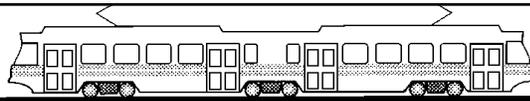
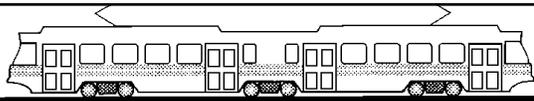


Citizens For Efficient Mass Transit



Spring 2006

Vol. 9, Issue No. 3

Bus vs Rail— Decisions Approach for Southeast and West Corridors

During the months of June and July, CATS will make a series of rapid-fire recommendations and requests for decisions. Public meetings over the past year are now culminating in a decision by CATS regarding their recommended mode of choice for each of these transit corridors.

First CATS will announce its decision on the “locally preferred alternative.” In simple language, they will say whether they think it should be bus or rail. Then approximately one month later CATS will go before the MTC (Metropolitan Transit Commission) seeking their approval for its recommendation. The MTC may either approve or disapprove, or delay taking action for further study.

CATS has already announced its recommendation for commuter rail and express bus in the North Corridor, and light rail in the Northeast Corridor. Now comes its recommendation for the Southeast Corridor, followed a month later by a call for a decision in the Southeast. Also, CATS will be presenting its decision on transit mode (modern streetcar or bus rapid transit) in the West Corridor, followed a month later by a call for a decision on the West corridor. If this were not enough to digest at one time, it is also calling for a decision on the Center City Streetcar plan in July.

The following is the schedule of meetings before the Metropolitan Transit Commission. All meetings normally take place at 5:30 PM at the Government Center, Room 267, 600 E. 4th Street in Charlotte. (Time and place subject to change.)

WED. JUNE 28, 2006

Northeast Corridor

Action Item (CATS’ request for approval of its plan for light rail.

Southeast Corridor

Information Item (CATS presenting its choice between BRT – bus rapid transit or LRT – light rail)

West Corridor

Information Item (CATS presenting its choice between modern streetcar or BRT – bus rapid transit)

WED. JULY 26, 2006

Southeast Corridor

Action Item (CATS’ request for approval of its recommended mode of transit – BRT – bus rapid transit or light rail)

West Corridor

Action Item (CATS’ request for approval of its recommended transit mode – modern streetcar or BRT – bus rapid transit)

Center City Streetcar

Action Item (CATS’ request for approval of its plan for modern streetcar on Trade Street)

WED. AUGUST 23, 2006

Information Item (CATS detailing its plans for the revised transit corridors, how they will be paid for, and how soon they will be built)

WED. SEPTEMBER 27, 2006

Information Item – PUBLIC HEARING on revised transit corridor plan (This will be your last chance to make comments on any of the planned transit corridors.)

WED. OCTOBER 25, 2006

Action Item – (CATS will call for approval of the revised transit corridor plan at this meeting – after this plans are likely to be locked in place)

Also announced will be the following public meeting:

TUES. JULY 11, 2006

West Corridor Public Meeting

Police and Government Center

4150 Wilkinson Blvd., Charlotte

7:00-9:00 p.m.

CEMT Still Has Brochures

Available at No Cost

Citizens for Efficient Mass Transit still has a quantity of these well illustrated, full color brochures available at no cost for civic groups and homeowners associations. It promotes the idea of light rail in the Southeast Corridor and modern streetcar in the West Corridor. It also promotes the advantages of light rail over busways. You will find a copy enclosed with this newsletter.

We are particularly interested in getting out these brochures in the Southeast and West neighborhoods that will be most affected by the upcoming decisions on rail vs. busways. Whichever way you feel about the decisions being made, now is the time to make your voice heard.

If you are interested in obtaining these brochures we will deliver them at no charge to a central location of your choice, where you can distribute them to members, friends and neighbors. Please call us at (704) 847-3200 or E-mail us at cemt100@yahoo.com. You can also reach us at PO Box 35571, Charlotte, NC 28235, or FAX us at (704) 845-6111.

Action Alert!

Voice Your Opinion Before CATS Makes Recommendations

Due to the fact the MTC needs to conduct its business in a timely fashion on the regular meeting nights, a large number of public speakers could cause a limit on the number that will be allowed to speak. Normally there is a slot before its regular business meeting when the public is invited to speak. There will be a public meeting before the MTC on September 27th, at which time you will be able to speak on the subject of the revised transit corridor plan. However by that time final decisions may be too firmly planted to be easily changed.

Therefore we strongly urge that you voice your opinion as soon as possible by phone, mail or e-mail to members of the MTC, the mayor of Charlotte, and the local town and city council members that represent your area. You need to do it before CATS makes its final recommendations to the MTC if possible. That way they will already have your opinion in mind, before weighing CATS' recommendations. Those of you in one of the local Mecklenburg County towns would do well to contact your mayor. This is because he sits on the MTC, and will be a part of the final decision making process.

SOUTHEAST: Busway Now or Very Long Wait for Light Rail

Those of you in the Southeast and West transit corridors who favor rail over busways need to make your opinion clearly known. Those of you in the Southeast may be faced with a tough decision. If the CATS decision is BRT (bus rapid transit) you may be faced with either accepting it or getting nothing in this round of transit construction that is if you are given any choice at all. Of course "nothing" does not mean you can't have improved transit service. It simply means you won't have transit on a fixed guideway, such as a busway or light rail provides, until money again becomes available. This may not take place until after the entire balance of our rapid transit system is finished.

You can however have "enhanced bus service." This would be service that would build upon your already existing express bus service. It would be coordinated with new cross-town bus routes that will be started as part of the new South Corridor light rail project. Of course this would not be the ultimate answer to transit in the Southeast. It is only meant to buy time until money again becomes available for light rail.

WE CALL ON THE MTC - GIVE SOUTHEAST A "NO BUILD OPTION"

If CATS' decision is bus rapid transit (BRT) for the Southeast Corridor we call upon the members of the MTC to give citizens of the Southeast the right to turn down the BRT option, and therefore hold off building any fixed guideway transit at this time. Can the Southeast afford not to build something now? We think maybe the question should be can they afford to build something they don't want, and may be of little help to them in the future? These are the questions people in the Southeast must answer for themselves.

We hope the MTC will allow the citizens of Southeast Charlotte and Matthews to make the final judgment on this matter, because they are the people who will be most effected by this decision. We do not know by what means this could take place. Whether it be by an actual vote of people in the district, or simply by feedback from homeowners associations, civic organizations, etc., funneled through their elected representatives, such as Nancy Carter.

For the benefit of our members a list of the members of the MTC (Metropolitan Transit Commission) and their contact information is listed below. Please keep in mind that these are the people who will make the ultimate decisions regarding the composition of all the transit corridors in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, not CATS. For the benefit of those who live within the city of Charlotte we have also printed a list of the City Council members so that you might contact your district representative.

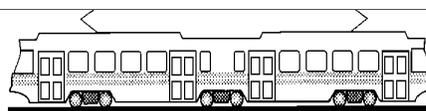
MEMBERS OF THE METROPOLITAN TRANSIT COMMISSION

Mayor Patrick McCrory, Chairman MTC
City of Charlotte
600 E. 4th St. - 15th Floor
Charlotte, NC 28202
Phone: (704) 336-2241
Fax: (704) 336-3097
E-mail: mayor@ci.charlotte.nc.us

Parks Helms, Chairman
Mecklenburg County Commission
600 E. 4th St.
Charlotte, NC 28202
Phone: (704) 372-4884
Fax: (704) 332-0585
E-mail: phelms@helmshenderson.com/

Continued on Page 3

Citizens For Efficient Mass Transit



For editorial comments and correspondence:
P.O. Box 35571, Charlotte NC 28235-5571
CEMT100@Yahoo.com

Editor, Co-President, Treasurer.....Bob Bischoff
Editor, Co-President.....Martin Wheeler
Art Production/Communications Bonnie Blum

Membership Address
P.O. Box 35571, Charlotte NC 28235-5571

Visit our web site at:
<http://users.adelphia.net/~bablum/cemt.htm>

Action Alert!

MTC Members, continued from Page 2

Mayor Gary T. Knox
Town of Cornelius
PO Box 399
Cornelius, NC 28031-0399
Phone: (704) 892-6031
Fax: (704) 896-2462
E-mail: garytknox@aol.com

Mayor Randall Kincaid
Town of Davidson
PO Box 37
Davidson, NC 28036
Phone: (704) 892-1609
Fax: (704) 892-3971
E-mail: rkincaid@ci.davidson.nc.us

Mayor Kim Phillips
Town of Huntersville
PO Box 664
Huntersville, NC 28070-0664
Phone: (704) 875-6541
Fax: (704) 875-6546
E-mail: kphillips@huntersville.org

Mayor Lee Myers
Town of Matthews
232 Matthews Station St.
Matthews, NC 28106-6713
Phone: (704) 847-4411
Fax: (704) 845-1964
E-mail: mayormyers@matthewsnc.com

Ralph Messera (Designee)
Town of Matthews
232 Matthews Station St.
Matthews, NC 28106-6713
Phone: (704) 847-4411
Fax: (704) 845-1964
E-mail: ralphm@matthewsnc.com

Mayor Ted Biggers
Town of Mint Hill
PO box 23457
Mint Hill, NC 28227-0272
Phone: (704) 545-9726
Fax: (704) 545-0802
E-mail: none

Mayor George Fowler
Town of Pineville
PO Box 249
Pineville, NC 28134
Phone: (704) 889-5500
Fax: (704) 889-7329
E-mail: gfover@pinevilledsl.net

Note: other members of the MTC not listed are non-voting regional representatives.

CHARLOTTE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Patrick McCrory
City of Charlotte
600 E. 4th St. – 15th Floor
Charlotte, NC 28202
Phone: (704) 336-2241
Fax: (704) 336-3097
E-mail: mayor@ci.charlotte.nc.us

At Large
Susan Burgess
(Mayor Pro-Tem)
1333 Carlton Ave.
Charlotte, NC 28203
Phone: (704) 333-2874
E-mail: sburg34@aol.com

Anthony Foxx
705 E. 10th St.
Charlotte, NC 28202
Phone: (704) 376-1913
E-mail: foxxcharlotte@aol.com

Patrick Mumford
2208 Dilworth Rd., W.
Charlotte, NC 28203
Phone: (704) 358-1689
E-mail: pat@votemumford.com

John Lassiter
2632 Winding Oak Dr.
Charlotte, NC 28270
Phone: (704) 542-1426
E-mail: lassiter@bellsouth.net

District 1
Patsy Kinsey
2334 Greenway Ave.
Charlotte, NC 28204
Phone: (704) 376-5367
E-mail: pbk2@mindspring.com

District 2
James Mitchell, Jr.
3425 Valerie Dr.
Charlotte, NC 28216
Phone: (704) 398-9480
E-mail: JamesDistrict2@aol.com

District 3
Warren Turner
PO Box 35465
Charlotte, NC 28231
Phone: (704) 713-0452
E-mail: District3turner@yahoo.com

District 4
Michael Barnes
1909 JN Pease Pl., Suite 202
Charlotte, NC 28262
Phone: (704) 336-2241
E-mail: barnesdistrict4@aol.com

District 5
Nancy Carter
1401 Cavendish Court
Charlotte, NC 28211
Phone: (704) 336-3431
E-mail: 71170.3036@compuserve.com

District 6
Andy Dulin
3200 Wickersham Rd.
Charlotte, NC 28211
Phone: (704) 364-4400 Ext. 250
E-mail: voteDulin.com

District 7
Don Lochman
6915 Linkside Court
Charlotte, NC 28277
Phone: (704) 845-3765
E-mail: djloch@earthlink.net

We Would Like to Hear from Our Readers

What issues would you like us to address in future issues of this newsletter? There are always more than enough topics for us to discuss and not enough room in these quarterly newsletters to touch on all of them.

Therefore we would like to hear from you. **What subjects interest you and what issues do you think we should address.**

- Do we need more current events?
- More in-depth articles?
- Would you like more articles featuring transit in other cities?
- More articles on neighborhoods and transit oriented development?
- Are certain corridors getting not enough attention or too much attention?

Tell us what you think and we will try to answer your concerns.

Iredell Commuters: You Too Need to Make Calls!

This is a friendly warning to Iredell County commuters who think they'll simply drive down to Davidson, or some other north Mecklenburg town, park, and ride the train into Charlotte. Parking is likely to be extremely limited, if not non-existent. The only real solution is providing your own parking at your own station.

Many commuters in many cities long before you have tried to see if they couldn't get someone else's parking spot, but it usually only leads to a lot of pain, and late arrivals at work. Paying the cost of your own station and parking is the ultimate answer, and one that will provide the greatest long-term satisfaction for you and your nerves. This writer knows. He spent the better part of 40 years commuting.

In order for Iredell commuters to get their own parking at their own station, it is going to require people who support North Corridor commuter rail being extended to Iredell and Mooresville to contact their elected officials. They need to get Iredell County commissioners out of low gear on this subject. Commuters in Mooresville can also contact their mayor and town officials.

Calls to Iredell County commissioners and the mayor of Mooresville do not have to be limited to Iredell residents.

Anyone living in the North Corridor commuting area has a vested interest in seeing that this commuter line runs in an efficient manner. That cannot happen if too many people from Iredell try to take advantage of parking that Mecklenburg residents have built and paid for. North Mecklenburg residents need to emphasize that Iredell needs to pay its fair share of the cost of providing Iredell residents who want to use the new commuter rail line with their own stations and parking. We have printed a list of these officials below.

IREDELL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Stephen D. Johnson
Iredell County Government Center
PO Box 788
Statesville, NC 28687
Phone: (704) 872-2485
Fax: (704) 878-0898
E-mail: johnsonsparts@statesville.net

Marvin Norman
Iredell County Government Center
PO Box 788
Statesville, NC 28687
Phone: (704) 528-9616
Fax: (704) 528-4835
E-mail: norman_marvin652@hotmail.com

R. Godfrey Williams
Iredell County Government Center
PO Box 788
Statesville, NC 28267
Phone: (704) 592-4815
Fax: (704) 873-0805
E-mail: wms@energyunited.net

Kenneth M. Robertson, Jr.
PO Box 4382
Mooresville, NC 28117
Phone: (704) 664-1369
Fax: (704) 664-1369
E-mail: Ken.Robertson@kosa.com

Sara Haire Tice
105 Clearwater Lane
Mooresville, NC 28117
Phone: (704) 896-0715
Fax: (704) 896-3970
E-mail: tice@perigee.net

Mayor Bill Thunberg
Town of Mooresville
PO Box 878
Mooresville, NC 28115
Phone: (704) 663-3800
Fax: (704) 663-7386
E-mail: bthunberg@ci.mooresville.nc.us

Your Membership Will Help Us Help You!

Please help us continue our fight for the best possible transit system for the Charlotte area. Become a member of Citizen's for Efficient Mass Transit. We are a totally volunteer, non-profit organization.

Your membership entitles you to one year of the quarterly CEMT Newsletter and occasional news releases. We monitor all public transit meetings. Please take a minute to help us keep you informed. Thank you!

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____
Phone (____) _____ Fax (____) _____

Citizens for Efficient Mass Transit Membership

Annual membership dues rate:	
- Regular / Individual	\$15.00
- Student / Senior	\$10.00
- Additional donations	_____

Mail this section with your check or money order to:

Bob Bischoff, Treasurer
Citizens for Efficient Mass Transit
P.O. Box 35571
Charlotte NC 28235-5571

email address _____