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First Phase of MTA/RTA nMotion 2015 Outreach Identifies Nashville's Top Transit Values

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (July 10, 2015) – Convenient, dependable, frequent and safe. Those are the most important transit values identified by more than 3,500 responses from Nashville-area residents who participated in the first phase of the yearlong strategic planning process known as nMotion 2015, being conducted by the Metro Transit Authority (MTA) and Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee (RTA).

Beginning on April 7 at two kickoff community meetings, MTA/RTA asked people to identify values that should guide decision-making as MTA/RTA develops its strategic plan. Since those public meetings, two surveys on [identifying](#) and [defining](#) values have been conducted online, in meetings with local organizations, at community events and through outreach to MTA bus riders.

“To begin the public outreach process, we wanted to identify the types of broad values that should guide our planning process as we develop a transit system for the future,” said Steve Bland, CEO of MTA/RTA. “The findings on values will be used by our transit planners as they assess the types of needs residents have identified and the changes to the system that will be contemplated. This is just the first step in a yearlong process, and we encourage everyone in the Nashville area to get involved.”

A total of 26 values were identified by respondents. Other findings of interest include:

- **Those who don't rely on transit cite “convenient” most often.** Forty-five percent of the survey respondents said they never use public transportation, and 30 percent of the respondents use the system less than once per week. These groups chose convenience as



their top value, with 39 percent naming it their first priority. Among this group, “safety” received the second-most votes for top value, with 12 percent.

- **Those who do ride transit cite “dependable” most often.** Of the 25 percent of respondents who said they ride transit regularly, 33 percent named “dependable” as their top value, followed by “convenient” with 22 percent.

After identifying their top values, residents were then asked how they define them. A summary of those definitions is below.

- **Convenient:** Provide more frequent service and service to more locations.
- **Dependable:** Transit service is on time.
- **Frequent:** Service is expected to come every 15 minutes on both major and minor routes.
- **Safe:** Make it easier to walk to and from stops, with more sidewalks, crosswalks and signals, and locate stops in well-lit areas.

Along with this phase of the public outreach process, MTA/RTA’s transit planners are working with Nelson\Nygaard, the lead consulting firm for the project, to complete a State of the System report, which will include a market analysis, a review of peer cities and an assessment of the existing systems. This document will be released to the public next week.

MTA/RTA will use the technical work and the public input to create guiding principles for the project, which will be used to direct MTA/RTA as it considers future improvements to our transit system. This document will be released to the public at the end of this month.

“Our goal is to synthesize the input from the public and what we know about our system today to create a broad vision for our region,” Bland said. “Once we have a vision, we can begin to examine and collect feedback on specific strategies and future scenarios to improve our transit system.”

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About nMotion 2015

The Nashville area is undergoing a dynamic transformation that has made it a much more attractive city for thousands of new residents. The Metro Transit Authority (MTA) and the Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee (RTA) are hard at work to provide new and better transit options that ensure everyone can get where they need to in a cost-effective and timely manner. To determine how best to expand Nashville’s transit service, we are updating our Strategic Transit Plan, known as nMotion 2015. Over the next year, we hope to gather input from as many Nashvillians as possible to develop the best mass transit system possible. Visit our website at www.nmotion2015.com.

