



CHARLOTTE

## City Council Committees

### Chair Updates

November 1, 2021

Committee	Page #
Budget and Effectiveness	1
Great Neighborhoods	2
Intergovernmental Relations	3
Safe Communities	4
Transportation, Planning, & Environment	6
Workforce & Business Development	9

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 October 19 and discussed the proposed agenda for Council's Fall Strategy Meeting.

### Proposed Agenda for Council's Fall Strategy Meeting

City Manager, Marcus Jones provided an overview of staff recommendations relating to the retreat and gave the Committee the opportunity to provide feedback.

Day one of the retreat consists of travel and an opportunity to visit the Innovation Corridor in Wake Forest. It's a chance for both the City Council and the County Board of Commissioners to come together.

On day two Council will first meet to reaffirm priorities and key initiatives. The next topic will include discussions pertaining to how Council will work together through the unprecedented timing of a Spring versus November election. An update of the City's financial condition will follow next, beginning with a recap of FY 2021 and moving to the future outlook for revenues and expenditures in the upcoming budget cycle. Council will discuss how they plan to spend the \$71M of first-round ARPA funding toward housing, workforce business development, and community vitality initiatives. Day two ends with a deep dive into the Regional Mobility Initiatives and Charlotte Land Use and Mobility Initiatives.

Day three includes a major projects update.

After discussion and clarifications of the areas to be covered, expected outcomes, and information for pre-reads; the Committee requested the addition of an update and discussion on traffic safety, speeding, and racing to be addressed at the retreat as well.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting is being planned for November.

### **Current referrals:**

Topic	Charge
Virtual Meeting Options	Review current Council Rules and Procedures to determine if any updates are recommended for full Council's consideration around the provisions for virtual meetings/participation.
Proposed FY 2023 Budget Development and Adoption schedule	Recommend a FY 2023 Budget Development Calendar for consideration by full Council at the November 22 Business Meeting.

**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 Great Neighborhoods Committee did not meet in October. The following represents updates on key Committee initiatives that occurred in October.

Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing (NOAH) Rental Subsidy Program.

- In August 2021, the Committee reviewed proposed guidelines for a city-wide NOAH Rental Subsidy Program to create new long-term rental subsidies for households earning 30% or less of area median income. At the meeting, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend that full Council consider the program at a future business meeting (vote 4:0; Council member Winston was not in attendance).
- Council will have an opportunity to review and discuss this program at the November 1<sup>st</sup> Strategy Session. Council will be asked to vote on the program guidelines at the November 8<sup>th</sup> business meeting.

Source of Income Ad Hoc Advisory Committee Update.

- In September 2021, the Great Neighborhoods Committee received an update on the work of the Source of Income Ad Hoc Advisory Committee from the Ad Hoc Committee Co-Chairs, Kim Graham with the Greater Charlotte Apartment Association, and Mark Ethridge with Ascent Realty.
- The Ad Hoc Committee is on track to develop and present its final recommendations for increasing the acceptance of Housing Choice Vouchers and other rental subsidies in the marketplace, and particularly in areas of high opportunity in our community, to the full City Council in December 2021.

Legacy Commission.

- *Druid Hills Way.* The public unveiling of Druid Hills Way (formerly Jefferson Davis Street) occurred on September 24<sup>th</sup>.
- *Montford Point Street.* The public unveiling of Montford Point Street (formerly Phifer Avenue) occurred on October 28<sup>th</sup>.
- *Aycock Lane, Jackson Avenue, and Zebulon Avenue.* The community has made replacement name suggestions, and voting has just been completed (voting closed on November 1<sup>st</sup>). The new street names will be available as soon as possible and be effective January 21, 2022.
- *Hill Street and Morrison Avenue.* Community engagement started in early October with outreach to residents and the business community. The virtual kickoff meeting was held on October 26<sup>th</sup>. The survey is active now through December 5<sup>th</sup>, after which voting will take place. New street names will be effective in March 2022.
- *Barringer Drive and Stonewall Avenue.* Community engagement is slated to begin this December.

**Next Meeting:** TBD

**Current Referrals:** none outstanding

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

**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:** The Committee met on October 18.

#### **Federal Legislative Update and Bipartisan Infrastructure Plan**

The City's federal lobbying team, Rich Gold, Shawna Watley, and Lisa Hawke of Holland & Knight and Jeff Boothe of Boothe Transit Consulting provided an update on the work of the US Congress. The team presented the issues of relevance to the City that will be addressed before the end of the calendar year including the second-prong human infrastructure plan, debt limit, government funding, surface transportation reauthorization, police reform, and voting rights. Then the team provided a more in-depth presentation of the bipartisan infrastructure plan that passed the Senate and is currently before the House of Representatives. The Plan provides \$550 billion of new funding for "hard" infrastructure over the next five years. The team focused on federal resources that would be available for transit, multimodal investments, highways, roads and bridges, passenger and freight rail, pedestrians and bicyclists, sustainability and resiliency, aviation, clean water, broadband, community and economic development, and cybersecurity. The team was asked to elaborate on how the Plan is tied in to the second-prong human infrastructure plan, status of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, and potential project selection.

#### **State Legislative Update**

The Committee was provided with an update on the work of the NC General Assembly. The General Assembly is primarily focused on the 2021-2023 state budget, which is the subject of negotiations with Governor Cooper, and redistricting of congressional and general assembly districts. Staff provided an update on the Energy Solutions for North Carolina (HB 951) that was recently signed into law. Staff reviewed progress in advancing the City's legislative priorities.

#### **Proposed 2022 Federal & State Legislative Agendas**

Department federal and state legislative agenda requests were presented. Committee members asked staff to elaborate on comprehensive immigration reform (particularly H-1B visas) additional issues concerning procurement reform, stay-in-place, and expansion of cancer coverage for firefighters. Committee members also asked for more detail on the process behind potential requests for funding through the bipartisan infrastructure plan. After discussion, the Committee approved on a 5-0 vote the proposed legislative agendas for the consideration of the full Council. The federal agenda addresses infrastructure & community needs and comprehensive immigration reform. The state agenda addresses mobility and infrastructure & community needs. The schedule for Council consideration is as follows:

- November 1: Strategy Session – Co-Chairs will lead discussion of the proposed 2022 State and Federal Legislative Agendas
- November 8: Action Review – Staff to present the proposed 2022 State and Federal Legislative Agendas
- November 22: Business Meeting – Adoption of the proposed 2022 State and Federal Legislative Agendas by Council

**Next Meeting:** The next Committee meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

**Current Referrals:** none outstanding

**Committee Members:** Larken Egleston (Chair), Dimple Ajmera (Vice Chair), 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 October 19<sup>th</sup> and discussed the following.

Emily Kunze reviewed the Mayor's referral to the Safe Communities Committee. She stated that in response to the referral, the Committee would receive information and discuss the City's approach to maintaining traffic safety and determine what emerging practices in technology are available to further promote traffic safety.

Debbie Smith, Deputy Director for the Charlotte Department of Transportation, made a presentation related to the Vision Zero approach which included highlights of techniques and traffic control devices that have been implemented over the last several years to continue to make Charlotte's streets safer. Ms. Smith noted that Charlotte's past development legacy focused on travel by car between 1950 to the mid 2000's. There was a lack of sidewalks during that time, so pedestrians had a difficult time navigating very busy streets. CDOT implemented "Complete Streets" to make it easier for all users to be safe. She noted that Council's policy recommendations such as adopting the Urban Street Design Guidelines in 2007, Charlotte Walks in 2014, and Charlotte Bikes in 2016 led to safer ways to travel. Ms. Smith also provided a snapshot of transportation Capital Improvement Programs and Projects funded through bonds.

Ms. Smith stated that Charlotte is an industry leader with the Emergency Vehicle and Transit Signal Priority System. The communication technology allows the Fire Department and CATS to partner with CDOT, using a federally funded grant project, for vehicles to talk to the Central Traffic System, enabling CDOT to change traffic lights to prioritize emergency vehicles and buses that have been delayed. The technology has shown measured success in saving lives.

Additionally, Charlotte was the first city in North Carolina to implement a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon. The Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon is installed in 34 locations in Charlotte. The traffic signal stays in dark mode until a pedestrian pushes the button, then the signal turns to a flashing yellow, solid yellow and finally a solid red. The pedestrian is then given the walk indication to safely cross the street. Data was provided showing a decrease in car and pedestrian crashes in high traffic areas following the installation of the Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon. Ms. Smith also shared information on the Leading Pedestrian Interval technology that has been deployed in 248 locations. The Leading Pedestrian Interval provides the pedestrian a three-second head start to enter the crosswalk. Total crashes stayed relatively the same, but pedestrian and angle-type crashes showed marked decreases.

Ms. Smith provided an overview of Charlotte's new crash analysis tool. The tool gives CDOT the opportunity to quickly look at crash diagrams, query data, and conduct a benefit/cost analysis. They use the crash reports that CMPD writes to incorporate daily updates to the system. Having the information so quickly allows them to tailor a solution to specific crash sites.

**Next Meeting:** The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 9, 2021.

**Current referrals:**

Topic	Charge
Traffic Safety Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine what emergent traffic safety practices or technologies (to include street design) are being used in other Vision Zero cities that would benefit Charlotte and may be feasible to implement.</li> <li>• Provide overview of findings and any recommended options to the City Council in December 2021 for further consideration.</li> </ul>

**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 October 25, 2021 (Mayor Pro Tem Julie Eiselt, Ed Driggs, Matt Newton, Braxton Winston) and discussed the following:

### Envision My Ride

John Lewis, Executive Director of CATS, gave an update on the Envision My Ride program. Envision My Ride is centered entirely on building a better bus system.

The Envision My Ride program began in spring of 2018 with the opening of the LYNX Blue Line extension. At that time, the necessity to build a better bus system became clear. Pre-pandemic, 70% of CATS riders got to their destination via a bus. The average bus trip at that time with a transfer was almost 90 minutes.

Envision My Ride is based on a three-pronged approach:

1. Structural – correcting the bus system structure
2. Frequency – providing more frequent service
3. Reliability - focusing on reliability

In February of 2020 the focus became the frequency of service. At that time more than half of the routes had headways, which are intervals between buses on a route, that were 30 minutes or greater. Four routes were added to decrease some 30-minute headways to 15 minutes.

As new techniques and new technologies emerge, CATS will continue to look for other opportunities to invest in infrastructure that will make the bus system as reliable as possible, with the ultimate goal of making bus service as reliable as rail. Potential enhancements may include que jumpers and traffic signal priority for buses along certain corridors. Focusing on the service improvements, new local funding will need to be identified to achieve the enhanced operating hours required for the high frequency aspirational network.

The goal to implement high frequency routes will be rolled out over four fiscal years:

- **Implement 22 high-frequency routes**, defined as having a 15-minute frequency all day
- Implement a **30-minute maximum frequency system wide** (Approx. 19 are at least 40-minute frequency today)
- **Create 15 new routes**
- Implement **50 mobility hubs** throughout the County – for first/last mile connections and on-demand services
- Add amenities to **50% (from 10%)** of existing bus stops (shelters, art, etc.)

Implementation of Envision My Ride will require up to 100 additional vehicles to expand CATS over the four fiscal years. The first fiscal year expands service through existing fleet. There would be an incremental delivery of those vehicles at a total cost of \$95 million.

Within the first two fiscal years, 2024 and 2025, the 22 high-frequency routes would be implemented with 15-minute frequency all day long. The routes that are 40+ minutes today would be brought down to 30 minutes and implemented in phases over time with completion by 2027. The new services would be implemented to Albemarle Rd, Sunset Rd, and Ballantyne in the first year 2024. In the final year, 2027, the bulk of those new services would be implemented to Mooresville, Matthews/Lawyers Rd, Moores Chapel, Mint Hill, Blakeney, CPCC Levine, and

University/Pavilion.

#### **Center City All in 2040 Plan**

Michael Smith with Charlotte Center City Partners presented an update on the All in 2040 Vision Plan to the Committee for Referral to Council for Public Hearing in November.

The draft document was released on July 23, 2021, initiating a seven-week public review process that ended the week of September 13, 2021. Multiple channels were used to seek the public's input and ideas, including media interviews; social media; direct mail; reminders to the 500 community members who signed up for additional information, including community leaders; focus groups; and the distribution of 11 hard copies of the plan to 11 branch libraries. Stakeholders, neighborhood groups, the Northwest Council of Elders, and the Charlotte Mecklenburg Climate Leaders are a few of the groups the team met with. The feedback received has been viewed by the project management team and consultants to consider for potential revisions to strengthen the plan.

The plan does not obligate current or future Council or other governing bodies to commit funds to advance any project. Vision plans are meant to reflect the aspirations and values of the community while inspiring current and future action, not set binding policy. The project team is preparing a document summarizing the plan's recommendations. The revised plan will go to public comment on November 22, to the Planning Committee for referral in late November, and to full Council for consideration for adoption in December. After adoption by Council, the plan will go to the Board of County Commissioners for endorsement.

There was a vote to request a Public Hearing be held on the All in 2040 Vision Plan. All four of the Committee members present voted to move forward with the Public Hearing. (Larken Egleston was absent)

#### **University City Vision Plan**

Darlene Heater and Tobe Holmes of University City Partners presented the University City Vision Plan, which was developed over the last 22 months. The goal of the plan is to reinvest and transform our suburban landscape into a more walkable and unique place. The plan is being designed to create an urban spine and core, build mobility for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, build a greenbelt for recreation and transportation, and will build character for the community. It is a living document that will be tweaked over time and serve as a guiding compass to shape the growth and development of University City.

The University City Vision Plan consist of four focus areas with ten strategies.

#### **Focus Areas:**

**Developing an Urban Spine** – Envision density along the Urban Spine (N. Tryon St). JW Clay station will become a strong center that will be a resource to the people of Charlotte but also attract tax revenues from neighboring counties.

**Developing a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Mobility System** – Systemic changes are necessary to change the paradigm of investing in yesterday's solutions, allowing the type of community to develop where people want to live and visit outside of their workday. Recognizing better connectivity to the transit stations in University City is crucial and will encourage walking and rolling. Connection streets are critical to reducing pressure on the major throughfares.

**Building a Greenbelt** – A greenbelt is a transportation asset and a placemaking opportunity. A greenbelt would not only be a recreation asset; it is also a transportation asset. A greenbelt would increase access and connections and create public spaces for place based economic development.

**Create Character and Culture for the Community** – Reinvestment and transformation of large parcels to create strong 10-minute neighborhoods and support community events, creating character and culture within the community.



University City Vision Strategies:

- Establish a town center of University and NE Charlotte at University Place
- Seek investments to complete infrastructure projects identified in the University Area Plan
- Transform McCullough Drive and Ikea Boulevard to a walkable north-south alternative to North Tryon Street
- Add last-mile service, as micro transit improves conditions for bus/transit ride choice and necessity
- Improve access, character, and use of Mallard Creek and Clarks Creek Greenways
- Improve pedestrian safety and connectivity to UNCC and transit stations
- Celebrate UNCC as our anchor institution and Charlotte's research university, integrating into the surrounding community
- Advocate for and develop community assets like the University City Farmers Market and University City Library
- Focus placemaking investments with TOD areas and along greenways
- Maintain and connect a population diverse in age, culture, and income

**Next Meeting:** The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday 22,2021 at 10:30.

**Current Referrals:**

Topic	Charge
Unified Development	Review recommendations prior to recommendations being presented to Council for adoption.
Strategic Mobility Plan	Review recommendations prior to recommendations being presented to Council for adoption.
Short-term Rentals	Review current issues, needs, and options for regulating short-term rentals. Present recommendation to full Council.
Rezoning Process Improvements	Review proposed zoning process improvement options prior to presentation at full Council, with a specific focus on increasing community engagement and addressing 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 did not meet in the month of October.

**Next Meeting:** The next Committee meeting is Scheduled for November 1<sup>st</sup> at noon.

**Current Referrals:**

Topic	Charge
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>