

LYNX Blue Line Capacity Expansion Project
Charlotte, North Carolina
Core Capacity Project Development
Information Prepared June 2015

The Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) proposes to implement platform expansions at 11 of 15 stations and related systems work along approximately 7.5 miles of the existing 9.6-mile LYNX Blue light rail transit (LRT) line. The remaining four platforms will be expanded in conjunction with another project that CATS is implementing with funds from the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) III program. CATS will not procure any new light rail vehicles as part of the Blue Line capacity expansion project. The project's current estimated capital cost is \$40.2 million. CATS expects to seek \$24.1 million from the Core Capacity program.

CATS believes that expanding station platforms to accommodate three-car trains will increase passenger capacity to meet current and future ridership demand, alleviate crowding during peak hours and special events, and provide operational benefits.

In April 2012 platform expansion was selected as the preferred alternative for increasing capacity along the entire LYNX Blue Line. The capacity expansion project is included in the region's long range transportation plan that was approved in April 2014. Local officials plan to complete an update of the Environmental Impact Statement in February 2016 and advance the project into Engineering in March 2017. CATS anticipates a Full Funding Grant Agreement in October 2018, followed by the completion of the platform expansion project in November 2021.