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NASHVILLE MTA/RTA STRATEGIC PLAN



STATE OF THE RTA SYSTEM REPORT

INTRODUCTION





1. INTRODUCTION

The Middle Tennessee region is one of the fastest growing areas in Tennessee and in the United States. The entire 10-county region, which is comprised of Davidson, Cheatham, Dickson, Maury, Montgomery, Robertson, Rutherford, Sumner, Williamson, and Wilson Counties, is projected to grow by 80% from 1.7 million residents in 2010 to 3.1 million in 2040. Most of this growth will occur in the nine counties surrounding Davidson County, and the total population of those counties is projected to grow by 111% from approximately one million residents to 2.3 million.

As this growth is occurring, it is producing major changes in where people live and work, how the region is developed, how and where people will travel, and the demand for transit service. This State of the Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee (RTA) System Report addresses a number of topics and issues that provide a starting point from which to determine how to best improve and expand transit service to meet the growing needs of the region. Ultimately, nMotion 2015 will provide a blueprint for transit projects and policies that will make Middle Tennessee a better place to live and do business.

This report is a counterpart to the State of the MTA System Report and presents:

- **Overview of Existing Services.** An overview of RTA's current services and operating characteristics. A careful review of the existing transit services is one piece of understanding where transit in Middle Tennessee needs to change and will inform the vision for improving services.
- **Market Analysis.** An analysis of the underlying demand for transit throughout Middle Tennessee, 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.
- **Assessment of the Existing System.** An assessment of the existing transit service 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/RTA Strategic Plan will need to address through specific strategies based on the local operating environment and national best practices.