



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 11, 2017

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Nashville Transit Authority Issues Feasibility Assessment *Final Stage of nMotion Studied Five Nashville Corridors for Transit Improvements*

NASHVILLE – The Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority (Nashville MTA) has completed the final phase of the nMotion study. The “High Capacity Transit Briefing Book: Opportunities and Challenges” found that there are no fatal flaws to developing high-capacity transit along five major corridors in Nashville. The work of designing new transit options for Middle Tennessee can now begin.

"This report clearly shows that Nashville can build an effective transit system along our pikes and corridors," said Mayor Barry. "We will use this data and research to further develop a comprehensive transit plan that is equitable, sustainable, and reduces congestion by giving more transportation options to Nashville area residents."

The nMotion plan, adopted in September 2016, recommended that Nashville’s major transportation corridors include high-capacity transit (light rail and/or bus rapid transit). The study explored how Nashville could build light rail on Gallatin, Murfreesboro, Nolensville and Charlotte pikes and bus rapid transit on Dickerson Pike. In summary, this assessment concludes the following:

- It is feasible to build rail and bus rapid transit along these five corridors.
- Along certain segments of each of the five corridors, there are design constraints that will make construction and operation of high-capacity transit very challenging.
- These challenges are not unique to Nashville, and have been successfully addressed in a number of U.S. cities that have undertaken both light rail and bus rapid transit systems.
- The successful negotiation of these challenges will require close collaboration among project designers and the businesses, residents and other stakeholders who occupy these corridors in order to achieve optimal approaches.
- Based on the trends we are seeing in Nashville and the experiences of other cities, a frequent transit network can be expected to both improve general mobility and enhance opportunities for future development in these areas.

“Since the nMotion planning process launched in April 2015, we’ve released more than 35 technical documents and studies and participated in more than 100 events, which generated more than 19,000 survey responses and comments,” said Steve Bland, CEO of Nashville MTA. “With the completion of this assessment, we are on our way to delivering improved service to all our customers.”

In addition to the 5 corridors examined in this assessment, two additional corridors – the Northwest Corridor between Nashville and Clarksville (including North Nashville, Bordeaux and Ashland City); as well as the Music City Star Commuter Rail Line between Nashville and Lebanon were identified for new high capacity transit, or significant upgrades (in the case of the Music City Star).

The “High Capacity Transit Briefing Book: Opportunities and Challenges” reflects the aspirations of thousands of Nashvillians articulated through the NashvilleNext and nMotion planning processes.

Gail Carr Williams, chairwoman of the Nashville MTA board, said, “Today’s release marks the end of this first phase of nMotion. We have a lot of design and engineering work ahead of us. There is a lot of detailed planning work yet to be done. We look forward to continuing to work with the community to design the transit system of the future.”

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