

TO: Ms. Amy Hawn Nelson | Charlotte Mecklenburg Libraries Board Chair
Ms. Angie Myers, Interim Chief Executive Officer Charlotte Mecklenburg Libraries

FROM: Mr. Brent Cagle, Interim Chief Executive Officer | Charlotte Area Transit System

SUBJECT: CATS Better Bus service to Charlotte Mecklenburg Libraries

DATE: October 23, 2025

Background

On May 28, 2025, the Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC) adopted a 30 year fiscally constrained Transit System Plan funded by a proposed one cent sales tax for mobility. The proposed tax includes 40% for road improvements and 60% for transit expansion. Preceding the adoption by MTC, CATS fully engaged with residents and stakeholders throughout Mecklenburg County. The plan includes not only an expansion of our rail program but also a significant expansion of bus service and bus stop amenities, called the Better Bus Plan. CATS recognizes that our bus network is the backbone of our transit system, today and tomorrow. With that understanding CATS has committed to expand our bus route and CATS micro services by 50% in 5 years and improve 2,000 bus stops in 10 years. The service improvements include 15 bus routes at 15 minute or better frequency, 19 CATS Micro zones, and all routes at 30 minutes or better frequency.

As CATS advances the implementation strategy of our Better Bus Plan, I want to share the exciting and meaningful service improvements that will significantly expand mobility around most Charlotte Mecklenburg Library branches.

Today, 81% of Charlotte Mecklenburg Libraries branches already benefit from CATS's service. However, currently only three have access to 15-minute bus service and only three branches in North Mecklenburg are served by the CATS Micro service. Together, this only accounts for 29% out of 21 libraries. With the Better Bus Plan, these options will grow dramatically delivering more frequent, reliable, and accessible service across Mecklenburg County. By 2031, 81% of CML branches will have access to either a 15-minute bus route within a 10-minute walk or to CATS micro service. With the 30-minute the access increases to 95%.

To better visualize the Better Bus expansion and CML branches, I have included a map and table with this memo. Please don't hesitate to reach out for a briefing or additional information as we move forward.

Thank you

Brent Cagle
Interim CEO CATS

Attachments: Charlotte Mecklenburg Libraries & Better Bus Map

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library	Existing			Better Bus		
	15 Minute	CATS Micro	30 Minute	15 Minute	CATS Micro	30 Minute
Davidson		X	X		X	X
Independence Regional			X	X		X
Matthews			X	X	X	X
West Boulevard			X	X	X	X
Myers Park			X			X
North County Regional		X	X		X	X
Mint Hill					X	
Hickory Grove			X	X	X	X
ImaginOn	X		X	X		X
Allegra Westbrooks			X	X	X	X
University City Regional			X		X	X
Steele Creek			X		X	X
SouthPark Regional			X	X		X
South County Regional			X			X
Plaza Midwood	X		X	X		X
Mountain Island						
Main Library	X		X	X		X
South Boulevard						X
Cornelius		X	X		X	X
Sugar Creek			X	X		X
Pineville					X	

*Source: Mecklenburg County Open Data Portal

Charlotte Mecklenburg Libraries & Better Bus

