



MOVING CHARLOTTE FORWARD

Blue Line Extension: Northeast Corridor

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Charlotte Area Transit System Launches LYNX Blue Line Extension

Light rail service in Charlotte expands an additional 9.3 miles connecting Northeast corridor to Uptown.

Charlotte, N.C. – Charlotte Area Transit System welcomed customers today on the newly expanded LYNX Blue Line light rail service today after nearly five years of construction. The 9.3 mile extension, coined the Blue Line Extension (BLE) during construction, continues the alignment north from the previous terminus stop at 7th Street Station and now culminates at UNC Charlotte’s main campus.

Opening day festivities took place all along the alignment with Charlotte Mayor Vi Lyles remarking on the connections the extension of the LYNX Blue Line will bring to the Queen City. “The City’s largest infrastructure project is now a reality. Beginning today, we have a seamless connection between south and northeast Charlotte, delivering jobs, education and entertainment to the community,” said Lyles, standing alongside various members of Charlotte City Council who also attended the launch.

Light rail has been transformative in the south corridor, spurring over \$1.5 billion in transit oriented development along the LYNX Blue Line, which opened in November 2007. The BLE is poised to show similar economic growth potential for the Northeast corridor. Currently, the extension has already attracted new private development along the line with nearly \$500 million in projects completed, planned or under construction. Projection totals for economic development in the area are slated to hit \$4.4 billion by 2035.

John Lewis, CATS CEO was among those on the first official train ride today, riding with UNC Charlotte’s Vice Chancellor Dr. Kevin Bailey. “I am grateful to the people of Charlotte who have stood by us during the planning and construction of this transformative project. This project has been a profound example of what Charlotte can accomplish through collaboration, commitment and diligence. A strong public transit system is integral to a thriving community and I am proud to be part of this chapter in Charlotte’s history,” shared Lewis.

The Blue Line Extension features 11 new stations on the LYNX Blue Line. Each new station has beautiful public art and the entire alignment boasts more than 570 artwork contributions. An additional 3,100 parking spots are also being added at four new park and ride locations. The alignment is bike friendly with each new station featuring bike racks, which are also art installments.

The BLE is a comprehensive piece to Charlotte Area Transit Systems’ 2030 Transit Corridor System Plan. In 2006, the plan was adopted by the Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC) as a part of a vision to improve rapid transit options in five corridors of Charlotte. Customers can familiarize themselves with how to ride light rail, how to purchase tickets and traveling safely near the transit corridor through a series of CATS information videos found on [CATS YouTube account](#).

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