TOUR STOP #1
NorthGlenn is a planned 56 acre mixed-use development consisting of 220 townhomes and up to 200,000 square feet of commercial space. The developer, Development Solutions Group, has agreed as part of this project to construct a dedicated public parking area and access trails to connect to the forthcoming Highland Creek Greenway extension. The Highland Creek Greenway is currently under construction by NCDOT as part of the I-58/I-77 interchange improvement project at Highway 321 and Interstate 85. When fully completed the Highland Creek Greenway will connect the existing Highland Rail Trail to Rankin Lake Park, one of Gastonia’s three “flagship” recreation facilities providing boating, fishing, zip lines, walking trails and disc golf.

TOUR STOP #2
Construction is underway on Gastonia’s Franklin Urban Sports & Entertainment (FUSE) economic development and revitalization project designed to attract new commercial and residential development to the heart of the city. The hub of the project is a $26.2 million, 5,000 capacity, multi-use sports and entertainment facility that will host year-round events and activities. The facility is adjoined and surrounded by private development parcels that will be home to restaurants, offices, apartments, condos, and entertainment venues. Plans are already underway for the first private development associated with the project, the redevelopment of Trenton Mill, across the street from the facility site into a residential and mixed-use community. With the wealth of public parking available in the heart of Gastonia’s downtown, it is anticipated that the number of pedestrians walking to and from the stadium and downtown will dramatically increase. To address this, the City is developing detailed streetscape enhancement plans in order to transform the West Main Avenue corridor into a safe, interesting and comfortable option for walking.

TOUR STOP #3
Construction will begin soon on Gastonia’s latest extension of the Carolina Thread Trail. This project will extend the current trail northward out of Lineberger Park, another “flagship” park, and link into the existing sidewalks and in-street bike facilities along Second Avenue. A future second phase of this greenway extension project will stretch the trail further north connecting it to one of Gastonia’s most recognizable thoroughfares, Franklin Boulevard. This will give the municipal greenway system and the Thread Trail important visibility on a heavily traveled roadway. This will be further enhanced by planned trailhead signage at this location which will be replicated at other trailhead locations throughout Gastonia. This project is being largely funded by Wells Fargo through the Carolina Thread Trail. As part of this project the City of Gastonia has created nine new buildable single-family lots that will be sold to a homebuilder to construct new trail front homes. The goal is to leverage the investment in a public recreational facility by facilitating a corresponding private investment in new homes in the hope that together the public/private synergy will help to spark broader reinvestment in an area of the community that has suffered from disinvestment for many years.