



motion NASHVILLE MTA/RTA STRATEGIC PLAN



STATE OF THE MTA SYSTEM REPORT

INTRODUCTION





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The Nashville region is one of the fastest growing areas in Tennessee and in the United States. Davidson County is projected to grow by 14.2% by 2035, from 659,000 residents to over 750,000 residents. As the Nashville area continues to grow, transit must play an increasingly important role in providing an efficient and convenient travel option. Changing demographics and changing transportation preferences in the Nashville region call for a fresh look at how transit can serve residents, employees, and visitors.

The Nashville MTA Strategic Plan is the vision for transit in Nashville and Davidson County. The plan will determine what the region needs to create a great transit system over the next 20 years, with a particular focus on what can be accomplished over the next five years. The Strategic Plan will look at the transit service that exists today, identify the opportunities to expand transit service to meet the growing needs of the region, and determine how to make it all happen. Ultimately, the plan will provide a blueprint for transit projects and policies that will make the growing region a better place to live and do business.

The first step of the Strategic Plan process was to assess the state of the existing transit system. This State of the System Report provides an overview of existing transit services and an evaluation of how well these services match transit demand in Davidson County both today and 20 years in the future. Based on those findings, this report presents the key issues facing the Nashville MTA and serves as a starting point for the strategies and recommendations that will inform the final Strategic Plan.

This report is comprised of four chapters and an appendix:

- **Overview of Existing Services.** An overview of MTA's current services and operating characteristics. A careful review of the existing transit services is one piece of understanding where transit in Davidson County needs to change and will inform the vision for improving services.
- **Market Analysis.** An analysis of the underlying demand for transit throughout Davidson County, at present and in 2040. Developing an understanding of future growth patterns and changes to demographics helps to inform where transit service is needed both today and in the future.
- **Peer Review.** A comparison of the transit service, spending, ridership, and other characteristics of MTA compared to other similar and aspirational systems. The peer review helps to illustrate how transit is provided and performing in cities of similar size to Nashville and cities that are the size to which Nashville is growing.
- **Assessment of the Existing System.** An assessment of the MTA's existing system in light of current performance, transit demand, and feedback from stakeholders and members of the community. The assessment identifies key issues that the Nashville MTA Strategic Plan will need to directly address through specific strategies based on the local operating environment and national best practices.
- **Route Profiles.** A one-page summary of the performance of each MTA route. These profiles identify the strengths and weaknesses of individual routes to illustrate which are performing well and which have opportunities for improvement.