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**OUR MISSION**

Build support for funding regional transit by mobilizing community leadership in the Middle Tennessee region.

The Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization.



*We serve ten Middle Tennessee counties: Davidson, Sumner, Wilson, Rutherford, Williamson, Maury, Dickson, Cheatham, Montgomery, and Robertson.*



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## ABOUT

The Transit Alliance is committed to communicating the value of regional mass transportation needs and options, including the economic value of mass transit investments. We work with contributors, community officials and regional leaders to build support for funding regional transit in Middle Tennessee. Our purpose is to **educate, empower, and mobilize policy** to serve and connect our entire region.

## PURPOSE

- Educate constituencies about the need for funding a regional multimodal transportation system.
- Empower the alliance community and organizational leaders with tools to be advocates for a multimodal transportation system with dedicated funding.
- Mobilize individuals and regional networks to support legislative action related to dedicated funding for transportation.

## CONTACT

### **Jessica Dauphin**

President & CEO

615-743-3051

[jessica.dauphin@thetransitalliance.org](mailto:jessica.dauphin@thetransitalliance.org)



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## Jessica Dauphin

President & CEO, Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee

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As the President & CEO of the Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee, Dauphin is responsible for managing the vision and mission of the organization. The Transit Alliance is committed to building support for funding a regional multimodal transit system. Dauphin builds relationships with communities and business partners, secures funding for programs, and oversees all educational and community engagement programs, including the Transit Citizen Leadership Academy (TCLA). TCLA is designed to equip participants with the knowledge and resources to lead the conversation on transit and transportation in the region—there are currently 490 regional alumni.

Access to effective and efficient transit options is key to sustaining growth in the region as well as preserving the quality of life we all strive toward while making it more equitable. Even with the best schools, jobs, healthcare, parks, etc., a city can provide, if a resident is not able to get from where they are to where they are going, living a good and happy life can be an insurmountable challenge. Transportation challenges underscore many issues facing growing cities and deserve thoughtful, engaging conversations that lead to intentional planning and well-connected systems.

Dauphin joined Transit Alliance in 2017 bringing over 12 years' experience working with nonprofits in the Nashville area. Areas of expertise include volunteer management, advocacy, communications, and development. Currently, she is on the Board of Directors for Transit NOW Nashville and was appointed by Mayor John Cooper to the MTA Board of Directors in May of 2021. She has a Bachelor's degree in English from Middle Tennessee State University. Dauphin is a Middle Tennessee native and enjoys being part of the areas' growth. She lives in Bellevue on the Riverwalk Greenway where you can find her out with her husband and 6-year-old son most any Spring, Summer, or Fall day.



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Dear Transit Academy Participant:

Welcome to the Transit Citizen Leadership Academy (TCLA)! Hosted by the Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee, this Academy is your gateway to a deeper understanding of mobility options in Middle Tennessee and what it means to be an advocate for better transit.

The Transit Alliance is a nonprofit on a mission to build support for regional multimodal transit with dedicated funding. We believe a connected region is a strong region. The Transit Alliance is the *only* organization educating community champions through a formal program like TCLA. We are proponents for regional transit solutions.

The TCLA provides relevant information to you so you can go out and lead discussions about the value of multi modal transportation across Middle Tennessee. Information- and resource-sharing is critical to building support for transportation solutions in our region: We are building a movement to get from here to there.

You are embarking on six sessions of exploring topics like funding, technology, and transportation alternatives. Regional leaders will visit and discuss Middle Tennessee's current transportation and mobility options as well as the opportunities and challenges we face as our economy and population grow.

When this class concludes, you will become part of an incredible group of 490 regional leaders in the Middle Tennessee region who are working to support and sustain the regional multi-modal transit movement. You will become a TCLA Alumni! (Cape not included.)

If Real Estate and commercial developments continue, despite COVID-19. Middle Tennessee remains a popular destination for companies and talented young professionals. People move here to get a shot at a life we already enjoy. The Greater Nashville Area is a vibrant and desirable place to call home (being named the "It" city by the *New York Times* didn't hurt).

Know this, investing in transit is not about the people moving here. It's about the way we move. Investing in our families and communities is our first priority. Why not make our communities more livable and create better connections between our amazing neighborhoods?

Individual freedom is directly tied to mobility. We cannot build a true equitable economy without frequent, accessible, and affordable public transit. All residents deserve to experience the best of what our region has to offer, including jobs, education, healthcare, shopping, etc. But right now, access to our region is limited and can be challenging for some—it is challenging for all of us during peak traffic!



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We encourage you to imagine a Middle Tennessee connected via trains, buses, Greenways, and sidewalks. Studies show that a well-built multimodal transit system increases livability, sustains economic growth,

enriches the quality of life, and preserves green space. It's an investment we have to make in, and for, ourselves.

We deeply appreciate the investment of our founding partner, Vanderbilt University. And thank Market Street Enterprises, the Tennessee Titans, Belmont University, the Greater Nashville Realtors, Bank of Tennessee, The Memorial Foundation, and our many partners for their support in making the TCLA possible.

Please use any of the following to share your thoughts and experiences at the TCLA: **#TCLA #TransitIsEssential #Transit #TransitAcademy #WeCanTransit #TransitWorks #MiddleTN #MobilityOptions #Walk #Bike #Bus #Train**

Regards,



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## TRANSIT CITIZEN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The Transit Citizen Leadership Academy is designed to equip private- and public-sector leaders across the 10 counties of Middle Tennessee with the personal and group tools to lead conversations about the value of multimodal transit across the region and about the emerging mass transit options that can address our mobility needs.

### NOTES

- Class Roster and speaker bios will be posted on our [website](#) (password “TransitAcademy”).
- When available, speaker presentations and class recordings will be posted on our website after the class.



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Presenting Class Sponsors:



Bank of Tennessee, along with our divisions, Carter County Bank and Mountain Community Bank, is a locally owned and operated community bank focused on improving the financial health and well-being of our customers and our communities.

That's why our mission is to provide an uncompromising customer experience, featuring just-right-for-you products, delivered in the most modern channels, and powered by a talented team of friendly and knowledgeable people who go above and beyond to deliver touches that people don't expect from a bank.

You have many options. That's why we will ensure that your banking experience with us will be simple, convenient and stress-free each and every time you visit one of our branches or use any of the many online and mobile channels we offer.

We hope you will explore our website to learn about our products, watch short videos from our customers, read helpful articles on everything from home ownership to planning for retirement, and meet some of our people.



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**TRANSIT CITIZEN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY OVERVIEW**  
A Six-Session Program on Transit in Middle Tennessee

9/1/2021: Session 1: The Need for Transportation

9/8/2021: Session 2: Intersections with Transit

9/15/2021: Session 3: The Challenges We Face

9/22/2021: Session 4: Systems and Solutions

9/29/2021: Session 5: Data Driven Decisions

10/6/2021: Session 6: Graduation and Alumni Social





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## TRANSIT ADVOCACY

### OBJECTIVE

Over the next 6 weeks and the next 6 sessions, we will explore the transit landscape for the region and how it relates to economic recovery, affordability, equity, and quality of life. Individual research, class discussions, readings and expert presentations will guide you as you determine what transit options are available now to your community and the region, what options are needed for the future, and the next steps for moving the conversation forward.

### OUTCOME

Before the first class, you will have completed the "[TCLA Pre-Survey](#)". This is to get you focused on transit and thinking critically about the role it plays throughout the region, in your community, as well as the importance of transportation to different community members.

### INSPIRATION & MOVING CONVERSATION FORWARD

During the 4th and 5th class sessions, you will be given a question. The question will need to be answered in a brief speech during the Graduation Ceremony in the 6<sup>th</sup>, and final, class.

### GUIDELINES

Using your initial "[TCLA Pre-Survey](#)" and the information you have gained from class presentations and discussions, prepare a thoughtful answer to the question posed to the class.

Use the following guidelines:

- 60-90 seconds
- State your answer to the question clearly.
- Give back up to your answer (Refer to specific class sessions/presentations or ideas that came up during the previous five classes).
- Specify your ideas, findings, or recommendations.
- What will be your strategy to bring what you've learned back to your networks & wider community to move the conversation forward?

### NOTES

Feel free to communicate with each other during and in-between classes via email or social media. I will email a recap of the class and a teaser for the upcoming class as a reminder each week. If there are any supplemental materials, I will either email them to you before/after class and/or print them out for the class session. Most presentations you see during class will be posted to our [website](#).

*Please see Jessica with questions.*



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## Session 1: The Need for Transportation

Wednesday, September 1, 2021

- 4:00**      **Welcome**  
Jessica Dauphin, President and CEO, Transit Alliance of Middle TN
- 4:05**      **Class Introductions**
- 4:25**      **History of TAMT**  
Jessica Dauphin, President and CEO, Transit Alliance of Middle TN
- 4:35**      **Greeting from Board Chair**  
Jim Schmitz
- 4:40**      **Polls/Brainstorming/Breakout**
- 5:05**      **Overview of Transit in Tennessee and Middle Tennessee**  
Jason Spain, TPTA
- 5:35**      **Regional Plan(s) Planning**  
Michelle Lacewell, GNRC



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## JIM SCHMITZ, Transit Alliance Board Chair Area President Middle Tennessee, Regions Financial Corporation

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As market leader, Jim oversees the market expansion efforts for Nashville and surrounding areas by proactively initiating, fostering, and managing the firm's business and community engagement initiatives. Prior to assuming his role at Elliott Davis, he oversaw operations in 15 Middle Tennessee counties for Regions Bank. Before that, Jim held the same role for Regions managing the Florida Panhandle. He also spent time responsible for the bank's North Florida real estate banking group, holding positions as a banking executive and relationship manager. He spent more than 10 years in the banking and mortgage industry previous to joining Regions.



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## Jason Spain, Executive Director Tennessee Public Transportation Association

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Jason Spain serves as Executive Director of the Tennessee Public Transportation Association, a statewide nonprofit association dedicated to improving public transportation in all Tennessee communities. In this role, he is responsible for leadership and management of the association and for advocating on its behalf to Congress, the Tennessee General Assembly and state and federal government agencies.

Prior to assuming this role in 2010, Spain served on the legislative staff of former Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen. He has also served as legislative liaison for the Tennessee Department of Transportation, legislative aide to former Congressman Bob Clement (TN-05) and associate staff to the House Budget Committee.

Spain holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Tennessee State University and a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Public Administration from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He lives in Nashville with his wife, Lindsay, and two sons, Connor and Noah.



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## Michelle Lacewell

Deputy Director and Chief Communications Officer, GNRC

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Currently serving as the Deputy Director for the Greater Nashville Regional Council (GNRC), Michelle Lacewell oversees daily operations and human resources and leads its communications team. She provides program support to GNRC's aging and disability services, community and economic development, and regional planning department. Before joining the GNRC, Michelle spent 4 years with the Nashville Area MPO and managed the program as the interim director during the year-long integration of the MPO into the GNRC. Before her time at the MPO, she led the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce communications and marketing team.

In 2011, Michelle relocated from Northwest Florida to Nashville, bringing her years of experience working in the public sector. Having worked for the Pensacola Chamber of Commerce and the Bay County Chamber of Commerce, she has led the development of business coalitions to deepen community engagement related to tourism, military affairs, and economic development efforts. Michelle spent five years with the Resort Collection of Panama City Beach, responsible for marketing, public relations, and government affairs. Notably, she led the company's successful



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crisis communication response to the BP Oil Spill in 2010. She has also served as an adjunct professor teaching at Belmont University and Gulf Coast State College.

Michelle received her bachelor's degree from the University of West Florida and her masters in corporate and public communication from Florida State University. She is an alumnus of Leadership Middle Tennessee, Nashville Young Leaders, and the national Transportation Innovation Academy led by Transportation for America and the TransitCenter. She is a member of the Nashville Rotary, has been a member in the Junior League of Nashville, served as a board member for PRSA's Nashville Chapter, is a past member of the Junior Achievement of Middle Tennessee's Associate Board, and is a 2016 recipient of a Nashville Emerging Leader Award (NELA).



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## Session 2: The Big Intersections with Transit

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

- 4:00**      **Welcome**  
Jessica Dauphin, President and CEO, Transit Alliance of Middle TN
- 4:05**      **How Transit Impacts Our Health**  
Leslie Meehan, Tennessee Department of Health
- 4:35**      **How Transit Impacts Affordable Housing**  
Kelsey Oesmann, Design Initiative Manager, Urban Housing Solutions
- 5:05**      **How Transit Impacts Equity**  
Ashley Northington, Moving Forward
- 5:35**      **How Transit Impacts Access**  
Clifton Harris, Urban League of Middle TN



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## Leslie Meehan

### Office of Primary Prevention, Tennessee Department of Health

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Leslie Meehan, MPA AICP oversees the Office of Primary Prevention in the Commissioner's Office of the Tennessee Department of Health. The Office serves as a hub for upstream, primary prevention policies and strategies that impact social influencers of health. Her work includes increasing physical activity through the built environment to positively impact social, emotional and physical health. Previously, Ms. Meehan served ten years as the Director of Healthy Communities for the Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in Tennessee. At the MPO, she focused on the intersection of transportation and health, specifically transportation's impacts on physical activity, air quality and injury. Her work has been recognized nationally and internationally, most recently by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (2018 Vision Award), the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (2017 Joseph W. Cullen Excellence Award) and the Institute of Transportation Engineers (2017 Transportation Achievement Award for Planning).

Ms. Meehan is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, the Institute of Transportation Engineers, the Association of Bicycle and Pedestrian Professionals, the League of American Bicyclists and the Tennessee Public Health Association. She is co-author of the Transportation Sector of the National Physical Activity Plan, served as an expert advisor on the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Transportation and Health Tool, was appointed by Transportation Secretary Peters to the National





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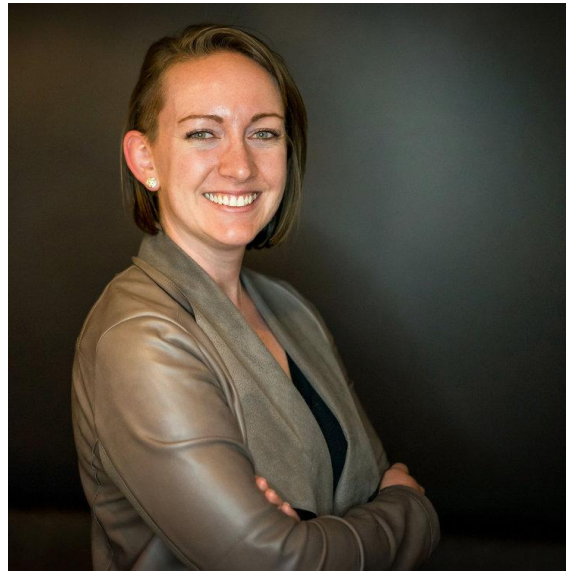
Safe Routes to School Task Force and has presented at a White House event on transportation and health. She currently serves as a panel member on the National Cooperative Highway Research Program's Research Roadmap for Transportation and Health and the Guidebook for Communications between Transportation and Public Health Communities. She is a member of the Transportation Research Board Taskforce on Arterials and Public Health.



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## Kelsey Oesmann

Design Initiative Manager, Urban Housing Solutions

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Kelsey is a licensed architect and the Design Initiatives Manager with Urban Housing Solutions, Nashville's leading nonprofit provider of affordable housing. Kelsey is passionate about using design to build more accessible and resilient communities by integrating creative resident and neighborhood engagement, public health, and sustainability. After earning her Bachelors of Architecture from Virginia Tech in 2014, she spent three years working in Washington, DC before biking across the country to raise funds and awareness for affordable housing.

In 2017, she relocated to Nashville for the Enterprise Rose Fellowship and was jointly hosted by Urban Housing Solutions and the Nashville Civic Design Center (NCDC), contributing to the construction and preservation of more than 500 affordable apartments through 2019. Kelsey currently serves as the chair of the Government Advocacy Committee for the Middle Tennessee chapter of the American Institute of Architects and is an active member of the Urban Land Institute Housing Action Council. She is the author of the NCDC Affordable Housing 101 Toolkit and creator of the Game of Rent, and never leaves home without a good pen.



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## ASHLEY NORTINGTON

### Vice Chair, Moving Forward

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Ashley Northington is a marketing communication and social policy strategist whose work impacts the lives of countless communities and individuals.

She serves as the vice president and managing director for the RW Jones Agency, a national public relations and issues management firm hyper focused on education. In this role, she is responsible for leading the agency's relationships with new institutions and is spearheading its historically Black colleges and universities (HBCU) division. As part of this work, she will launch in April the On the Yard podcast to highlight the unique trends, successes, and challenges faced by HBCU advocates and administrators.

Prior to that, Ashley served as the founding agency director for DENOR Brands + Public Relations, a marketing communications and brand strategy firm. In this role, she crafted noteworthy and impactful campaigns that have informed thousands of voters, provided robust educational options for parents, secured millions in additional revenue, won school board elections, and galvanized people to advocate for issues that affect their lives.

Ashley is engaged in her community as she served as President of the Board of Directors for Thistle Farms, Vice Chair of Moving Forward, and is a regional board member for Teach for America Nashville-Chattanooga.



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Ashley earned a Master of Public Administration degree from Louisiana State University and a bachelor's degree in English from Tennessee State University. She lives in Nashville with her husband, Eric. Learn more about her at [ashleynorthington.com](http://ashleynorthington.com).



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## CLIFTON HARRIS

President and CEO, Urban League of Middle TN

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Clifton, is a native of Cary, N.C., a long-time community organizer and advocate for the most vulnerable population (the homeless). In November 2016 He was appointed to lead the Urban League of Middle Tennessee. Harris is no stranger to the non-profit community. He has successfully managed six different non-profit agencies during his career. Harris's work has made him an expert in the field of helping homeless individuals and families. As a former Executive Director of a Foundation that served homeless families, Harris, was known as a leader who loves people with a passion to help families become successful in life. Harris set a high standard within the staff, volunteers and families served. He was appointed by former Mayor Bill Purcell to organize and lead the Metropolitan Homelessness Commission. He created and hosted Nashville's first Project Homeless Connect; an event that assisted thousands of homeless individuals in need of various much needed services.

Mr. Harris was responsible for the implementation of Nashville's Ten Year Plan to reduce and end chronic homelessness. He coordinated Nashville's efforts to implement Housing First, which places homeless people into permanent housing coupled with intensive case management. This best practice solution reshaped Nashville's approach to offering permanent solutions to the most vulnerable and chronically homeless individuals in our community. Under his leadership, the Metropolitan Homelessness Commission has created its Housing First program, implemented the nationally recognized SOAR Program that fast-tracks individuals to receiving SSI/SSDI income, and organized three Project Homeless Connect events,(provided direct services to 1,500+ individuals affected by homelessness).



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Harris graduated from St. Augustine's College in Raleigh, N.C., with a degree in business administration. Harris says he is thankful that God has given him a passion for people. "I feel like the match between my passion and people is a union that is meant to be so that the good work that's to be done will become a great work in our community," says Harris. Clifton continues to be an active leader in our community. Additionally, he Co-chaired the Transit for Nashville's Engagement Coalition. He's an active member of the Nashville Chamber of Commerce, a member and former Elder of Strong Tower Bible Church and an alumni of Leadership Nashville. Away from work, Clifton enjoys spending time with his lovely wife, Alfreda. They have three children and three grandchildren. Clifton also enjoys golfing.

## Session 3: The Challenges We Face

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

- 4:00**      **Welcome**  
Courtenay Rogers, TCLA Consultant
- 4:05**      **Perspectives from the Federal Level**  
Pam Kordenbrock, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- 4:35**      **Perspectives from the State Level**  
Kaitlyn McClanahan, Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)
- 5:05**      **Transit Rider Panel Discussion, moderated by Courtenay Rogers**  
Carol Francisco, local transit rider  
Rebecca Groner, Walk/Bike Nashville Member
- 5:35**      **Other Funding: IMPROVE Act, FAST Act, INVEST Infrastructure Act, 80/20**  
Senator Heidi Campbell



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## PAM KORDENBROCK

Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

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In February 2010, Pam Kordenbrock became the Division Administrator for the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Tennessee Division. In this capacity she leads a multi-disciplinary staff of 22 that is responsible for a \$900 million federal-aid program and provides policy guidance to FHWA's State, local and other federal partners.

A 26 year veteran of Federal Service, Pam has also worked in FHWA offices in Santa Fe, New Mexico; Washington, DC; San Francisco and Los Angeles, California; Baltimore, MD and Chicago, IL. She has a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Virginia. Pam is also the proud Dog Mom to two rescue pups named Guinness and Becks.





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## KAITLYN MCCLANAHAN

Transit Programs & Policy Manager, Office of Public Transportation

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Kaitlyn McClanahan is the Transit Programs & Policy Manager for the Office of Public Transportation, housed within the Division of Multimodal Transportation Resources at the Tennessee Department of Transportation. McClanahan has been with the Office of Public Transportation for nearly 6 years, managing a variety of federal and state grant programs supporting the operations and capital investments of rural and urban public transit providers across Tennessee. Kaitlyn's role also supports the newly formed Office of Mobility and Accessible Transportation at TDOT, which provides resources and expertise for expanding and improving accessible transportation and mobility across the state. After completing a bachelor's degree in Theology and History at Bellarmine University in Louisville, KY, Kaitlyn earned a master's degree in International Relations from American University in Washington, D.C. She is a creative problem solver with a passion for public service, photography, and baseball.





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## Carol Francisco Transit Rider

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I have been blind since birth. Although I have lived in the south for over 40 years, I grew up in the Midwest. For 35 years I worked as a medical transcriptionist, typing reports dictated by physicians. I have also been a Braille proofreader for a publishing company. I have always used a white cane when I travel. Now I am retired and have held offices in our local and state chapters of the American Council of the Blind. My husband, Orlando, and I have been married for 20 years.



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## REBECCA ARIEL GRONER

Walk/Bike Nashville Member

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Rebecca Ariel Groner is a transit rider who moved from NY to Nashville to pursue a career in health product management and dedicates herself to advocacy for public transit and fostering a healthier, safer Nashville. She bikes and takes the bus around Nashville and hopes to continue living without a car in the city. Her passion stems from her academic and career pursuits in public health and health technology, through which she has learned the impact of systemic factors like where you live and your ability to get places, whether it be to see friends or to visit a health provider. Rebecca is excited to see what she can learn about the history of transit in Middle TN and gather resources for planning for the future.





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## Senator Heidi Campbell

District 20, Davidson County

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Senator Heidi Campbell is a Nashville native, a Mom, a former music industry executive and was the first female Mayor of the city of Oak Hill with six years of experience as an elected leader in this district. In her time in office, she focused on cultivating relationships with local and state stakeholders and established a track record for fiscal discipline. In the state senate her focus is on bringing compassionate and data-based leadership to the legislature. Senator Campbell is the Chair of the Davidson County Senate Caucus, and also serves on the Fiscal Review, Energy and Government Operations committees, and the Environment Committee for the Southern Legislative Conference. She lives near Radnor Lake with her husband Andrew, her two children, and a few goldendoodles.



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## Session 4: Systems and Solutions

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

**4:00**

### **Welcome**

Mayor Randall Hutto, Wilson County

Jessica Dauphin, President and CEO, Transit Alliance of Middle TN

**4:05**

### **Model of Success Panel**

Yannis Banks, Team Coordinator, Capital Metro

Taiwo Jaiyeoba, Assistant City Manager, Director of Planning Design & Development  
City of Charlotte, NC

Cain Williamson, Chief Planning Officer, Atlanta-region Transit Link Authority

**4:50**

### **Transportation Demand Management Overview**

Michael Briggs, Assistant Director of Mobility at Vanderbilt University

Chase Harper, Business Development & Rideshare Services Administrator, TMA  
Group

**5:35**

### **NODAT**

Faye Dimassimo, Interim Director, Metro Nashville Department of Transportation  
and Multimodal Infrastructure (NDOT)



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## RANDAL HUTTO 🎓 Mayor of Wilson County

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Randal Hutto is a lifelong resident of Wilson County. Growing up in Watertown, he attended Watertown Elementary and graduated from Watertown High School. Randal earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Middle Tennessee State University in 1984, and would continue his education with a Master's plus 30 degree in Education from Trevecca Nazarene College.

He began his career in education at Lebanon High School in 1984, teaching U. S. History, Math, and Physical Education. During his tenure at Lebanon High, he utilized his passion for both young people and athletics as an assistant varsity football coach for 16 years, and led the Blue Devils Boys' Varsity Basketball team as head coach for 12 years.

After an 18 year career at Lebanon High School, Randal accepted the opportunity to serve as Assistant Director of Schools for the Lebanon Special School District in 2003.

Randal began a new and challenging career in September of 2010, when the citizens of Wilson County elected him to serve as Wilson County Mayor.

He and his wife, Paula, have been married for more than 30 years, and have three children, Alex, who recently received his doctorate degree from Tennessee State University, Megan, a 2017 graduate of Tennessee Tech University and Brett, a 2017 graduate of Lebanon High School. Randal and his family are



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members of Immanuel Baptist Church, where he teaches Sunday School and serves as a deacon. He is a member of the Lebanon, Mt. Juliet, and Watertown Chambers of Commerce, and an active member of the Lebanon Breakfast Rotary Club.



## Yannis Banks

Team Coordinator, Capital Metro

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Yannis Banks graduated from Texas State University with a bachelor's degree in Public Administration. He is currently a Community Engagement Coordinator with Capital Metro. In that role he is responsible for creating public engagement plans, making sure the community is informed on the decisions that Capital Metro makes, expressing what the community thinks about those decisions to CapMetro leadership, facilitating meetings of CapMetro's Customer Advisory Committees and many other roles.

Mr. Banks is the co-host of 2 popular radio talk shows, The Forum and The Wakeup Call that airs on KAZI 88.7. He also is a co-host of The Untapped Show on KAZI 88.7 in Austin, TX.

In 2010 he was selected to be the chair of the African-American Subcommittee for the Travis County Complete Count Committee. It was his job to help ensure that as many African-Americans participated in the census as possible. He was selected to be on the 2020 Austin-Travis County Complete County Committee





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He is a founding board member of New Leaders Council – Austin which started in 2016.



## Taiwo Jaiyeoba

Assistant City Manager Director of Planning, Design & Development City of Charlotte, NC

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Taiwo Jaiyeoba is currently serving as the Assistant City Manager (ACM) for the City of Charlotte while also leading as Director of Planning, Design, and Development. Additionally, his role as ACM positions him as a member of the City's Executive Leadership team providing support to two additional departments – the Charlotte Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Charlotte Area Transit Services (CATS). He currently is a Member of the American Planning Association, the American Public Transportation Association, and a board member for Rail~Volution, Charlotte Center City Partners, Charlotte's University City Partners, South Charlotte Partners and Habitat for Humanity of the Charlotte region. Mr. Jaiyeoba has over 26 years of private and public experience in planning, both nationally and internationally, helping to inform his vision for equitable, livable, sustainable and inclusive communities.



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## Cain Williamson

Chief Planning Officer, Atlanta-region Transit Link Authority (The ATL)

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Cain is the Chief Planning Officer at the Atlanta-region Transit Link Authority (The ATL). The ATL is an authority of the State of Georgia charged with developing and maintaining a comprehensive regional transit plan as well as facilitating coordination among metro Atlanta's transit operators on issues of policy, planning, and service delivery as well as funding and financing transit infrastructure and operations. In his role as CPO, Cain leads the development of The ATL's Regional Transit Plan, regional fare policy, and regional coordination on transit technology issues. Prior to joining the ATL, Cain spent 20 years at the Atlanta Regional Commission where he led numerous multimodal planning and policy initiatives.





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## Michael Briggs

### Assistant Director of Mobility at Vanderbilt University

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Michael Briggs has been the Assistant Director of Mobility at Vanderbilt University since November 2019. He works with staff throughout the University to ensure alignment with mobility planning goals outlined in [MoveVU](#), Vanderbilt's strategic transportation and mobility plan. He also seeks ways to promote transportation options among faculty, students, and staff. Previously, Michael spent nearly a decade with the Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County Planning Department eventually leading its new Multimodal Transportation Planning division. This group launched Nashville Connector, a new Transportation Demand Management program that encourages employers to offer a variety of commute options. In addition to his city transportation experience, Michael spent two years as the County Planner for Sumner County Tennessee, and four years as a Transportation Planner at the Mid-America Regional Council in Kansas City. He began his transportation career at the Barren River Area Development District in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Michael is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. He was recognized by Walk Bike Nashville in 2016 with the Government Official of the Year award, and in 2019, with the Kibby Clayton Lifetime Achievement Award which recognizes someone who has made substantial



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contributions to make Nashville more walkable, bikeable, and liveable. He holds a bachelor's degree in Geography and a master's degree in Geoscience from Western Kentucky University.



## Chase Harper

Business Development & Rideshare Services Administrator, The TMA  
(Transportation Management Association) Group

Chase Harper is responsible for building, maintaining, and improving relationships with regional employers. He works with employers to help them implement and improve transportation benefits, such as TMA's regional commuter rideshare program: VanStar, available to employees located in Middle Tennessee. Additionally, Harper strategically works with the TMA's Executive Leadership Team, in creating collateral, sales campaigns, and client communications for TMA's other transportation programs. He currently serves as a member of:

- o Williamson Inc Board of Directors
- o Heritage Foundation Next Gen Board Member
- Harper is a graduate of:
  - o Leadership Franklin
  - o Williamson County's Young Leaders Council (with the focus of developing skills towards being a non-profit board member)
  - o Franklin Ambassadors with the Williamson County CVB
  - o Williamson Inc's Leadership YP inaugural class



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- His previous work experience includes:
  - Grand Avenue Transportation: Director, Affiliate Relations & Corporate Partnerships
  - HAWK SCADA: Sales Manager
  - Innovative Broadcast Services (IBS): Head is Production and Inventory
- Harper is an honors graduate of Mississippi State University with a Bachelor in Business Administration
- He lives in Thompson's Station, TN with his wife Michelle, daughter Amelia and their dog, Kali.



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## Faye Dimassimo

Interim Director, Metro Nashville Department of Transportation and Multimodal Infrastructure (NDOT)

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Faye DiMassimo is Senior Advisor, Transportation and Infrastructure to Mayor John Cooper. She has nearly 40 years of experience with federal, regional and local public entities as well as the private sector in the development, management and delivery of multimodal transportation programs. Most recently, she was with Deloitte Consulting and has served as the City of Atlanta Renew Atlanta/TSPLOST General Manager and the Director of the Cobb County Department of Transportation. She holds three degrees from Auburn University including a Bachelor of Science in Public Administration and Masters of Community Planning and Public Administration. Additionally, she is a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners (FAICP). Faye has participated in numerous leadership programs and community organizations over the years and presently serves on the College Football Hall of Fame Exhibit Hall board.



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## Session 5: Data Driven Decisions

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

- 4:00**      **Welcome**  
Jessica Dauphin, President and CEO, Transit Alliance of Middle TN
- 4:05**      **Update from Nashville Chamber**  
Matt Bailey, Vice President of Regional Policy at Nashville Area Chamber of  
Commerce
- 4:35**      **Update from Urban Institue**  
Christina Stacy, Senior Research Associate
- 5:05**      **Update from WeGo Public Transit**  
Felix Castrodad
- 5:35**      **How Transit Impacts Our Environment**  
Alexa Voytek, Tennessee Department of Environment Conservation



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## Matt Bailey

### Vice President of Regional Policy at Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce

Matt Bailey serves as the Vice President of Regional Policy for the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce. In this role, Matt works with regional elected leaders, business and community leaders, and policy stakeholders on issues that impact the Middle Tennessee Region. He also serves as staff support to *Moving Forward*, which is dedicated to creating regional transportation solutions that work for Middle Tennesseans.

Prior to joining the Chamber, Matt spent a decade working for the State of Tennessee in various capacities within the General Assembly and the Secretary of State's office. Matt and his family reside in Franklin, TN.



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## Christina Stacy

Senior Research Associate, Urban Institute

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Christina Plerhoples Stacy is a senior research associate in the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center at the Urban Institute, where she specializes in urban economics, equity, and inclusion. Her work focuses on the intersection of economics and urban spaces and how housing, transportation, local economies, health, and crime interact.

Stacy recently led an effort to develop a set of transportation equity metrics for metropolitan regions throughout the US, and she managed an effort to measure inclusion in US cities. She also led an effort to measure the spatial mismatch between job seekers and employers using big data from Snagajob, the largest online job search engine for hourly workers.





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## Felix Castrodad WeGo Public Transit

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Since 2014, Félix Castrodad has served as the Director of Planning and Grants for WeGo Public Transit. His department is responsible for different planning functions including data collection and analysis, managing transit grants funding, and leading short and long-range transit planning including the development of the region's 25-year transit strategic plan known as nMotion. Mr. Castrodad has over 20 years of experience in the transportation planning field. Prior to joining WeGo, he worked as a Principal Transportation Planner for the Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) managing the region's 1 billion dollar Transportation Improvement Program and the MPO's regional transit planning program. Before coming to Nashville Félix spent time working on various aspects of short and long-range transportation planning for the Martin County MPO in Stuart, Florida. He also worked for the METRO Regional Transit Authority in Akron, Ohio where he began his professional career in transportation as a Transit Planner. Mr. Castrodad has a bachelor's degree in Geography from the University of Puerto Rico and a master's degree in Urban Planning from the University of Akron.





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## Alexa Voytek

Energy Programs Administrator, Office of Energy Programs, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

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Alexa Voytek is the Coordinator for the Middle-West Tennessee Clean Cities Coalition as well as a Program Manager / Energy Analyst for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's (TDEC) Office of Energy Programs. Alexa provides support for various grant programs, energy efficiency and sustainable transportation initiatives, and external communications efforts. In her role as Clean Cities coordinator, she seeks to encourage local fleets to adopt alternative fuel vehicles and advanced vehicle technologies in order to reduce petroleum dependence and improve air quality. Prior to joining TDEC, Voytek interned with the United Nations Division for Sustainable Development and the U.S. Consulate in St. Petersburg, Russia. Most recently, she served as Assistant Account Executive for New York City-based public relations firm Ketchum, Inc., where she was assigned to energy and technology-related projects. She holds an M.A. from Columbia University in Russian, Eastern European, Balkan, and Eurasian Studies and graduated from Duke University with a B.A. in History and Russian Language/Area Studies.

## Session 6: Advocacy and You

Wednesday, October 6, 2021  
In-person: Capitol View



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500 11th Ave N, Nashville, TN 37203, USA

- 4:00**      **Welcome**  
Jessica Dauphin, President and CEO, Transit Alliance of Middle TN
- 4:05**      **Debrief and Re-visit all sessions**  
Jessica Dauphin, President and CEO, Transit Alliance of Middle TN
- 5:05**      Turning knowledge into action--Advocacy tool
- 5:25**      Survey
- 5:30**      Reports
- 6:00**      Graduation Remarks