

mobility solutions for our region

Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2021

To: The Honorable John Cooper, Mayor of Metro Nashville/Davidson County

Cc: Faye DiMassimo, Senior Advisor for Transportation and Infrastructure
Kevin Crumbo, Finance Director
Steve Bland, CEO, MTA-WeGo

From: Todd Rolapp, Moving Forward Chair, and Ashley Northington, Moving Forward Vice Chair

Re: Moving Forward Support For MTA-WeGo Fiscal Year 2022 Funding

On behalf of *Moving Forward* we urge you to support the MTA-WeGo budget request for fiscal year 2022 funding.

At a minimum, it is critical that MTA-WeGo's budget be restored to pre-pandemic funding levels, while also including the additional \$3.2 million to implement "Better Bus" service enhancements. The requested annual baseline budget of \$51.6 million will enable MTA-WeGo to continue to operate without disrupting service or negatively impacting Nashville residents.

Throughout the pandemic, Nashville-Davidson County and the Middle Tennessee region have continued to grow. Davidson County is projected to grow by over 21% from 2020 to 2045. It is imperative that annual funding at least keep pace with growth to adequately meet the mobility challenges of a growing city - providing access to jobs and education for all Nashvillians.

The funding is also needed because, as we have noted previously, research by [Transportation for America](#) has shown that *cities that invest in transit during and emerging from recessions experience larger and more equitable recovery*. Our entire community benefits when we invest in transit and *all* Nashvillians can have access to affordable, convenient, dependable transit. This calls for greater funding for transit with a commitment to equitable investment.

In addition to fully funding the MTA-WeGo FY22 request, Moving Forward remains committed to securing dedicated funding for transit. Peer cities across the United States have continued to make transit a priority through dedicated funding sources, with Austin, Texas approving a referendum for dedicated funding for transit in November 2020. To retain our quality of life, to ensure that our residents have access to jobs, education and amenities, to build a robust transit system, we must have dedicated funding for transit.

Until dedicated funding can be secured, Moving Forward respectfully requests that the Mayor and Metro Council fully support MTA-WeGo's FY 2022 budget request. We appreciate your

continued focus on equitable transit and mobility investments for all Nashville residents to prosper.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd", followed by a long, sweeping horizontal flourish.

Todd Rolapp
Moving Forward Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashley", followed by several loops and a final horizontal flourish.

Ashley Northington
Moving Forward Vice Chair