



MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
February 27, 2020

Nashville MTA and RTA of Middle Tennessee Board of Directors Meetings *Meetings greenlight capital projects, updates on ridership and equity analyses*

NASHVILLE – The Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority (Nashville MTA) and the Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee (RTA) Board of Directors had agendas in February that looked to advance long-term capital projects and practices to ensure upcoming improvements and services benefit all customers of WeGo services locally and regionally, regardless of their access to technology or financial means.

For more information about [regional topics](#) and [local topics](#) visit the agency websites.

Regional Capital Investment Plan

Staff presented a recommended Capital Investment Plan (CIP) for the period of FY2020-2024. Year one of the plan calls for an investment of \$17,035,000 for safety, regulatory, and state of good repair projects for bus and rail. Projects identified in year one (FY2020) already have access to full funding. The total lifetime recommended investment is \$112,127,933 and includes additional enhancements to the WeGo Star Commuter Rail Line, development of additional park-and-ride facilities, and other projects to improve and expand service in line with the nMotion Strategic Plan. The RTA Board approved of the CIP, giving WeGo staff permission to pursue funding for these projects.

Rail Station Construction – Fare Project

As part of the new fare collection project, the RTA Board authorized WeGo to enter into a construction contract with Stansell Electric Company, Inc, to install new ticket vending machines (TVMs) and platform validators at all WeGo Star train stations. These installations will enable customers to purchase new fare cards at each rail station and scan either their phones or card at the platform validator before boarding the train. The project duration will take approximately four months upon starting and is funded through the FY2019 Capital Plan, utilizing federal dollars matched with state and local funding for a not-to-exceed project total of \$450,314.81.

Title VI Analysis of Proposed Upcoming Fare System

Staff presented the findings of their recent Title VI analysis of new fare policies that would better enable the upcoming fare payment system's implementation. Public feedback was requested during a 20-day comment period in January on policies aimed to achieve project goals such as: make the fare payment process simple for customers and bus operators; enable seamless transactions and payment between different services; ensure that fare payment structures and options are equitable for all customers; establish a fare system that is accessible for all customers; and, to the extent possible, target a revenue-neutral fare structure compared to current revenues. The Board approved of all recommended policy changes.

Hillsboro Pike Transit Center

The MTA Board approved a cooperation agreement with Metro Nashville Public Schools to advance design and construction of a neighborhood transit center on the site of Hillsboro High School. This center will replace the current, undersized, stop at this location which is the 7th highest boarding location in the WeGo system. The cooperation agreement (which will also require School District approval) will facilitate completion of this project in conjunction with the overall construction schedule for Hillsboro High School.

North Nashville Transit Center

A critical transit center site at Clarksville Pike and 26th Avenue North in North Nashville that could serve as a major transfer point serving the neighborhood is slated for the completion of due diligence activities, including environmental and geotechnical reports to determine site feasibility. If all research proves satisfactory, serious design for the project would begin within six months and construction following in the next two years. In addition to due diligence activities, this action is subject to review by the General Counsel of the Metro Transit Authority and Metro Legal.

Quarterly Route Performance Report

Operations staff updated the Nashville MTA Board on ridership during the Quarterly Performance Report discussion. Routes included in the frequent service network, as identified for the Better Bus service strategy, showed an increase in ridership of approximately 5.5 percent overall. Most notably, routes 55 Murfreesboro Pike and 7 Hillsboro have shown increases in ridership in just the last quarter of more than 11 percent each. Route 55 also saw an increase in on-time performance thanks to minor schedule adjustments made to more effectively respond to overcrowding issues and Metro Public Works coordinating traffic lights along the corridor as a continuation of the transit signal priority and queue jump project. Overall ridership for the Q2FY20 declined by 6.6 percent in comparison to Q2FY19, but the prior year's figure includes routes that have since been eliminated.

Members of the public are encouraged to sign up for WeGo's newsletter, follow them on social media, and visit WeGoTransit.com to get updates on exciting initiatives, community events, updates, and general information.

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