


CONNECT Beyond 2024 Annual Report

January 01, 2024 - December 31, 2024



CONNECT Beyond is a regional mobility project working to transform how residents and visitors travel throughout the greater Charlotte region. CONNECT Beyond's plan includes over 120 actionable recommendations to create a robust, interconnected transportation network that will impact how our region grows and moves in the future.

Throughout 2024, the project team and its project partners have been hard at work implementing critical near-term plan recommendations. We are proud to share this report and highlight our project's achievements over the past year.

By the Numbers

120

Plan Recommendations

47

Immediate-Term

25

In Progress

CONNECT Beyond Project Priorities:

2024 Successes



Increase Economic Competitiveness

Launched the Integrated Mobility Center, providing training on infrastructure funding and engaging in development of passenger rail corridors in our region.



Improve Transportation Choices

Finalized region's first transportation demand management plan and launched CONNECT Centralina to promote transportation choices to replace drive-alone trips.



Enhance Public Transit

Seamless CONNECTIONs work advanced transit coordination for transit agencies and promoted a regional transportation guide for older adults, including ride share options.



Promote Sustainable Regional Growth

Developed a guidebook for educating elected officials, planners and technical staff on integrating land use and transit planning.

Project Highlights

Launching Centralina's Integrated Mobility Center





Centralina's new Integrated Mobility Center launched in collaboration with regional transportation stakeholders with a focus on the following initiatives: (1) working with local Metropolitan Planning Organizations to respond to NCDOT Rail Division's recommended passenger rail corridors; and (2) begun work developing a Mobility Hub Implementation Strategy, a key recommendation of CONNECT Beyond.



Launching CONNECT Centralina



In September, Centralina's Executive Board adopted the region's first Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Plan developed in collaboration with statewide and regional planning partners. **CONNECT Centralina's TDM program** will work to encourage alternatives to single occupancy vehicle (SOV) trips such as carpools, vanpools, walk/bike and public transit. CONNECT Centralina will focus on:

-  **Education & Outreach** to major business, healthcare and education centers.
-  **Regional Partnerships & Coordination** that encourage employer-led TDM programs.
-  **Incentives & Facilitation** for non-SOV travel.
-  **Technical Assistance** to support the development of TDM policies and regulations.

Creating Seamless CONNECTIONS

Project partners are working to increase coordination and promote seamless connections across the region by:



Advancing transit coordination opportunities between transit agencies, including CATS's work under an NCDOT ConCPT grant to streamline trip planning and transfers with adjacent transit agencies.

Convening the Mobility Management Group to facilitate inter-agency solutions and share best practices and trainings for public transportation agencies in the region.

Launching the first microtransit systems to increase efficiency, frequency and accessibility of first/last mile connections with Go Gastonia and Southpark Community Partner's Skipper service.



Regional Coordination: ATP Committee

CONNECT Beyond's Advancing the Plan Committee was established to steward regional conversation and plan implementation. Committee members including elected officials, city and county managers and members of the business community, met throughout 2023 and early 2024 with the goal of shaping recommendations for a regional mobility governance approach. In 2024, the Committee completed their final report and included recommendations related to organizational models for regional collaboration. [FINAL REPORT](#)

What's Coming Up in 2025?

- **Continue implementation of CATS' ConCPT grant** from NCDOT to improve transit coordination and create seamless transfers. **ONGOING**
- **Continue to expand transit education** and awareness for older adults and people with disabilities. **ONGOING**
- The Centralina Integrated Mobility Center will **develop a Mobility Hub Playbook** and work with communities in the region to identify and implement mobility hub pilot design projects. **SUMMER 2025**
- **Launch CONNECT Centralina**, the region's first transportation demand management program. **SUMMER 2025**
- With Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization, **engage and educate communities** about best practices for developing mobility hubs. **FALL 2025**

For more information and resources

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Contact our team at connect-beyond@centralina.org

