

Ever wondered... what does that stand for?

An Explanation of Commonly Used Transit Acronyms

TRANSIT  **ALLIANCE**
OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE

Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee

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What does that stand for?

Ever found yourself asking that question? You're not alone. Acronyms are everywhere these days and often misunderstood or unknown. Below, we shed some light on commonly used acronyms that come up in discussion of mass transit in Middle Tennessee.



Governmental Agencies & Organizations:

U.S. DOT	United States Department of Transportation. Includes the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railway Administration (FRA), and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).
TDOT	Tennessee Department of Transportation. State department with responsibilities in aviation, public transit, waterways, and railroads.
RTA	Regional Transportation Authority. Provides oversight and coordination of regional transportation initiatives in Middle Tennessee, including the Music City Star.
Mayors Caucus	Middle Tennessee Mayors Caucus. Voluntary organization of mayors of the 10-county Middle Tennessee region. Created to address modern mass transit and other regional issues; a forum for communication and coordination for the region's cities & counties.
MPO	Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. Leads the development of regional long-range and short-range transportation improvement projects.
MTA	Metro Transit Authority of Metropolitan Government of Nashville & Davidson County.
FTA	Franklin Transit Authority. Transit Department of the City of Franklin, Tennessee (see also TMA).
Rover	Transit system of the City of Murfreesboro, Tennessee.
CTS	Clarksville Transit System. Transit system of the City of Clarksville, Tennessee.

Music City Star:

Music City Star	Regional commuter rail service between downtown Nashville and Lebanon, Tennessee.
NERC	Nashville & Eastern Railroad Corp. For-profit, short-line rail company that operates freight trains Nashville to Monterey, and maintains Music City Star's right-of-way.
NERA	Nashville & Eastern Railroad Authority. Public agency that owns the right-of-way and track that NERC operates on, including those for the Music City Star.
TSG	Transit Solutions Group. Private company that operates the Music City Star. Joint venture between NERC and another private company, Virginkar & Associates.

Other Transportation Provider Agencies:

MCHRA	Mid-Cumberland Human Resource Agency. Rural mass public transportation system with a strong commitment to senior citizens and people with disabilities.
TMA	Transportation Management Association (also known as TMA Group). Organization that operates and manages a regional vanpool fleet on behalf of Williamson County, Tennessee, and the RTA. TMA also operates Franklin Transit.

Nonprofit Transit Citizen Support Agencies:

TAMT	Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee. Nonprofit organization of leaders from 10 counties of Middle Tennessee established to provide insight and guidance regarding the future of mass transit across the region.
TCLA	Transit Citizen Leadership Academy. Six week program by Transit Alliance equips alumni to lead public conversations on transit in Middle Tennessee.
CRT	Cumberland Region Tomorrow. Private, nonprofit, citizen-based regional organization to support and encourage growth planning, with emphasis on land use, transportation, and preservation of rural landscape and character of region's communities. Formed by regional leaders and Vanderbilt University.
Transit Now Nashville	Nonprofit, grass-roots organization to increase awareness of the benefits of regional mass transit options in the Nashville area.
Moving Forward	An initiative of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce with the purpose of ensuring the creation of a regional transportation solution through a cohesive community effort.

Trade Associations:

APTA	American Public Transportation Association. National organization representing transit industry to ensure public transportation is available and accessible for all Americans.
TPTA	Tennessee Public Transportation Association. Statewide nonprofit organization, based in Nashville at the Music City Central, to improve public transportation in all Tennessee communities.

Current Projects and Plans:

Northeast Corridor Study	Studied by Nashville MPO to develop a regional transportation investment strategy for the 30-mile corridor between downtown Nashville and Gallatin.
Southeast Corridor Study	Initiated by Nashville MPO to examine potential transit options that could be built in the corridor between Nashville and Murfreesboro. Now a committee of the RTA.
Northwest Corridor Study	Nashville and Clarksville MPOs to explore transit options between Nashville and Clarksville, including the existing freight rail line that passes through Ashland City.
South Corridor Study	Nashville Area MPO has begun the research for a feasibility study of transit options between downtown Nashville, Cool Springs/Franklin, and Spring Hill.
nMotion	nMotion is MTA/RTAs strategic planning effort and a 20-year comprehensive plan designed to meet the Nashville area's vision and needs for transit.
STIP	State Transportation Improvement Program. Program to guide the establishment of project schedules, coordination of projects with local governments, and project funding.