

### Why do we need alternative transportation choices?

The greater Metro area already has some of the nation's most congested streets and highways. Population is expected to grow by 42% in the 5-county area by 2025 while job growth is projected at 69%. Additionally, the area hosts over 9 million visitors per year. New highway construction is limited and costly with no environmental benefits.

### Why was Commuter Rail chosen for Middle Tennessee?

Since most of the population growth will occur in outlying areas, while jobs will continue to be focused in the major urban areas, people will need to travel long distances from their home to work. With the highways already crowded and the transit options for the region limited, alternative ways to move people were studied. Commuter Rail was selected because its characteristics provided the best solution to Middle Tennessee's transportation challenges.

### What is Commuter Rail?

Commuter Rail service typically consists of locomotive-hauled passenger railcars designed to carry commuters between suburban stations with Park & Ride lots and their work destinations within a central city core. Commuter Rail is designed to cover long distances with stations placed several miles apart. The Music City Star follows this design.

### What is the Music City Star East Corridor project?

The Music City Star East Corridor is a 32-mile commuter rail corridor between Lebanon and downtown Nashville. It will incorporate several stations with Park & Ride facilities and a destination station in downtown Nashville.



### Why was the East Corridor chosen first?

The East Corridor, connecting Wilson and Davidson counties, was selected as the initial corridor for a Regional Commuter Transit Network for a variety of reasons. The most significant reason is the existence of a public railroad with available capacity. In addition, 2000 Census data shows that 45% of Wilson County residents commute into Nashville/Davidson County each day for work.



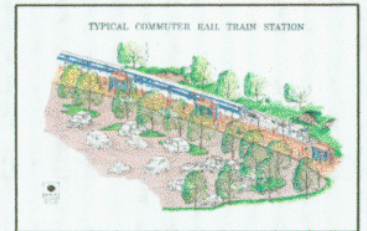
Proposed Regional  
Commuter Transit Network

### What are the plans for other corridors?

Plans for a proposed Regional Commuter Transit Network will connect the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) nine-county area with high-capacity transportation alternatives, which may include commuter rail, bus rapid transit, and/or other transit forms.

### Where will the Music City Star stations be located?

There will initially be five Music City Star stations, originating in the city of **Lebanon** at the "old Handle Factory" bounded by Baddour Parkway and Greenwood Street. Traveling westbound, the train will then stop in the city of **Mt. Juliet** just off Division Street, west of Mt. Juliet Road. The **Hermitage** station will be located at Chandler Road and Andrew Jackson Parkway. The next stop will be in **Donelson**, adjacent to the Donelson Senior Citizens Center on Donelson Pike near Lebanon Pike. The destination station will be in downtown Nashville, at **Riverfront** adjacent to the Flag Court at the foot of Broadway. A sixth station site, in the Martha community near the State Route 109 & US Highway 70 interchange, will be added after service begins.



### What is the timeline for the Music City Star East Corridor?

The Music City Star East Corridor Commuter Rail will begin weekday commuter service between Lebanon and downtown Nashville in 2006.

### How is the project funded?

The Music City Star is one of many public transportation services available to Middle Tennessee residents and, as such, it is primarily funded by public dollars. This funding is provided through a combination of federal, state, and local government dollars. Additionally, revenues from the Music City Star will be used to offset approximately 30% of the annual operating costs.

### Why are public funds being used for this project?

Public transportation projects, such as the Music City Star, are services provided as part of the public infrastructure just like highways, interstates, schools, and emergency services such as police and fire. As such, they are all funded through public dollars whether federal, state, local, or a combination thereof. These are all designed to meet community needs, not to make a profit in dollars and cents.

### **What is the budget for this project?**

The capital budget is just under \$40 million and covers all aspects of construction including rail upgrades, tie replacement, signal systems and station construction. The Music City Star East Corridor Commuter Rail project, like many other construction projects, has experienced cost increases. As construction costs have increased from original estimates, the RTA has employed methods such as value-engineering to ensure the construction of the East Corridor does not exceed the \$40 million capital budget. The operating budget has increased due to the rising costs of fuel and insurance. These are unpredictable items, which are out of any agency's control, and are being experienced by businesses and citizens all across the country. RTA has worked to limit these increases as much as possible, with the result that the current annual budget is \$3.0 million, only 2.5% higher than the original estimate.

### **How many riders are anticipated for the Music City Star East Corridor?**

We are projecting approximately 1,300 daily passengers on the Music City Star East Corridor within the first few months of service.

### **What are the advantages of riding the Music City Star?**

Music City Star riders enjoy a no hassle ride to and from their work. They no longer spend unproductive hours trapped in their cars and can use commute time to work, read, visit with friends, or just relax. Additionally, riders save on the high costs of gas and parking while contributing to a cleaner environment and a higher standard of air quality.



### **How much will it cost to ride?**

The Music City Star East Corridor will use a zone fare structure, based on distance traveled. Each station is considered a separate zone. A policy setting fares for revenue service will be adopted by the RTA Board prior to the start of service. The fares will be based on market conditions at that time.

### **Will there be discounts available for monthly passes?**

Discounts for multiple-ride tickets, including monthly passes, will be offered at about a 10-15% savings from the pre-paid single-ticket fare.

### **How can I get from the Music City Star station to my work location?**

Timed bus connections through the Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) will be available at each of the Davidson County station sites (Hermitage, Donelson and Riverfront). This will allow Music City Star passengers to connect to an awaiting bus in order to complete their trip to work.

### **How much will these bus connections cost?**

There will be no additional cost for these timed-bus connections. The Music City Star ticket cost will include the connection to awaiting MTA buses.

### **What times will the Music City Star run?**

Service on the Music City Star will be during the weekday peak commuting hours each morning and afternoon. While the specific schedule is still being developed, it is anticipated that the Music City Star will arrive in downtown Nashville between 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. weekday mornings, and depart downtown Nashville between 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. weekday afternoons. Reverse commute trains will also operate during these weekday trips.

### **What happens if I have an emergency during the day?**

The RTA offers a Guaranteed Ride Home program for all registered commuters using RTA services, including the Music City Star. This program provides a free ride home, either via taxi-cab or rental car, in the event of an emergency such as illness, family emergency, or unexpected overtime.

### **Will the Music City Star run on weekends or for special events?**

After initial weekday commuting service begins in early 2006, there are plans to provide Special Event Trains. These Special Event Trains will operate on schedules to coincide with the events, and special tickets will be required. Announcements will be made when Special Event Trains will be offered.

### **Who is implementing the Music City Star?**

The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) is the lead agency in partnership with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), City of Lebanon, City of Mt. Juliet, Wilson County, Metropolitan Nashville/Davidson County, Nashville & Eastern Railroad Authority (NERA), Nashville & Eastern Railroad Corporation (NERC), and the Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA).

### **How do I get more information about the Music City Star?**

More information about the Music City Star East Corridor Commuter Rail is available at [www.rta-ride.org](http://www.rta-ride.org), or contact the RTA Marketing Department at (615) 880-3907.