



CENTRALINA REGIONAL COUNCIL

THE CENTRAL LINES

Take a peek inside this issue. Here's what's coming up...

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Announcements & Featured Articles

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- CONNECT Beyond One-Year Anniversary
- Transportation Demand Management
- Service Spotlight: On-Call Planning
- Centralina AAA Holds Successful Conference
- Celebrating National Disability Employment Awareness Month

UPCOMING EVENTS

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| December 6 | Centralina Learns Planning Series: Transportation Demand Management |
| December 8 | Centralina Area Agency on Aging Holiday Event for Aging Services Providers and Volunteers |
| December 13 | Centralina Workforce Development Board Meeting |
| December 14 | Centralina Regional Managers Meeting |

CAPITOL CORNER: ELECTION REFLECTIONS



Midterm Elections Recap

Last Tuesday's elections resulted in four new members for North Carolina's congressional delegation and one new Senator. Representative Ted Budd (R) won the Senate race and will succeed the retiring Senator Richard Burr (R). Centralina's House delegation changes from six members to four members and changes from five Republicans and one Democrat in the current congress to two

Republicans and two Democrats in the next Congress. Centralina loses Representatives Virginia Foxx (R, 5th) and Richard Hudson (R, 8th). In the next Congress, Centralina will be represented by Representatives Alma Adams (D, 12th), Dan Bishop (R, 9th) and Patrick McHenry (R, 10th), as well as by

Representative-elect Jeff Jackson (D, 14th). Having gained a new seat in the House of Representatives from the 2020 Census, the N.C. House delegation in the next Congress will consist of 14 members. The new N.C. delegation will be evenly split with seven Republicans and seven Democrats. Of the four newly elected members, there are three Democrats and one Republican. All four have served in the state senate.

[Continue Reading](#)

State Election Reflections: Redrawn Districts Change Legislative Delegation

New district maps played a significant role in North Carolina's 2022 state legislative elections. With the redrawn district lines, the Centralina region saw a net gain of two districts in the House of Representatives. Meanwhile, a few districts in both the Senate and the House experienced a reshaping that changed their coverage areas. The region's new delegation will consist of 12 Senators and 29 House members. These 41 legislators comprise one-fourth of the General Assembly, making the Centralina delegation the largest among the state's 16 COGs. Notably all of the region's incumbents running for re-election won their races this year.

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Local Election Reflections

In the nine-county Centralina region, 68 total member seats were on the ballot in the 2022 local government general election. Out of these positions, 43 were contested. With many seats up for grabs in this round of elections, the outcome proved to bring in a wealth of knowledge and experience from former Centralina Board members to local government employees to re-elected officials. Several former Board members gained re-election, including Elaine Powell who won a seat on the Mecklenburg County Board and Gene Houpe who secured an Iredell County seat. Leigh Altman of Mecklenburg County, who previously served a four-year term on the Centralina Board, also won an at-large seat.

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FEATURED ARTICLES

Centralina Region of Excellence Awards: Call for Nominations



The Region of Excellence Awards recognize and celebrate how local governments and partners expand opportunity and improve quality of life across our region. All municipal and county governments, quasi-governmental entities and non-governmental organizations in our region are encouraged to submit nominations for projects, programs or plans that were initiated or completed in 2022. Two potential awards will be given in each category - one for larger and one for smaller jurisdictions.

**Local Government Innovation / Cross-Community Collaboration
Improving Quality of Life / Aging in Action / Clean Cities
James D. Prosser Excellence in Government Leadership**

Complete the nomination form and send your entry, along with at least one high resolution photo, to RegionofExcellence@centralina.org by 5 p.m. on **Friday, January 6, 2023**. Nominating entities may make multiple submittals; each entry must be on a separate form. The award ceremony will be held on **Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2023**.

[View the Nomination Form](#)

Region of Excellence Award Winner Spotlights

CLT EV Bus Fleet



The Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT) Electric Vehicle (EV) Bus Fleet was the recipient of our Clean Cities Award. This program involved replacing older, dirtier vehicles with newer ones to reduce emissions and save on costs of ownership. We interviewed Fleet Manager Scott Kincaid to learn more about the sustainability impact that CLT's EV Bus Fleet has had on the greater Charlotte area his recommendations for communities looking to embrace environmentally friendly energy solutions.

[Read More & Learn Top Takeaways](#)

Gaston County Tourism Development



In March 2022, Gaston County Tourism Development received the Local Government Innovation Award for its Community Tourism Action Plan, a collaborative effort with Belmont Tourism Development Authority (TDA), Gastonia TDA and Mount Holly TDA, with the goal of developing a strategy to increase tourism. We interviewed Director Michael Applegate, CDME to learn more about the impact the organization's action plans have had on the community and his recommendations about how to best navigate government innovation in rapidly growing communities.

[Read More & Learn Top Takeaways](#)

CONNECT Beyond: One Year Anniversary



The 12-county greater Charlotte community is nearing three million residents and is expected to add over one million more by 2045. As our region continues to grow, mobility will be critical to ensuring everyone has access to reliable, efficient and well-connected transportation. While our rapid growth will bring new opportunities to the region, it will also put additional

strain and usage on our existing transportation network. To meet these challenges, Centralina and the Metropolitan Transit Commission (the policy board of the Charlotte Area Transit System) adopted **CONNECT Beyond's regional mobility plan** in October 2021. The plan includes over **150 recommendations** that provide real mobility solutions that will serve as the foundation for our region's expanded transit connectivity, continued economic competitiveness and improved quality of life. We want to acknowledge the one-year milestone and recognize all the work being done to implement and move forward the plan's recommendations. In the past year, all NC transportation planning organizations in our region endorsed or recognized CONNECT Beyond's plan and in September 2022, the Charlotte City Council approved significant funding for implementation of CONNECT Beyond recommendations, matching funding from federal, state and other local agencies to support regional projects.

[Read More About Our Progress and Next Steps](#)

See our In The News section below for recent media coverage

Transportation Demand Management (TDM)



Transportation choice – the ability to select from a variety of transportation modes to meet one's daily needs – is critical to ensuring a high quality of life, access to opportunities and economic vitality. Transportation choices, which encompass everything from driving a private vehicle to riding a bicycle to taking public transportation and beyond, are also a defining characteristic of a well-connected multi-modal transportation network. In the Charlotte region and in many regions throughout the country, there are limited transportation choices available to residents and visitors, with most individuals overwhelmingly relying on private vehicles. How can areas like the greater Charlotte region enhance connectivity and accessibility through expanded transportation choices without breaking the bank on infrastructure investments? Transportation Demand Management is one proven strategy for addressing such issues.

[Continue Reading](#)

LEARN MORE: Want to know more about TDM, related CONNECT Beyond recommendations and TDM strategies that you can implement in your community? Register for our Centralina Learns session on Tuesday, Dec. 6 to hear from local and state-level experts.

[Register for Centralina Learns: TDM on Dec. 6](#)

Service Spotlight: On-Call Planning

Planning is a critical step for creating vibrant and thriving communities. To support and further a community's vision, regulations need to be established, enforced and occasionally modified. Centralina provides technical assistance and contracted services, leveraging our in-house

expertise to provide cost-effective solutions to meet the challenges facing local government planning departments. Our suite of flexible solutions can be customized to meet your community's specific needs and are provided in a coordinated manner to compliment current operations. Example services include zoning confirmation letters, variance / rezoning application reviews, site development plan reviews, project management, board training and special use permits.

[Learn More About On-Call Planning Services](#)

Centralina AAA Holds Successful Conference

Centralina Area Agency on Aging (AAA) held its second virtual conference last month with over 200 long-term care administrators, nurses, activity therapists and others in attendance. The plenary speaker Victor Armstrong from RI International discussed diversity, equity and inclusion as it relates to the aging field. There were also eight breakout sessions covering issues from caregiving and diabetes to how to best modernize senior centers. Thank you to sponsors Embrace, Sharon Towers and all the breakout session contributors.

Centralina WDB Celebrates National Disability Employment Awareness Month



In October, the Workforce Development Board (WDB) recognized celebrated National Disability Employment Awareness month with a presentation by David Monteleone, Business Relations Representative with the N.C. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Additionally, Board member Mary Walls was presented with the Mark F. Whitley Chairman's Award. Mary, who officially retired on September 30, served as Unit Manager for the N.C. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation for Union and Stanly counties. In addition, she has served on the Centralina WDB since 1994, working as a tireless advocate for individuals with different abilities.

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IN THE NEWS



**CONNECT
Beyond**

A Regional Mobility Initiative

Transit Time Article & Podcast: How to Build a Regional Transit System Around Charlotte

If a big transit plan for Charlotte is going to happen, it's going to take a regional approach. And Geraldine Gardner, Executive Director of Centralina, has been working on a regional approach to Charlotte-area transit since 2019. Last year, Centralina and the Metropolitan Transit Commission

released CONNECT Beyond, the less-talked-about regional relative of the Charlotte Moves plan, also known as the Transformational Mobility Network. The Charlotte Ledger's Tony Mecia talked with Gardner about the vision for a regional transit system — and how to get there. Continue [reading the interview](#) or listen to the full [WFAE podcast](#).

Carolina Focus Podcast: CONNECT Beyond

WBT's Sharon Thorsland talks with Geraldine Gardner about CONNECT Beyond, its origins and how it ties in with [CONNECT Our Future](#). Geraldine goes on to discuss what makes up a mobility network, how to convince people to use alternative methods of transportation instead of relying on personal vehicles and how to plan for the region's estimated population growth. A key consideration for planning? Putting the user at the center of the process. [Listen here](#)

CONNECT Beyond Awards and Conferences

Congratulations to CONNECT Beyond's project team for receiving the NC American Planning Association's **Marvin Collins Outstanding Planning Award** for Specialized Plan - Transportation. Additionally, CONNECT Beyond project team members recently presented at the national conferences of the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Rail~Volution.



Michelle Nance, Jason Wager & team accepting the Marvin Collins Award



Michelle Nance and her panel on Mobility Hubs at Rail~Volution

RFQ: On-Call Implementation Services for CONNECT Beyond

Centralina is seeking qualified consultant firms to provide professional services related to implementation of CONNECT Beyond's regional mobility plan on an on-call basis for a period of three years. The selected firm or firms will provide necessary professional services to implement key CONNECT Beyond recommendations. Deadline for responses: Friday, Dec. 2, 2022. [Learn More](#)



Centralina and Partners Win Prestigious Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Cleantech EV Award

Centralina, Duke Energy, UNC Charlotte and the City of Charlotte received the DEI in Cleantech Award by the Research Triangle Cleantech Cluster based on the collaborative PoleVolt™ initiative, which uses existing streetlights to provide curbside electric vehicle (EV) charging for drivers. Read more on [Duke Energy's site](#) or [PRNewswire](#).

Equitable EV Carsharing Launches in Charlotte

The Southern Alliance for Clean Energy announced the launch of a new electric vehicle (EV) carsharing program in Charlotte, in partnership with Centralina and the City of Charlotte. The program is part of a nationwide Affordable Mobility Platform (AMP) designed to increase access to electric transportation by making low-cost EVs available to underserved communities. "Our region is at the crossroads of equity and unprecedented levels of funding for transportation electrification; therefore, this project is extremely timely and will further define the role local governments can play in the deployment of electric vehicles for everyone," said Centralina Assistant Regional Planning Director and [Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition](#) Coordinator Jason Wager. "The Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition, housed at Centralina, is poised to build on its previous EV project learnings to the benefit of our region and beyond." Read more at [CleanEnergy.org](#) or on [WFAE's website](#).

[View Centralina Job Opportunities](#)

[Access the Member Portal](#)



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