



# CONNECT Beyond

A Regional Mobility Initiative

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Happy New Year from the CONNECT Beyond project team! 2021 was an exciting and eventful year for us and with the help from all of you, our stakeholders, we developed and released CONNECT Beyond's regional mobility plan. Now that the plan is in place, our team and regional partners are looking forward to implementing the more than 150 recommendations that will help to build a robust, interconnected total mobility network for our region.

A new year also brings a [revised website](#) for CONNECT Beyond – one focused on implementation of our regional mobility plan. There is a new tool that allows users to search the plan's [recommendations](#) by topic, mobility move and timeframe. We hope this will be a useful resource for our stakeholders. Other [resources](#) include an updated [fact sheet](#), a plan [executive summary](#) and pages highlighting each mobility move.

Each quarterly CONNECT Beyond newsletter will highlight a specific mobility move - the recommendation categories that will transform the way people travel around our region. In this newsletter we will focus on the mobility move **Strengthen Rural to Urban Connections**.

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## Mobility Move Spotlight: Strengthening Rural to Urban Connections

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One of the things that makes our region unique is the mix of geography. Our region is made up of small rural communities, suburban areas, small downtowns and a large metropolitan city. The transportation needs of each of these places is also unique. Providing **transportation choices for those living in rural communities** is a major focus of the CONNECT Beyond plan, increasing access to jobs, education, healthcare and recreation for the more than 70% of our region's



expect to see additional strain and usage of our existing private and public transit and mobility services. To plan for this future, Centralina Regional Council and the Metropolitan Transit Commission set out to build a long-term mobility plan that will enable new transit connectivity.

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## In The News

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### What will future travel look like in Charlotte?

Centralina Regional Council's Executive Director Geraldine Gardner spoke with *On Your Side's* Jamie Boll on this topic and about the future of our region.

Watch the  
Video



### Organizations Support CONNECT Beyond

The Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization and Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization formally endorsed the CONNECT Beyond plan and recommendations in November and December, respectively. This follows the endorsement of CONNECT Beyond project sponsors, Centralina Regional Council and the Metropolitan Transit Commission, in October.

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### CONNECT Beyond Swag Box Challenge

Over the last month, CONNECT Beyond swag boxes arrived in the mail, bringing the project's unique colors to scarves, water bottles, socks and most importantly the plan! This is just one small way to thank all of our active committee members for your time and support.

Now here's the fun part – we **challenge** you to take your swag on public transit (following guidelines please) or with your mobility option of choice. Then snap a photo and share it on social media - and don't forget to tag us on **Facebook**, **Instagram** and **Twitter @WeAreCentralina**.



## We Want to Hear From You

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Do you have news about your community's efforts to improve mobility? Please share it with us [HERE](#) or email [connect-beyond@centralina.org](mailto:connect-beyond@centralina.org).

There is much to do with this plan's implementation. The CONNECT Beyond team continues to meet and work with regional partners to implement the plan's recommendations. Upcoming activities include meeting with regional transportation planners, attending the NC DOT Transportation Summit, seeking new grant revenues and hosting related training sessions.

Thinking about all the work ahead can be daunting, however our vision will not become a reality by large, broad strokes, but rather by small local steps in the right direction. One by one we will collectively change how our region moves. It's time to get started.

Sincerely,

Jason Wager, AICP CEP  
CONNECT Beyond Project Manager

