

## Charlotte writes the rules to make its vision plan a reality



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

**To** <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>

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CHARLOTTE / URBAN INSTITUTE



### Charlotte considers relaxing new tree rules, changing building height caps, requiring more parking

**By Ely Portillo**

At a work session about the city's new unified development ordinance this week, Charlotte City Council members repeated several phrases so often they sounded like mantras: Middle ground, finding a balance, and trade-offs.

The ongoing work illustrates the balancing – and sometimes the tension – inherent in translating a high-level document like the Charlotte 2040 Vision Plan approved last year into a concrete set of rules and regulations to guide development for the coming decades. City Council agreed to push back the UDO's approval from July to August.



## Urban Institute adds staff to deepen our understanding of the Charlotte region

**By Ely Portillo**

As the Charlotte region confronts the challenges and opportunities facing our growing region, the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute is welcoming new staff members to help engage with the community, study problems and find policy solutions.



## Ghost Tales of the Uwharries: Hunting for a rare firefly

**By Ruth Ann Grissom**

The blue ghost (*Phausis reticulata*) has long been documented in the Southern Appalachians. Along with the synchronous firefly (*Photinus carolinus*), their displays have become wildly popular with visitors to the Great Smoky Mountains National

Park.

There's mounting evidence blue ghosts might be widespread — but seldom observed — in the Piedmont, including the Uwharries.



## ICYMI: Catch up on the podcast about what's next for Charlotte transit

### **Future Charlotte**

When WFAE, The Charlotte Ledger and the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute launched a joint newsletter last year to cover transit and transportation, we assumed that the main focus would be the 1-cent transit sales tax vote.

Well, that vote didn't happen and the transit plan is in a bit of limbo, but we've still found plenty to write about, from Chick-fil-A's humongous backups to the NC DOT's yawning budget hole, the "stigma" facing bus riders to the real reason there are no plans for a train directly to the airport.

Hear from Ely Portillo (UNC Charlotte), Steve Harrison (WFAE) and Tony Mecia (Charlotte Ledger) about what's next for getting around in our city.

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

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