

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Transit is Essential.



TRANSIT ALLIANCE
OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE

[#TRANSITISSENTIAL](#)

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Very special thanks to our founding partner, **Vanderbilt University**

OUR MISSION

To build support for funding regional transit



OUR VISION

The Transit Alliance is committed to building the necessary support for funding transit because equalizing access to convenient and safe transportation options will become the bedrock of our region's recovery and resilience in the weeks, months, and years to come. If the region is to thrive in a more equitable way, there has to be short-term public transit service enhancements as well as a long-term drive to ensure dedicated funding for transit.

A robust public transit system will help businesses and communities reach their full potential, including recapturing our vibrant economy, encouraging sustainability, and promoting equity.

JUNE 2021

DEAR PARTNER,

At the time I prepared last year's message for the Transit Alliance's annual report, we were deep into a pandemic with lockdowns that altered business and the ways we conducted our lives. At that time, we saw stark evidence of the importance of transit options to the life of our community. We saw how vital mass transit is for essential workers. We saw traffic patterns on our roads change. We saw that business itself would change with more people working at home and fewer regularly commuting to a central office environment. We asked, how might this change our plans for transit into the future?

At the Transit Alliance we remain convinced that an overall transit plan with a dedicated funding source is absolutely vital to the health and quality of life of our community. The Alliance's mission and role to help navigate transit issues in our community becomes ever more important as we work toward a holistic transit plan for the post pandemic world. The push for finding a workable dedicated funding source for transit projects is gaining strength. No matter the timing of seeking approval for that source, now is the time to prepare. We must be ready as a community to articulate why dedicated funding is needed, how it will be used, and how it will benefit our entire community. The Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee will accelerate and expand the work it has been doing to help leaders be able to answer those questions.

We appreciate the support of our partners, board members, and Transit Citizens Leadership Academy alumni, and we look to expand the list of valued participants as we accelerate toward achieving our goals. We look forward to your continued support and your valuable input as we charge forward.

Thank you,

Jim Schmitz
Chair

OUR FOCUS

Where we're leading



“An efficient transit system could improve our quality of life, including supporting a sustainable environment and economy.”

**– Jessica Dauphin, President and CEO
Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee**

A robust and accessible transit system can rescue our communities from feeling on edge and unhealthy while giving nearly everyone the ability to live a full and dignified life with access to education, training, job opportunities, and more.

In this 12-minute TEDx Talk, I boldly claim that “Individual freedoms are directly tied to mobility.” Then, I discuss how investments in transit could have positive effects on everyday life, including affordability, equity, and sustainability.

View the TEDx Talk: <http://bit.ly/TransitTEDxTalk>



**“Informative,
thought-provoking,
and insightful.”**

– TCLA Class 2019 Alumni

Pictured: Ron S.

OUR PROGRAMS

Promoting the unmatched value transit brings to communities

TCLA: TRANSIT CITIZEN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The award-winning Transit Citizen Leadership Academy is designed to equip participants across the 10 counties of Middle Tennessee with the tools and resources to understand the ways transit intersects with our lives.

Through presentations, panels, and discussions, participants are given important information about how vital multimodal transit is in the region. TCLA participants also learn about the emerging mass transit options that can address our mobility needs today and well into the future.

Here’s what participants had to say:

100% Yes! I would recommend TCLA to my peers.

100% Yes! I support a dedicated funding source for regional multimodal transit.



TCLA participants give the overall value a 4.8 out of 5 stars.

Find out more:

<http://thetransitalliance.org/transit-academy/>

OUR PROGRAMS

Promoting the unmatched value transit brings to communities

NTI: NEIGHBORHOOD TRANSIT INSTITUTE

The Transit Alliance of Middle TN (TAMT) and Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N) have joined together to create the Neighborhood Transit Institute (NTI).

NTI is a three-day training for anyone who wants to know more about

- Transportation and transit
- Why transit matters to our neighborhoods
- Ways to advocate for better transportation options

Here's what participants had to say:

100% Yes! I would recommend NTI to my peers.

encompassing *engaging* galvanizing
informative efficacy
expansive resourceful, **current**
friendly **robust** *comprehensive*
big-picture **productive** enlightening
empowering **interesting** **professional**
exceptional, thought-provoking *awe-inspiring*
stimulating **motivational** diverse succinct



NTI participants give the overall value a 4.5 out of 5 stars.

“Extraordinarily educational.” – Pete D.

Find out more:

<http://thetransitalliance.org/nti/>

Pictured: Pete D.

OUR PROGRAMS

Promoting the unmatched value transit brings to communities

STEM CURRICULUM

During the summer of 2020 the Transit Alliance worked on a BRAND-NEW program with the help of an incredible intern through Urban Leadership Fellows. Nicole Jurewicz spent 140 hours with this project to support teachers and high school students in learning more about multimodal transportation planning and engineering.

Through the generosity of our partner who funded the creation of this curriculum, MarketStreet Enterprises, we were proud to pilot this brand-new program with Hillsboro High School tenth graders during the 2020-2021 school year. This high school was chosen because they will have a new Transit Center on their renovated campus, set to open in Fall 2021.

The curriculum culminates in a final Project-Based learning Module that asks students to identify an issue that could be addressed with improved or enhanced multimodal transportation infrastructure or service. The students then brainstorm possible solutions and research options before selecting their personal approach and working on a project deliverable to showcase their idea or solution.

Find out more:

<http://thetransitalliance.org/stem-based-curriculum/>



“I loved learning about all the facets of our city systems from sidewalks to safety and was inspired by how many people in our community care about our growth.”

Nashville is ready for a vibrant transit system and this program helps us understand the impact and where we are heading.”

– Ashley Bergeron Segroves

OUR COMMUNITY

Communication is vital.



LUNCHTIME SPEAKER SERIES

The Lunchtime Speaker Series is a set of informal discussions designed to cover trends and topics in transportation in a virtual format that is free and accessible to many. These are conducted over a lunch hour so as to not distract from the workday. The Transit Alliance brings urgent transit issues to you with convenience in mind.

Where to watch:

2020 Lunchtime Speaker Series

<http://thetransitalliance.org/2020-lunchtime-speaker-series-archive/>

CONNECT MID TN

Connect Mid-TN is a coalition that provides a forum for its member groups to coordinate their educational, engagement, and advocacy efforts. Connect Mid-TN members share a vision of reliable, affordable, and diverse transportation options for all Middle Tennesseans. Connect Mid-TN's actions focus on near-term transportation access improvements, dedicated transportation funding, and city- or region-wide policy reform.

Find out more about joining:

www.connectmidtn.org

LUNCHTIME SPEAKER SERIES

Tuesday, May 19

Steve Bland, CEO of WeGo Public Transit

What's WeGo Public Transit doing during the COVID-19 crisis?

Friday, May 22

Michelle Lacewell, Deputy Director for Greater Nashville Regional Council (GNRC)

Unified Transportation Plan, the transportation plan for the region for the next 25 years. Where are we in the process? What are the main takeaways?

Tuesday, May 26

Beth Osborne, Executive Director for Transportation for America

What's the conversation look like on a national scale regarding transit and transportation during and post-COVID? And what have we learned from the 2008 economic recovery that can help us during this economic recovery?

Friday, May 29

Kristin Musulin, Senior Editor for Smart Cities Dive

What is the role transit has in recovering from the COVID 19 crisis?

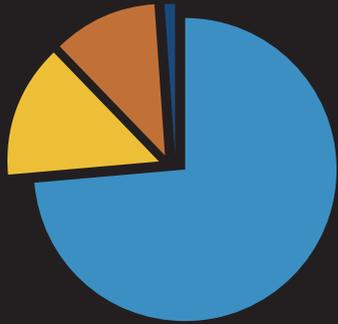


“Excellent experience.”

— **TCLA Class 2020 Alumni**

FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Transit Alliance End of Year 2020



- Admin & Salaries..... 73%
- Programming Expenses 14%
- Office & Technology 11%
- Contracted Services..... 1%

Total Revenue..... **\$112,127.12**
 Total Expense **\$140,497.28**



“Our bus operators, maintenance crew, and custodians are on the front line of keeping things moving in Nashville during this public health crisis and keeping our customers safe and healthy while they ride transit.”

I am so proud of the courage and dedication shown by our transit employees, and by essential workers everywhere helping us through this.”

– Gail Carr Williams, Chair
 WeGo’s Nashville MTA Board of Directors

OUR STAFF



Jessica Dauphin
 President & CEO



Alex Macias
 Associate Director
 of Programs and
 Communication



Jim Schmitz
 Chair



Ryan Stanton-Wyman
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Pete Wooten

THANK YOU

We couldn't do this without you!

We are proud of the transit agencies serving Middle Tennessee, including WeGo Public Transit and Franklin Transit Agency. The bus operators and mechanics were serving essential workers and ensuring others were able to access the essentials every day, even while most of us were following orders to stay safe at home!

In an effort to let them know their community notices their dedication, we co-hosted an online fundraiser to take a catered lunch to them.

"I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to the Transit Alliance, Transit Now Nashville, and all of the community partners and individual donors who made this Thank You lunch for our hard-working transit operations staff possible."

— Gail Carr Williams, Chair
WeGo's Nashville MTA Board of Directors



HOW CAN I HELP?

Things you can do right now:

Contribute.

Our mission to build support for funding regional transit takes time and resources. We could not do it without our municipal and corporate partners and donors! To reach regional goals of sustainability and deeper economic prosperity, dedicated funding for transit is a must. Join us today with a generous gift to fuel our efforts and broaden our capacity to create positive change!

Stay Informed.

Sign up for the TAMT newsletter, and enroll in TCLA.

Share the message.

Invite your friends and colleagues to learn more by discussing the concerns and sharing the work and needs of TAMT.

thetransitalliance.org



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