

Charlotte Area Transit System: Moving Forward

John Lewis
CATS Chief Executive Officer

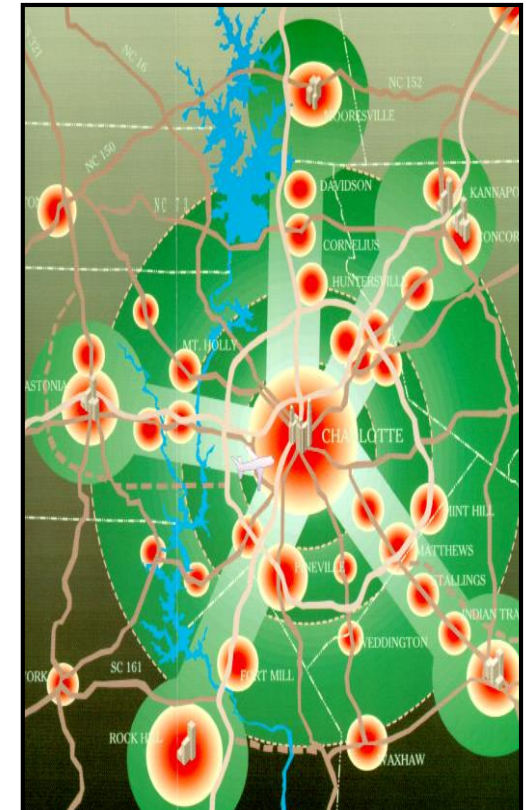
House Select Committee
March 2018



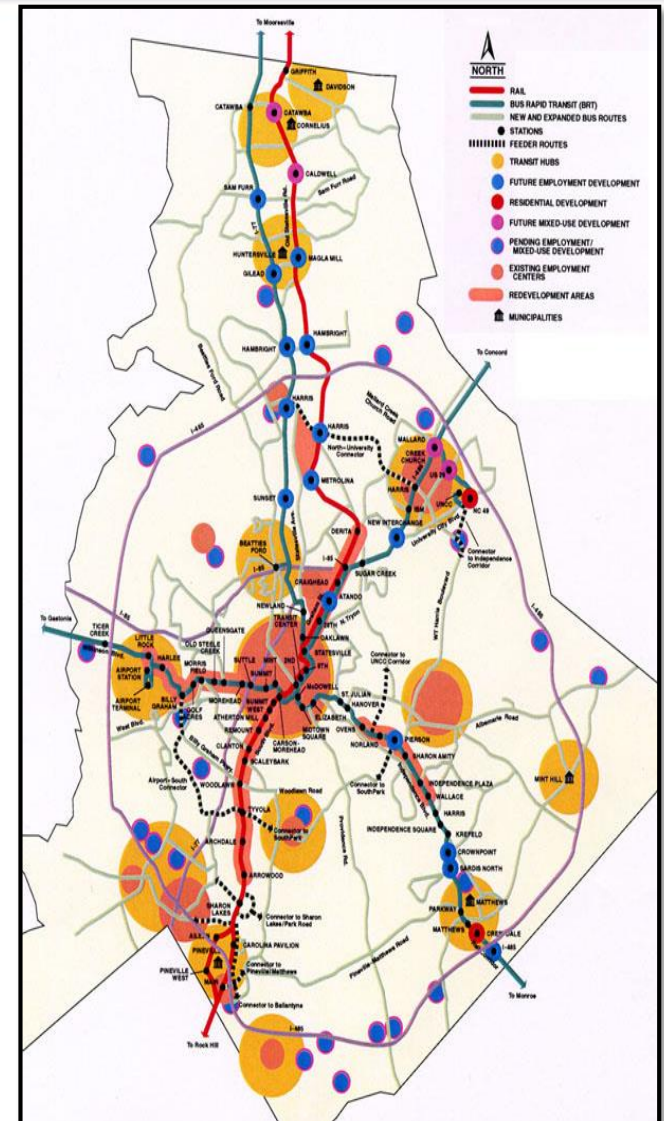
Management Strategy

“Centers, Corridors and Wedges”

- Five primary transportation and development corridors
- Transform historically unfocused development patterns to focus most future growth in compact mixed-use development along corridors and in station areas
- Develop a public transportation system to help support the growth strategy



- Support land use vision
- Provide choices in mode of travel
- Develop a regional transit system
- Support economic growth and sustainable development



- State legislation passed in 1997 allowing local option ½ cent sales tax for transit
- 2025 Transit and Land Use Plan prepared & presented for public review
- Nov. 1998 referendum on transit sales tax paired with \$100 million road bond
- Transit Sales Tax approved 58% to 42%
- Approval occurred despite local and national interests opposition

- ## LYNX SYSTEM MAP



LYNX Blue Line Success

- Opened November 24, 2007
- 9.6 Miles
- \$462.7 Million (FTA 43% - State 25% - Local 32%)
- 15 Stations (7 park and rides)
- Operates 7 days a week, 5:30 a.m. - 2:00 a.m.
- Service Frequency
 - Rush hour: 10 minutes
 - Non-rush hour: 15-20 minutes
- Bus/Rail Integration serves Blue Line directly
 - 15 new and modified routes
- Average LYNX weekday ridership today > 15,000
- Exceeded first year ridership projection by 54%



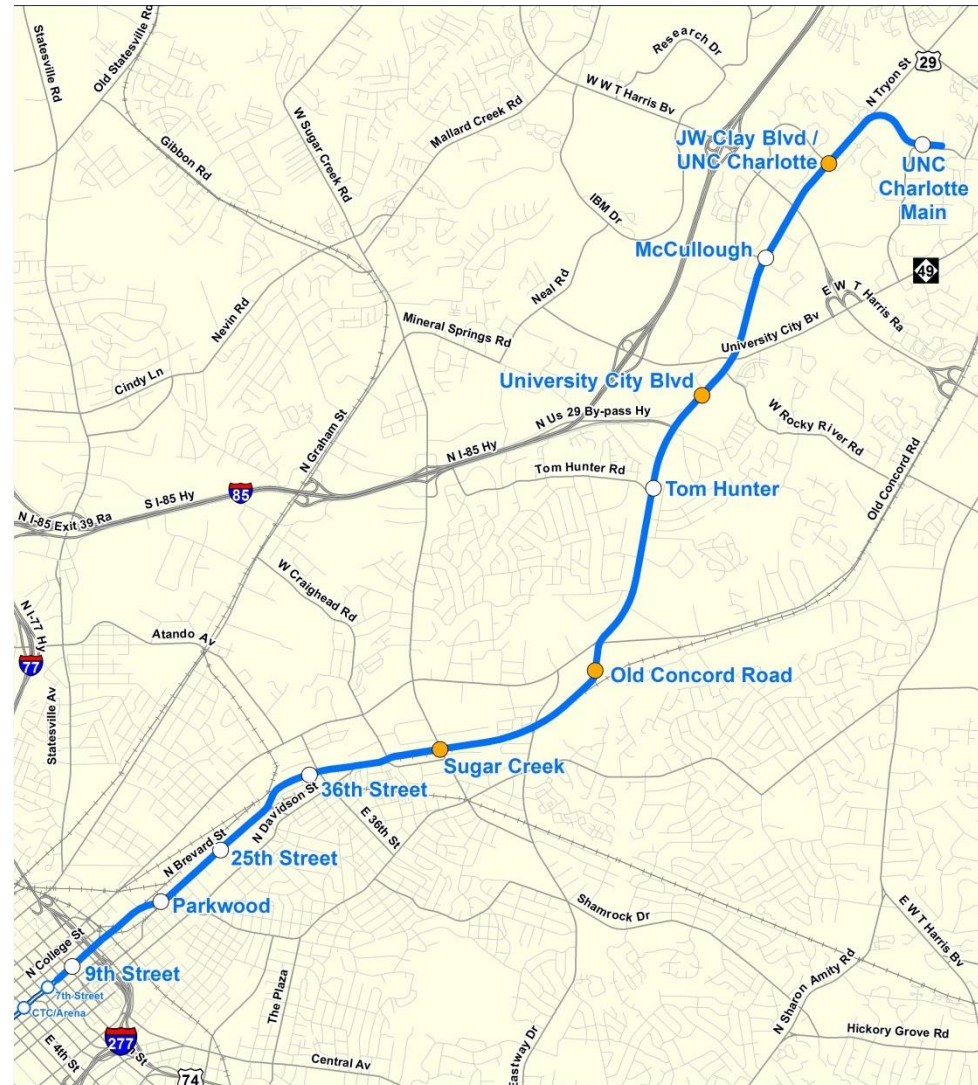
- Approximately \$1.45 billion in new development along the LYNX Blue Line outside of downtown Charlotte since 2005 when the project's full funding was assured:
 - Prior to the Great Recession, development included commercial & both single and multi-family residential, condo and rental
 - From 2008 – 2011 no new projects were started
 - Over the past 5 years development has accelerated significantly
 - Property owners and developers actively market their proximity to the rail line

- Mix of recent development that has occurred:
 - Mostly multi-family rental in 3-4 story, 300-400 unit developments (wood frame allowed by code)
 - Smattering of new retail space mostly store front but including new Publix and Lowes stores
- New development under construction (just a few examples):
 - 6 new residential and mixed use projects
 - A new 8 story, 200,000 sq. ft. office building being built for a specific client
- The LYNX Blue Line has played a major role in how the Charlotte area has marketed itself for attracting additional employment, events and attractions to the area

- Charlotte's success with transit development is directly attributable to strong business community support and solid public sector leadership
- Cooperation with and support from local jurisdictions was important in advancing the Charlotte transit plan
- City of Charlotte's land use policies and infrastructure programs have played a key role in helping to achieve the economic development that has occurred

LYNX Blue Line Extension 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 March 2018

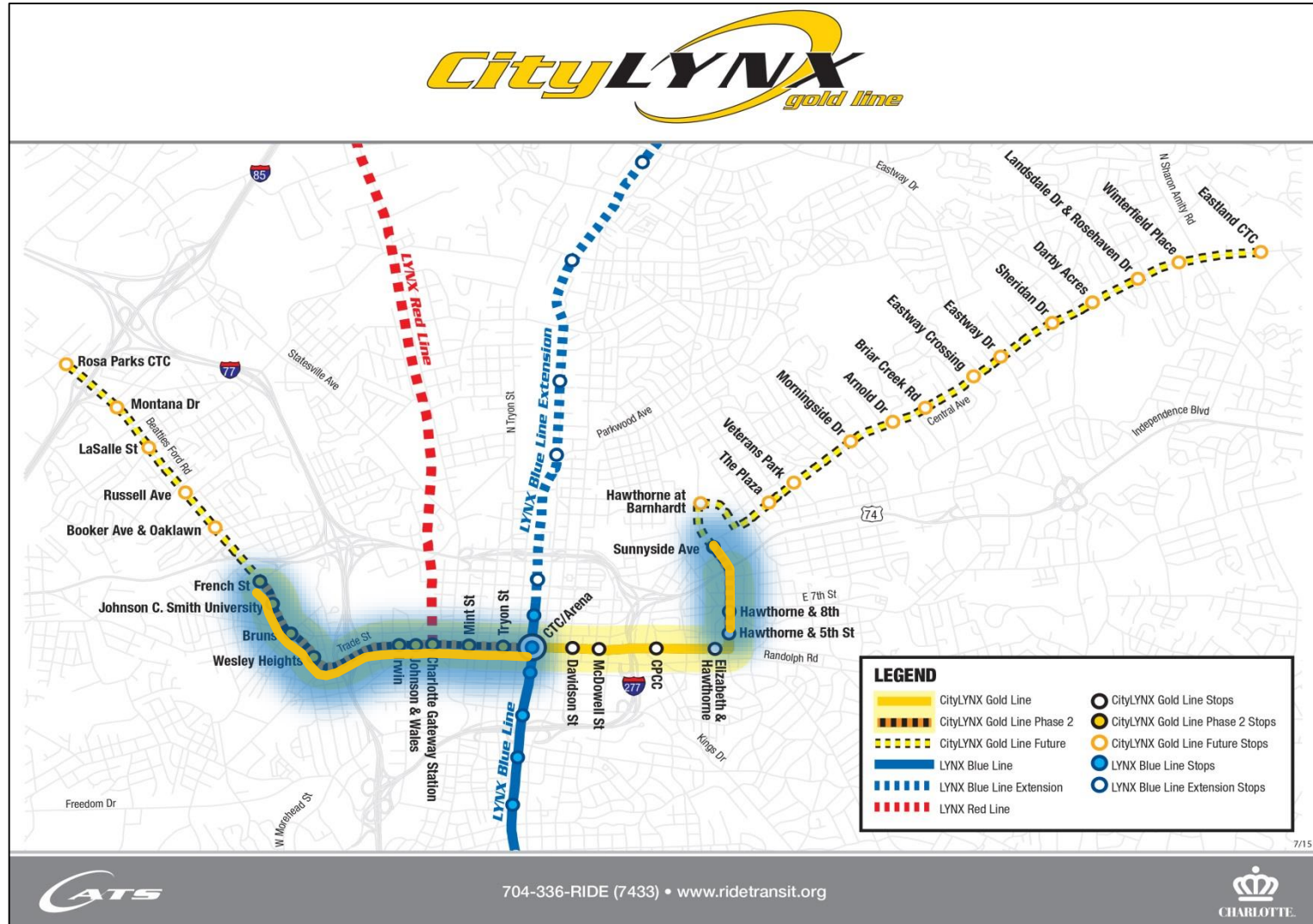


LYNX BLE Ribbon Cutting

February 26, 2018



CityLYNX Gold Line Phase 2



Charlotte Gateway Station

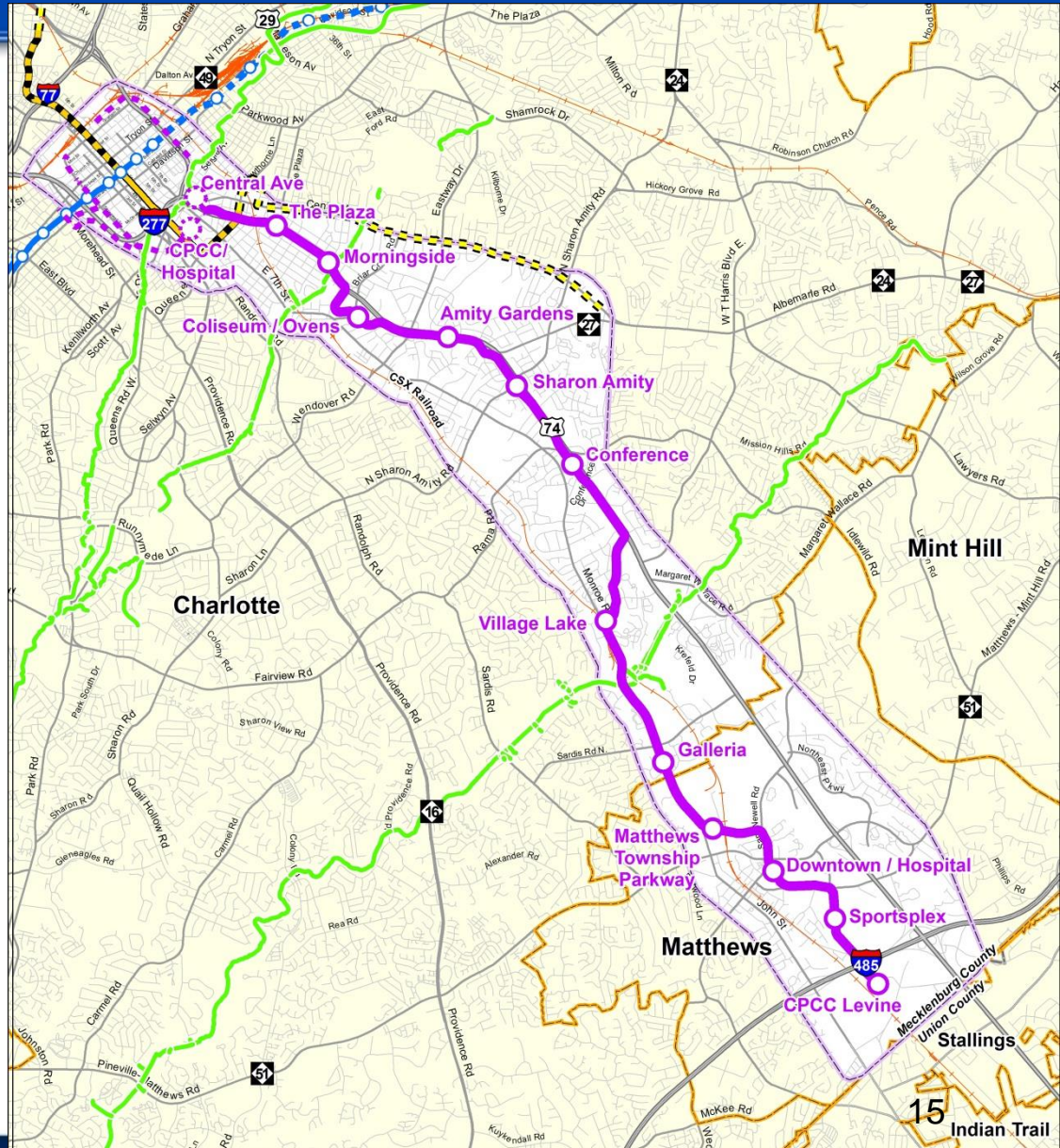


“Envision My Ride”



LYNX Silver Line Recommendation

- MTC approved recommendation of light rail LPA in November 2016
- 13-15 miles long
- 13 stations with 8-10 park and ride locations
- As part of recommendation System Integration/West Corridor/Airport Study will begin



Corridor System Plan

- Bus Rapid Transit (2002 plan)
- Light rail not FTA cost-effective
- Streetcar extension— post 2030 (2006 plan)
- Sprinter Enhanced Bus (2009)

New Study Underway

- FTA Criteria more favorable to light rail
- Interline/Combine with Southeast Corridor
- Center City System Integration

