

A blue and white LYNX train, numbered 101, is stopped at a modern transit station platform. The platform has a curved, arched roof structure. Several people, including a man in a white shirt and a young boy in a red shirt, are standing on the platform. The train has the LYNX logo on its front. The background shows a building with blue and white panels.

Welcome to the LYNX Blue Line Extension Transit Station Area Plans Kickoff Meeting!

**Presentation will begin
at 6:00 P.M.**

Meeting Agenda



Blue Line Extension Transit Station Area Plans

Public Kick-Off Meeting
October 4, 2012
6:00pm

Introduction (5 minutes)

Welcome and Introductions

Kathy Cornett

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Department

Overview Presentation (45 minutes)

Brief Project Update

What Brings Us Here?

Putting the Pieces Together

Area Planning Principles and Concepts

Group Exercise

Review and Provide Feedback

On Station Area Concepts

All

Wrap-up and Next Steps (10 minutes)

Kathy Cornett

Information about the BLE Station Area Plans will be posted on our website throughout the planning process. Tonight's presentation will be on the website by Friday, October 5, 2012.

www.charlotteplanning.org

Planning

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CATS

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Engineering

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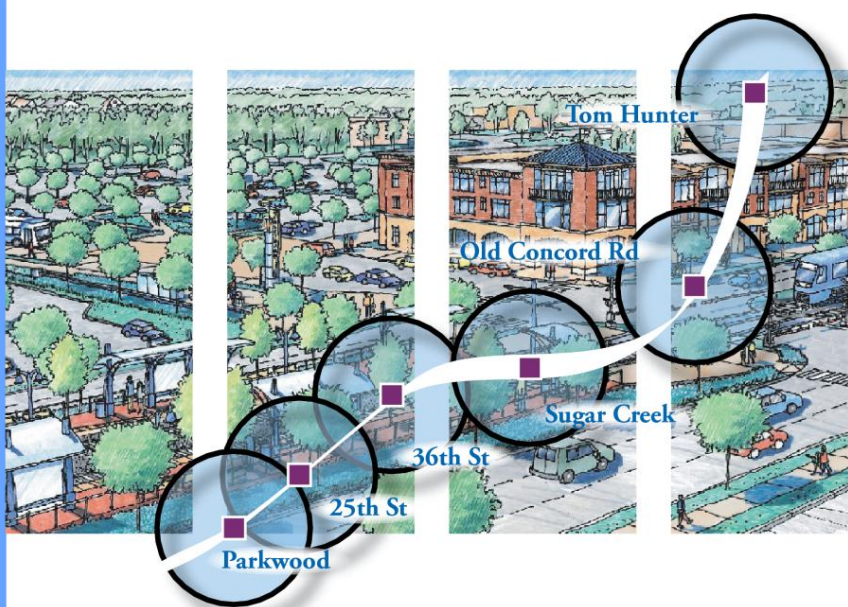
jkeen@charlottenc.gov

Transportation

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bhorton@charlottenc.gov



Why Are We Here?

- **Discuss the Purpose of Station Area Plans**
- **Introduce the Station Area Planning Initiative**
- **Provide an Update on the BLE Project**
- **Describe the Plan Development Process**
- **Describe Plan Implementation and the Northeast Corridor Infrastructure Program (NECI)**
- **Receive Feedback on the Station Area Plan Development Concepts**

- **Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Department**
- **Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS)**
- **Engineering & Property Management**
- **Corporate Communications**
- **Charlotte Department of Transportation (CDOT)**
- **Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation**
- **Neighborhood & Business Services**
- **Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities (CMU)**
- **Charlotte Fire Department**
- **Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department**
- **Solid Waste Services**
- **Stormwater Services**
- **Land Use and Environmental Service**





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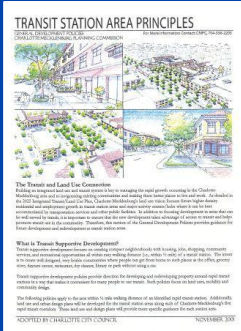
What's Been Done So Far?



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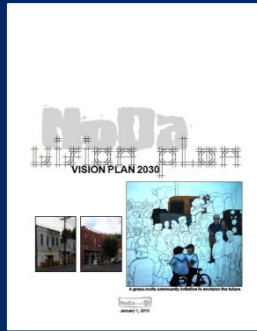
Background

**November
2001**



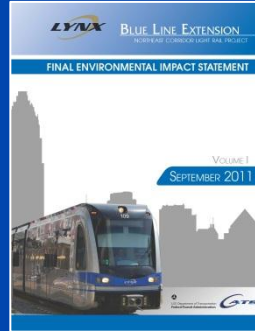
**Station Area
Principles**

January 2010



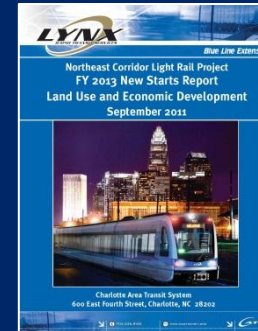
**NoDa Vision
Plan**

August 2011



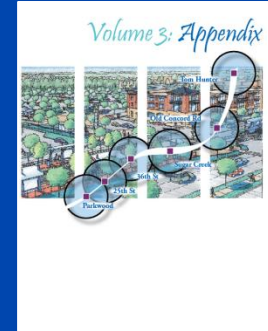
**Environmental
Impact Study**

**September
2011**



**New Starts
Application**

June 2012



**Existing
Conditions
Report**

Asking Questions

Four ways to ask a question:

1. Submit a question form during the presentation
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kcornett@charlottenc.gov

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Blue Line Extension Update

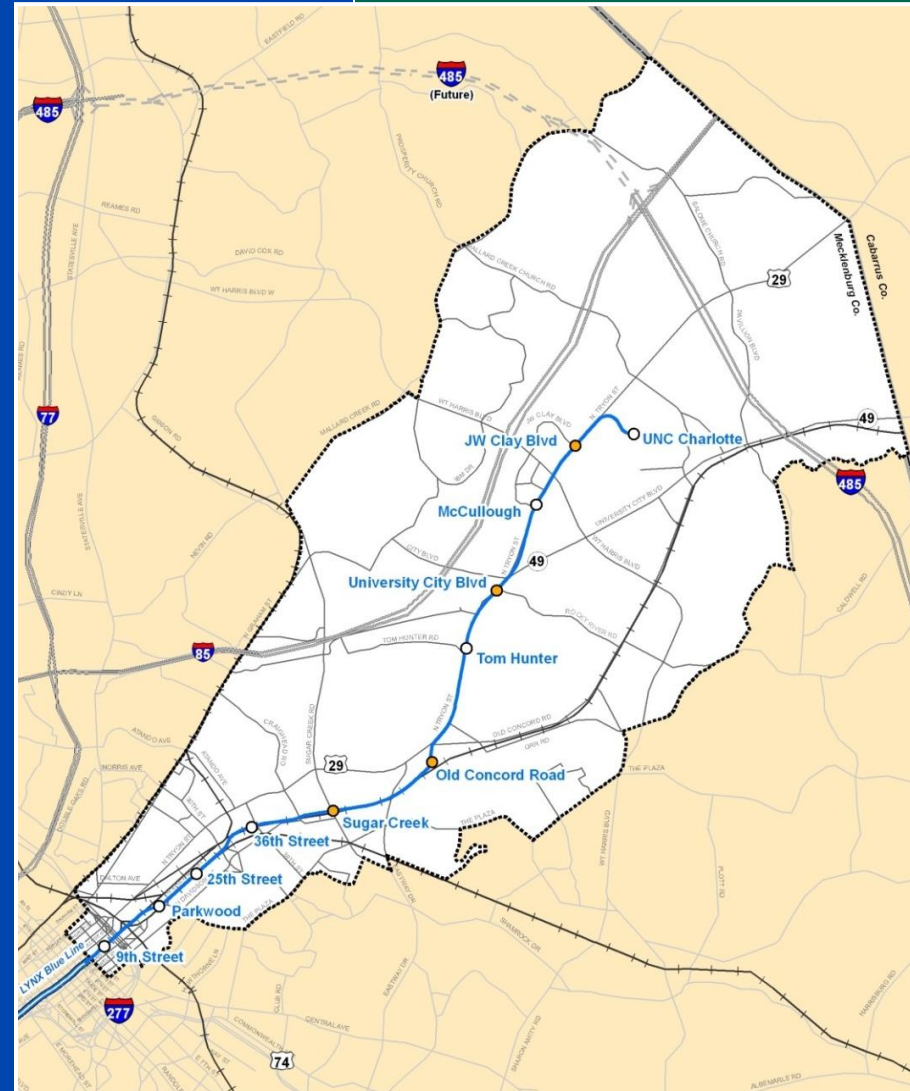
Blue Line Extension (BLE) Project Update

- **LYNX Blue Line Extension (BLE)**

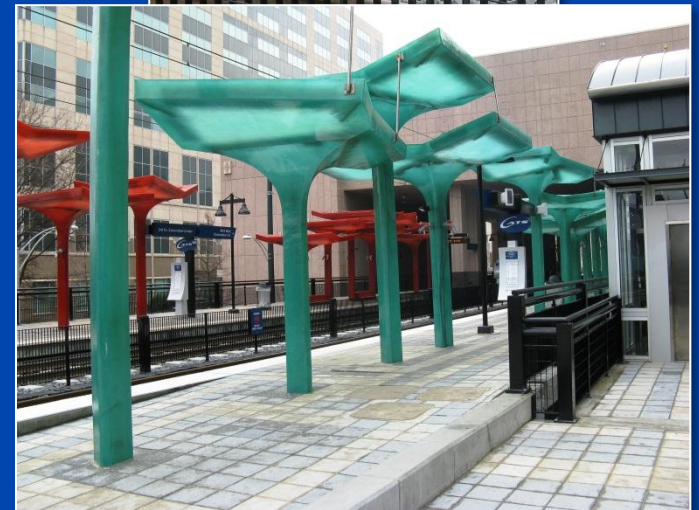
- 9.3 miles
- Implementation in 2017
- +25,000 daily riders
- Connects UNC Charlotte campuses

- **Major Achievements**

- FTA issued Record of Decision in December 2011
- FTA approved entry into Final Design in July 2012
- FTA Full Funding Grant Agreement in October/November 2012



- **11 Stations (7 walk-up / 4 park-and-ride)**
- **Accommodates 3-car trains**
- **Approximately 3,100 parking spaces**
- **Congestion-free commute**
- **Connecting bus services**
- **Convenient and safe station amenities for customers**
 - Security features
 - Bicycle parking
 - Public art
 - Shelters, garbage cans, benches
 - Trees
 - Lighting
 - Ticket vending machines (TVMs)
 - Maps and schedules

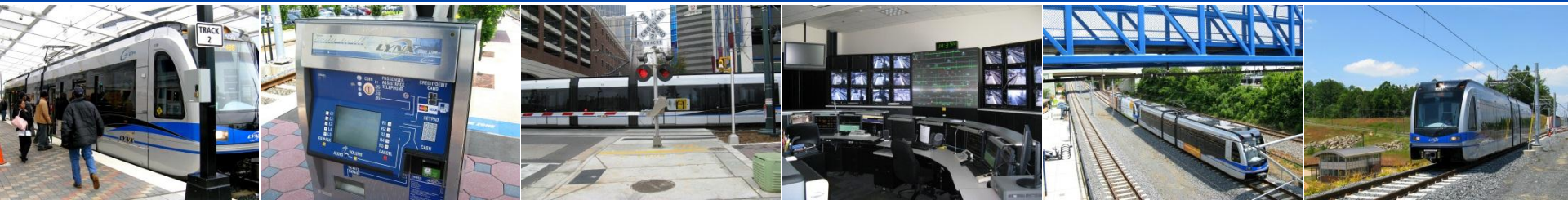


Milestone	Date
State FFGA Executed	March 2012
Request to Enter Final Design	March 2012
FTA Approval to Enter Final Design	July 2012
Federal FFGA Signed	Oct / Nov 2012
Advanced Utility Relocation Begins	May 2013
Right-of-Way Acquisition Complete	January 2014
Complete Final Design	May 2014
Start Construction	November 2013
Initiate Revenue Service	March 2017

*Schedule subject to change



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Plan Purpose

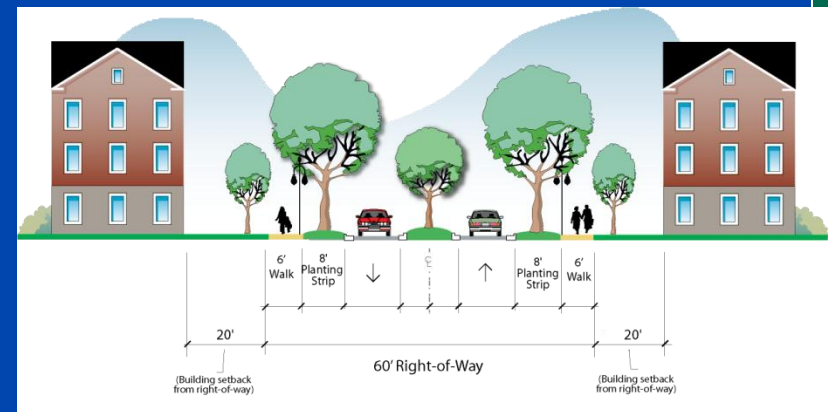
What is a Station Area Plan?



- **Policy Guide that Provides a Framework for Future Growth and Development**
- **Provides Detailed Land Use and Community Design Recommendations for each Station Area**
- **Identifies Public and Private Investments and Strategies Needed to Realize the Plan Vision**
- **Updates the Centers, Corridors and Wedges Boundary for the Plan Area**
- **Provides Building Setback and Streetscape Standards for Properties with Urban Zoning Districts**
- **Represents a Shared Vision for the Future**

• Elements Typical of Area Plans

- Vision
- Land Use/Transportation/Community Design Recommendations
- Recommended Infrastructure Improvements
- Implementation Section with Recommended Zoning Changes
- Street Cross-sections that Identify Future Curb Lines
- Identifying Setbacks from Back-of-Curb Lines

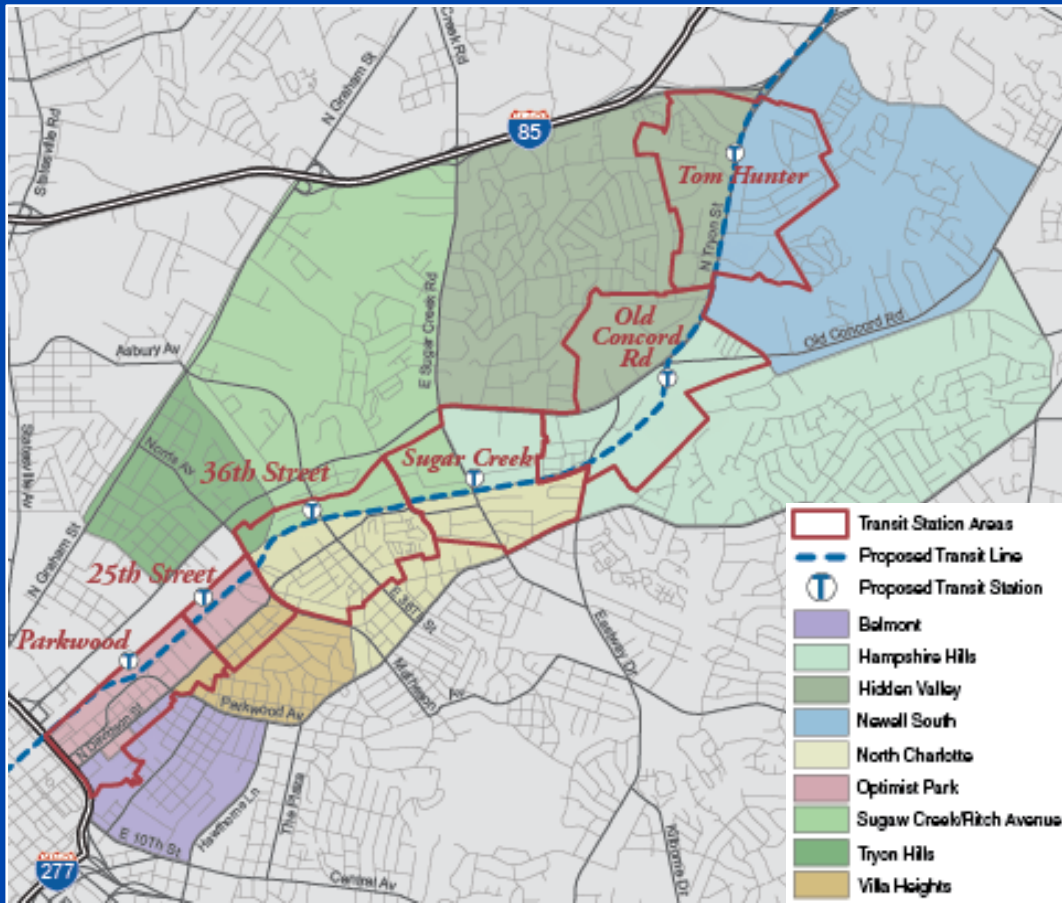


What Happens After Plan Adoption?



Plan Areas

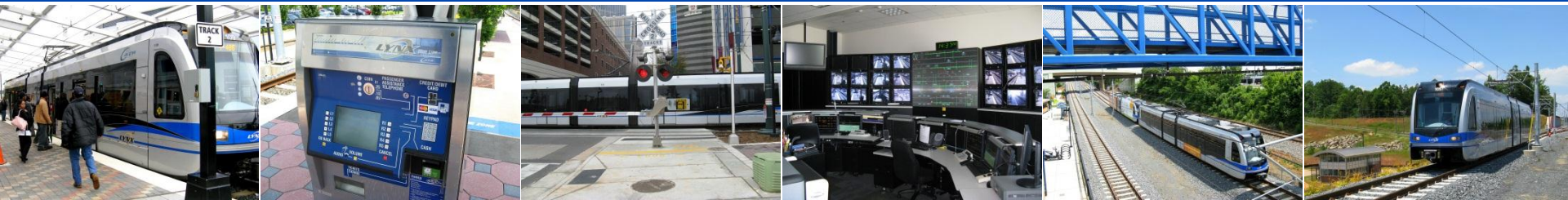
- Red lines show station area boundaries.
- Criteria Used to Determine Plan Boundaries:



- Properties within ½ mile of the transit station.
- Includes some properties in neighborhoods zoned single family.
- Uses “natural” boundaries where possible (streets, rear property lines, etc.).



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Policy Context for Plans



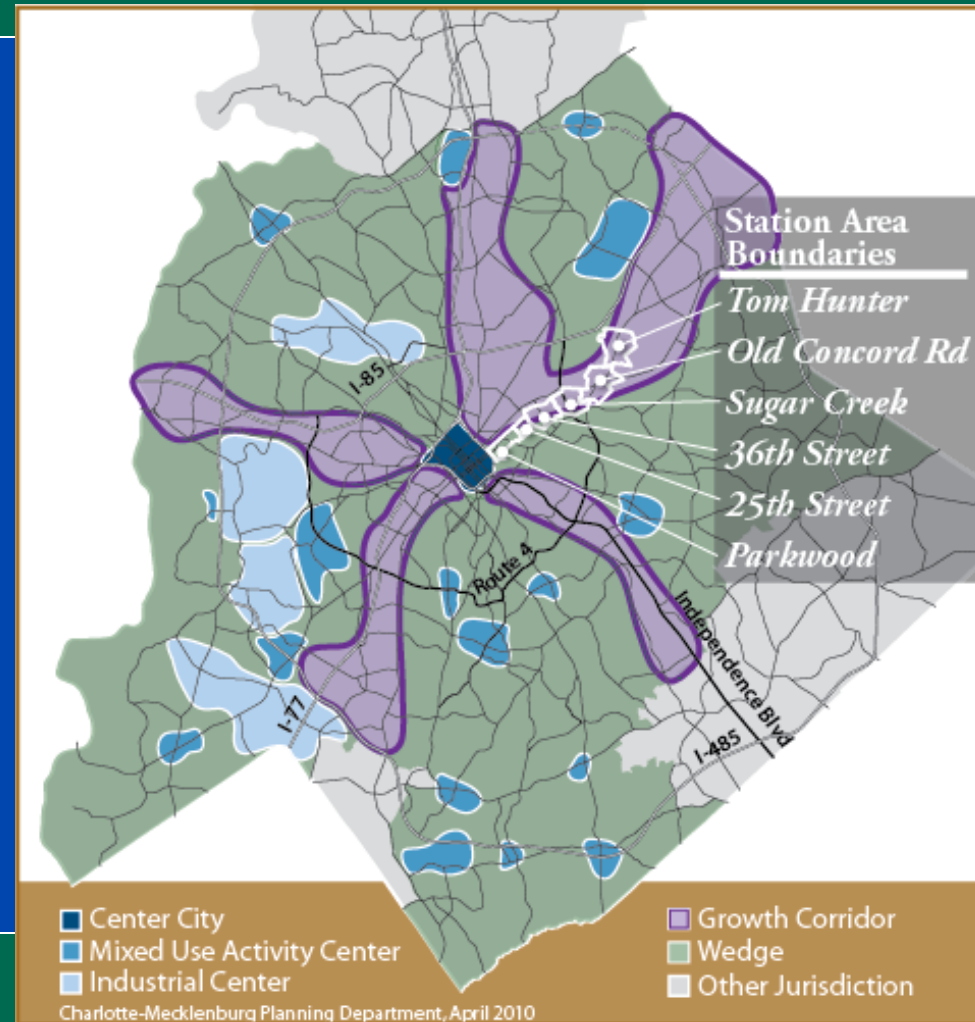
Activity Centers

- Center City
- Mixed Use Center
- Industrial Center

Growth Corridors

- Established Neighborhood Areas
- **Transit Station Areas**
- Interchange Areas
- General Corridor Areas

Wedges



What Can You Expect From a Station Area Plan?

Clarify the Vision for the Area

Identify and provide policies to
address development opportunities
and issues

But not . . .

Create regulations or
laws

Identify public and private
investments needed to achieve
vision

But not . . .

Provide funding and
implementation
means overnight

Possibly recommend zoning
changes in appropriate locations

But not . . .

Rezone property

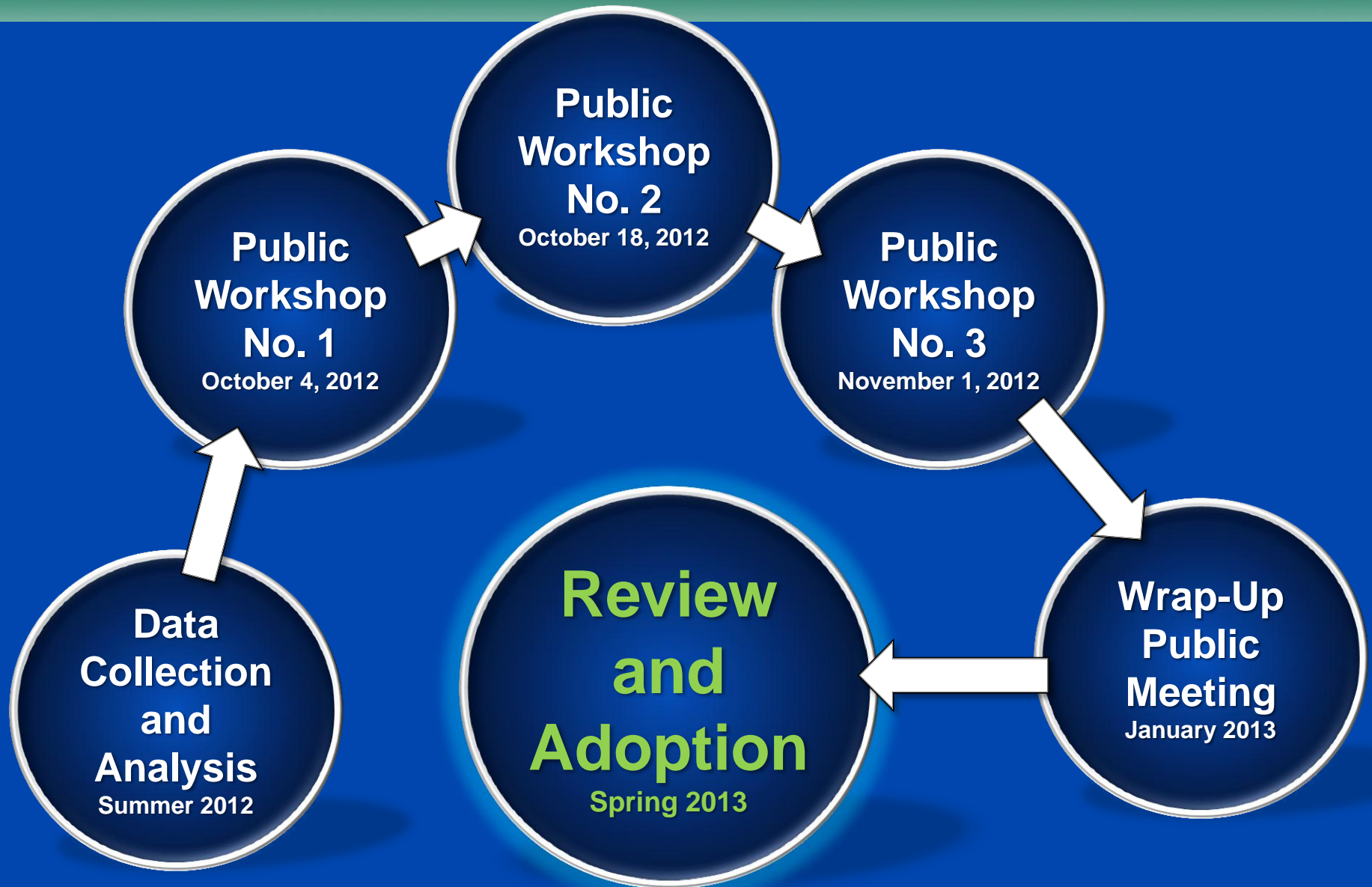
Guide more appropriate
development

But not . . .

Halt development



Plan Development Process



Guidelines that address:



Community Design



Land Use



Mobility

Transit Station Area Principles

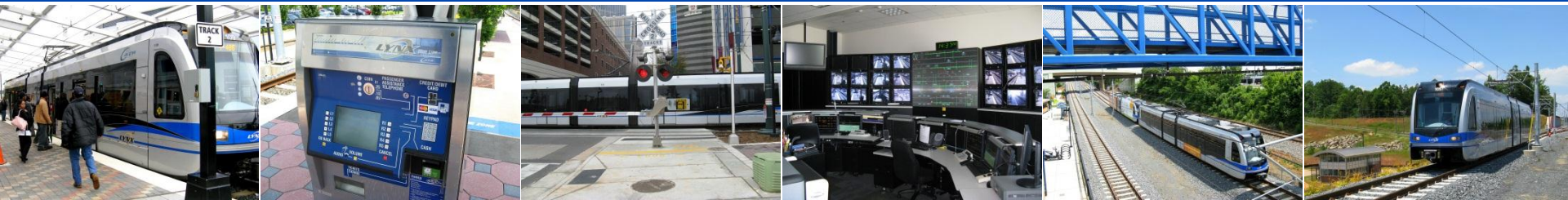
Transit Oriented Development:

A compact neighborhood with housing, jobs and neighborhood services within easy walking distance of a transit station.





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Developing the Vision



What is the Concept Plan?

- Considers the vision and goals
- Illustrates the recommended development pattern
- General in nature and to provide guidance for policies



Types of Character Areas

 **Park/
Open Space**



 **School**



 **Neighborhood
Preservation**



 **Neighborhood
Retail/Office**



 **Transit Oriented
Mixed Use**



 **Employment**



Types of Character Areas

Parks, Open Space and Schools

Purpose: Why do we need Parks, Open Space, and Schools?

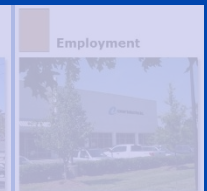
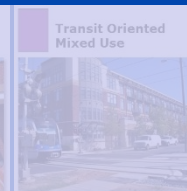
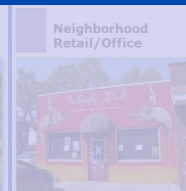
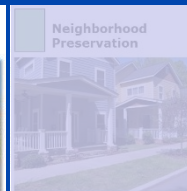
- Provide amenities to the community

Character of Uses:

- Parks
- Passive and Active Recreation
- Community Services

Facility Types:

- Schools
- Playgrounds
- Athletic courts, fields and gymnasiums
- Greenways and Trails
- Stormwater facilities



Types of Character Areas

Neighborhood Preservation

Purpose: Why do we need Neighborhood Preservation?

- To strengthen and enhance existing residential
- Support neighborhood amenities and retail nodes

Character of Uses:

- Residential (varying densities)

Building Types:

- Single family detached homes
- Townhomes



Types of Character Areas

Neighborhood Retail and Office

Purpose: Why do we need Neighborhood Uses?

Provide moderate office with some neighborhood-scale retail services to support the community

Character of Uses:

Retail
Office
Limited residential

Building Types:

- Include mixed-use blocks or mixed-use buildings with ground-floor retail and office or residential above



Types of Character Areas

Transit Oriented Mixed-Use

Purpose: Why do we need Transit Oriented Mixed-Use?

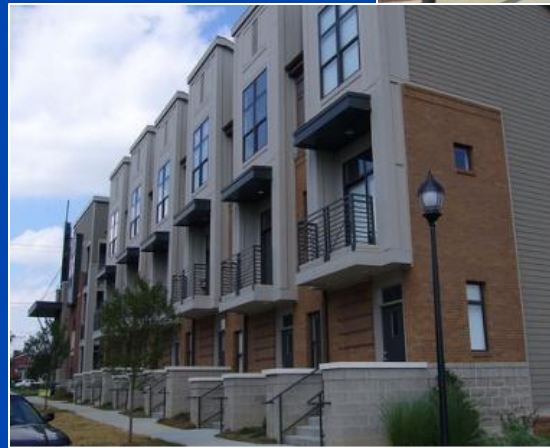
- Support transit stations with appropriately intense land uses

Character of Uses:

- Intense mix of residential and non-residential uses

Building Types:

- Include mixed-use buildings
- Mixed-use blocks with small to medium building footprints
- Pedestrian scale with connected streets and walkable block sizes even when building footprints are larger



Types of Character Areas

Employment Uses

Purpose: Why do we need Employment Areas?

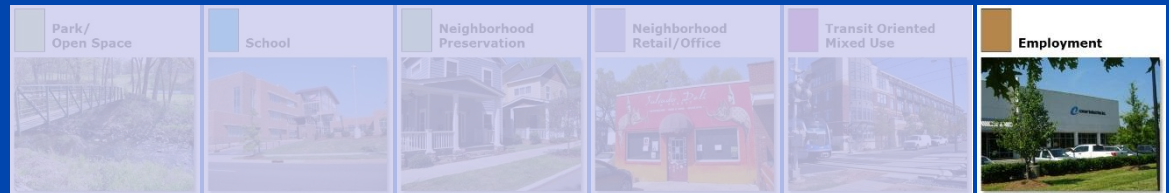
- Provide concentrations of employment and tax base for the community
- Provide jobs for people.

Character of Uses:

- Single-use office and industrial, with limited supporting retail uses

Building Types:

- Manufacturing Facilities
- Warehouses
- Flex Space
- Large-Floorplate Offices
- Supporting retail



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Visioning Exercise

Visioning Exercise

Instructions

- **Select your Transit Station Area(s) on the wall**
- **Review maps and post your comments on the wall using Post-it notes.**
- **Discuss any questions you have with City staff person at the wall**

Notes

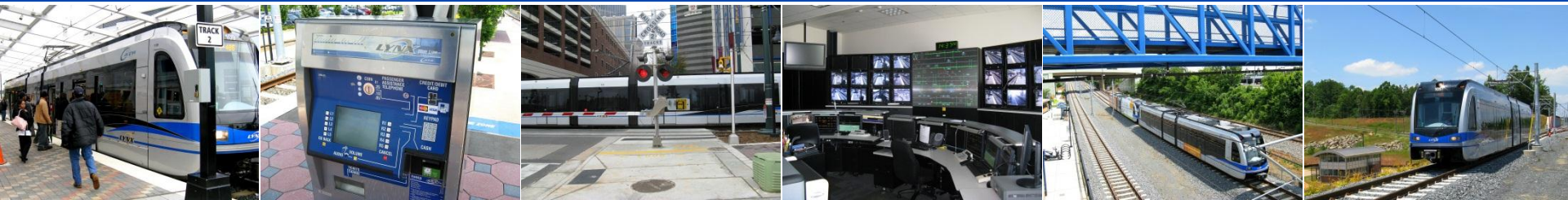
- **You are encouraged to talk to your neighbors about your comments.**

Time

- **30 Minutes**



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Next Steps



Plan Development Process





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Thank You!

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