

## 2018 Scorecard and Next Steps

Since its inception in August 2015, Moving Forward has been focused on five objectives that create a path to expand transit choices in Middle Tennessee. This scorecard tracks the progress that has been made in 2017 – and the challenges in the coming year – in achieving multi-modal transportation options for our region. For more information, visit [movingforwardmidtn.com](http://movingforwardmidtn.com).

Complete  Underway  Still to be achieved 

 **1. Support the completion of an RTA and MTA Strategic Plan update by the end of 2016.** In September 2016, the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) and the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) unanimously adopted the nMotion 2016 Strategic Plan. Moving Forward was actively engaged in critiquing and endorsing the final nMotion plan. Their critique and recommendations can be found in the Moving Forward 2016 Report at [movingforwardmidtn.com](http://movingforwardmidtn.com).

(federal)  **2. Support the identification and passage of state and federal government revenue enhancements for transit by the end of 2017.** At the federal level, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) was signed into law in 2015, providing federal funding for transportation and transit through 2020. Future action will be needed to ensure federal funds for transit after 2020.

(state)  At the state level, the IMPROVE Act was signed into law by Governor Bill Haslam in April 2017. This law triggers increased funding for highway and bridge projects across the state. For Moving Forward, the most important component of the IMPROVE Act was the provision that allows local governments to create dedicated funding for transit through a voter referendum process. After the passage of the IMPROVE Act, Metropolitan Nashville Davidson County Mayor Megan Barry announced her intention to seek voter approval for a transit funding referendum in May 2018.

 **3. Ensure at least 30,000 engagements with Middle Tennesseans in the transit conversation by the end of 2017.** Moving Forward's Public Engagement task force worked with MTA and RTA as these agencies led community engagement around the nMotion plan, providing recommendations and feedback on how to reach a diverse range of audiences. After the adoption of nMotion, the public engagement process around transit continued both in Davidson County and the region. The RTA is partnering with the Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee and Cumberland Region Tomorrow to host regional meetings on what nMotion means for each of the surrounding counties. The Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization has also continued its work in engaging Middle Tennesseans in the transit conversation through the South Corridor Study.

After Mayor Barry announced that Davidson County voters would vote on a transit plan and funding in 2018, the Public Engagement task force directed its energy toward educating community members on the proposed transit plan and funding sources, as well as participating in the 11 community meetings held to discuss the plan. As a result of all the efforts, by the end of 2017, our region has achieved **33,586** substantive engagements with Middle Tennesseans in the transit conversation.



**4. Identify and secure a local dedicated funding source for transit in the region by the end of 2018.** Six counties in Middle Tennessee have the opportunity to vote for local, dedicated funding for transit thanks to the passage of the IMPROVE Act. Four counties in the Middle Tennessee region that were not included in the IMPROVE Act – Cheatham, Dickson, Maury and Robertson Counties – should be included in the coming legislative session to allow their residents if and how to fund transit. In 2017, Mayor Megan Barry announced her intention to seek voter approval for a transit plan and funding in a 2018 Davidson County general election. That began a process as laid out by the IMPROVE Act, which includes: the development of a transit improvement program of projects and funding plan; a public comment period on the plan; a third-party review of financial feasibility as approved by the Comptroller; and approval of the program of projects, funding plan, and 250-word referendum ballot language by a Metro council. Once Metro Council has approved the projects, funding plan and ballot language, the election commission will place the referendum on the ballot for the next Metro general election.



**5. Support breaking ground on the first rapid transit project in the region by the end of 2020.** This objective is ambitious but critical, since most major transit projects take at least seven years from inception to completion. This objective can only be met if local dedicated funding is secured. Middle Tennessee is growing rapidly and while the growth of people, businesses and jobs benefits our region, it strains our infrastructure and could harm our quality of life. Creating rapid transit provides Middle Tennesseans with more options to move around the region, for employment, education, recreation and to preserve our region's quality of life.

## What's Next for Transit in Middle Tennessee?

### Davidson County Voter Referendum on Local, Dedicated Transit Funding

In early 2018, the Metro Nashville/Davidson County Council will take up the transit plan, funding plan and ballot language for its review and decision. With the Metro Council's approval by February 2018, the transit plan and funding proposal can be added to the May 1, 2018 election for the voters of Nashville/Davidson County to decide Nashville's transit future.

### Continuing Regional Conversation About How Transit Projects Connect Across County Lines

While currently the focus is on Davidson County's transit referendum, the regional transit conversation continues. Moving Forward champions a transit system that connects the entire Middle Tennessee region to provide mobility options to its residents. Surrounding counties are watching the Davidson County referendum debate closely, while continuing to consider the specifics of their counties' transit improvements, how they can connect to the system planned to emanate from Nashville, and how they might help fund such a system to improve mobility and ensure the quality of life of Middle Tennesseans.

Moving Forward is an initiative led by the business and community leaders to ensure the creation of a regional transportation solution through a cohesive community effort. For more information, visit [movingforwardmidtn.com](http://movingforwardmidtn.com).

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