



# Advancing the Plan Committee

Centralina Regional Council established an official **ad-hoc advisory committee** to steward regional conversation and action that advances the implementation of the CONNECT Beyond Regional Mobility Plan. The Committee will provide regular updates to CONNECT Beyond project sponsors, Centralina's Board of Delegates and the Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC).

## Why the Committee is Important:

The Advancing the Plan Committee is made up of elected officials, business leaders and city/county managers from across the region who will meet bi-monthly throughout 2023. The Committee will: **provide a forum for communication** across jurisdictional lines, **guide the implementation** of CONNECT Beyond's recommendations and **expand our region's collaboration** on issues of mobility.

## Key Benefits of Regional Collaboration

Increasing regional connectivity and transportation investments are critical factors for better economic competitiveness, stronger communities, a cleaner environment and more efficient service for everyone. Working together we can:

**Increase Economic Competitiveness:** A complete transportation network supports our region's industries (advanced manufacturing, logistics) and increases labor access.

**Increase Innovation:** Increasing access to new mobility technologies gives residents more options for efficient travel.

**Support Community Centers:** Mobility investments help transform community centers and better meet the needs of businesses and residents.

**Connects People to Jobs:** Over 50% of workers in the Charlotte region live in one county and work in another. Many endure long transit commutes with multiple connections. Residents without cars are most impacted.

**Enhances Upward Mobility:** Expanding transportation choices and improving accessibility can help enhance equity in meaningful ways.



# Talking Points from Kick-Off Meeting:

Advancing the Plan Committee Co-Chairs, Mayor Vi Lyles (City of Charlotte) and Mayor Darrell Hinnant (City of Kannapolis), hosted the Committee's **kick-off meeting on January 27, 2023**, at Centralina Regional Council's offices. Key highlights:

## Reviewed Committee First Year Goals:

1. **(a) Advise** on short-term opportunities for regional collaboration and **(b) Determine feasible** options for a regional governance approach
2. **Endorse** a regional communications framework for CONNECT Beyond and **support** its implementation
3. **Collaborate** to educate state lawmakers on CONNECT Beyond and **advocate** for local funding initiatives in the region



## Reflected on Previous Funding & Partnership Work and Identified Next Steps:

Committee members collectively agreed that it will be important to show progress and accomplish early wins to demonstrate the benefits of regional collaboration. In parallel with these short-term collaboration activities, the Committee would like to review research and analysis of governance approaches in peer regions that have comparable characteristics as the greater Charlotte region.



## Identified Key Messages for Committee Outreach to Lawmakers:

For the region to better compete for future job opportunities and federal funding, Committee members recognized the importance of being able to offer connectivity and mobility options and ensure benefits to rural as well as urban and suburban areas.



## Recognized Areas for Near Term Regional Collaboration:

Upcoming CONNECT Beyond implementation activities include the development of a **Regional Transportation Demand Management program** and the the commencing of the **Regional Scheduling and Operations Coordination Study**. Both will be underway this Spring and demonstrate short-term regional collaboration.

## Prior to Next Meeting:

- Report Back:** Members should provide meeting updates to their jurisdiction and/or relevant mobility organizations.
- Homework and Volunteer Opportunity:** Centralina will ask for Committee volunteers to participate in a focus group to identify project communication needs. Members should also expect to receive homework materials in early March to prepare for the next meeting.
- Next Meeting:** Friday, March 24, 2023 | 8:30am-10:30am

