



# Our Future Rides on Transit



## TAMT PARTNERS/ CONTRIBUTORS FOR 2022

### IMPACT

*Market Street Enterprises*

### ADVOCATE

*CoreCivic*

*Pinnacle Financial Partners*

### COMMUNITY BUILDER

*City of Franklin*

*City of Murfreesboro*

*Enterprise Holding Foundations*

*Regions Bank*

### EDUCATOR

*Bank of Tennessee*

*City of Clarksville*

*HDR, Inc.*

*Lose Design Services*

*Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce*

*Ole South*

*Ragan Smith*

*Wilson Bank and Trust*

### SUPPORTERS

*Anonymous*

*Lewis Agnew*

*BARGE Design Services*

*William Burke*

*City of Springfield*

*City of White House*

*Daniel McDonnell*

*Robertson County*

*Rutherford County*

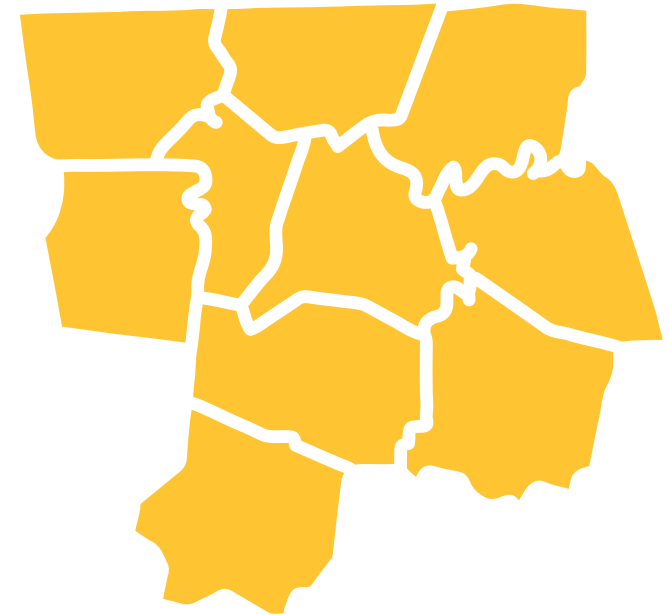
*James R. Schmitz*

*Town of Smyrna*

*TMA Group*

*Mary Vavra*

## 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 is the only way to ensure and maximize our region's resilience and sustainability for the months and years to come. If the region is to thrive in a more equitable way, there have to be short-term public transit service enhancements as well as a long-term drive to ensure dedicated funding for transit.*

## DEAR PARTNER,



Join us in shaping the future of transit and mobility in Metro Nashville!

The spotlight on transit and mobility during Nashville's mayoral election has ignited essential conversations and questions. Both final candidates echoed their dedication to establishing crucial funding for transit and fostering greater collaboration throughout the region to realize this goal.

This momentum fills the Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee with hope for an imminent transformation in transit and mobility. Yet, this also underscores the urgency for us to gear up for increased action. The groundwork we are laying now is priming us for the upcoming drive to secure dedicated funding for transit, not only within Metro Nashville but also on a regional scale.

Transit Together, our ongoing public forums, are serving as invaluable platforms, offering insights into the public's preferences and potential support for mobility infrastructure investments.

As we convene an expansive array of organizations and businesses in Connect Mid-TN, we are nurturing a dynamic coalition that will stand united for the cause of dedicated funding for transit.

The strength of our efforts is underscored by our enduring educational programs, like the Transit Citizen Leadership Academy. With over 550 regional alumni, these individuals are well-versed in the importance of dedicated funding and stand poised to lend grassroots support.

The Transit Alliance is uniquely positioned to play a pivotal role in assisting the new Metro Nashville mayor and other stakeholders in charting the next step toward vital transit funding. We're exhilarated by the possibilities the future holds and are eagerly committed to expanding our Transit Alliance membership and fostering sponsorships. Together, we can turn our mission into a tangible and transformative reality.

Seize this moment to be a driving force of change. Partner with us, support us financially, and become an integral part of the movement that will redefine transit and mobility in Middle Tennessee. Join hands with the Transit Alliance and let's make a lasting impact together.

### **Jim Schmitz**

Board Chair,  
Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee

## A SHARED VISION FOR TOMORROW

Dear Friends and Champions,

As you dive into the heart of our annual report, we invite you to journey with us through a shared vision for tomorrow. In a region marked by relentless growth, our actions today need to reflect the theme: "The Future is Riding on Transit."

The spotlight has returned to transit and mobility casting a renewed hope on the future of transit and mobility investments. It's a future where conversations transition from promises into commitments, as new leadership has vowed to secure dedicated funding for transit and promote regional collaboration.

The renewed momentum and calls for better transit fuels our hope for a transformative shift in transit and mobility. Yet, hope alone cannot create change. The urgency to act, to encourage leadership to invest in a future where we center transit and mobility for equitable access to opportunity take center stage, is the call we heed. We hope you join us.

We have taken the results of our Strategic Plan to heart. Immediately, we got to work on a new program we launched in 2023: Transit Together, our ongoing public listening sessions have provided platforms for voices to rise, while offering insights into preferred mobility infrastructure investments.

Our work as a central connector for Connect Mid-TN has kept organizations and businesses in a dynamic coalition since 2018. Together, we have been amplifying our collective commitment to dedicated transit funding.

Our efforts are fortified by the stories of the Transit Citizen Leadership Academy's over 550 regional alumni. These individuals, equipped with a deep understanding of the importance of dedicated funding, stand as testament to our grassroots strength.

Our position in the landscape is unique. As a pivotal partner, we can assist leaders and stakeholders in plotting the trajectory toward critical dedicated transit for funding. The future stretches out before us, an expanse of potential, and our resolve to expand our efforts include nurturing existing relationships, broadening, and cultivating new sponsorships, and extending our programs.

"The Future Is Riding on Transit" is not just a statement—it's a conviction. It's a declaration that as our region surges forward, the course we set today defines our identity and priorities. Investing in transit is investing in every individual's access to opportunities and an elevated quality of life.

As you turn the pages of this report, consider this your call to action. Join us in crafting a future defined by equitable access, sustainability, and thriving communities. Embrace the theme that unites us all, and together, let's propel Middle Tennessee toward a future we're proud to call our own.

### **With purpose and determination,**

Jessica Dauphin, President and CEO  
Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee



# TRANSIT CITIZEN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY (TCLA) - SHAPING TOMORROW'S TRANSIT VISIONARIES

## Empowering Leaders, Transforming Communities

### Introduction

In the heart of Middle Tennessee, the Transit Alliance stands as a beacon of progress, championing the cause of efficient and accessible transportation. This annual report is a testament to our unwavering commitment to creating a brighter, more connected future for our region. Here, we shine a spotlight on the Transit Citizen Leadership Academy (TCLA), a transformative initiative that has been instrumental in shaping the leaders who will pave the way for a better tomorrow.

### A Journey Through Transit and Mobility

The Transit Citizen Leadership Academy is a dynamic six-week program designed to nurture thought leaders in transit and mobility across Middle Tennessee. It is here that individuals from diverse backgrounds converge to unlock the complexities of transportation and mobility projects. Our participants represent a rich tapestry of industries, from real estate to finance, hospitality to public service, providing a holistic perspective on the region's mobility challenges and opportunities.

### Pioneering in Uncertain Times

The year 2022 marked a pivotal moment in our journey. As the world grappled with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, TCLA displayed resilience and adaptability. Due to the continued uncertainty of the COVID-19 effect, and out of an abundance of caution and safety, we hosted TCLA Class #23 virtually. Held from February to April, it was our last virtual class. However, with the tide of uncertainty slowly receding, by the fall of 2022, we embraced a transformative shift.

### Back to In-Person Learning

TCLA #24, held from September to October, emerged as a symbolic milestone in our quest for knowledge. It marked the first 100% in-person TCLA session since the sudden shutdown in early 2020. The sense of optimism and enthusiasm was palpable as we gathered once again, eager to explore Middle Tennessee's limitless potential in mobility and transit.

### A Full Class, A Bright Future

Full of hope, we welcomed a full class of engaged and curious participants. Their collective energy and passion for learning reinvigorated the TCLA experience.



Pictured, clockwise from left: (1) Gail Carr-Williams, WeGo Board Chair, addresses TCLA Alumni Social. (2) three TCLA Class #24 Alumni: Lisa McClain (Montgomery), Dana Reno (Davidson), and Kimberlee Atlee (Robertson). (3) Kaneisha Dotson, TCLA #24 Class Participant, who addresses her class.

### Building a Transit Vision

Over these six weeks of rigorous learning and networking, both TCLA cohorts heard expert-led presentations and engaged in panel discussions. Participants delved deep into the intricacies of transportation and mobility projects. They explored the critical issue of funding, understanding costs, and the potential for local funding through a transit funding referendum.

These participants embraced the challenges and complexities of our regional transit landscape, and their dedication to finding innovative solutions for Middle Tennessee's mobility future is nothing short of inspiring.

### Conclusion

The Transit Citizen Leadership Academy is more than a program; it's a movement. It's about nurturing the leaders who will redefine the way we think about transit and mobility in Middle Tennessee. As we reflect on the transformative journey of TCLA Classes in 2022, we are reminded of the remarkable resilience and potential within our community. Together, we will continue to pave the way for a brighter, more connected future, ensuring that Middle Tennessee's mobility and transit aspirations are achieved.

The highlights and accomplishments of the Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee in 2022 were driven by the passion and determination of TCLA alumni and supporters alike. Together, we are charting a course toward a more accessible, sustainable, and connected Middle Tennessee.



# TRANSIT CITIZEN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY (TCLA) - SHAPING TOMORROW'S TRANSIT VISIONARIES

**TCLA CLASS #24, HELD IN 2022**



TCLA Alumni Social Group (left to right: Jackie Simms, Nicole Rowan, Kaneisha Dotson, Dana Reno, and Matthew Theriot)



TCLA Alumni Social - Quin Evans Segall, TCLA Alumni, and Freddie O'Connell at last year's Alumni Social, October 19, 2022, Photo: Courtenay Rogers.

# TRANSIT CITIZEN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY (TCLA)

## SHAPING TOMORROW'S TRANSIT VISIONARIES

### TCLA CLASS #23 HELD IN 2022



# REGIONAL TRANSIT AGENCIES

**Clarksville Transit Systems**  
[cityofclarksville.com/338/Clarksville-Transit\\_System](http://cityofclarksville.com/338/Clarksville-Transit_System)  
 931-553-2470

Clarksville Transit plans, implements, maintains, and manages a public transportation system that allows for maximum mobility for the community with an emphasis on safety, quality, and efficiency. All routes are planned for maximum mobility efficiency and transfer reliability. There are additional services like paratransit and on-demand response areas available.

**Franklin Transit**  
<https://franklintransit.org/>  
 615-628-0260 or 615-628-0263

Franklin Transit Authority is managed by the Transportation Management Association (TMA) Group. The TMA Group is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation that was established in 1988 as a public-private partnership of business, government, and community leaders.

TMA supports a regional transportation system that provides a variety of accessible, affordable, reliable, and interconnected transportation choices that are both healthy for the environment and for the public. TMA's goal is for everyone in every community and in every stage of life, to have affordable and convenient travel options available to them.

TMA manages a variety of mobility, transit and transportation demand management solutions within the Middle Tennessee region.

**Mid Cumberland Human Resources Agency (MCHRA)**  
[mchra.com/public-transit](http://mchra.com/public-transit)  
 1-800-945-4125

The rural transportation system for the Mid-Cumberland Region, or Middle Tennessee. MCHRA provides routine service to the public, with particular care for seniors and persons with special needs. MCHRA is a curb-to-curb rural transportation system with flexible schedules to meet the needs of its passengers. Riders are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis, with priority given to medical appointments. While advanced notice is requested, it is not required.

**Mule Town Trolley**  
<https://www.sctdd.org/mule-town-trolley/>  
 931-379-2929

The Mule Town Trolley is a deviated fixed-route service that is part of the SCTDD Public Transportation Program. The trolley system, which serves Maury County, was established in 2013 with a fleet of only two trolleys. In six years, the trolley service has grown substantially due to an increase in ridership. The trolley program has expanded to 12 vehicles and 14 CDL license drivers, transporting over 3,000 commuters a month.

**Murfreesboro Transit**  
<https://www.murfreesborotn.gov/248/Murfreesboro-Public-Transit>  
 615-217-6837

The City of Murfreesboro Transportation Department is responsible for the administration and operation of public transportation service (Murfreesboro Transit) within the City of Murfreesboro. It also works with and/or assists other regional providers with mobility issues.

**WeGo Public Transit**  
<https://www.wegotransit.com/>  
 615-862-5950

We are WeGo. It's not just our name. It's what we do. That forward-thinking movement is extended and enriched by branding that looks and feels the same no matter where it lives in our communities.

The WeGo brand stands for a collaborative commitment to exceptional service, friendliness, integrity and honesty as we connect riders to their community and one another.

We strive to connect people to their lives and community one ride at a time. A community belongs to everyone. So do we.

We take service to heart. Whether you're traveling every day or just here and there, we're here to help by creating positive impressions as we get you where you need to go. We even hope to inspire some joy along the way. We aim to offer support and services that make sense and make your life a little easier.

We're always looking for ways to improve our service by making it more reliable, secure, and connected. Because connecting you to life and community isn't just what we do, it's what makes us who we are.



# OUR FUTURE RIDES ON TRANSIT



Ralph Schulz

## ECONOMY

*“As the Nashville area continues to benefit from nation-leading population and job growth, investing in transit becomes even more crucial to protecting our region’s economic competitiveness...Strategic investments in our regional transit infrastructure, starting with dedicated funding, will promote the Nashville area’s long-term prosperity for generations to come.”*

*– Ralph Schulz,  
Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce*



Photography by Andrew Keithly www.studioagk.com

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# OUR FUTURE RIDES ON TRANSIT

## THE ENVIRONMENT

"Tennessee is home to the top two most car-dependent cities in the nation, Memphis and Nashville. In Nashville, 51% of our total greenhouse gas emissions come from transit, and we know that all those emissions are negatively impacting our air quality, especially for vulnerable populations and communities of color. When we drive less and advocate for more sustainable forms of transportation, we're also advocating for safer streets and better public health."



Jacqueline Goodwin

— Jacqueline Goodwin, Urban Green Lab

According to the CDC, public transportation is a public health intervention!



## HEALTH

"Mobility is an absolute determinant of health. Access to proper food and nutrition, green spaces and parks, primary care visits—there can be no health equity without access to these and other resources in a city that is increasingly vehicle-bound. Advocating for better transit is advocating for better wellness."



Mark Yancy

— Mark Yancy, CEO, NashvilleHealth



# OUR FUTURE RIDES ON TRANSIT



Ribbon cutting for the 250th bus shelter in the WeGo system. Photo taken on July 21, 2022 by WeGo.



Clifton Harris

## EQUITABLE ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITY

*“One of the must-haves when it comes to workforce is reliable transportation. Well, riding on transit is reliable transportation without the extra added costs that impact one’s net income like insurance, gas prices, and auto maintenance. Finally, sitting in traffic two to three hours a day is not only a waste of time and money, but it’s time you can’t get back, and I consider that unreliable and inefficient use of one’s workforce time.”*

*— Clifton Harris, President and CEO, Urban League of Middle Tennessee*



Carol Westlake

*“For people with disabilities, transit is freedom. It is opportunity. For work, play, worship, and shopping, access to transit means the ability to be a full member of the community.”*

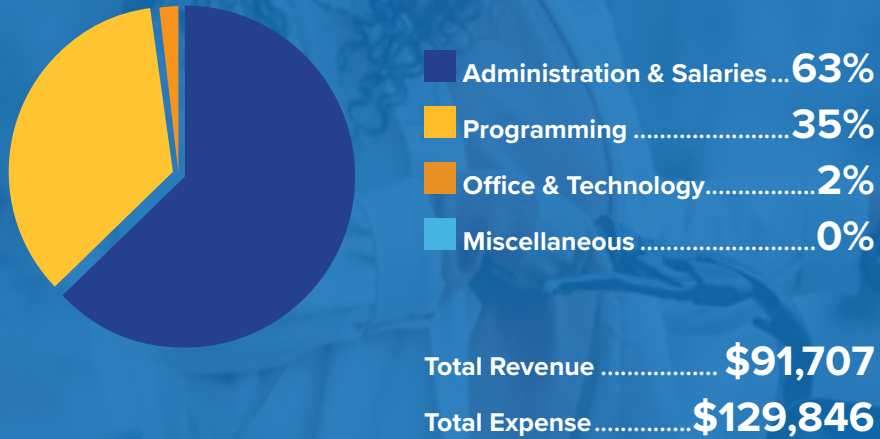
*— Carol Westlake, Executive Director, Tennessee Disability Coalition*



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

# FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Transit Alliance End of Year 2022



## OUR STAFF



**Jessica Dauphin**  
*President & CEO*



## OUR BOARD



**Jim Schmitz**  
*Chair*



**Ryan Stanton-Wyman**  
*Vice Chair*



**Jamie Dunham**



**Charles Sueing**



**Dale Hall**



**Mayor Randall Hutto**



**Mayor Ken Moore**



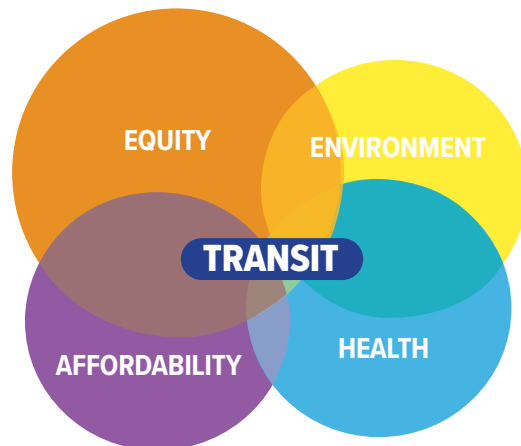
**Richard Warren**



**David DeVaul**

## TRANSIT IS THE BEST

Investment





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