow the county's lead in potential partnerships. Committee members were provided a memo from the City Manager on Friday, May 28<sup>th</sup> as well as responses from the FJC Steering Committee to questions posed at the May 4<sup>th</sup> Safe Communities Committee Meeting. Staff will provide another update at the September meeting.

**Next Meeting:** The next committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at noon.

### **Current referrals:**

Topic	Policy Question
Family Justice Center	How would partnering in the establishment of a Family Justice Center in Mecklenburg County advance the City's violence prevention efforts?

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

**Committee Purpose Statement:** The committee reviews and recommends policies to implement a comprehensive mobility network and advances strategies to create a livable and connected city that embodies our environmental sustainability and resiliency goals.

**Committee Chair Update:** Since the last Strategy Session the committee met on May 24, 2021 and discussed the following:

**Silver Line TOD/Station Area Planning Update**

John Lewis, Executive Director of CATS, introduced the Silver Line TOD study which is focused on Transit Oriented Development along the corridor and at the stations. Over the last 18 months a great deal of time and effort has gone into the preliminary planning and design to develop the alignment for the Silver Line light rail project. This is a critical juncture in the overall project. One of the key take-aways and lessons learned from the Blue Line project in terms of ability to leverage the investment in transportation infrastructure is to meet other goals of the city and region such as housing and economic development. The study will be intentional to not just look at the Silver Line from a mobility standpoint but also assess how this investment can facilitate and kickstart growth along the corridor.

The study is to develop Station Area Plans for seven demonstration station areas, outline key infrastructure for all station areas, and develop a TOD implementation plan. The scope of the study includes to:

- support and coordinate the alignment and station alternatives evaluation and selection,
- conduct outreach and education to key stakeholders and communities along the corridor,
- assess TOD readiness based on the market, affordable housing, and infrastructure factors,
- develop affordable housing strategies into key station areas,
- develop guidance for Station Area Types, and
- support revisions to the Urban Design Framework.

Deliverables of this study are station area plans; station locations, alignment alternatives criteria, location alternatives screening, and area concepts for all stations – what to enhance, preserve, protect or change. Station area TOD plans for seven Demonstration Station Areas; 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Wilkinson Blvd, Bojangles Coliseum area and Village Lake area are the focused study areas in the plat line. Other stations include one station in Belmont and two stations in Matthews.

Other deliverables include an Outline of Infrastructure investments; multimodal infrastructure, parks and open spaces, preservation of affordable housing opportunities and potential joint-use developments. A Market Assessment was done to assess TOD Market Readiness, to identify potential catalytic TOD sites/station areas and develop corridor preservation strategies. The study will look at leveraging partnerships or public land for joint development opportunities to get the affordable housing piece within a half mile of the walking radius of a station. This is a collaborative effort between the city and the surrounding towns of Matthews and Belmont.

Currently the study is in the Station Area Planning and Public Engagement/Education on TOD phase. Over the summer the study will move into the public engagement piece and the implementation and strategy development phase in the fall with final Station Area Plans at the end of December 2021. In May, webinars were held on TOD basics with ULI where over 130 people participated. May and June will consist of targeted neighborhood and stakeholder meetings. Station area workshops will go on in the month of July. Later in the summer other community pop-up events will be planned. The TOD Website will be launched in mid-June with a YouTube Zoom event on the 22<sup>nd</sup> that will be corridor wide using the CATS Silver Line website. An online map survey will launch with the website where feedback and information can be given on what the public wants to see.

## **Beyond 77**

The committee received an overview of the Beyond 77 Corridor Study designed to strengthen the multimodal network surrounding the interstate by providing a strategic, innovative, equitable and comprehensive toolbox of effective strategies, and policies and programs that will guide future mobility for our diverse communities. The Study Area is 68 miles from Statesville to Rock Hill; six miles from west to east; one million residents live within the study area and 21 agencies/jurisdictions will be working together.

The first phase of this study was the Data Collection phase which began in January 2020, a public on-line survey was done as well as stakeholder meetings, with data analysis throughout the summer of 2020. Hearing from 8000 people, the number one problem identified was traffic congestion.

January of 2021 to present makes up the solution phase of the study, data was evaluated, the analysis began, and solutions are being sought. Public engagement for this study has included reaching out through the media outlets, conducting presentations, virtual conferences, and interviews with news agencies, with over 30 million clicks on the website. A Beyond 77 virtual on-demand expo was created for this project and went live on April 1, 2021 that contains general information as well as all public engagement data.

The Beyond 77 planning team has developed more than 170 potential solutions based on a combination of resident feedback and projected growth/traffic data. These solutions have been evaluated across six key decision factors; safety, mode choice, land use, travel efficiency and regional scalability.

Five strategic solutions of the 170+ were highlighted during the meeting:

- The Policy Making Strategy: Policy to define equitable mobility
- Programming Strategy: Regional Strategy for funding alternatives
- Project Implementation/Infrastructure Solution: Mobility Corridors
- Project Implementation/Infrastructure Solution: Connectivity Enhancements – I77 South Metro Area
- Project Implementation/Infrastructure Solution: Interstate Cap (Land Bridges) Solutions

The final outcomes of implementation planning for Beyond 77 will include:

- clear direction on how solutions will be implemented,
- suggested timeframes for when implementation will be complete and by whom,
- roles and responsibilities of study stakeholders as they relate to plan, strategy, and solution implementation,
- a toolkit of policies and programmatic options for local communities to consider in local transportation and land use planning initiatives, and
- a set of funding alternatives through a regional lens approach by identifying viable potential funding sources.

The pathway to final recommendation will wrap up in September 2021. The project team will finalize recommendations based on phase 3 feedback in June. In July the team will finalize implementation framework development and in August will be the finalization of the implementation plan report and supporting documents. In September presentations will be given to Boards, Councils, and Commissions for endorsement.

## **Connect Beyond**

The Connect Beyond conversation started when CATS began to update, revitalize, and revision the CATS 2030 plan and how CATS was going to deliver high capacity rail corridors to the community. CATS working with Centralina Regional Council started looking beyond the typical planning boundaries and started asking at a regional level how to create a more connected transportation network that meets the very diverse needs of the community.

The Connect Beyond region consist of two states and 12 counties, multiple transportation planning organizations, and 17 different transit agencies that have come together in partnership led by Centralina Regional Council, CATS, and the MTC to think about planning for a vibrant, connected, and inclusive vision for regional mobility to connect urban, suburban, and rural residents. One of the most important purposes of the plan is to create a vision for regional transit that can be supported by and also helps other counties outside of Mecklenburg, and to start thinking about additional revenue sources



that will be important to implementing this plan.

What will Connect Beyond do? It will define a supported transit vision, identify corridors, and complement plans and infrastructures, strategize coordination opportunities and develop implementation tools. The goal is to take this plan to fruition by following five guiding principles:

- creating mobility choice,
- preparing for the future growth,
- advancing equity on all levels,
- aligning plans and local visions, and
- ultimately planning for implementation.

The plan to build a better bus network will be through six key areas:

- policy through partnerships,
- technology,
- operational – how do we tie in transfers and make them successful,
- financial – how will it be funded,
- interagency coordination – making sure the agencies are talking to one another, and
- ultimately education and outreach – how do we educate the community to know that these connections exist.

There are three core committees looking at this process that are made up of elected officials, technical people, and community members who represent everything from educational institutions to medical services and economic development agencies. In May, the proposed focus was on rural to urban connections and the importance of mobility hubs where transit systems can intersect in the region. June will be future focused with discussions on implementation strategies, funding opportunities, and critical partnerships to support the transit vision throughout the region. Draft recommendations will be available in July and moving to an endorsement process in the fall.

The need for diversity of funding sources was noted and that each county needs to have a funding mechanism to support regional transit infrastructure and operations that benefit their county. The committee is reviewing best funding practices from other regions considering how those ideas can be employed here.

Within the path to recommendations, there are technical groups reporting to the advisory committees and ultimately this work will be endorsed by the MTC and the Centralina Regional Council Board by the end of the year.

**Next Meeting:** The next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday June 21, 2021 at 10:30.

**Current Referrals:**

Topic	Policy Question
2040 Comprehensive Plan	What planning and development components are critical as we shape the future of Charlotte?
Unified Development	What is the holistic approach for development and related considerations and criteria?
Short-term Rentals	What are the options if the city is to regulate short-term rentals?
Mobility Committee Recommendations	What recommendations from the Mobility Committee should be implemented?
Rezoning Process Improvements	What changes are recommended to further enhance our rezoning process to meet the need to increase community engagement?  What are the options for zoning decisions to address traffic congestion?

**Committee Members:** Tariq Bokhari (Chair), Malcolm Graham (Vice-Chair), Dimple Ajmera, Renee' Johnson, and Greg Phipps

**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:** The committee is meeting on June 2 the same day as the Strategy Session. Items planned for discussion include the HIRE Charlotte strategic employment framework.

**Next Meeting:** The next committee meeting is scheduled for August 2, 2021 at noon.

**Current Referrals:**

Topic	Referral Question
Opportunity Zones and Corridors Policy alignment	Integrate workforce and business development policies within the Opportunity Areas
Workforce Development Plan to reduce high unemployment <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Workforce development policy (criteria required for when city funding is included)</li><li>• Strengthening workforce development within Diversion program</li><li>• Youth Employment Policy</li></ul>	Identify policy options for the city to reduce unemployment <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop processes to promote workforce development opportunities through city funded programs</li><li>• Develop options to advance Workforce development in diversion programs (This could apply to all programs from transit to housing).</li><li>• Recommend a holistic approach from training to job placement for our youth</li></ul>