Northeast Charlotte Transportation Projects Update

Presented by:
North Carolina Department of Transportation
City of Charlotte
Charlotte Department of Transportation
Charlotte Area Transit System

March 3, 2014
NCDOT Rail Projects

Construction:
April 2013 – December 2016
CATS
LYNX Blue Line Extension

Construction:
January 2014 – April 2017
Street Closures Related to Rail & BLE Construction

- Grier Road grade separation
- Old Concord Road temporary closure
- North Tryon Street bridges replacement over Mallard Creek
- Eastway Drive bridge closure
- Eastway Drive and Sugar Creek Road intersection improvement
- Sugar Creek Road closure
- 36th Street closure
- Craighead Road permanent closure
- Eastern Circumferential grade separation
- Newell Hickory Grove Road permanent closure
Roadway Projects (CDOT & NCDOT)

- I-485
- I-85
- Graham Street extension
- City Boulevard extension
- Rocky River Road
- Johnston Oehler Road
- University City Boulevard
- Back Creek Church Road
- University Pointe Boulevard extension*
- I-85 North Bridge*
I-485 Outer Loop

**I-485 Completion (R-2248E)**
- Construction of the final 5.7 – mile segment of I-485 from N.C. 115 to I-85
- Eight-lane section with interchanges at Prosperity Church Road and Mallard Creek Road
- Prosperity Church Road interchange will feature six roundabouts and a service road on either side of I-485 (also called a split diamond interchange)
- Mallard Creek Road interchange will be a diverging diamond
- Completion scheduled for December 2014
I-85 from Bruton Smith Boulevard to north of NC-73

I-85 Widening (I-3803B)

• Expansion of I-85 from four to six lanes from south of Bruton Smith Boulevard to north of N.C. 73 in Concord
• Construction of “diverging diamond” interchanges, some of the first in the state (also at I-485/Mallard Creek Road and I-77/Catawba Avenue) at Poplar Tent Road and N.C. 73
• Improvements also made on Bruton Smith Boulevard – additional lane coming westbound from Weddington Road to I-85, along with additional turn lanes at Bruton Smith off ramps
• Contractor is using ‘diamond grinding’ process to smooth out the pavement in the project limits – this will provide a safer, quieter ride for motorists, help drain moisture from the surface more efficiently, and reduce the chance of hydroplaning
• Contractor may have traffic in final pattern from Bruton Smith Boulevard to George Liles Parkway by the end of March, and from George Liles Parkway to N.C. 73 by the end of April
• Work will continue through the spring/summer at the DDIs, hopefully complete in September
I-85/I-485 Interchange (R-2123CE)

- The state’s first ‘turbine interchange’, one of few in the country (two or three)
- Instead of a ‘stack interchange’ with massive bridges, this interchange features 19 smaller bridges which will be easier to maintain, and is still built in the same footprint as the proposed stack design
- This design also saved NCDOT roughly $50 million – stack interchange would have cost around $140 million
- The turbine will allow seamless transition between I-85 and I-485 for motorists

Completion scheduled for December 2014
Bridge Replacement Project on North Tryon Street just south of Mallard Creek Church Road

**U.S. 29 Bridges Over Mallard Creek (B-4779)**

- Project letting – March 18, 2014
- NCDOT will replace the bridges on U.S. 29 North and South over Mallard Creek
- Southbound bridge will be replaced first. Southbound Tryon will be closed for approximately 7-8 months beginning late this summer.
- Motorists will follow posted detour for approximately seven months
- Northbound bridgework will be in conjunction with BLE project
- Traffic will be maintained on the southbound bridge while northbound bridgework takes place
- Toby Creek Greenway to be detoured during construction
- 3 lanes each direction will be constructed across new bridges
Mallard Creek Road Extension from Harris Boulevard to Graham Street

Mallard Creek Road Extension (U-2507A)

- Contract was awarded in December; work started in January (clearing, grubbing, utility relocation)
- Project is just under three miles between Graham Street and Harris Boulevard, some on new location
- Finished project will feature four-lane divided roadway, curb/gutter, bike lanes, raised concrete medians, concrete ‘turnouts’ for CATS buses to pick up/drop off passengers
- Scheduled completion – April 30, 2017 (ICT #1 November 1, 2016)
“Double Track” Rail Project

NCRR Double Track (P-5208ACG)
- Project includes adding 12 miles of second track and realigning curves from north of Rocky River Road in Concord to Orr Road in Charlotte
- Busiest freight rail corridor in the state. Am Track passenger service will improve
- Re-aligning existing curves to increase train travel speeds, decreasing travel times between Raleigh and Charlotte
- Upgrading crossings at Back Creek Church Road, McLean Road, Orr Road
- Building a new railroad bridge over Coddle Creek for the realigned railroad
- Reconstructing the railroad bridge over Rocky River to accommodate second mainline track
- Railroad Roadbed Project completion scheduled for December 2016
Sugar Creek Road Grade Separation

**Sugar Creek Grade Separation (U-5008)**

- Construct a bridge carrying Sugar Creek Road over the existing and future railroad tracks
- Close the existing Craighead Road railroad crossing
- Realign North Davidson Street to the intersection of Sugar Creek Road and Redwood Avenue and construct intersection improvements
- Extend Bearwood Avenue under the proposed Sugar Creek Road bridge to a new intersection with the realigned North Davidson Street
- Impacts to traffic start in May 2015 when Sugar Creek Road will close for BLE construction. Scheduled for completion in June 2017

Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) Blue Line light rail is being extended north to UNC Charlotte. During rush hour, a Blue Line train will cross through the project area every 7.5 minutes.
Grier Road at Old Concord Road

Grier Road Grade Separation (P-5208H)
• Construct a bridge to extend Grier Road over the NCRR tracks
• Close the at-grade crossing at Newell-Hickory Grove Road with the NCRR tracks.
• Provide roadway improvements to Old Concord Road, which includes raising Old Concord Road to meet the new intersection at Grier Road. Also, provide roadway improvements to Orr Road, Grierview Lane, Branch Hill Circle, Lauren Village Drive and Farmfield Lane
• Project completion scheduled for December 2015
LYNX Blue Line Extension
March 3, 2014
Project Overview

- 9.3 miles, 11 stations
- 4 park and ride facilities
- Approximately 3,100 parking spaces
- Accommodates 3-car trains
- 25,000+ daily riders
- Improvements to North Tryon St.
- Connects UNC Charlotte campuses
- 22 minute commute from Uptown to UNC Charlotte
- Initial peak period service 7.5 minute frequency
- Connecting bus services
- Revenue service in 2017
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestone</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Funding Agreement Signed</td>
<td>March 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>FTA Approval to Enter Final Design</td>
<td>May 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Funding Agreement Signed</td>
<td>October 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced Utility Relocation Begins</td>
<td>June 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Start Major Civil Construction</td>
<td>March 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Right-of-Way Acquisitions Complete</td>
<td>March 2014*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Begin Testing and Integration</td>
<td>December 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Initiate Revenue Service</td>
<td>2017</td>
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*Some remaining parcels will not be acquired until needed*
MOVING CHARLOTTE FORWARD
Blue Line Extension: Northeast Corridor

What it looks like now
Major Contracts

• Advanced Utility A, B and C
  o Water / sewer
  o Joint duct banks
  o Communications
  o Walls

• Private Utility Relocation
  o Duke temporary poles relocation
  o AT&T relocation
  o Other utility relocations

• Civil A
  o Award 01/27/14
Future Contracts

- Civil B/C (Award 4/14/14)
  - Grading and drainage
  - North Tryon Street roadway
  - Temporary construction road
  - Bridges and walls
  - Duke duct bank installation

- Track and Systems (Award 4/14/14)
  - Track and ballast
  - Overhead wire

- Parking Garages (Award 6/9/14)
  - JW Clay garage
  - UCB garage
  - Elevator tower and pedestrian bridge

- Station Finishes (Award 1/12/15)
  - Station canopies and art
  - Paving and plaza

- Landscape (Award 5/5/16)
  - Platform and plaza landscape
  - Street trees / Slope planting
BLE Construction Impacts

North Tryon Street construction starts this summer

- Maintenance of Traffic during construction will be an area of focus for CATS, NCDOT and CDOT.

- Traffic shifts will occur for construction; the traveling public should allow extra travel time.

- BLE Communications Team has a robust communication plan to announce changes to traffic patterns.

- Businesses will retain access during construction.

- Pedestrian access will be maintained during construction.

- Areas of particular concern:
  - NCDOT Mallard Creek bridge replacement
  - Eastway Bridge lengthening
  - 36th Street grade separation
  - Sugar Creek grade separation
Light rail bridge over W.T. Harris Boulevard
Moving Charlotte Forward

University Place
Harris Blvd.
Tryon St.
Hospital

Harris Boulevard Bridge
CATS Parking Garages

CATS Parking Garage at University City Blvd Station

CATS Parking Garage at JW Clay Blvd Station
Partnerships are Key!
Supporting Businesses, Residents, Community

Strong communication at all levels will ensure the BLE’s successful completion

- Points of contact
  - Business Liaison
  - Community Specialist

- Multi-departmental agency coordination

- Communications Strategy

- Collaboration
  - Residents
  - Businesses
  - Non-profits
  - Media
Tips for Taking Care of Your Business

Employee Focused:

- Gather information from employees about their commute. Start the conversation now, in order to have time to consider and implement coping strategies.
- Consider if flex hours or telecommuting can be accommodated within your business needs. Accommodate car-pooling, where possible.
- Ask employees what will help them deal with the closures. They may have suggestions that can be adopted easily.
- Ensure that you get the email updates concerning traffic impacts, so that your employees are aware and informed.
- Work with employees to make sure that customer contacts about the closures are upbeat and focused on problem solving. Perception is reality. Be sure that all of your employees demonstrate a positive attitude.
Tips for Taking Care of Your Business

Customer Focused:

- Ensure that your front line staff, particularly employees that answer phone calls, are up-to-date on the current construction information. You will want to remind callers of alternate routes to your location.
- If you are offering delivery and/or website orders you could promote those services as a way for customers to avoid traffic inconvenience.
- Be sure to include information about avoiding the closed roadways in your messages to your customers (direct mail, website, emails, advertising, voicemail message when business is closed, etc.).
- Feel free to link to the CharlotteFuture website for up-to-date information.
- Pass out maps or directions to customers to show them how to get to/from your business during construction. This can also help them to direct friends to your location.
- Create marketing materials that acknowledge the construction and provide compelling reasons for customers to do business with you.
- Communicate with neighboring businesses for possible partnerships, such as cooperative advertising, promotions or other joint activities.
ALL ABOARD!

Next Public Meeting March 11, 2014

LYNX Blue Line Extension Update and Transit Station Area Plans Workshop
- University City Boulevard Station
- McCullough Station
- JW Clay Boulevard Station

Tuesday, March 11, 2014
4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Oasis Shriners Center
604 Doug Mayes Place
Charlotte, NC

Bilingual team member will be present
How You Can Stay

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NCDOT
http://www.ncdot.gov/projects/

City of Charlotte
www.charlottefuture.com

CDOT
charmeck.org/city/charlotte/Transportation/construction/Pages/Home.aspx

CATS
www.ridetransit.org

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