

LYNX Blue Line Capacity Expansion
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 perform related systems work along approximately 7.5 miles of the existing 9.6-mile LYNX Blue light rail transit (LRT) line. The remaining four station 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. The project does not include the procurement of any new light rail vehicles. The project's current estimated capital cost is \$40.2 million, with a requested Core Capacity share of \$24.1 million (60 percent).

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