



## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 29, 2022

**CONTACT:**

Renuka Christoph

[renuka.christoph@nashville.gov](mailto:renuka.christoph@nashville.gov)

615-880-3943

---

### WeGo Public Transit applauds Mayor's budget proposal

**NASHVILLE** – Today, Nashville Mayor John Cooper announced his FY2022-23 Metro Operating Budget proposal, which includes \$62.6 million in funding support for WeGo Public Transit services. This allotment will allow WeGo to sustain full current service levels (including a 7% increase in service above pre-pandemic levels enacted earlier this month) and additional service expansion in the upcoming fiscal year, based upon the Council-adopted Metro Nashville Transportation Plan.

"WeGo Public Transit appreciates Mayor Cooper's proposed FY2022-23 Metro Operating Budget, which will allow WeGo Public Transit to continue to advance the Better Bus Service enhancements contained in the Metro Nashville Transportation Plan adopted by the Metro Council in 2020," WeGo CEO Steve Bland said.

"As a board, we made the decision to not only restore service to pre-COVID service levels but begin to bring to fruition the Better Bus improvements found in the Mayor's Transportation Plan," Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority (Nashville MTA) Board Chair Gail Carr Williams said. "Mayor Cooper's budget proposal will continue to fund the seven percent service increase we just launched this month, which provides for longer service hours and increased frequency to a number of routes in the system as well as expanded Access hours. It will also allow us to continue service expansion in the upcoming year."

During the pandemic, WeGo adjusted and later restored service levels with one-time relief funding and subsequent Metro support. This significant increase in funding commitment from Metro Nashville will directly impact thousands of Nashvillians who rely on public transportation services every day to access jobs, education, health care, and numerous community services and resources, and will expand the range of transit options available to even more Nashvillians.

"Transit is important to us as an employer who not only looks to retain but attract new talent. It also provides an option for our guests to explore Music City," said Gena Shearon, HR Director, Holiday Inn Nashville Vanderbilt a WeGo Ride business partner.

The Nashville MTA Board of Directors will begin considering next year's budget and service improvements at its regular meeting in May.

#### About WeGo Public Transit

Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority (Nashville MTA) and the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) are operating bodies of WeGo Public Transit, which serves 25 local bus routes, nine regional bus routes, and one train serving Davidson and Wilson counties.

# # #



Editor's Note: To request this info in an alternative format, call 615-862-5950 for the ADA Coordinator.