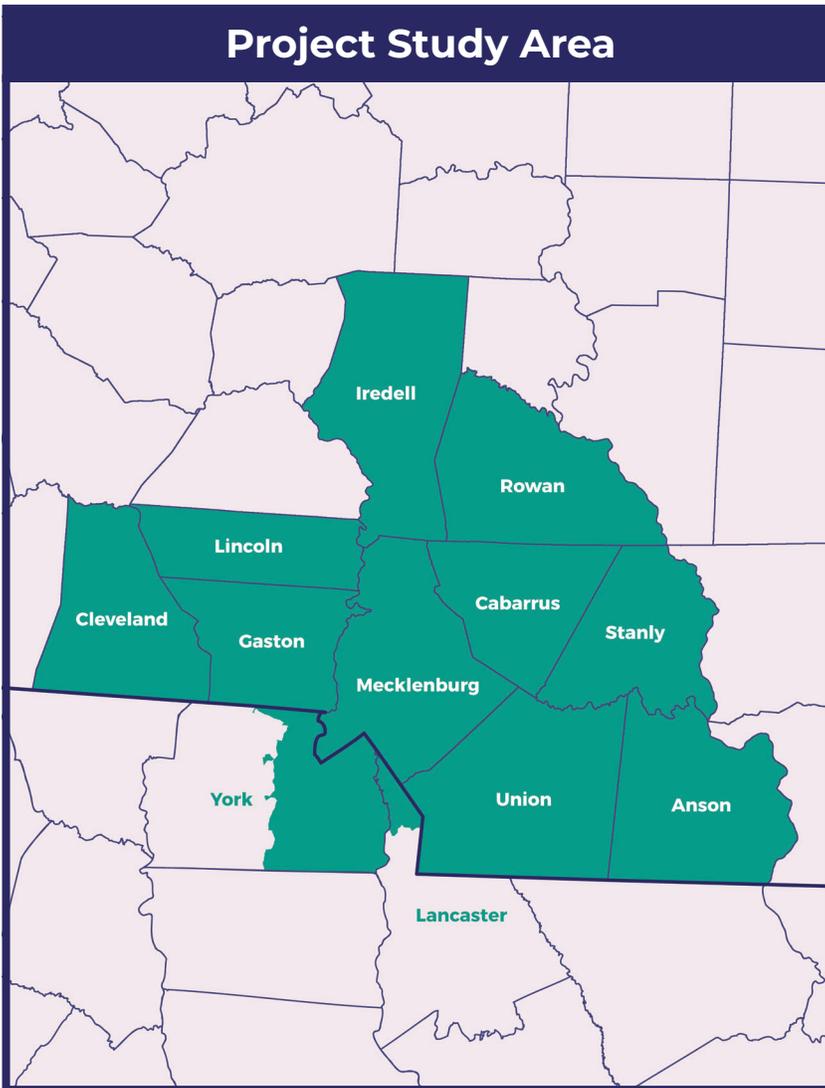


# CONNECT Beyond

## A Regional Mobility Initiative

The Greater Charlotte Region is growing, and growing fast. Access to reliable, efficient and well-connected transportation options is one of the most important factors to ensure everyone can benefit. We need to find solutions to promote and harness economic growth, while helping our neighbors and visitors easily get where they want and need to go. This will require collaboration, insight, creativity and a bold vision.

With you, we are embarking on a bi-state, twelve county study to create a unified regional transit vision and plan. We aim to provide our partners with innovative solutions that will enhance mobility and access across our region.



### CONNECT Beyond will...

#### DEFINE

a single, coordinated transit vision for the project study area that includes multiple transit modes.

#### IDENTIFY

high capacity transit corridors that build upon and complement the Charlotte Area Transit System 2030 plan and other regional and local transportation plans.

#### STRATEGIZE

on key topics and methods for regional coordination that cross modes of transit as well as organizational and geographic boundaries.

#### DEVELOP

action-oriented implementation approaches that support:

- Improved mobility and access.
- Effective and regionally coordinated transit investments.
- Coordinated transit operations to meet the needs of a growing and changing region and population.

### Project Partners



## Project Team



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**Jason Lawrence**  
*Senior Transportation  
Planner*  
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## Committee Structure

Our project partners will be an integral part of defining the future of mobility for our region. We've invited stakeholders from across our project study area to join advisory committees that will focus on developing key elements of this plan, including major policy decisions, community impacts and technical feasibility. We will also be launching a transit academy to educate, involve and empower civic leaders and community members to spread the word about the importance of a regional transit system, the transit vision, and how to implement.

## What have we done so far?

In both the region's growth strategy, CONNECT Our Future, and the region's economic strategy, Prosperity for Greater Charlotte, residents, business leaders and non-profit organizations identified a regional transit system that offers local transportation choice as a top priority.

Two years of stakeholder engagement coordinated by the Centralina Council of Governments (CCOG) and the Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC) created energy around this project and developed regional consensus on mobility challenges and opportunities. Coordinated, reliable transportation options provide access to jobs, education, medical facilities and services, and serve as a foundation for our region's continued economic competitiveness and quality of life. Other activities to date include:

**2017** The Metropolitan Transit Commission and CCOG partnered to kick off a **Regional Transit Engagement Series**.  
**Eighteen forums** were conducted in eight counties in North Carolina and South Carolina to assess transit needs and opportunities

**2018** A **Regional Transit Summit** was held, which resulted in a call to action for a shared regional vision for transit: A Regional Transit Plan.

**2018** **24 meetings** were conducted to define a scope of work for the plan and broaden the stakeholder base.

**2019** Meetings were held with transit representatives in Anson, Cleveland, Rowan and Stanly counties to assess rural mobility needs and key elements for a transit plan scope.

Developed plan funding strategy and secured funds.

**2017 - 2019** **Quarterly meetings** were held with transit service providers across the region to inform the plan.

## Next Steps

