



# Regional Transit Engagement Series

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# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Why: Growth & CONNECT Our Future
- What, Who, and How:  
Regional Transit Engagement Series
- Summary of LYNX Update
- Next Steps





# CHARLOTTE REGION'S GROWTH

2015 – Roughly 2.4m residents

2015 to 2050 -- 1.8m new residents  
~ 1 new Charlotte  
~ 2 new Raleighs  
~ 860k new jobs

2010 to 2017 -- ~100 new residents  
move into the region,  
per day





# CONNECT OUR FUTURE

Regional Growth Framework

Vibrant Communities – Robust Region





## TOP PRIORITIES FOR THE CONNECT REGION



More Transportation Choices



Cost of My Commute



Improved Air Quality



Support Our Communities



More Housing Choices



Parks & Open Space



Support Local Farms



Cost of Providing Services



Improved Water Quality



Work Closer to Home



# A PURPOSE DRIVEN PROCESS

## OUR BRAND OF ENGAGEMENTS:

✓ Relationship based	x Transactional based
✓ Address worries	x Solve worries up front
✓ Learning-based approach	x Staked out positions
✓ Expose concerns	x Bury concerns
✓ Honor individual interests	x Same size fits all
✓ Patient, cautious, intentional	x Impatient, reckless
✓ Develop clear understanding of priorities	x Unclear path

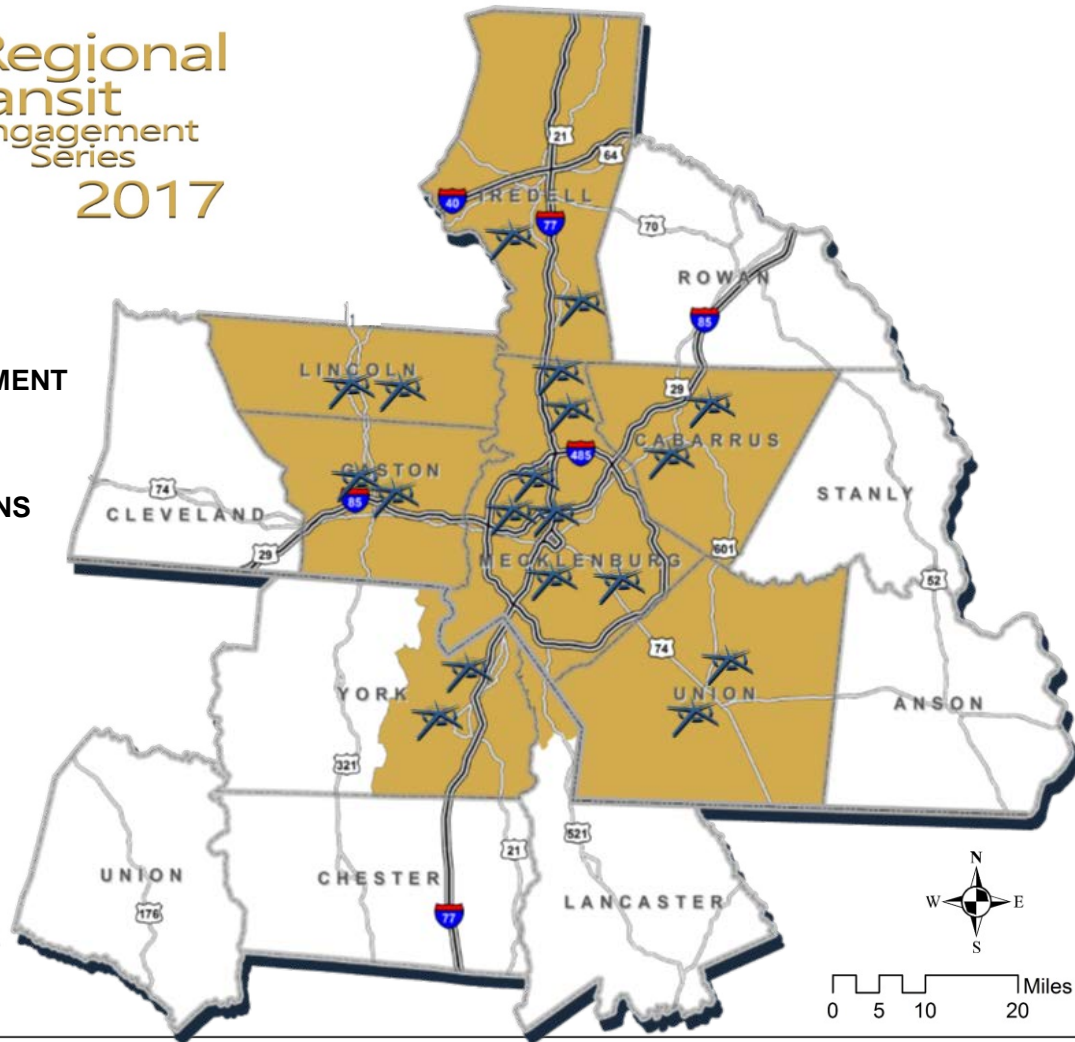




# Regional Transit Engagement Series 2017

 **ENGAGEMENT  
AREA**

 **MEETING  
LOCATIONS**



**Metropolitan Transit  
Commission (MTC)**

Map created March 2017 by  
Centralina Council of Governments



0 5 10 20 Miles











# HOW WILL A REGIONAL TRANSIT PLAN HELP YOUR COMMUNITY?

*Makes us eligible for more/different funding.*

-- Cabarrus County

*Help us market our community and region for jobs.*

-- Gaston County

*Regional vision.*

-- Lincoln County

*Land use policy coordination with future transit and economic mobility.*

-- Mecklenburg County

*Communication tool for investments – increased predictability.*

-- York/Lancaster counties

*Right of way protection and coordination between jurisdictions.*

-- Iredell County

*Ability to attract business and employees.*

-- Lincoln County



# KEY THEMES

- ❖ Global Competitiveness and Job Retention
- ❖ Mobility Options and Meeting Needs of Changing Population
- ❖ Upward Social Mobility and Access







# ENGAGEMENT FINDINGS

4. Regional, System-wide Focus
3. Existing, Regional Transit Resource Guide
2. Transit Supportive Messaging Needed





# 1. Develop a Regional Transit Plan

- ❖ Long-Term Corridor Planning
- ❖ Near-Term Mobility Options
- ❖ Integration with Local Plans
- ❖ Enhanced Cross-county Coordination
- ❖ Funding Options
- ❖ Land Use Best Practices





## Secure Funding and Partnerships

### Local Government Managers, Staff, Elected Officials, Private Sector, Economic Development

- Cabarrus
- Gaston
- Iredell
- Lincoln
- Mecklenburg (N)
- Mecklenburg (S)
- Union
- RFATS

**March-  
October  
2017**

### Regional Transit Summit



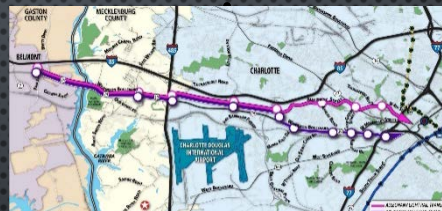
**Call to  
Action**

**May  
2018**

### Engagement Draft Scope and Core Messaging

- Cabarrus
- Gaston
- Iredell
- Lincoln
- Mecklenburg (N)
- Mecklenburg (S)
- Union
- RFATS

**Fall 2018**



**December 2018**

### Regional Transit Plan Development

**July 2019-  
Dec 2020**

**Legislative Dialogue**

**Rural County Outreach**





# WHAT'S NEXT?

- ❖ Continue education and outreach
- ❖ Engage legislators
- ❖ Develop transit supportive messaging
- ❖ Create a transit resource guide – current scan
- ❖ Develop a Regional Transit Vision & Implementation Strategy (scope/funding)







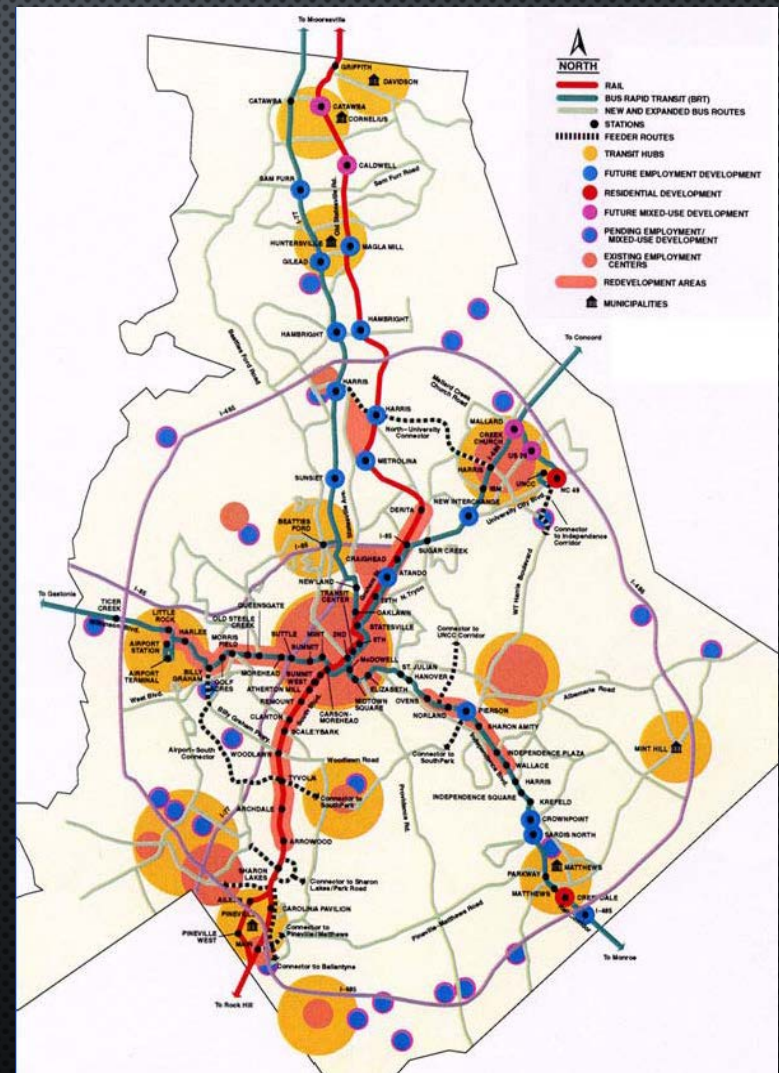
# LYNX SYSTEM UPDATE





# 2025 Transit / Land Use Plan

- Vision for a long-term growth management strategy
  - Integrates rapid transit and mixed-use development along 5 transportation corridors
  - Expands transit system to serve between the rapid transit corridors
  - Provide more transportation choices to meet mobility needs
  - Support sustainable growth for region
  - Updated in 2006
- ## 2030 Transit System Plan





# Transit vehicles and services

## BUS RAPID TRANSIT



- Intended for a variety of trips from regional to local
- Operates in a variety of ROW scenarios
- Service throughout the day and on weekends

## STREETCAR



- Intended for short-distance trips in urban areas
- Typically operates in mixed traffic
- Service throughout the day and on weekends

## LIGHT RAIL



- Intended for a variety of trips from regional to local
- Typically operates in dedicated ROW
- Service throughout the day and on weekends

## COMMUTER RAIL



- Intended for longer-distance commute trips from suburbs into a central city
- Operates in dedicated ROW
- Service during peak hours of travel M-F



# More than rail



Neighborhood shuttles



Paratransit



Express Bus



Light Rail



Local Bus



Streetcar

Majority of ridership  
is generated from  
non rail vehicles



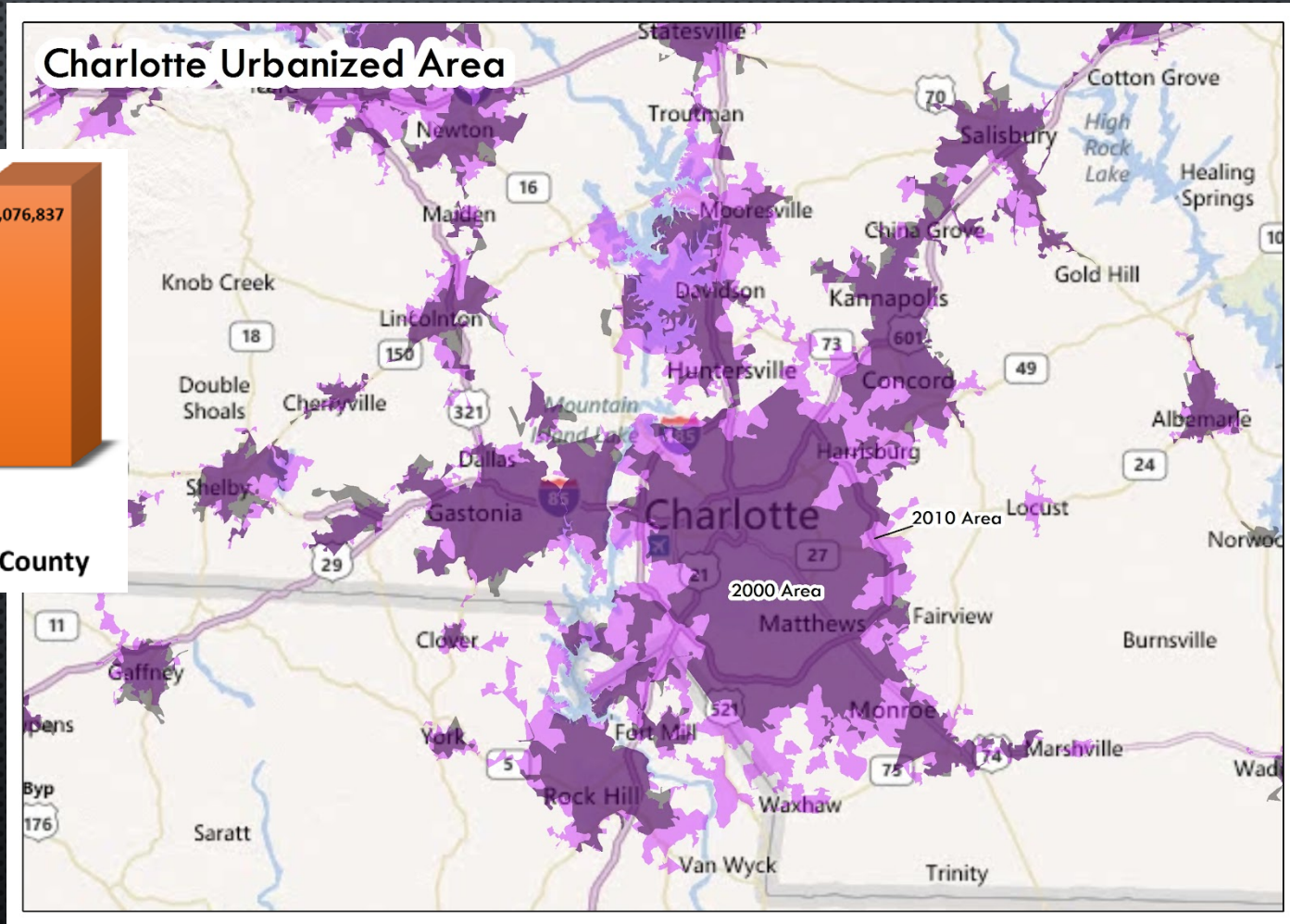
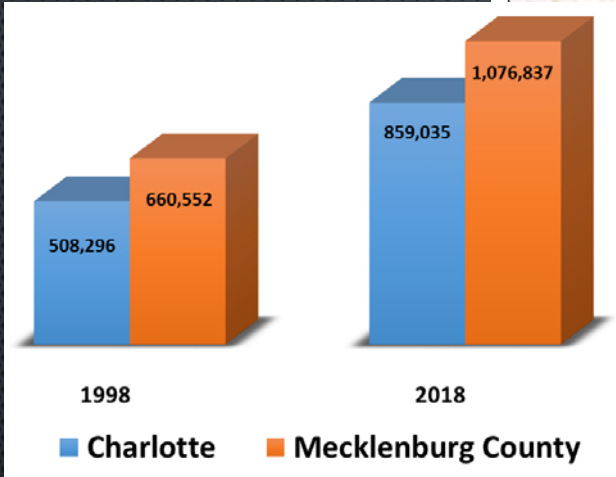
Branded service



Vanpool



What's changed  
since 1998?

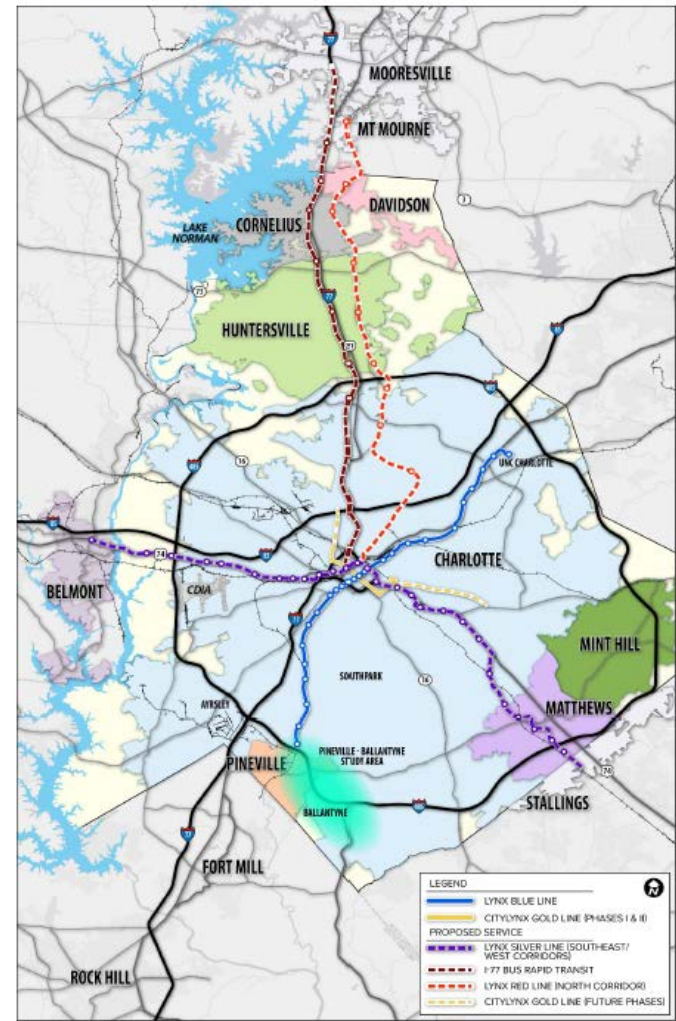


Over 350,000  
people!  
That's nearly a  
70% increase!



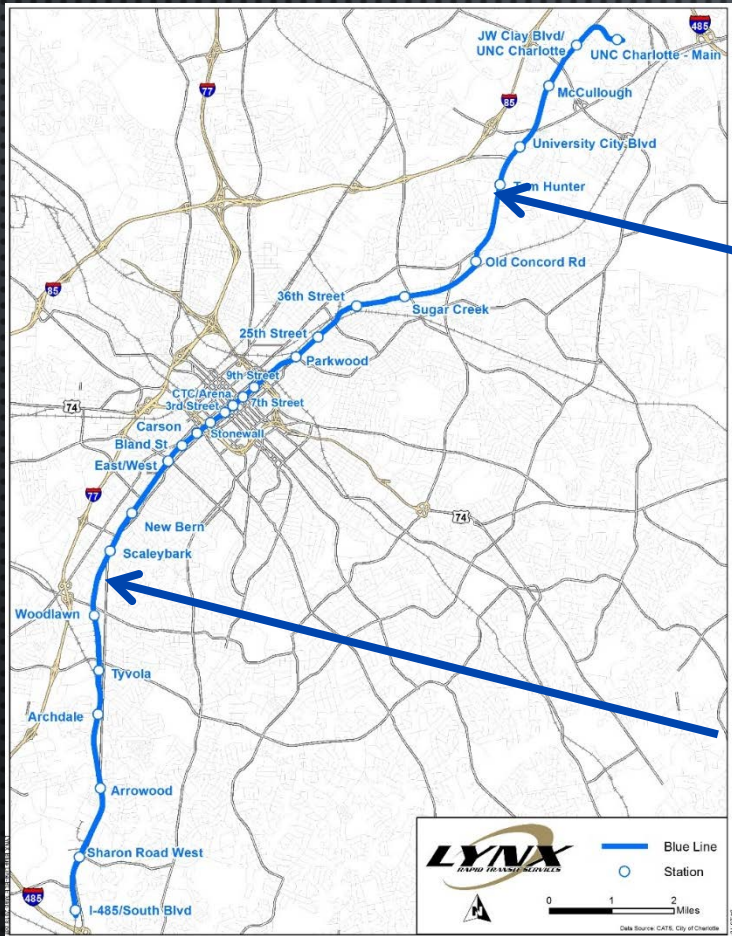
# What's changed since 1998?

- 2002—2025 Transit System Plan
  - Streetcar Beatties to Central Ave
  - BRT SE/W...continue to study
  - LRT
  - IRT Northeast Corridor
  - CRT North Corridor
- 2006—2030 Transit System Plan
  - Streetcar confirmed Central/Beatties
  - Streetcar New West IPA
  - BRT SE...continue to study
  - LRT
  - IRT Northeast advanced
  - CRT North Corridor-alternative funding
- 2007-LYNX Blue Line opens
- 2009-Sprinter Airport Enhanced Bus
- 2015-CityLYNX Gold Line Phase 1 opens
- 2016-LYNX Silver Line IRT IPA adopted
- 2017-LYNX System update
- 2018-LYNX Blue Line Extension Opens
- 2019 Charlotte Gateway RFQ
- 2019 MTC Updates System Plan





# LYNX Blue Line



2018

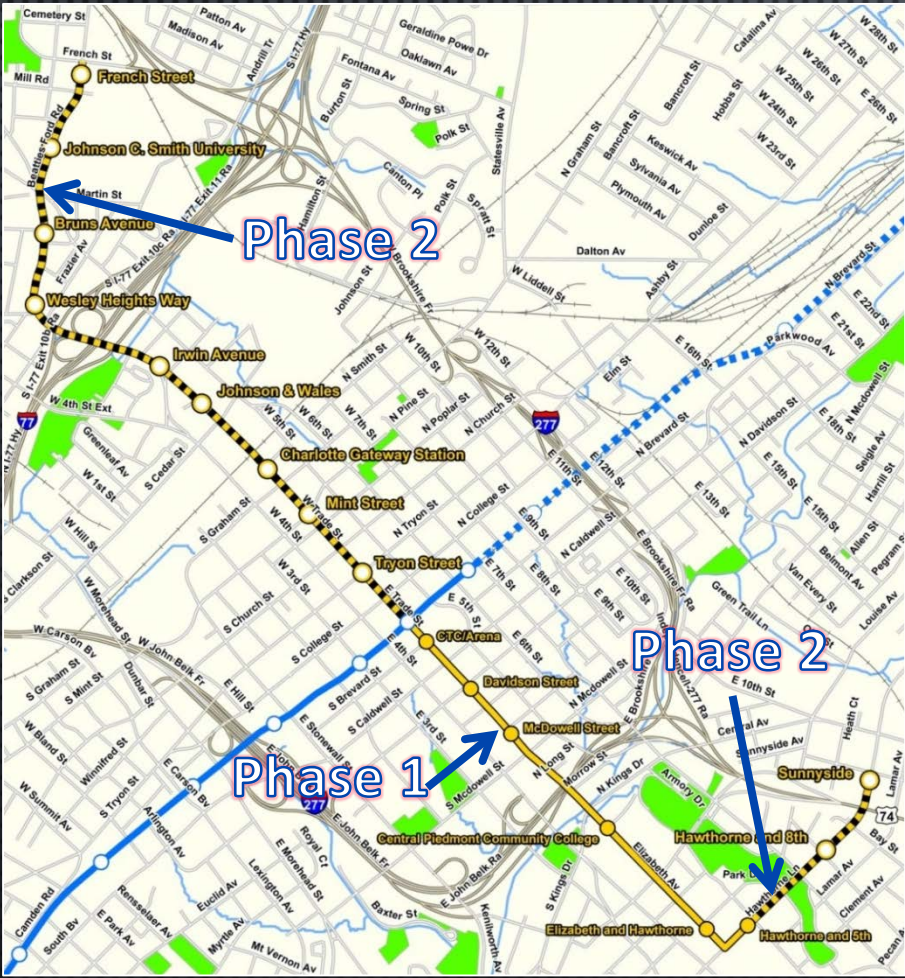


2007





# CityLYNX Gold Line

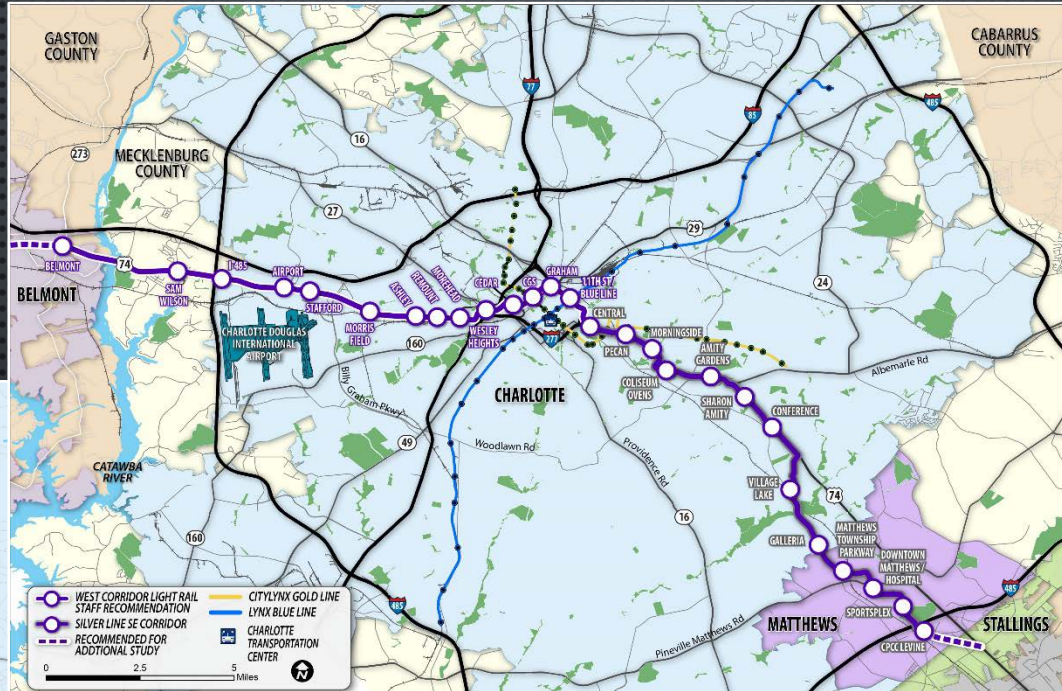
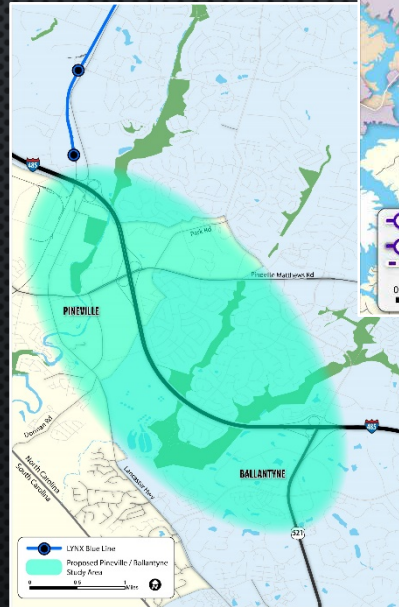




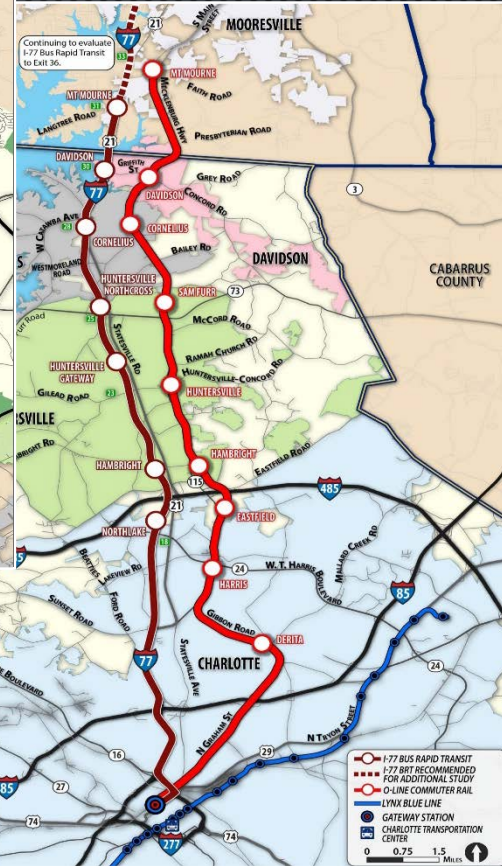
# LYNX System Update 2016-2019

LYNX Silver Line  
Stallings to Belmont

Pineville - Ballantyne  
Rapid Transit Study



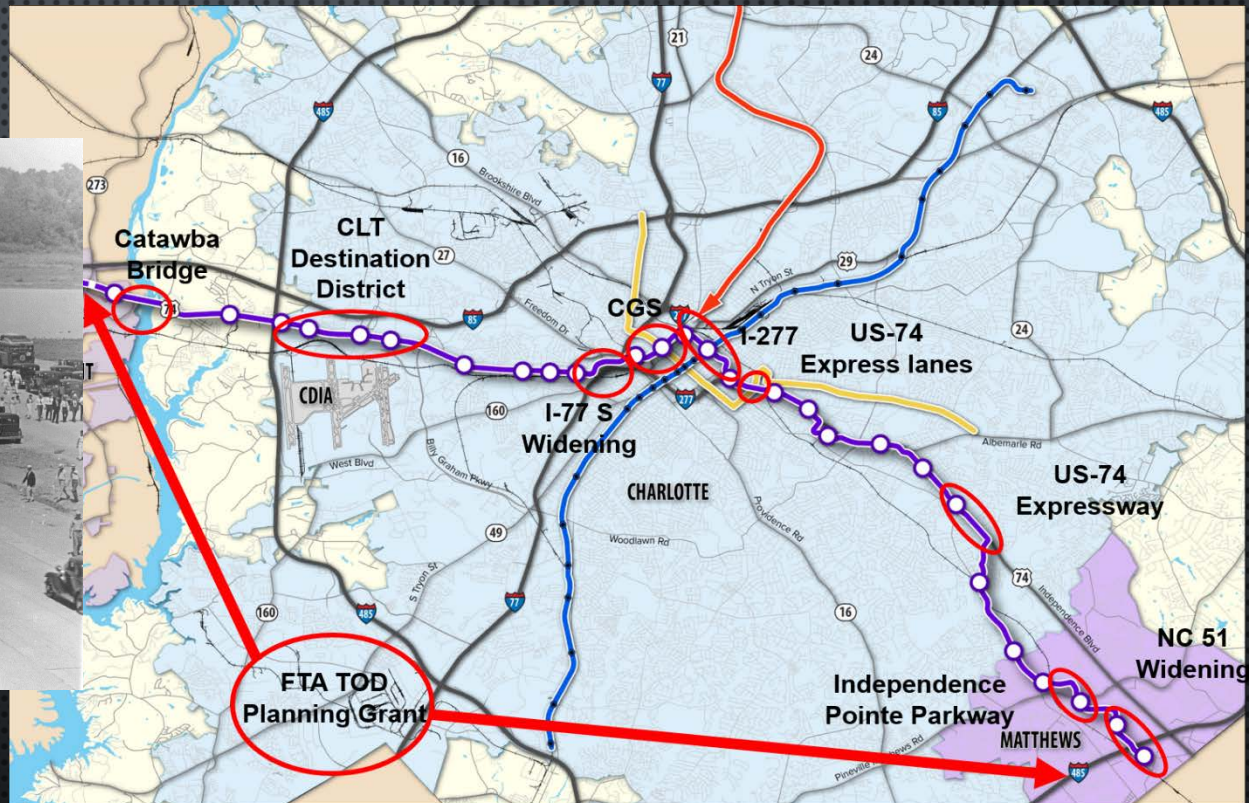
North Corridor  
Rapid Transit Strategy



- MTC Adopted Light Rail for the LYNX Silver Line Southeast Corridor in November 2016
- CATS Presented the LYNX System Update Staff Recommendations as an information item at the January 23, 2019 Metropolitan Transit Commission Meeting (MTC).
- At the February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting the MTC adopted the LYNX System Update recommendations.



Coordination is critical...



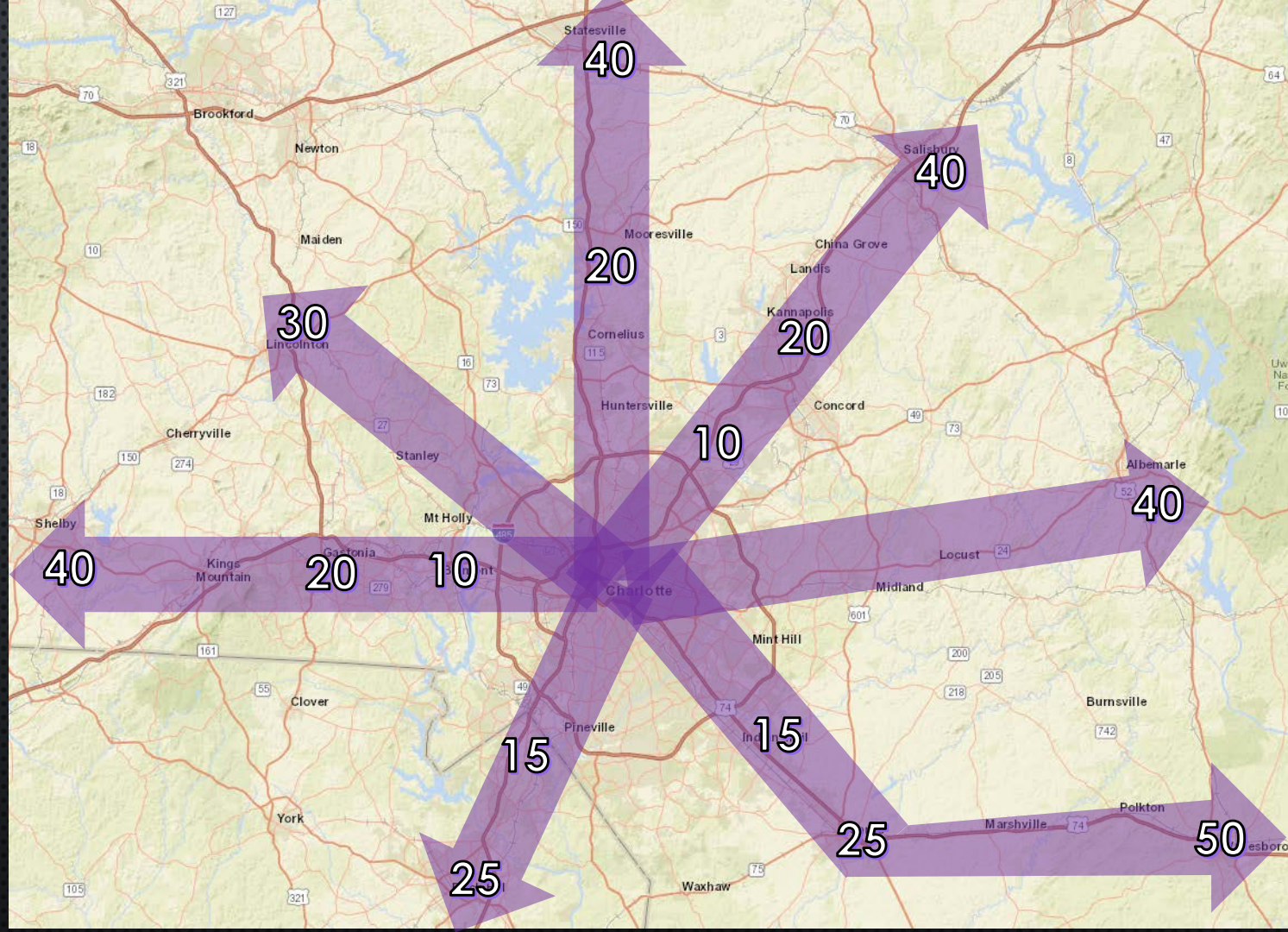
to ensure that projects are planned and designed holistically across boundaries



# NO W, THEREFO RE, be it resolved by the Metropolitan Transit Commission that:

1. CATS establish a North Corridor public transportation strategy that includes near-term and medium-term Bus Rapid Transit improvements in the I-77 corridor while continuing a long term vision confirming the Norfolk Southern O-Line as an important regional transportation corridor for future regional rapid transit/local mobility options as identified in Attachment A and that here to are hereby adopted for use in all necessary planning, site design, engineering, and environmental studies to advance the project.
2. The West Corridor light rail alignment and station locations recommendations contained in Attachment B replace the existing West Corridor streetcar alignment and here to are hereby adopted as the updated West Corridor Locally Preferred Alternative to be used in all necessary planning, site design, engineering, and environmental studies to advance the project.
3. The LYNX Silver Line Locally Preferred Alternative as adopted by the MTC in 2016 is hereby amended to include the West Corridor Locally Preferred Alternative resulting in the LYNX Silver Line now defined as one continuous light rail corridor from the Town of Matthews to Center City Charlotte and continuing west to the Charlotte Douglas International Airport and beyond to a western terminus in the City of Belmont in Gaston County as identified in Attachment C. Additionally, during LYNX Silver Line Preliminary Engineering, investigate the feasibility of extending the Silver Line IPA eastward to a potential terminus in the Town of Stallings in Union County.
4. As part of an upcoming Regional Transit Study, evaluate rapid transit corridors including light rail extensions into adjacent counties and to the City of Gastonia's downtown.
5. CATS continue the LYNX System Update study to evaluate rapid transit options including a light rail extension to the Town of Pineville and the community of Ballantyne as identified in Attachment D.







# CATS & CCOG Regional Planning Partnership

- CATS & CCOG will lead this effort beginning in 2019
- The study area will include twelve counties across two states, 2.9 million population across 6003 square miles.
- In addition to light rail extensions the plan will evaluate Bus Rapid Transit, Commuter Rail, expanded bus network and human service transportation.





# CONTACTS

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