

Since May 2019, the Moving Forward Mobility Policy Task Force has studied models of regional coordination around the provision of transit. The Task Force considered the experience of seven peer and aspirational regions from across the country. The Task Force's goal is to provide an understanding of how Middle Tennessee coordinates to create regional transit compared to how other regions have collaborated across jurisdictions to provide transit options.

THE TASK FORCE DECIDED TO FOCUS ON FIVE POINTS OF COORDINATION TO CREATE A REGIONAL TRANSIT SYSTEM:

- 1. REGIONAL GOVERNANCE OR COORDINATION STRUCTURES**
- 2. PLANNING FOR TRANSIT**
- 3. SECURING AND DISTRIBUTING FUNDING FOR TRANSIT**
- 4. IMPLEMENTING/CONSTRUCTING TRANSIT**
- 5. OPERATING TRANSIT**

The review of peer regions revealed that there is no single model that ensures successful creation of regional transit. There are regions that have created regional entities that encompass all or portions of multiple cities and counties to conduct governance and planning, collect and disseminate transit funding, etc., on the regional level. There are as many regions, however, that utilize the federally-required Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to conduct planning and then use inter-governmental agreements to work across jurisdictions on constructing and operating transit systems. This is a model that has been successful in peer regions and is a model that Middle Tennessee is well-suited to replicate.

While there are multiple models of regional coordination, the review of peer regions revealed that all of the regions offering transit to their residents have funding streams dedicated solely to transit. The Middle Tennessee region does not possess dedicated funding for transit.

As the Middle Tennessee region grows, the need for effective and reliable mobility options grows more pressing. Creating more mobility options through transit continues to be one of the top priorities of regional leadership. This study revealed that other regions with the same types of partners and relationships have made significant, successful transit investments and their residents are benefiting from transit today. Middle Tennessee has the tools for successful coordination. The focus needs to remain on developing compelling transportation plans that benefit the region's residents and a continued focus on securing dedicated funding to convert the plans to action.

2020 SCORECARD AND REGIONAL COORDINATION REPORT

Moving Forward continues its work, in conjunction with public and private sector partners, to expand mobility options in the Middle Tennessee region with five goals for 2019 to 2026. Moving Forward's work is grounded in the values of accountability, collaboration, equity, regionalism and urgency. This scorecard tracks the progress made in 2019 on Moving Forward's goals to create multi-modal mobility options for our region. For more information, visit movingforwardmidtn.com

Complete 

Underway 



1. Facilitate a regional approach to improve mobility.

Moving Forward continues to champion a transportation system that connects the entire Middle Tennessee region to provide mobility options to its residents. In 2019, the Moving Forward Mobility Policy Task Force researched how peer and aspirational regions coordinate to provide regional transit. A snapshot of the report is found on this postcard. The entire report can be found at movingforwardmidtn.com.



2. Update the Nashville Area MPO 2045 regional transportation plan in 2021. Update the WeGo strategic plan (nMotion) in 2022.

The Nashville Area MPO regional transportation plan must be updated and approved every five years in order to access federal transportation funds distributed by the U.S. DOT Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration. In October 2019, the MPO launched this regional transportation plan update. To learn more, visit solvehistogether.org.

3. Advocate for near-term projects to improve mobility.

Middle Tennessee can make incremental and innovative improvements to its multi-modal transportation system even as we work toward another transit referendum. In 2019, the Moving Forward Mobility Plans task force heard from leaders of TDOT, WeGo and the Greater Nashville Regional Council on planning efforts and near-term solutions. If you would like to be engaged in these conversations, contact Moving Forward at hello@movingforwardmidtn.com.

4. Identify and secure dedicated funding for mobility in the region by 2024.

The Middle Tennessee region is the only metropolitan area of its size in the country without a local, dedicated source of funding for transit. This severely limits the region's ability to receive state and federal funding, which often requires a local match. No action was taken on this goal in 2019.

5. Begin construction on the first phase of the WeGo strategic plan in the region by 2026.

This objective is ambitious but critical for Middle Tennessee to continue to be a prosperous region for its vibrant and diverse residents. Reaching this goal will be made more difficult as local, dedicated funding is not secured. No action was taken on this goal in 2019.