

## **1-Cent Transportation Sales Tax: Separating Fact from Fiction**

**FICTION #1: Riders and transit workers have no say in the new authority.**

**FACT:** Riders, workers, and everyday residents will help shape the future of our transit system. The plan includes clear commitments to involve people who use the system most. There will be formal ways for riders and workers to be heard and represented.

**FICTION #2: Low-income people pay more and get less.**

**FACT:** This investment directly benefits people who rely on transit every day. It means faster buses, safer stops, more shelters, and new ways to get around, like on-demand microtransit. These upgrades help people get to jobs, healthcare, and school more easily. And yes, we are making sure that affordability stays front and center.

**FICTION #3: This is all about pleasing corporations.**

**FACT:** This plan came from years of community input. Residents, local leaders, and transit users helped shape it. It is designed to improve how people move across Mecklenburg County, not to benefit any one group.

**FICTION #4: Raleigh took away our control.**

**FACT:** The legislation gives Mecklenburg County the power to raise local funds for local needs. That puts us in a stronger position to secure state and federal dollars. It does not give the state control over how those local dollars are spent.

**FICTION #5: Microtransit will fail if it works too well.**

**FACT:** Microtransit is being used to fill in the gaps where regular buses do not make sense. It is flexible and cost-effective when designed well. Other cities have shown that it works. We are planning ahead to make sure it stays reliable and sustainable.

**FICTION #6: Some neighborhoods are still getting left behind.**

**FACT:** The plan prioritizes places that have been overlooked in the past. East Charlotte, North Mecklenburg, and inner-city neighborhoods are getting new investments. That includes better bus service, improved sidewalks, and safer ways to get around.

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**FICTION #7: There are no real numbers behind the plan.**

**FACT:** There is a clear plan with real data, cost breakdowns, and timelines. Details like ridership projections, cost per project, and expected impact are being shared with the public and updated as things move forward.

**FICTION #8: We cannot trust CATS to get this right.**

**FACT:** Oversight and accountability are already being strengthened. A new transit authority will have strong checks and balances. Independent audits and better project management are part of the plan. We are doing things differently this time and learning from past mistakes.

**FICTION #9: Nobody is really in charge.**

**FACT:** This is a shared effort. The county is putting the tax on the ballot. A new authority will manage the work. Local leaders across the city, towns, and county are working together to deliver real results for residents.

**FICTION #10: This will cause even more gentrification.**

**FACT:** We are taking steps to prevent displacement. Transportation is a catalyst for affordable housing, as most site selection prioritizes locations where transportation is accessible. The plan also aligns with right-to-return policies and community benefit agreements. Transit should help people stay in their neighborhoods, not push them out. That is the focus.

**FICTION #11: The sales tax will result in a 14% increase in taxes.**

**FACT:** This is false. The tax is one cent on the dollar.

**FICTION #12: This is a regressive tax and makes people with less pay more in taxes.**

**FACT:** The additional one cent on the dollar will not be applied to commonly purchased items like gas, groceries, SNAP-eligible items and medicines - these items are excluded. The trade off is significant - for a penny you get more frequent transit service, better bus stops, faster response from police, fire and medic, as well as access to jobs, education, healthcare and meaningful opportunities.