

**LYNX Blue Line Temporary Closure**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**When will the LYNX Blue Line close and when will it re-open?**

The Blue Line will be closed all day Saturday and Sunday, April 30-May 1 and May 7-8. It will re-open the following Monday for normal weekday service hours.

**Why does the entire LYNX Blue Line have to shut down temporarily?**

Over the past months, as the BLCE and BLE projects progressed along the LYNX Blue Line, CATS has had to implement 18 line cuts or partial line closures.  It was projected that additional line cuts would be needed to complete those projects over the next 6-12 months.  By using the temporary shut-downs, BLE & BLCE projects will be able to eliminate any further line cuts.  In addition, CATS is taking the opportunity to perform preventative and corrective maintenance to the alignment in order to reduce single-track and other types of closures needed to perform this type of work. The closure of the entire line during the two weekends allows contractors and CATS to complete work safely and easily.

**Why is the work happening?**

Contractors for the LYNX Blue Line Extension and Blue Line Capacity Expansion projects have to complete work in order for the projects to progress to completion.

**What kind of work needs to be done?**

A major piece of work to be performed is the replacement and drainage repair of the grade crossing panel at southbound South Boulevard and Clanton Road. Work on the overhead catenary system, the 750v line that light rail cars draw power from, will be done. Rail Maintenance of Way will complete scheduled track work and preventative maintenance inspections. CATS Facilities will complete major maintenance projects such as tree trimming, signage installation, replacing light fixtures, painting, graffiti removal and detailed cleaning of all platforms.

**Why does CATS need full weekend closures?**

In the past, CATS closed parts of the LYNX Blue Line—line cuts—or single-tracked trains so the contractor could complete work. The two full-weekend closures will eliminate the need to provide contractors more intermittent line cuts and single-tracking throughout the spring and summer when the number of events and activities increases in Center City and areas surrounding the Blue Line.

**What if the work doesn’t get done in the time allotted?**

The contractor has worked with CATS to develop a schedule so that the work can be completed in the two weekends. Work may be postponed in the case of inclement weather.

**Will there be any service that riders can use while the LYNX Blue Line is closed?**

Yes. CATS will provide *LYNX Connector* bus service that travels to/near each LYNX station, excluding 7th Street Station, which is easily accessible from the last *LYNX Connector* bus stop at the Charlotte Transportation Center. Riders should look for bus stops and signage with *LYNX Connector* on them. Buses serving those bus stops will have *LYNX Connector* on the headway sign. Detailed stop information is located at ridetransit.org and on each bus.

**Can riders purchase a pass for the bus at ticket vending machines on station platforms?**

Yes. Riders can also use any other valid CATS pass, a transfer or exact fare in bus fareboxes.

**Can I still park in the LYNX Blue Line park and ride lots?**

Yes. Riders can park in the lots and catch the *LYNX Connector* at the nearest stop.

**Can I still access the rail trail during this time?**

Yes, but not between the LYXN New Bern Station and Clanton Road. That portion of the trail will be closed while crews are working at South Boulevard and Clanton Road.

**Can pedestrians still be on station platforms?**

Pedestrians can access the platform to purchase tickets from the ticket vending machines. There is no other reason to be on the platform during the LYNX Blue Line closure.

**How will citizens who missed newscasts and news articles know about the temporary closures?**

CATS will install rider alerts on all buses and trains, as well as send out electronic rider alerts and alerts via the “CATS See Say” Elerts mobile app. CATS will also use Facebook, Twitter, and ridetransit.org to inform citizens. There will be signage at every LYNX station. Ambassadors will be at stations during peak times to help citizens and answer questions.