

CONNECT Beyond

A Regional Mobility Initiative

Focus: Mecklenburg County



CONNECT Beyond Overview

CONNECT Beyond is a bold regional mobility plan that will transform how residents and visitors travel throughout our 12-county region. The CONNECT Beyond Mobility Moves are the building blocks for creating a network that will enhance economic competitiveness, improve access, and create transit ready places.

Why is this important?

We've been clear throughout the planning process about the tremendous benefits of having a regional vision for mobility, but we'd like to highlight how this benefits your county as we move into implementation of the plan.

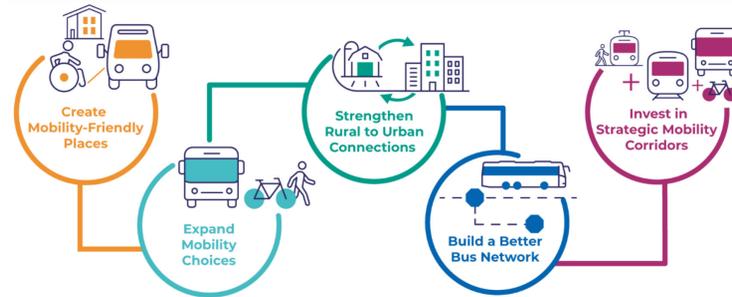
Why this Project is Important to Mecklenburg County

- **Access to Jobs & Education:** Transportation choices improve quality of life for people who reside in one county but work or seek education in another.
- **Equity:** Very real economic and social inequalities exist in the region. Focusing on expanding transportation choices, improving accessibility, and increasing affordable housing can help to enhance equity in meaningful and impactful ways.
- **Employers:** A highly functioning transportation network with a range of mobility options will appeal to new and existing employers. This also increases the accessible labor force by giving employers a larger area of recruitment to meet business needs.
- **Downtowns:** Mobility investments help transform downtowns and better meet the needs of businesses and residents.
- **Congested Roadways:** Impacts of growth on roadway networks are significant and our community recognizes the need for additional options.
- **Preparation for High Capacity Transit:** High capacity transit (HCT) includes light rail, bus rapid transit, express buses, commuter rail, and streetcars. Investing and focusing growth within HCT corridors will provide the greatest mobility benefits and return on investments.
- **Bus Network:** The CONNECT Beyond region has multiple transit agencies providing local and regional bus services. This makes public transit more complicated, as each provider has different route frequencies, fare systems, prices and websites.

Why this Project is Important to Individuals in Mecklenburg County

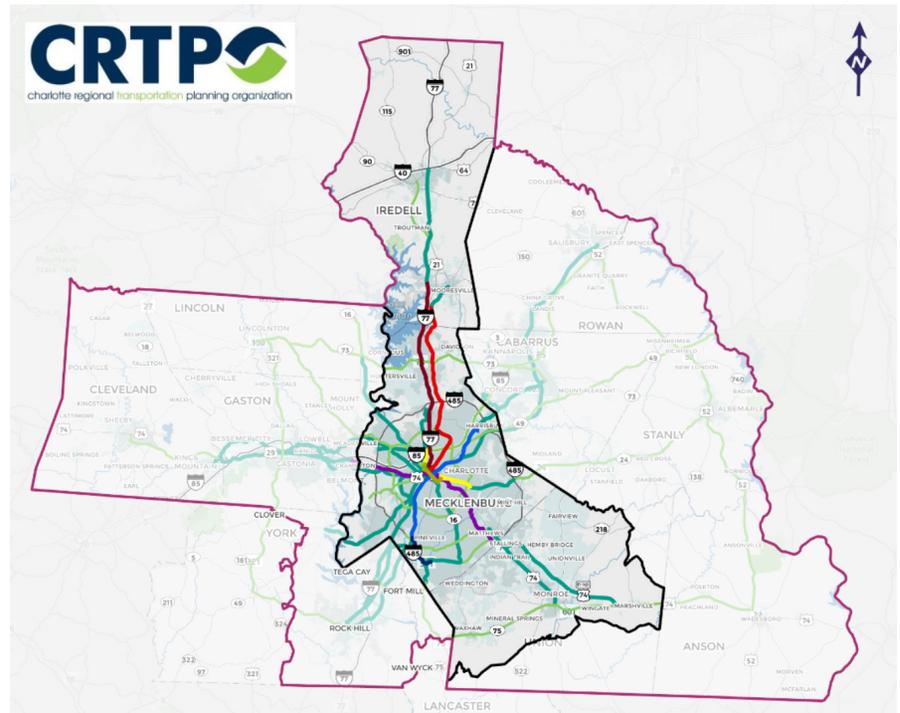
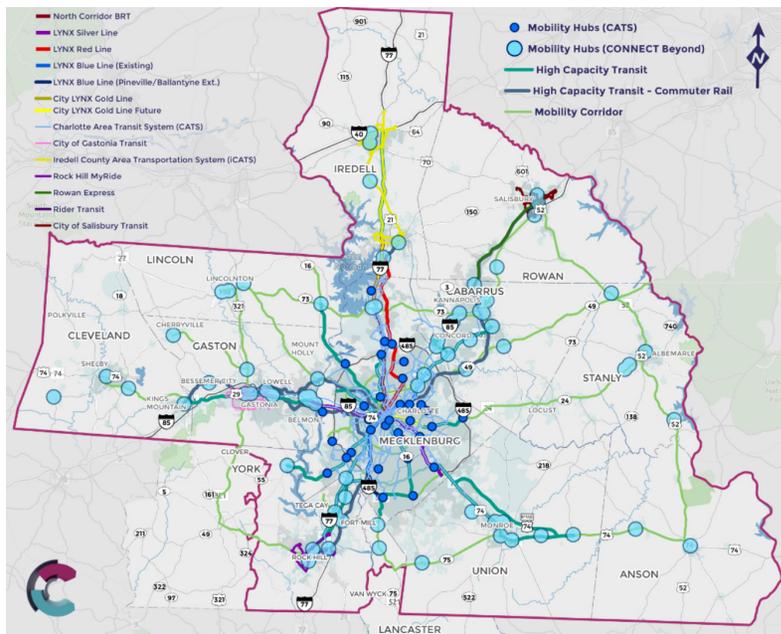
- Providing more access and opportunity for everyone.
- Making it easier for riders to figure out how, when, and where to use transportation options to get to jobs, school, medical appointments, etc.
- Creating places that are easier to walk, bike and take public transit where you want to go.

How can CONNECT Beyond help address these issues?



5 Mobility Moves	What this means for Mecklenburg County
<p>Create Mobility-Friendly Places: <i>Strategies to support vibrant, pedestrian-friendly communities that have convenient access to public transit services.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt recommendations identified in Silver Line TOD study to help prepare growth; support adjacent counties' adoption of same recommendations • Exemplify incorporation of Transit Supportive Development strategies into plans and codes • Continue participation in CommunityViz • Expand sidewalk, bike, and trail connections to downtowns and major employment centers
<p>Expand Mobility Choices: <i>Strategies to support how, when and where residents and visitors travel, now and in the future.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support work for regionally coordinated website that shows riders all transit services available • Enhance access through the creation of regional commuter programs for Mecklenburg employers that depend on employees outside of county • Explore vanpool options for cross-county trips • Participate in pilot programs – ex. AV shuttle in Davidson or UNC Charlotte • Encourage investments in mobility hub locations • Adopt policies to ready curbside management for future mobility technologies
<p>Strengthen Rural to Urban Connections: <i>Strategies to improve mobility and transportation choices for those who choose to live and work in suburban/rural communities.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support efforts to develop coordinated regional scheduling for cross-county trips • Continued participation in the Regional Mobility Mangers Group • Expand access to goods and services by exploring on-demand options for non-medical trips – help Mecklenburg Transportation System provide trips to grocery store or to visit friends, or seek private sector options for non-medical on-demand trips
<p>Build a Better Bus Network: <i>Strategies to make it easier for riders to plan, pay for and complete their trips.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore increasing frequency of express services between Charlotte and other communities • Participate in regional REMIX license and planning • Support efforts for additional transfer opportunities for CATS riders throughout region
<p>Invest in Strategic Mobility Corridors: <i>Strategies to identifies candidate corridors where high-capacity transit could be located and where focused transit investments should occur</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support feasibility analyses of transit options for HCT • Support and coordinate with commuter rail communities

Moving CONNECT Beyond forward



Maintaining our Momentum

- **Regional Coordination:** To create a region of mobility-friendly communities interconnected by a total mobility network, we must work together. We must build on existing positive collaborations while developing confidence and trust in shared responsibilities. Regional partners will work together to move recommendations forward as capital projects, strategic initiatives or operational improvements.
- **Transportation Funding:** In order for this regional mobility plan to be implemented, developing clear cost estimates and finding funding sources will be essential. Together we have more power to secure resources for the region. The Plan helps ensure no one is left behind and that all jurisdictions can proceed forward on their own timeline.

What can Mecklenburg County do now to advance the CONNECT Beyond Recommendations?

- Support CRTPO's adoption of CONNECT Beyond recommendations in relevant documents by coordinating with technical coordinating committee and policy board representatives.
- Determine local priorities for CONNECT Beyond implementation.
- Ensure County coordination with CRTPO on funding needs for upcoming mobility projects.
- Support regional coordination efforts through staffing and funding.
- Advise CONNECT Beyond staff on how implementation can be best designed to meet local needs.