

# PUBLIC TRANSIT SUSTAINABILITY IN CHARLOTTE

## (SUMMARY OF NOVEMBER 17, 2010 JPA PRESENTATION)

## **Presented To**

# **RED LINE TASK FORCE**

December 15, 2010





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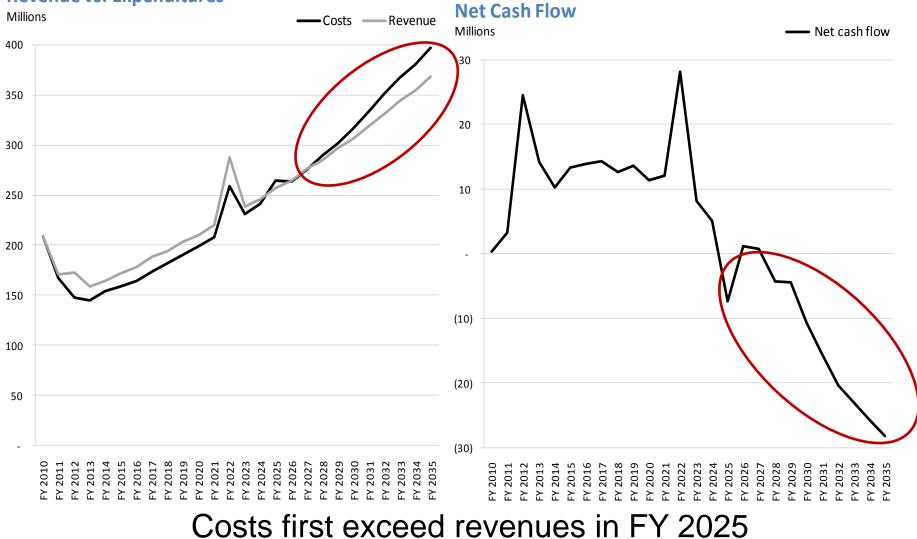
- Capital costs for known corridors (BLE and Red Line) increased \$314M (30%) from \$1.04B to \$1.35B (2010\$)
  - Total O&M costs from 2017-2035 for known corridors increased \$562M (60%) from \$925M to \$1.49B.
- Technology/scope for West & Southeast undecided; no cost or schedule estimate at this time
- Streetcar still to be determined
- During 2010-2035 period:
  - Existing system capex and opex increased \$500M (8%)
    from \$5.7B to \$6.2B (inflated dollars)
  - Local revenue (non-federal, non-state) declined \$2.25B
    (30%) from \$7.30B to \$5.05B (inflated dollars)



### Prior Assumptions Yield Structural Imbalance for Core System Without BLE or Red Line

**Revenue vs. Expenditures** 

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- Structural imbalance of existing system even without new rail corridors
- Inadequate resources to support 2030 System Plan (bus service expansion and remaining rapid transit corridors) with current sales tax
- Not possible to develop a new "System Plan" with uncertainties over scope, cost and timing of West, Southeast, and Streetcar along with the uncertainty of future economic growth
- Priority is to avoid commitments that are unsustainable over time





Immediate priorities:

- Preserve level of existing bus and rail service hours
- Limit future bus and STS growth in service hours
- Cap compound annual growth rate in O&M going forward to 4%
- Limit investment in new transit centers and park-nride





- Cost reduction measures can produce an affordable BLE option for CATS
  - Reduce capital cost by 20% to \$800 million in 2010\$ (\$910m inflated dollars) tested in financial model
  - Reduce BLE O&M by about 6.5% (\$18.2M in FY 2017)
- This range of cost reductions will require scope adjustments but appears achievable
- MTC would need to direct CATS to identify potential cost saving measures





- Ancillary revenue opportunities can help bridge small revenue shortfalls
  - More aggressive estimates on advertising revenues may be realized in a stronger economic climate
  - Other policy options could be studied, such as charging for parking or naming rights
- Further BLE capital and O&M savings may be possible





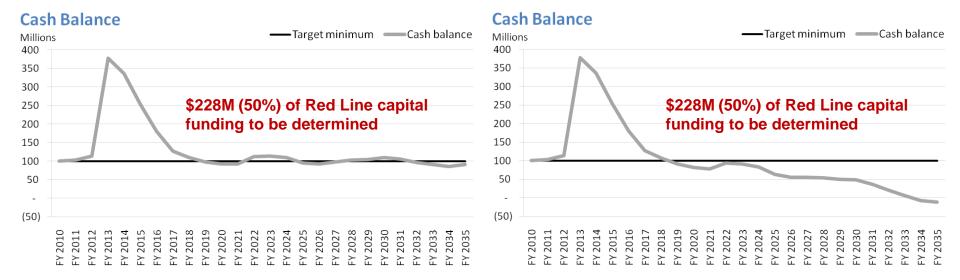
- Potential for partnership with NCDOT to combine project with road enhancements – construction economies, commuter rail as maintenance of traffic measure?
- Opportunities to partner with Norfolk Southern?
- Potential for real estate development-related revenue that is guaranteed by others?
- NCDOT operating assistance for commuter rail needed
- Potential for reduced capital or operating costs?
  - Impact of a 25% CATS capex and opex share?



Impact of CATS Contributions to BLE and the Red Line Limited to an Affordable Range

#### CATS Red Line O&M share at 25% is sustainable

HARLOTTE AREA TRANSIT SYSTEM



Increasing the share to 50% is not

Assumes CATS funds 25% of capital costs of both Red Line and Affordable BLE

- Red Line assumes increased FTA formula funding but no NCDOT rail operating assistance

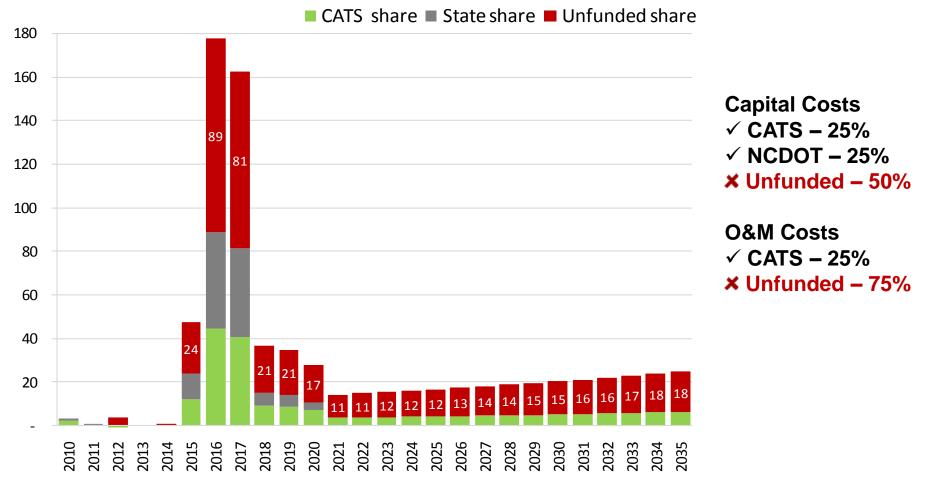




#### **North Corridor Financial Plan**

Millions of inflated \$

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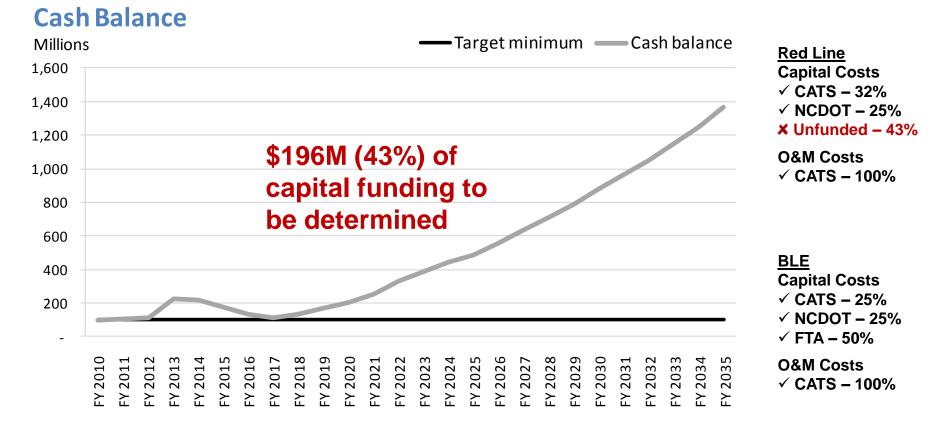
- Restore CATS share of Red line to original 32% of capital costs and 100% of O&M costs
- Revisit cuts made for Affordable BLE
- Restore bus service growth
- Test lifecycle costs of additional corridors
  - West
  - Southeast
  - Streetcar





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### Additional revenue source of \$34m annually beginning in FY 2014



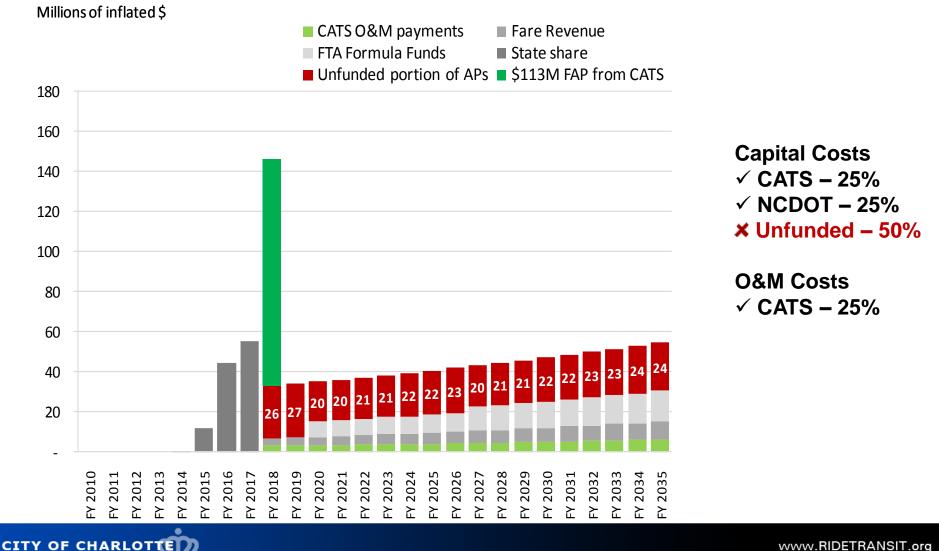


- State leadership 5 corridor prototype potential
- Potential for turnkey contract with N/SRR using availability payments
- Potential for participation of land developers
- Appears to allow CATS and NCDOT to finance capital share
- Absence of New Starts funding improves attractiveness of TIFIA (33% of project cost) and RRIF (potentially 100% of project cost)
  - Red Line P3 cases assume all of concessionaire's long-term debt is RRIF loan



### **Annual Availability Payments – Red Line Example with Non-CATS Public Owner**

#### **North Corridor P3 - Public Owner Cash Outlays**





- •Scale core system to sustainable levels
- •Advance affordable BLE in FTA Process
- •Explore funding partnerships and P3 opportunities for Red Line
- •Operating assistance from NCDOT for rail corridors
- •Further studies of Southeast, West, and Streetcar

