Can Charlotte convince you to ride the bus?

From UNC Charlotte Urban Institute <unccurbaninstitute@uncc.edu>

To <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>

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Overcoming the 'stigma' of riding the bus

By Ely Portillo

As Charlotte prepares to invest billions more into building new light rail, local planners are also betting big on another, more humble transit technology: the bus. But there's one big, looming roadblock in this plan: getting people to actually ride. It's a problem that's not unique to Charlotte. National and local experts disagree on how - and whether - we should focus on fighting the 'stigma' of riding.



Watch: Housing, urban renewal and equity in Charlotte

UNC Charlotte Urban Institute researcher Angelique Gaines and assistant director Ely Portillo joined local experts for a virtual panel about housing policy and its consequences. The program, hosted by the Levine Museum of the New South, examined the history of housing discrimination in Charlotte, issues such as gentrification, and what the future might hold as the city adopts its 2040 vision plan.



Map of the day: Where are the most housing code violations in Mecklenburg County?

Reports of housing code violations aren't spread equally across our community, and correlate with other indicators such as socioeconomic status. Explore this facet of our city on the Quality of Life Explorer, dozens of interactive, embeddable and shareable maps the Urban Institute makes available to the community at no charge.



Environmental exploration: Searching for the crested

<u>coralroot</u>

By Ruth Ann Grissom

Less than 70 miles. That's the distance between my home in Charlotte and our place in the Uwharries. Sometimes the two feel worlds apart. Blue city, red county. Skyscrapers, silos. Congested streets, open roads. High-rise condos, low-slung ranch houses. It sometimes seems they have nothing in common. And then a rare occurrence reminds us just how much we share.



Catch up on the 'Future Charlotte' podcast: Protecting water while we grow

By Ely Portillo

Water seems like an almost limitless resource. Turn on the tap, and there it is, clean and ready to use. Until, one day, it isn't.

Catawba Riverkeeper Brandon Jones joins this episode of the Future Charlotte podcast to talk about the biggest threats to our water (growth is high on the list, as we add more impervious surface and use more water), how he keeps watch on 9,000 miles of creeks and streams, and how we can all help protect our region's water.

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UNC Charlotte Urban Institute 9201 University City Blvd Charlotte, NC 28223

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