

DISTRICT 4 UPDATES
May 6, 2008

Hello:

I wanted to provide you with a few updates on matters in District 4.

I

Since I've been on the Council, one of my goals has been to attract more high-paying jobs to the University Research Park. Our economic development staff has worked diligently and effectively in that effort. I'm pleased to inform you that the Council and the County recently approved business investment grants for Tessera Technologies and SPEED Channel, Inc. Tessera is an optical parts maker. They will employ 185 new workers (in addition to the current 102) in Charlotte and will pay an average wage of \$73,000.00. SPEED Channel, Inc., which airs motorsports programming, will move to the University Research Park and create 34 new jobs (in addition to the current 79) and will pay an average wage of \$79,000.00. I firmly believe that we can strengthen our real estate values and school quality if we continue to build our base of higher paying jobs.

II

The Council is currently in the process of considering the 2009 budget. We currently have the following key road projects in the 2008 or 2010 bond package: Widening of Johnston-Oehler Road (Prosperity Ridge Road to Mallard Creek Rd); Extension of City Blvd to the future Mallard Creek Road Ext; Connection of IBM Dr. to N. Tryon St. to relieve pressure on WT Harris Blvd; Planning and design funding for the widening of Back Creek Church Rd (from Hwy 49 to Rocky River Road).

III

I recently toured WT Harris Blvd with one of our staff members to show him that the trees and shrubs in the median need some attention. Once drought implications are considered, we should see repairs and new plantings within the median.

Have a great day.

Michael D. Barnes
Charlotte City Council District 4