

Equity in traffic safety. A new Silver Line route. And tree-killing beetles ravaging Charlotte.



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A more equitable approach to traffic safety in Charlotte

By Ely Portillo

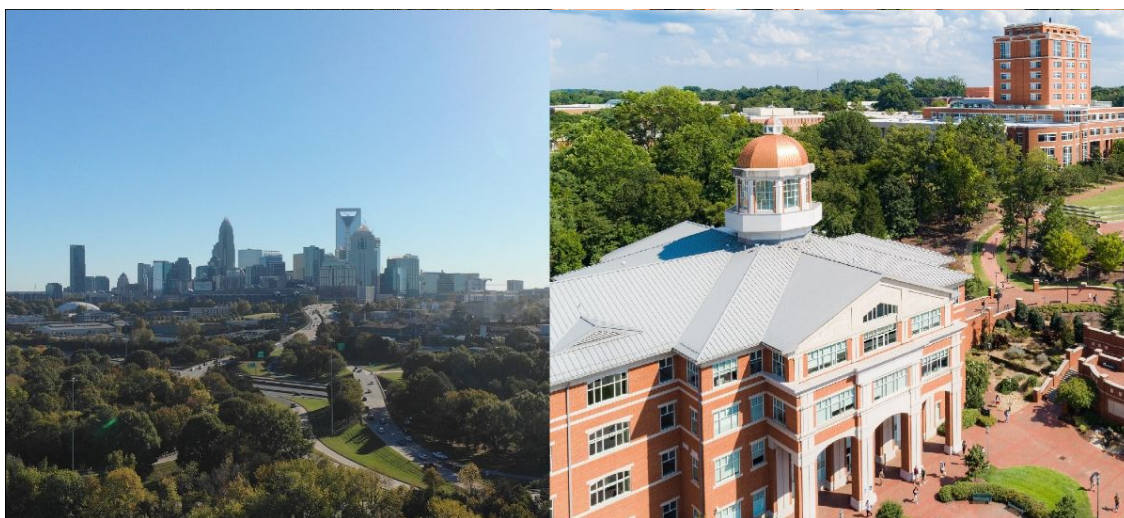
Where you live in Charlotte has a big effect on whether neighborhood safety measures like speed humps, stop signs and lower speed limits are installed nearby. A new policy aims to change that.



Biking in Charlotte shouldn't be scary. Here's how I do it.

By Pam Murray

This might surprise some people who think bicycling in Charlotte is serious, or scary: Riding is fun! I'm speaking from experience — over 15 years and 65,000 miles.

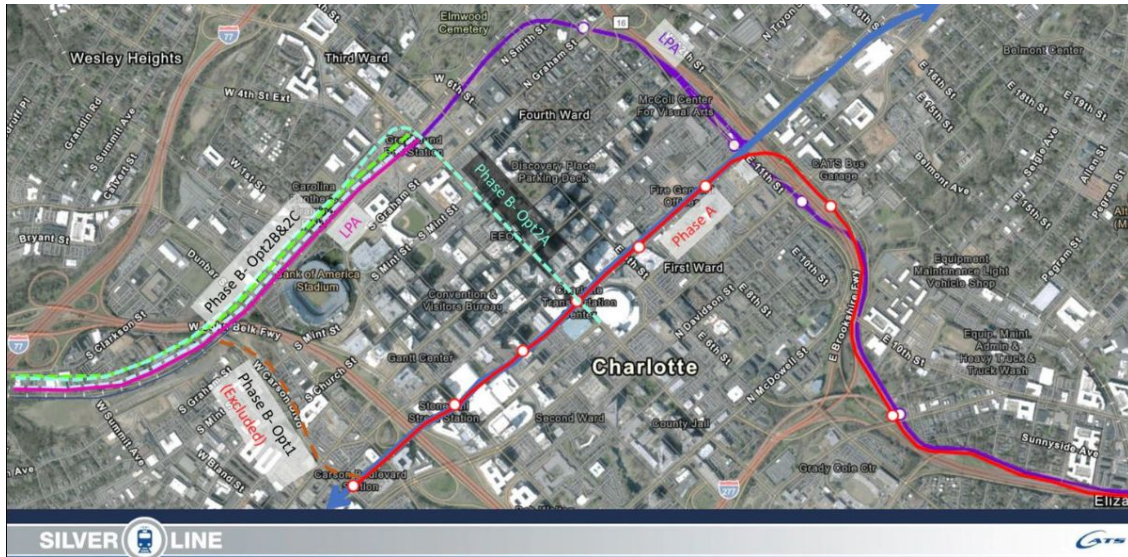


Why uptown and University City want to grow more like each other

By Ely Portillo

As COVID-19 fades from the front pages but normalcy still hovers out of reach, Charlotte's two biggest employment centers want to resemble each other a bit more in the decades to come.

On the surface, University City (a sprawling, suburban landscape dominated by cul-de-sacs, strip shopping centers, the university campus and office parks) doesn't seem to have much in common with Charlotte's center city (the compact domain of glass-and-steel towers, professional sports stadiums and breweries). But each has something the other wants.



New Silver Line plan: Ridership favored over development

By Steve Harrison

For three years, transit advocates have lobbied for the proposed Silver Line to bring passengers closer to uptown — instead of the planned route that would follow Interstate 277.

The Charlotte Area Transit System refused, saying the I-277 route north of uptown would spur more development. The transit system also said bringing the train into the center city would be too complicated.

But a surprising thing happened this week: CATS proposed a new route for the Silver Line that would do just that — bring the train directly into the heart of uptown.



Bark-devouring beetles are killing Charlotte's greenway ash trees

By Amber Veverka

The start of summer beckons in the region's extensive greenways, but Mecklenburg County's publicly owned green spaces are under attack from a half-inch-long insect that's turning whole areas of our urban forest into tree graveyards.

The emerald ash borer, an invasive pest that has devastated vast tracts of ash trees across North America, was first identified in Mecklenburg some six years ago. Since then, it has killed native ash species so rapidly that Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation staff are scrambling to deal with the damage.

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