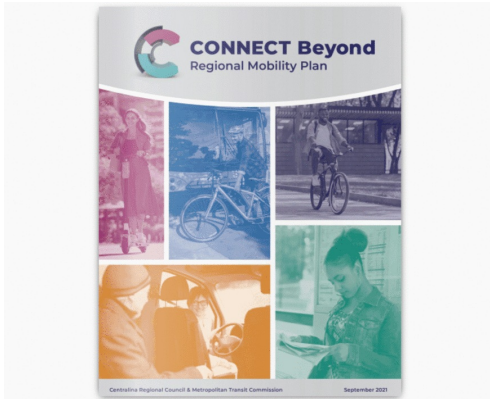




# CONNECT Beyond

A Regional Mobility Initiative



One year ago, CONNECT Beyond's sponsors, Centralina Regional Council and the Metropolitan Transit Commission, formally endorsed the final **CONNECT Beyond plan**. It was a moment to celebrate the hard work of stakeholders across the region collaborating for a common mobility vision. We are still very proud of that moment, however, today CONNECT Beyond's project team is busy implementing the over **120 recommendations** of the plan. Centralina recently released an article celebrating the

successes of the past year and revisiting the importance of CONNECT Beyond's plan for the region – you can read the article [HERE](#).

## Featured Article: Transportation Demand Management (TDM)



Key recommendations of CONNECT Beyond's plan are focused on Transportation Demand Management (TDM) and **developing a regional framework for a TDM program in the greater Charlotte region.** To date, TDM programs in our region have been limited in scope and geography. CONNECT Beyond recommends developing a regional TDM program that will provide benefits to all communities, increasing mobility options for everyone.

## What is Transportation Demand Management?



TDM is a set of strategies that seek to change how and when people travel. The goal of TDM is to reduce the number of people driving private vehicles in general, but particularly during peak travel hours. **TDM strategies encourage people to use alternative mobility options, travel during off-peak hours or reduce their overall transportation demand by teleworking.**

Example strategies include enhanced bike and pedestrian options, ride share programs, vanpools, employer discounts for transit and increased access for public transit.

Learn More About TDM Strategies & Programs in Peer Regions

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### Learning More:

TDM Webinar - 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 6

Learn about strategies for your community and resources available to help implement these strategies. The Centralina Learns speakers will highlight TDM basics and planning efforts in the Centralina region, actionable TDM strategies for all community types and recently released statewide tools and resources.

Register Here

*If you are interested in participating in a listening session about TDM this winter, please send an email to Megan Upchurch at [mupchurch@centralina.org](mailto:mupchurch@centralina.org).*

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### Mobility Move Spotlight: Creating Mobility Friendly Places

Each quarterly CONNECT Beyond newsletter highlights a specific mobility move, the five categories of recommendations that will transform the way people travel around our region. In this newsletter we will focus on the mobility move **Creating Mobility Friendly**



## Places.

The CONNECT Beyond initiative is building more than a mobility plan that focuses solely on expanding and enhancing the mobility options available in our region. CONNECT Beyond also focuses on strategies for how the region can work together to promote sustainable growth, encourage mobility-supportive land use and community development to enhance connectivity and encourage residents and visitors to use alternative mobility options. Mobility-friendly places are **vibrant communities where residents can live, work, shop and play**. They are one-stop environments where everyday destinations and resources are close by and easy to access. They typically include various mobility options, pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, multi-use development and enhanced pedestrian amenities.

Plan Recommendations for  
Creating Mobility Friendly  
Places

Watch a Short Video to  
Learn More About Creating  
Mobility Friendly Places

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## Project Updates

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CONNECT Beyond Seeks  
On-Call Consultant Services  
for Implementation

Centralina Regional Council recently released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) seeking qualified consultant firms to provide professional services related to implementation of CONNECT Beyond's regional mobility plan on an on-call basis for a period of three years. The selected firm, or firms, will provide necessary professional services to implement key CONNECT Beyond recommendations. The RFQ is available on [Centralina's website](#). Responses are due **December 2, 2022**. Please be in touch with Jason Wager ([jwager@centralina.org](mailto:jwager@centralina.org)) with any questions, insights or concerns.

Transportation Guide for Older  
Adults and People with Disabilities:  
*Now Available in Spanish!*

Older adults wish to age in place and many live a decade or longer without a personal car. When driving is no longer an option, other arrangements should be made to access important resources such as healthcare, healthy food, religious organizations and community support. To help navigate options, Centralina created a two-state **Transportation Guide for Older Adults and People with Disabilities** that walks through resources and key considerations when making transportation decisions. This project is one of several ongoing CONNECT Beyond implementation initiatives. See Guides [HERE](#).

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## The Latest News Around the Region

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## Centralina and Partners Win Prestigious Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Cleantech EV Award

Centralina, Duke Energy, UNC Charlotte and the City of Charlotte received the DEI in Cleantech Award by the Research Triangle Cleantech Cluster based on the collaborative PoleVolt™ initiative, which uses existing streetlights to provide curbside electric vehicle (EV) charging for drivers. Read more on [Duke Energy's site](#) or [PRNewswire](#).

## WBTV On Your Side: CONNECT Beyond Regional Transit Plan

Listen as Jamie Boll from WBTV On Your Side interviews Centralina Regional Council's Executive Director Geraldine Gardner. [Watch here](#)

## Transit Time Article & Podcast: How to Build a Regional Transit System Around Charlotte

The Charlotte Ledger's Tony Mecia talked with Centralina Executive Director Geraldine Gardner about the vision for a regional transit system and how to get there. [Read the interview](#) or listen to the full [WFAE podcast](#) to learn more about CONNECT Beyond, "the less-talked-about regional relative of the Charlotte Moves plan, also known as the Transformational Mobility Network."

## CONNECT Beyond on Carolina Focus Podcast

WBT's Sharon Thorsland talks with Geraldine Gardner about what makes up a mobility network, how to convince people to use alternative methods of transportation instead of relying on personal vehicles and how to plan for the region's estimated population growth. [Listen here](#) - select the Nov. 12 episode.

## CONNECT Beyond Awards and Conferences

Congratulations to CONNECT Beyond's project team for receiving the NC American Planning Association's **Marvin Collins Outstanding Planning Award** for Specialized Plan - Transportation. Additionally, CONNECT Beyond project team members recently presented at the national conferences of the [Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations](#) (AMPO) and [Rail~Volution](#).



Centralina Regional Planning Director Michelle Nance and her Mobility Hubs panel at the Rail~Volution Conference



Centralina Assistant Regional Planning Director Jason Wager presents the CONNECT Beyond plan at the AMPO Conference



Centralina's Michelle Nance and Jason Wager alongside CATS Director of Planning Jason Lawrence accepting the Marvin Collins Award

## Successful Electric Vehicle Ride and Drive Event for Local Governments

In October, the [Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition](#) partnered with the City of Charlotte to host an electric vehicle ride and drive event for local government staff at the City's Vehicle Operations Center. Electric vehicles available for driving included: Ford F-150 Lightning, Tesla Model Y, Ford Mustang Mach-e, Hyundai IONIQ and Chevy Bolt. Over 100 people attended the event to learn about the

## Concord Kannapolis Area Transit Receives FTA Grants for Hybrid Buses

[Concord Kannapolis Area \(Rider\) Transit](#) received two FTA grants in the last year to replace eight of its aging buses with hybrid electric buses. In total, Rider received over \$5 million for replacement buses. This is the second round of hybrid bus replacements for Rider, with its first hybrid bus purchases made in 2013.

## In Closing: Sharing CONNECT Beyond

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It is exciting to see all that is happening around the region to support increased mobility and connectivity. Please let us know if you have transit related news to share! Email us at [connect-beyond@centralina.org](mailto:connect-beyond@centralina.org).

Thank you,

Jason Wager, AICP CEP  
CONNECT Beyond Project Manager

