

**MINUTES
SILVER LINE TASK FORCE
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2020
7:00 PM
ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

ALL PARTICIPANTS MET REMOTELY

PRESENT: Chairman Bill Stevens; Members Lou Abernathy, Fred Baylor, David Blackley, Wyatt Dixon, Chris Hough, Bo Hulseley, Jim Johnson, Kerry Lamson, Lynn Lewis, Scott Phillips, Jana Reeve, and Jennifer Saunders; Mayor John Higdon; Town Engineer Susan Habina-Woolard; Transportation Planner Dana Stoogenke; Senior Administrative Specialist/Deputy Town Clerk Shana Robertson

ABSENT: Members Natasha Edwards and Walter Wright

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

GREETING FROM MAYOR

Mayor John Higdon thanked everyone for their participation. Mayor Higdon said that each member was appointed to the Task Force by Town Council because they were respected by the community and cared about the Town of Matthews. Mayor Higdon said that goal was to find the best route possible through Matthews and he was excited about the future of the Silver Line. He wished the members luck in gathering information and making a recommendation to the Town Board.

WELCOME

Town Engineer Susan Habina-Woolard outlined meeting guidelines for effective communication and participation. Guidelines included being respectful of others in the group, succinctness, attention, and patience. Mr. Stevens suggested that meeting agendas be sent in advance for the member's review.

Transportation Planner Dana Stoogenke welcomed the members to the Silver Line Advisory Task Force and introduced Chairman Bill Stevens. Ms. Stoogenke reviewed the list of Town Board appointed community members and the Town staff liaisons.

Ms. Stoogenke said that Silver Line Task Force members will meet twice a month during the summer on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. She added that in the fall, members would only need to meet once a month. The goal of this committee was the successful adoption of the Silver Line Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) by the fall of 2020 and present this to the Board of Commissioners.

SILVER LINE TASK FORCE MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

Members of the Silver Line Task Force took turns introducing themselves to the group.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Ms. Stoogenke reviewed Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) LYNX Silver Line Program that was presented at the May 26, 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting (Exhibit A attached and made part of these minutes).

Ms. Habina-Woolard said that CATS staff and consultants were using a complicated decision matrix process. Town staff will be sharing that information with the members of the Silver Line Task Force in future meetings.

APPROVED
7/1/2020

Mayor Higdon asked if the group had to make a decision on the alignments that were presented by CATS or if members could suggest something different. Discussion ensued on the CATS suggested alignments and the weight of the Towns recommendation.

Mr. Stevens said that the consensus was that the objective of the Silver Line Task Force was to recommend a route through the Town of Matthews. Mr. Stevens suggested that a broad goal be set for the outcome of each meeting. Ms. Stoogenke said that could be provided.

Jim Johnson requested a detailed map of the proposed alignments. Ms. Stoogenke said that she would work with CATS to obtain that and supply it to the group.

Wyatt Dixon asked if there was an area of the Blue Line that was similar in design to the Matthews vision that staff would recommend being studied. Ms. Habina-Woolard said that the staff was working with CATS to get the members a virtual tour of the LYNX Blue Line. Members can discuss likes and dislikes on designs and if those would fit into the Matthews culture.

Lynn Lewis asked if ridership data was available. Ms. Stoogenke said that she would work to get that information for the group's review.

Chris Hough asked if, besides CPCC, were there any required stops that CATS was requiring in Matthews. Ms. Stoogenke said that she did not know of any restraints but CATS had been having meetings with CPCC, Novant, and Atrium. Mr. Hough clarified that CATS has not stated that the Silver Line must stop at the hospital. Ms. Stoogenke said they had not. Mayor Higdon said feedback that he had received from citizens included a stop relatively close to Downtown Matthews.

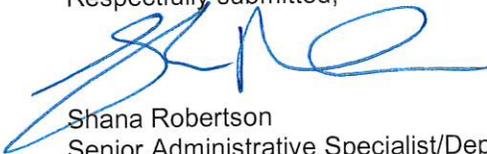
NEXT MEETING: July 1, 2020 at 7:00 pm via Zoom- Proposed Topics

Ms. Habina-Woolard said that the next meeting would focus on the adopted LPA alignment, economic/transit-oriented development, and the decision matrix. Ms. Habina-Woolard said that background information on planning would also be available. She added that in July, CATS wanted to have meetings with small groups, and the Silver Line Task Force was a small group. Future meeting agendas and expectations were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned 8:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Shana Robertson
Senior Administrative Specialist/Deputy Town Clerk

Exhibit A 6/17/2020 Silver Line Task Force



LYNX Silver Line Program

Matthews Board Meeting

June 26, 2020



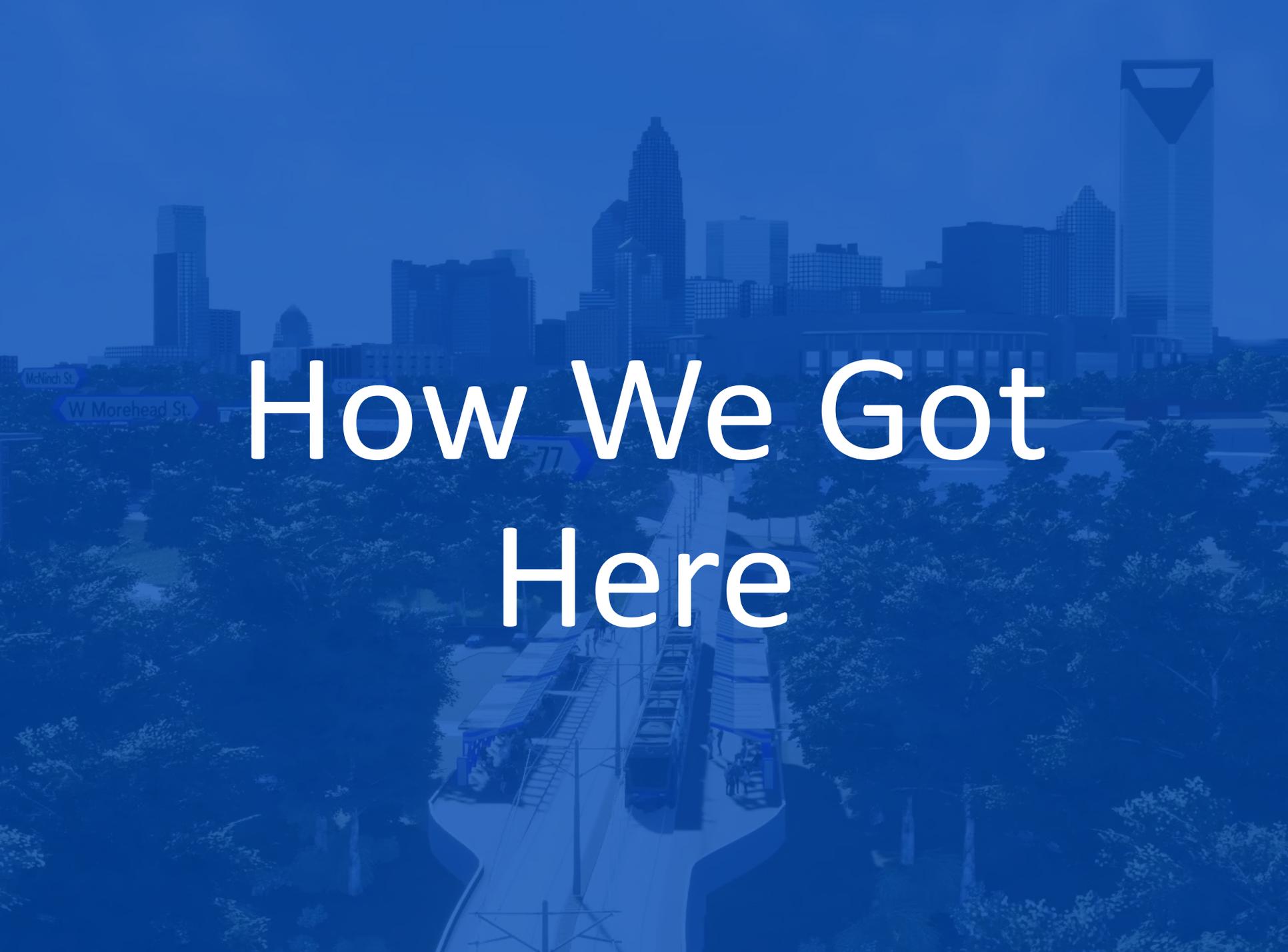
1. Introduction

2. How We Got Here

3. LYNX Silver Line Program

4. Advancing the Silver Line Program

5. Conclusion

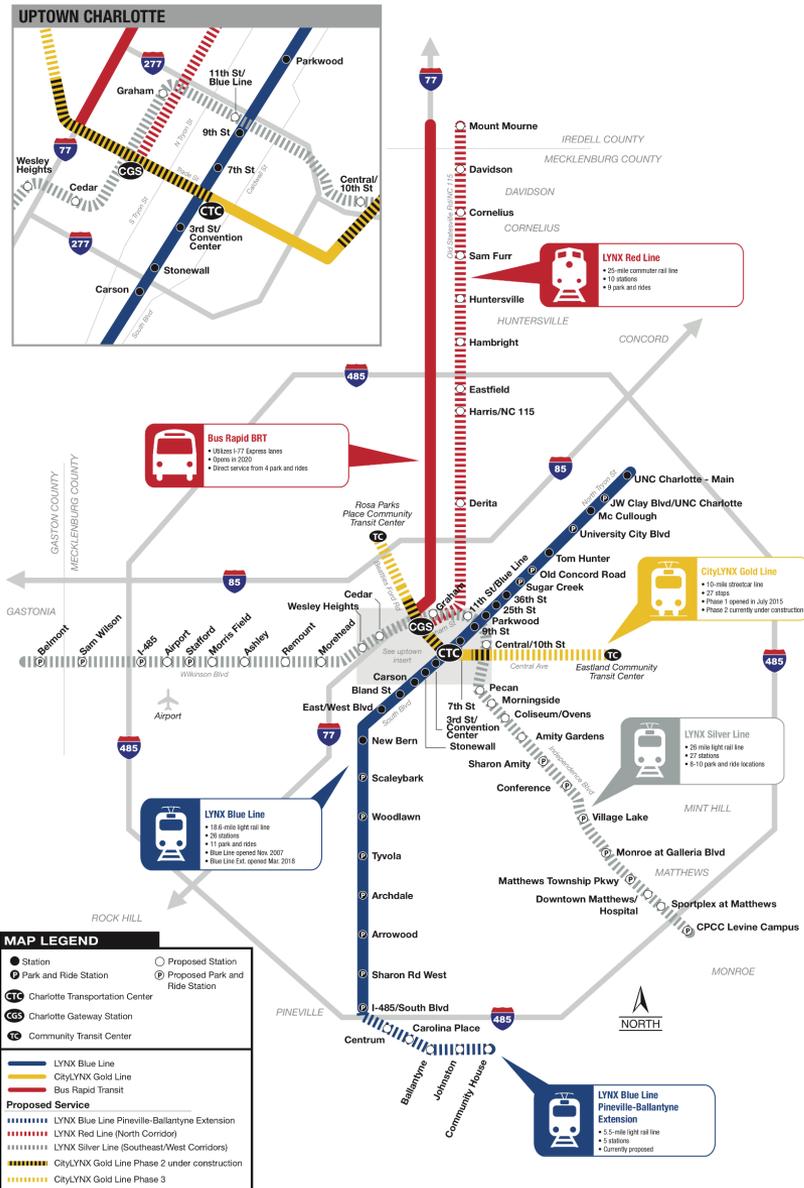


How We Got Here

McNinch St.

W Morehead St.

2030 Transit Plan



2006: Updated 2025 Transit System Corridor Plan to 2030 Transit System Corridor Plan.

2007: LYNX Blue Line opened.

2009: Sprinter Enhanced Bus provides direct service between Uptown and the Airport.

2015: Phase 1 of the CityLYNX Gold Line Streetcar opens.

2016: Light rail transit is adopted for the LYNX Silver Line in the southeast. CATS launches “Envision My Ride,” a total redesign of the bus network.

2018: The LYNX Blue Line extension opens. Envision My Ride changed over 40 bus routes and 700 bus stations.

2019: CATS made several updates to 2030 plan

2020: CONNECT Beyond launches

2020: The LYNX Silver Line project enters pre-project development.



Establish **reliable transit** to connect the region, enhance quality of life, and strengthen access to opportunities



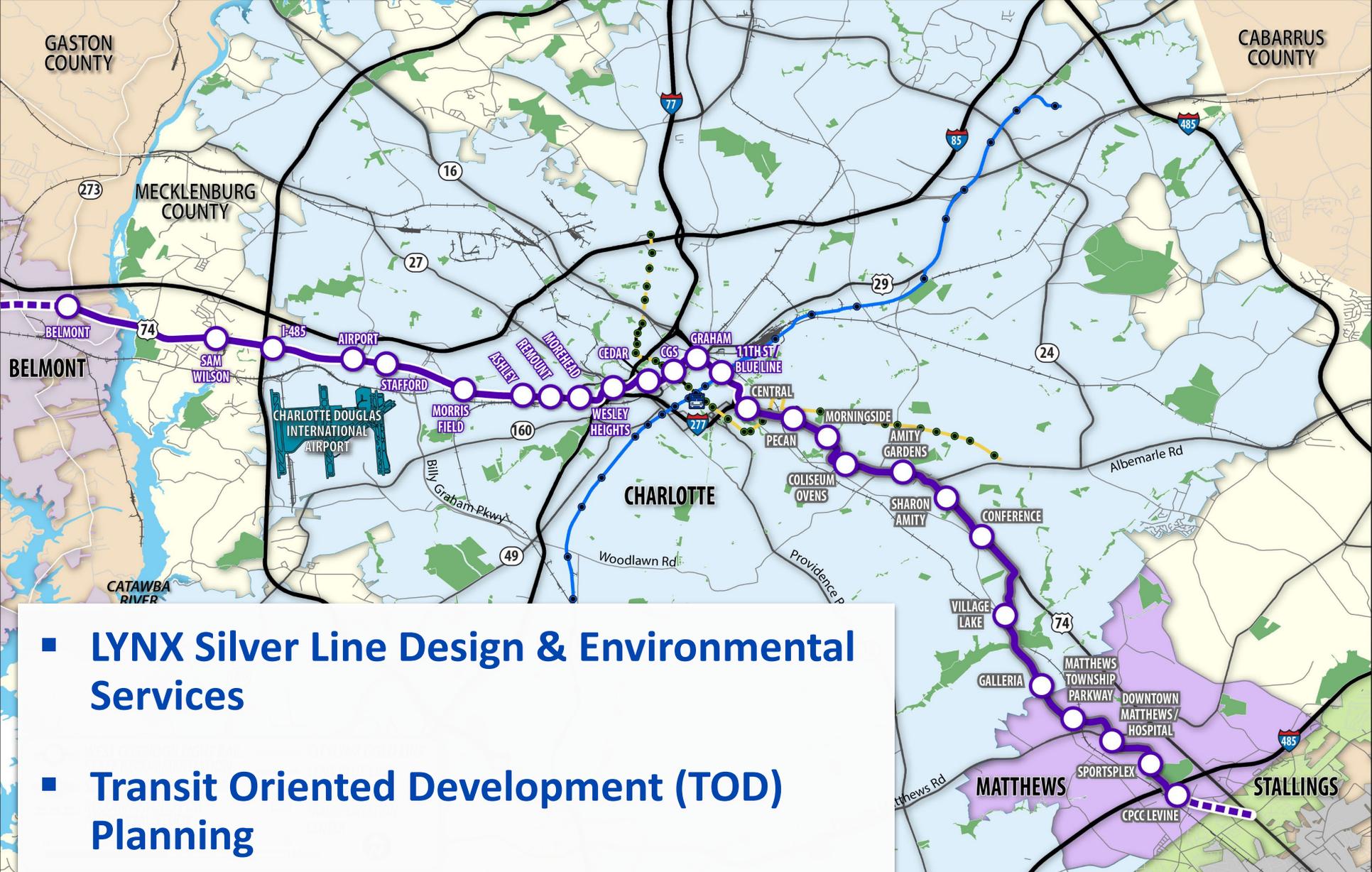
Use transit to **influence and shape growth** while respecting community character



Increase **mobility** in each corridor through effective transit investments

An aerial view of a city skyline, likely New York City, with a monorail system in the foreground. The monorail tracks run through a green, tree-filled area. In the background, several skyscrapers are visible, including the Freedom Tower on the right. The entire image has a blue tint. Two street signs are visible on the left: 'McNinch St.' and 'W Morehead St.'.

LYNX Silver Line Program



- **LYNX Silver Line Design & Environmental Services**
- **Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Planning**
- **Rail Trail Study**



LYNX Silver Line Design and Environmental Services

Silver Line

- **Refine the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)**
 - ✓ Environmental screening
 - ✓ Surveying
 - ✓ Design criteria
 - ✓ Refine alignment and station locations
- **Advance design and cost estimate**
 - ✓ 15%, 30%, and 65% design plans
 - ✓ Capital cost estimate
 - ✓ Risk assessment



- **Complete environmental process**
 - ✓ Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement
- **Third party coordination**
 - ✓ NCDOT
 - ✓ Railroads
- **Public involvement**



Transit-Oriented Development Study

Silver Line

How can WE leverage transit to support our communities?



**Improve
Mobility**



**Encourage
Transit
Supportive
Development**



**Enhance
Community
Character**



**Expand
Opportunities**



- Branding concepts that reflect community context.
- Develop a continuous path to be adopted into local plans

- Integrated rail-trail concept that recognizes the various operating LYNX Silver Line operating environments; side running, median running, and elevated





Advancing the LYNX Silver Line Program

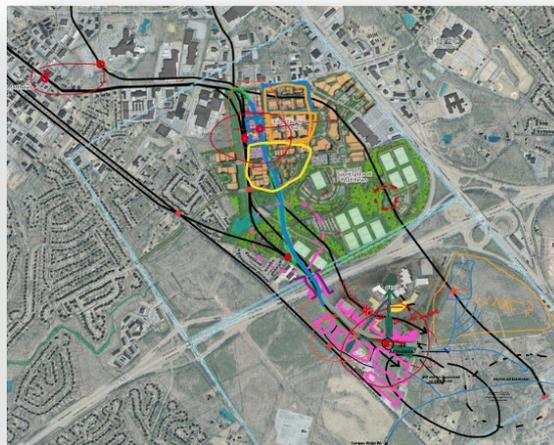


Phase 1 (2020) Priorities

Silver Line



- Stakeholder Engagement
- Public Involvement
- Alignment Refinement



- Conducted stakeholder interviews in January through May

- Met with the following Stakeholders:

- ✓ City of Belmont
- ✓ Town of Matthews
- ✓ Stallings and Indian Trail
- ✓ Belmont Abbey
- ✓ Cedar Yards Developers
- ✓ Office and Retail Developers
- ✓ Charlotte Airport
- ✓ CSX
- ✓ Private Developers



Belmont Abbey
COLLEGE



- ✓ CRVA
- ✓ Charlotte Center City Partners
- ✓ City Planning & Economic Development
- ✓ Affordable Housing Developers and experts in the City
- ✓ CPCC

- Interviews provided an opportunity for stakeholders to share thoughts on the LPA and share current planning efforts going on in their community/area





Public Involvement

Silver Line



100+ attendees
at in-person
events

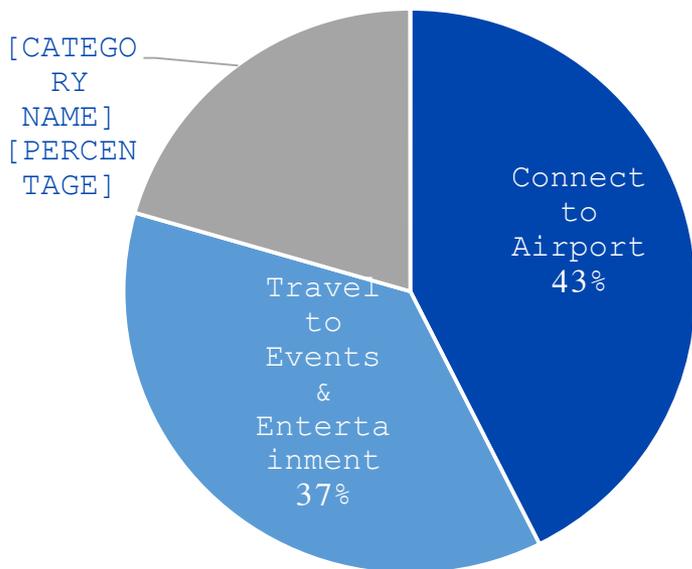


450+
presentation &
ASKCATS views



190+ surveys

Top 3 reasons to use LYNX Silver Line



Priorities ranked from most important to least important

- Improve connections to major destinations
- Competitive travel time
- Enhance opportunities to preserve existing neighborhoods and develop affordable housing opportunities
- Enhance access to economic development opportunities **tied with** local community connectivity

Why do we need to refine the Silver Line alignment?

- Engineering evaluation

Environmental consideration

Changes in the corridor

Lessons Learned from Blue Line

Additional coordination with land use and other projects



Alignment Refinement: *What have we been up to?*

Silver Line

JANUARY

Silver Line Program
Kickoff

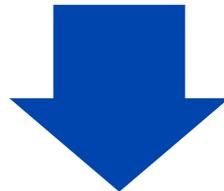
- Kickoff program with all stakeholders



FEBRUARY

Alignment
Refinement Workshop
1

- Mid Jan – Early March: Review Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for Benefits, Risks and Opportunities
- Stakeholder Interview process

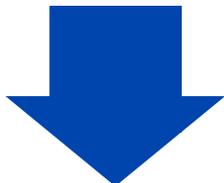


MARCH

Public Meetings
Round 1

- **Determine options to the LPA**
- Continued Stakeholder Engagement
- Review Stakeholder documentation
- Review Decision Making process with stakeholders
- Coordination with TOD Team

APRIL-
MAY



- **Public Education for Silver Line awareness and public feedback on priorities**
- April- Present alignment options to Steering Team
- April- May- Evaluate opportunities for Virtual Public engagement

➤ There are currently 3 groups of alignments under evaluation (with several sub-options) near Downtown Matthews

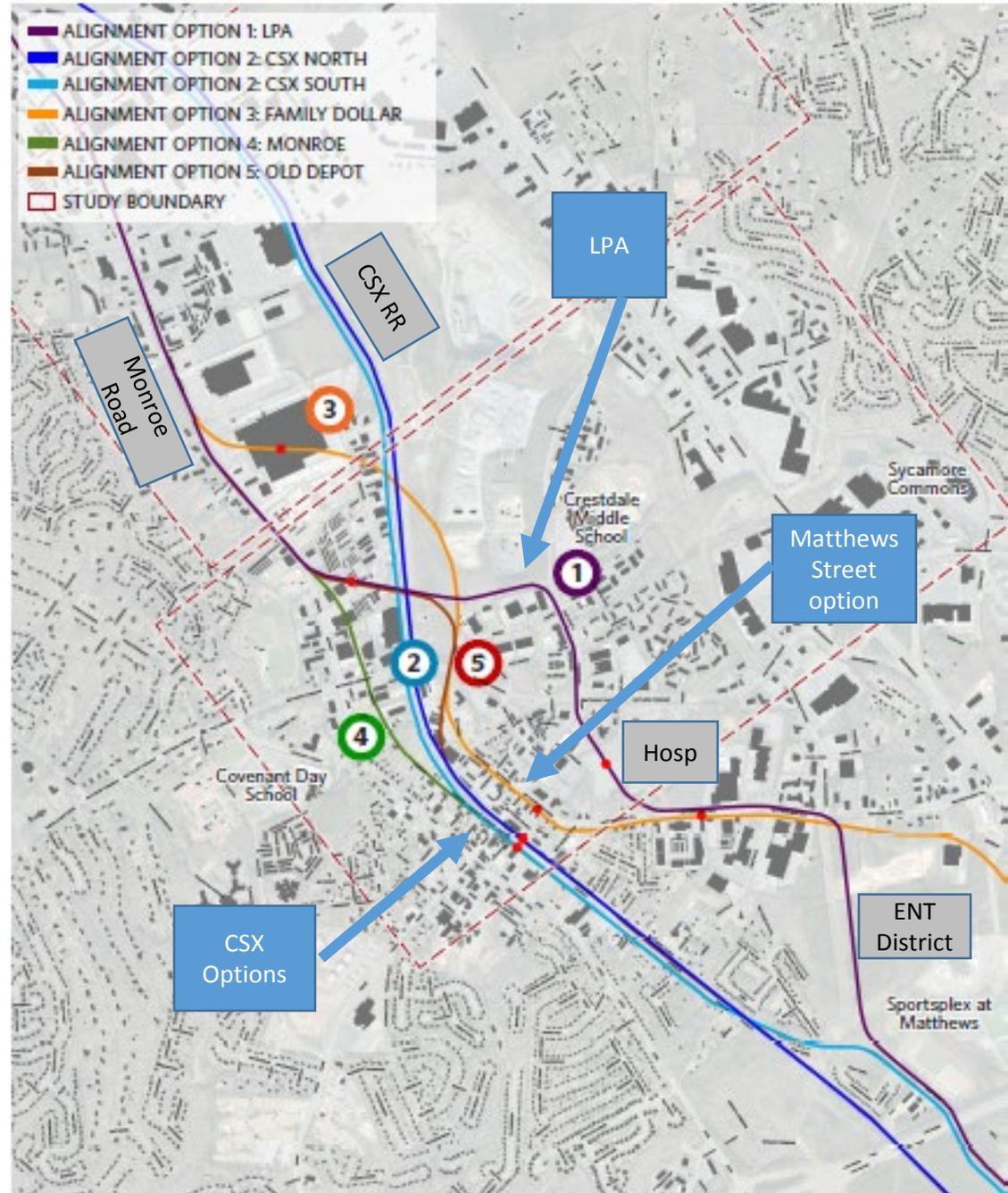
- LPA
- Matthews Street
- CSX

➤ All options are not equal and each have their benefits, risks, and opportunities.

➤ Some may have “Fatal Flaws” that will cause them to be removed from consideration

OVERVIEW

ALIGNMENT OPTIONS





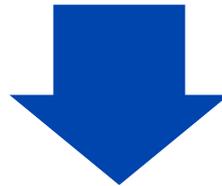
What's Next?

Silver Line

MID MAY

Urban Design
Workshops

- **Input for TOD-related metrics**

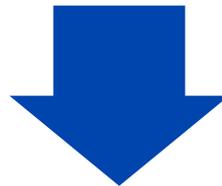


- Mid May – Late June: Refine alignments based on TOD input and continuing investigation

LATE JUNE /
EARLY JULY

Alignment
Refinement Workshop
2

- **Determine short list of options (identify options for public review)**



- July 10: Steering Team validation of shortlist
- Mid July: Outreach to local officials
- August 14: Steering Team preview of public meeting content

EARLY
SEPTEMBER

Public Meetings
Round 2

- **Present short listed options for public input**

SEPTEMBER –
NOVEMBER

- **Continued refinement of short listed options; intent to identify proposed selections for review during Public Meetings Round 3 (November)**



Thank You!