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## TRANSIT ALLIANCE OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE

### OUR MISSION

Build support for funding regional transit by mobilizing community leadership in the Middle Tennessee region.

The Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization.



*We serve ten Middle Tennessee counties: Davidson, Sumner, Wilson, Rutherford, Williamson, Maury, Dickson, Cheatham, Montgomery, and Robertson.*



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## ABOUT

The Transit Alliance is committed to communicating the value of regional mass transportation needs and options, including the economic value of mass transit investments. We work with contributors, community officials and regional leaders to build support for funding regional transit in Middle Tennessee. Our purpose is to **educate**, **empower**, and **mobilize policy** to serve and connect our entire region.

## PURPOSE

- Educate constituencies about the need for funding a regional multimodal transportation system.
- Empower the alliance community and organizational leaders with tools to be advocates for a multimodal transportation system with dedicated funding.
- Mobilize individuals and regional networks to support legislative action related to dedicated funding for transportation.

## CONTACT

**Jessica Dauphin**

President & CEO

615-743-3051

[jessica.dauphin@thetransitalliance.org](mailto:jessica.dauphin@thetransitalliance.org)



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## Jessica Dauphin

### President & CEO, Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee

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As the President & CEO of the Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee, Dauphin is responsible for managing the vision and mission of the organization. The Transit Alliance is committed to building support for funding a regional multimodal transit system. Dauphin builds relationships with communities and business partners, secures funding for programs, and oversees all educational and community engagement programs, including the Transit Citizen Leadership Academy (TCLA). TCLA is designed to equip participants with the knowledge and resources to lead the conversation on transit and transportation in the region—there are currently 490 regional alumni.

Access to effective and efficient transit options is key to sustaining growth in the region as well as preserving the quality of life we all strive toward while making it more equitable. Even with the best schools, jobs, healthcare, parks, etc., a city can provide, if a resident is not able to get from where they are to where they are going, living a good and happy life can be an insurmountable challenge. Transportation challenges underscore many issues facing growing cities and deserve thoughtful, engaging conversations that lead to intentional planning and well-connected systems.

Dauphin joined Transit Alliance in 2017 bringing over 12 years' experience working with nonprofits in the Nashville area. Areas of expertise include volunteer management, advocacy, communications, and development. Currently, she is on the Board of Directors for Transit NOW Nashville and was appointed by Mayor John Cooper to the MTA Board of Directors in May of 2021. She has a Bachelor's degree in English from Middle Tennessee State University. Dauphin is a Middle Tennessee native and enjoys being part of the areas' growth. She lives in Bellevue on the Riverwalk Greenway where you can find her out with her husband and 6-year-old son most any Spring, Summer, or Fall day.



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Dear Transit Academy Participant:

Welcome to the award-winning Transit Citizen Leadership Academy (TCLA)! Hosted by the Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee, this Academy is your gateway to a deeper understanding of mobility options in Middle Tennessee and what it means to be an advocate for better transit.

We are proponents for regional transit solutions. The Transit Alliance is a nonprofit on a mission to build awareness and support for regional multimodal transit with dedicated funding because *we believe that individual freedoms are directly tied to mobility.*

The Transit Alliance is the *only* organization with a civic education program like TCLA. The TCLA provides relevant information and connects you to trusted resources so you can lead conversations on the value of multi modal transportation across Middle Tennessee. We are building a movement.

You are embarking on six sessions of exploration. Topics like funding, technology, impacts, and transportation alternatives are centered. Regional leaders will visit to discuss Middle Tennessee's current transportation and mobility options as well as the opportunities and challenges we face as our economy and population grow.

When this class concludes, you will become a TCLA Alumni and join an incredible group of 520 regional leaders already working to sustain the regional multi-modal transit movement.

Record Real Estate and commercial developments continue. The Greater Nashville Area is a vibrant and desirable place to call home (being named the "It" city by the [\*New York Times\*](#) didn't hurt). That said, investing in transit is not about the people moving here. It's about us. Investing in our families and communities is first priority.

Studies show that a well-built multimodal transit system increases livability, sustains economic growth, enriches the quality of life, and preserves green space. It's an investment we have to make in, and for, ourselves.

We appreciate the investment of founding partner, Vanderbilt University. Thanks to Market Street Enterprises, the Greater Nashville Realtors, Bank of Tennessee, The Memorial Foundation, and our many partners for their support in making the TCLA possible over the years.

Please use any of the following to share your thoughts and experiences at the TCLA: **#TCLA #TransitIsEssential #Transit #TransitAcademy #WeCanTransit #TransitWorks #MiddleTN #MobilityOptions #Walk #Bike #Bus #Train**

Regards,



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## TRANSIT CITIZEN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The Transit Citizen Leadership Academy is designed to equip private- and public-sector leaders across the 10 counties of Middle Tennessee with the personal and group tools to lead conversations about the value of multimodal transit across the region and about the emerging mass transit options that can address our mobility needs.

### NOTES

- Class Roster and speaker bios will be posted on our [website](#) (password “TransitAcademy”).
- When available, speaker presentations and class recordings will be posted on our website after the class.



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Presenting Class Sponsors:  
Thanks for your generous support!

**Market Street Enterprises**  
**Ingram Charities**  
**Waller**  
**Wilson Bank & Trust**  
**Ragan Smith**  
**The City of Franklin**  
**Wilson County**  
**Williamson County**  
**City of Pleasant View**  
**City of Smyrna**  
**City of White House**  
**City of Springfield**  
**City of Spring Hill**

## TRANSIT ADVOCACY

### OBJECTIVE

Over the next 6 weeks and the next 6 sessions, we will explore the transit landscape for the region and how it relates to economic recovery, affordability, equity, and quality of life. Individual research, class discussions, readings and expert presentations will guide you as you determine what transit options are available now to your community and the region, what options are needed for the future, and the next steps for moving the conversation forward.

### OUTCOME

Before the first class, you will have completed the “[TCLA Pre-Survey](#)”. This is to get you focused on transit and thinking critically about the role it plays throughout the region, in your community, as well as the importance of transportation to different community members.

### INSPIRATION & MOVING CONVERSATION FORWARD

During the 4th and 5th class sessions, you will be given a question. The question will need to be answered in a brief speech during the Graduation Ceremony in the 6<sup>th</sup>, and final, class.

### GUIDELINES



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Using your initial “[TCLA Pre-Survey](#)” and the information you have gained from class presentations and discussions, prepare a thoughtful answer to the question posed to the class. Use the following guidelines:

- 60-90 seconds
- State your answer to the question clearly.
- Give back up to your answer (Refer to specific class sessions/presentations or ideas that came up during the previous five classes).
- Specify your ideas, findings, or recommendations.
- What will be your strategy to bring what you’ve learned back to your networks & wider community to move the conversation forward?

## NOTES

Feel free to communicate with each other during and in-between classes via email or social media. I will email a recap of the class and a teaser for the upcoming class as a reminder each week. If there are any supplemental materials, I will either email them to you before/after class and/or print them out for the class session. Most presentations you see during class will be posted to our [website](#).

*Please see Jessica with questions.*



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## **2/2/22 Session 1: The Need for Transportation**

**4-6:30 Via Zoom**

### **4:00 Welcome & What to Expect**

Jessica Dauphin, President and CEO, Transit Alliance of Middle TN

### **4:10 Class introductions/Ice Breaker:**

- Give yourself an adjective that best describes you that starts with the same letter as your first name.

### **4:35 History of TAMT**

Jessica Dauphin, President and CEO, Transit Alliance of Middle TN

### **4:45 Greeting from Board Chair**

Jim Schmitz

### **5:00 Overview of Transit in Tennessee and Middle Tennessee**

Jason Spain, TPTA

### **5:30 Regional Plan(s) Planning**

Michelle Lacewell, GNRC

### **6:00 Breakout Rooms of 3**

- Find out 3 things about each person and why they think transportation is important. Take notes. Get to know the people in your breakout group.





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## JIM SCHMITZ, Transit Alliance Board Chair Area President Middle Tennessee, Regions Financial Corporation

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As market leader, Jim oversees the market expansion efforts for Nashville and surrounding areas by proactively initiating, fostering, and managing the firm's business and community engagement initiatives. Prior to assuming his role at Elliott Davis, he oversaw operations in 15 Middle Tennessee counties for Regions Bank. Before that, Jim held the same role for Regions managing the Florida Panhandle. He also spent time responsible for the bank's North Florida real estate banking group, holding positions as a banking executive and relationship manager. He spent more than 10 years in the banking and mortgage industry previous to joining Regions.



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## Jason Spain, Executive Director Tennessee Public Transportation Association

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Jason Spain serves as Executive Director of the Tennessee Public Transportation Association, a statewide nonprofit association dedicated to improving public transportation in all Tennessee communities. In this role, he is responsible for leadership and management of the association and for advocating on its behalf to Congress, the Tennessee General Assembly and state and federal government agencies.

Prior to assuming this role in 2010, Spain served on the legislative staff of former Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen. He has also served as legislative liaison for the Tennessee Department of Transportation, legislative aide to former Congressman Bob Clement (TN-05) and associate staff to the House Budget Committee.

Spain holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Tennessee State University and a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Public Administration from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He lives in Nashville with his wife, Lindsay, and two sons, Connor and Noah.



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## Michelle Lacewell

Deputy Director and Chief Communications Officer, GNRC

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Currently serving as the Deputy Director for the Greater Nashville Regional Council (GNRC), Michelle Lacewell oversees daily operations and human resources and leads its communications team. She provides program support to GNRC's aging and disability services, community and economic development, and regional planning department. Before joining the GNRC, Michelle spent 4 years with the Nashville Area MPO and managed the program as the interim director during the year-long integration of the MPO into the GNRC. Before her time at the MPO, she led the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce's communications and marketing team.

In 2011, Michelle relocated from Northwest Florida to Nashville, bringing her years of experience working in the public sector. Having worked for the Pensacola Chamber of Commerce and the Bay County Chamber of Commerce, she has led the development of business coalitions to deepen community engagement related to tourism, military affairs, and economic development efforts. Michelle spent five years with the Resort Collection of Panama City Beach, responsible for marketing, public relations, and government affairs. Notably, she led the company's successful crisis communication response to the BP Oil Spill in 2010. She has also served as an adjunct professor teaching at Belmont University and Gulf Coast State College.



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Michelle received her bachelor's degree from the University of West Florida and her masters in corporate and public communication from Florida State University. She is an alumnus of Leadership Middle Tennessee, Nashville Young Leaders, and the national Transportation Innovation Academy led by Transportation for America and the TransitCenter. She is a member of the Nashville Rotary, has been a member in the Junior League of Nashville, served as a board member for PRSA's Nashville Chapter, is a past member of the Junior Achievement of Middle Tennessee's Associate Board, and is a 2016 recipient of a Nashville Emerging Leader Award (NELA).



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**2/9/22 Session 2: The Big Intersections Part 1**

**4-6:30 Via Zoom**

**4:00** Welcome & Defining the Big Intersections

Jessica Dauphin, President and CEO, Transit Alliance of Middle TN

**4:30** How Transit Impacts Our Health

Leslie Meehan, Tennessee Department of Health

**5:00** How Transit Impacts Affordable Housing,

Marshall Crawford, President and CEO, The Housing Fund

**5:30** How Transit Impacts Equity

Ashley Northington, Moving Forward

**6:00** How Transit Impacts Access

Clifton Harris, Urban League of Middle TN



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## LESLIE MEEHAN

Office of Primary Prevention, Tennessee Department of Health

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Leslie Meehan, MPA AICP oversees the Office of Primary Prevention in the Commissioner's Office of the Tennessee Department of Health. The Office serves as a hub for upstream, primary prevention policies and strategies that impact social influencers of health. Her work includes increasing physical activity through the built environment to positively impact social, emotional and physical health. Previously, Ms. Meehan served ten years as the Director of Healthy Communities for the Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in Tennessee. At the MPO, she focused on the intersection of transportation and health, specifically transportation's impacts on physical activity, air quality and injury. Her work has been recognized nationally and internationally, most recently by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (2018 Vision Award), the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (2017 Joseph W. Cullen Excellence Award) and the Institute of Transportation Engineers (2017 Transportation Achievement Award for Planning).

Ms. Meehan is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, the Institute of Transportation Engineers, the Association of Bicycle and Pedestrian Professionals, the League of American Bicyclists and the Tennessee Public Health Association. She is co-author of the Transportation Sector of the National Physical Activity Plan, served as an expert advisor on the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Transportation and Health Tool, was appointed by Transportation Secretary Peters to the National Safe Routes to School Task Force and has presented at a White House event on transportation and health. She currently serves as a panel member on the National Cooperative Highway Research Program's Research Roadmap for Transportation and Health and the Guidebook for Communications between Transportation and Public Health Communities. She is a member of the Transportation Research Board Taskforce on Arterials and Public Health.



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## MARSHALL CRAWFORD, President and CEO, The Housing Fund

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In 2017, Marshall joined The Housing Fund, a CDFI private nonprofit revolving loan fund located in Nashville, TN. As President & CEO, he carries the full range of responsibilities typically associated with such a position. Reporting to the board of directors, his responsibilities are grouped in five major areas: organization leadership and management, strategic planning, resource development, management of loan portfolio and lending operations and community external relations. Marshall's leadership also ensures support for community building and housing development to residents to ensure the revitalization of communities.

Since returning to Nashville, Marshall has accumulated several accolades. Most recently, the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta announced the appointment of Marshall to the Nashville Branch board of directors. For three straight years, he has been recognized as one of Nashville's Most Admired CEOs by his peers and the Nashville Business Journal. In 2019, Marshall was installed into the Tennessee Affordable Housing Coalition Hall of Fame for his efforts in affordable housing over the last 20 years. In 2018, he was featured on the cover of the Nashville Post BOOM! Magazine for establishing Nashville's first community land trust model as a solution to addressing a growing affordable housing issue in the city. Also, he is currently a participant of Leadership Tennessee.

Previously, he served as President of Housing and Multifamily Development for Community Ventures in Lexington, KY. Also, he spent 13 years at NeighborWorks America in various roles in the Southern Region located in Atlanta, GA.





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Before joining NeighborWorks, Marshall was a safety and soundness bank examiner for the Office of Thrift Supervision. His banking career started in a management training program for Third National Bank

(eventually, SunTrust Bank) in Nashville, Tennessee. He later relocated to Atlanta, GA and worked as a mortgage loan officer with several banks. In 1992, he was honorable discharged from the United States Army after serving five years while being stationed in Germany and at Fort Knox, KY.

Marshall is a graduate of Coatesville Area Senior High School ('85). After completing his military service at Fort Knox, he attended Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, where he received a degree in finance ('95). He completed a Master of Public Administration with a concentration in nonprofit management from the University of Nebraska at Omaha ('06). In 2016, Marshall completed an Executive Leadership Certification at Georgetown University ('16) in Washington D.C.





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## ASHLEY NORTINGTON

### Vice-Chair, Moving Forward

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Ashley Northington is a marketing communication and social policy strategist whose work impacts the lives of countless communities and individuals.

She serves as the vice president and managing director for the RW Jones Agency, a national public relations and issues management firm hyper focused on education. In this role, she is responsible for leading the agency's relationships with new institutions and is spearheading its historically Black colleges and universities (HBCU) division. As part of this work, she will launch in April the On the Yard podcast to highlight the unique trends, successes, and challenges faced by HBCU advocates and administrators.

Prior to that, Ashley served as the founding agency director for DENOR Brands + Public Relations, a marketing communications and brand strategy firm. In this role, she crafted noteworthy and impactful campaigns that have informed thousands of voters, provided robust educational options for parents, secured millions in additional revenue, won school board elections, and galvanized people to advocate for issues that affect their lives.

Ashley is engaged in her community as she served as President of the Board of Directors for Thistle Farms, Vice-Chair of Moving Forward, and is a regional board member for Teach for America Nashville-Chattanooga.



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Ashley earned a Master of Public Administration degree from Louisiana State University and a bachelor's degree in English from Tennessee State University. She lives in Nashville with her husband, Eric. Learn more about her at [ashleynorthington.com](http://ashleynorthington.com).



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## CLIFTON HARRIS

President and CEO, Urban League of Middle TN

Clifton, is a native of Cary, N.C., a long-time community organizer and advocate for the most vulnerable population (the homeless). In November 2016 He was appointed to lead the Urban League of Middle Tennessee. Harris is no stranger to the non-profit community. He has successfully managed six different non-profit agencies during his career. Harris's work has made him an expert in the field of helping homeless individuals and families. As a former Executive Director of a Foundation that served homeless families, Harris, was known as a leader who loves people with a passion to help families become successful in life. Harris set a high standard within the staff, volunteers and families served. He was appointed by former Mayor Bill Purcell to organize and lead the Metropolitan Homelessness Commission. He created and hosted Nashville's first Project Homeless Connect; an event that assisted thousands of homeless individuals in need of various much-needed services.

Mr. Harris was responsible for the implementation of Nashville's Ten Year Plan to reduce and end chronic homelessness. He coordinated Nashville's efforts to implement Housing First, which places homeless people into permanent housing coupled with intensive case management. This best practice solution reshaped Nashville's approach to offering permanent solutions to the most vulnerable and chronically homeless individuals in our community. Under his leadership, the Metropolitan Homelessness Commission has created its Housing First program, implemented the nationally recognized SOAR Program that fast-tracks individuals to receiving SSI/SSDI income, and organized three Project Homeless Connect events,(provided direct services to 1,500+ individuals affected by homelessness).

Harris graduated from St. Augustine's College in Raleigh, N.C., with a degree in business administration. Harris says he is thankful that God has given him a passion for people. "I feel like the match between my passion and people is a union that is meant to be so that the good work that's to be done will become a great work in our community," says Harris. Clifton continues to be an active leader in our community. Additionally, he Co-chaired the Transit for Nashville's Engagement Coalition. He's an active member of the Nashville Chamber of Commerce, a member and former Elder of Strong Tower Bible Church and an alumnus of Leadership Nashville. Away from work, Clifton enjoys spending time with his lovely wife, Alfreda. They have three children and three grandchildren. Clifton also enjoys golfing.



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## **2/16/22 Session 3: The Big Intersections Part 2**

**4-6:30 Via Zoom**

**4:00** Welcome & Recap & Small Group Breakouts

Jessica Dauphin, President and CEO, Transit Alliance of Middle TN

**4:30** Update from the Nashville Chamber of Commerce

Ralph Schulz, President and CEO, Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce

**5:00** How Transit Impacts Our Environment

Alexa Voytek, Tennessee Department of Environment Conservation

**5:30** Rider Panel/Discussion

Hear from transit riders about how public transit is a huge part of their lives.

Birtha Street and Ryan Darrow



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## Ralph Schulz, Jr. President and CEO, Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce

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Ralph Schulz became president and CEO of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce November 2006, following a 30-year career in nonprofit management, marketing and fundraising.

During his tenure, the Chamber has played a key role in helping the region emerge from the 2007 recession to a period of unprecedented growth. The Nashville Chamber has been consistently recognized as a top local and regional economic development agency for its role in helping to deliver prosperity to Middle Tennessee communities. The Chamber has also led the movement to improve public school performance through the creation of the Academies of Nashville, established the Moving Forward initiative to ensure the creation of a regional transportation solution through a cohesive community effort and developed into a respected publisher of data on the Nashville Metropolitan Statistical Area with the annual publication of the Vital Signs report.

Schulz currently serves on numerous civic and nonprofit boards including the Nashville Health Care Council, Tennessee Business Roundtable, NashvilleHealth, Music City Music Council, Nashville Predators Foundation and the Board of Trustees of Father Ryan High School. He is a past board member of Alignment Nashville and Center for Nonprofit Management. He has been involved with the Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee, served on the Citizens Advisory Committee for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), MTA's Strategic Plan Advisory Committee, the NashvilleNEXT Steering Committee and Major League Soccer to Nashville advisory committee. He has participated in Leadership Nashville, Leadership Middle Tennessee and Leadership Music.



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## Alexa Voytek

Energy Programs Administrator, Office of Energy Programs, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

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Alexa Voytek is the Coordinator for the Middle-West Tennessee Clean Cities Coalition as well as a Program Manager / Energy Analyst for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's (TDEC) Office of Energy Programs. Alexa provides support for various grant programs, energy efficiency and sustainable transportation initiatives, and external communications efforts. In her role as Clean Cities coordinator, she seeks to encourage local fleets to adopt alternative fuel vehicles and advanced vehicle technologies in order to reduce petroleum dependence and improve air quality. Prior to joining TDEC, Voytek interned with the United Nations Division for Sustainable Development and the U.S. Consulate in St. Petersburg, Russia. Most recently, she served as Assistant Account Executive for New York City-based public relations firm Ketchum, Inc., where she was assigned to energy and technology related projects. She holds an M.A. from Columbia University in Russian, Eastern European, Balkan, and Eurasian Studies and graduated from Duke University with a B.A. in History and Russian Language/Area Studies.



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## BIRTHA STREET

Transit Rider

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Birtha M. Street is a native of a small town, named Olive Branch, MS. She has practiced social services since 2005. She has worked in the disability community for over 12 years; while obtaining a Bachelor's degree in Social Work during fall 2015. She moved to Nashville in 2010 and continues to be actively involved, as an advocate for herself and others. She is known for her non-judgemental and understanding personality. Gratitude is what she has and happiness is what she seeks in all aspects of her life.





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**RYAN DARROW**  
Nashville Public Library

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Ryan Darrow has lived in the Nashville area for 25 years and is a librarian at the Nashville Public Library. Ryan has chosen to ride the bus as his primary mode of transportation to and from work for over 10 years. Ryan and his husband of 2 years Jeff live in Madison and enjoy rollerblading, water parks, and vacationing...in a perfect world, all three simultaneously.





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## DARIUS KNIGHT

Caretaker, transit advocate, affordable housing advocate

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Mr. Darius Knight was born in Nashville, TN and began his work in transit advocacy in 2006. He stressed the issues and needs of operators of Nashville (MTA )WeGo and is very vocal in speaking up for (MTA) WeGo customer's needs & tourist of all races, disabilities & ages. He communicated deep-rooted issues of transit & provided ideas & solutions to the mayor's office, MTA board, WeGo staff and the FTA .



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**2/23/22 Session 4: Policies, Players and Plans and how do you fit in?**

**4-6:30 Via Zoom**

**4:00** Welcome

Jessica Dauphin, President and CEO, Transit Alliance of Middle TN

**4:05** Perspectives from the Federal Level-Pam Kordenbrock

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

**4:35** Perspectives from the State Level/TDOT

**5:05** Other Funding IMPROVE Act (local), FAST Act, INVEST Infrastructure Act

Senator Heidi Campbell

**5:35** Council Member Panel: Freddie O'Connell, Tenaka Vercher and Joy Styles

**6:15** Breakout session/caucus/mid-TCLA brief/homework



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## PAM KORDENBROCK

Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

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In February 2010, Pam Kordenbrock became the Division Administrator for the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Tennessee Division. In this capacity she leads a multi-disciplinary staff of 22 that is responsible for a \$900 million federal-aid program and provides policy guidance to FHWA's State, local and other federal partners.

A 26 year veteran of Federal Service, Pam has also worked in FHWA offices in Santa Fe, New Mexico; Washington, DC; San Francisco and Los Angeles, California; Baltimore, MD and Chicago, IL. She has a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Virginia. Pam is also the proud Dog Mom to two rescue pups named Guinness and Becks.



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## Senator Heidi Campbell

### District 20, Davidson County

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Senator Heidi Campbell is a Nashville native, a Mom, a former music industry executive and was the first female Mayor of the city of Oak Hill with six years of experience as an elected leader in this district. In her time in office, she focused on cultivating relationships with local and state stakeholders and established a track record for fiscal discipline. In the state senate, her focus is on bringing compassionate and data-based leadership to the legislature. Senator Campbell is the Chair of the Davidson County Senate Caucus, and also serves on the Fiscal Review, Energy and Government Operations committees, and the Environment Committee for the Southern Legislative Conference. She lives near Radnor Lake with her husband Andrew, her two children, and a few Goldendoodles.



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## COUNCILMAN FREDDIE O'CONNELL

District 19 Council Member, Metropolitan Council of Nashville and Davidson County

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### Council Experience

- Charter Revision Committee, Member
- Planning, Zoning, and Historical Committee, Member
- Public Works Committee, Chair
- Traffic, Parking and Transportation Committee, Chair

### Special Committees

- Member, Nashville Downtown Partnership Board of Directors (Ex Officio)
- Member, Central Business Improvement District Board of Directors (Ex Officio)
- Member, Gulch Business Improvement District Board of Directors (Ex Officio)
- Member, District Energy System Advisory Board
- Member, South Central Neighborhood Development Corporation Board of Directors (Ex Officio)
- Member, Salemtown Neighbors Neighborhood Association



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## JOY STYLES

District 32 Council Member, Metropolitan Council of Nashville and Davidson County

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Councilwoman Joy Styles is a member of the Nashville Metro Council, representing District 32 in Tennessee. Styles assumed office on September 28, 2019. Styles earned her B.A. in Spanish from Wellesley College and her M.S. in communications from Purdue University. Her professional experience includes working in the entertainment and healthcare industries. She has also served in multiple volunteer positions, including serving as the chair of the Martin Luther King Day celebration for the Interdenominational Ministers Fellowship, serving on the advisory board of The Salvation Army, acting as vice chair for the Hope Clinic for Women, and participating as a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.



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## TANAKA VERCHER

District 28 Council Member, Metropolitan Council of Nashville and Davidson County

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### Education

- B.S., Management Information Systems, Trevecca Nazarene University
- M.Ed., Instructional Technology, Trevecca Nazarene University
- Ph.D., Public Administration, Tennessee State University (ongoing)

### Council Experience

- Budget & Finance Committee, Member
- Charter Revision Committee, Member
- Public Safety, Beer and Regulated Beverages Committee, Member
- Traffic, Parking and Transportation Committee, Member



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- Board of Directors, Launch Mentorship
- Vice Chair, University Communities Council, National League of Cities
- Regional Director (AR, TN), National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, National League of Cities
- Member, Minority Caucus
- Member, Women's Caucus
- Former Board Member, Greenways Commission
- Board Member, Knowledge Academies
- Board Member, Oakwood Homeowners' Association
- Judging Chair, 2015 Nashville Emerging Leaders Awards
- Member, Tennessee Association of Financial Aid Administrators
- Young Leaders Council, Alum (Class 53)
- Member, American Legion
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.





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### **3/2/22 Session 5: Systems and Solutions**

**4-6:30 Via Zoom**

**4:00** Welcome

Jessica Dauphin, President and CEO, Transit Alliance of Middle TN

**4:05** Update from WeGo Public Transit

Felix Castrodad

**4:35** Model of Success Panel: How do we get dedicated funding?

Yannis Banks, Team Coordinator, Capital Metro Austin

Gary Rosenfeld, President and CEO, MATA (Memphis Area Transit Authority)

**5:25** Urban Institute, Christina Stacy

**5:50** Breakout sessions/caucus & report reminder



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## Felix Castrodad

### WeGo Public Transit

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Since 2014, Félix Castrodad has served as the Director of Planning and Grants for WeGo Public Transit. His department is responsible for different planning functions including data collection and analysis, managing transit grants funding, and leading short and long-range transit planning including the development of the region's 25-year transit strategic plan known as nMotion. Mr. Castrodad has over 20 years of experience in the transportation planning field. Prior to joining WeGo, he worked as a Principal Transportation Planner for the Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) managing the region's 1 billion dollar Transportation Improvement Program and the MPO's regional transit planning program. Before coming to Nashville Félix spent time working on various aspects of short and long-range transportation planning for the Martin County MPO in Stuart, Florida. He also worked for the METRO Regional Transit Authority in Akron, Ohio where he began his professional career in transportation as a Transit Planner. Mr. Castrodad has a bachelor's degree in Geography from the University of Puerto Rico and a master's degree in Urban Planning from the University of Akron.



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## Yannis Banks

Team Coordinator, Capital Metro

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Yannis Banks graduated from Texas State University with a bachelor's degree in Public Administration. He is currently a Community Engagement Coordinator with Capital Metro. In that role he is responsible for creating public engagement plans, making sure the community is informed on the decisions that Capital Metro makes, expressing what the community thinks about those decisions to CapMetro leadership, facilitating meetings of CapMetro's Customer Advisory Committees and many other roles.

Mr. Banks is the co-host of 2 popular radio talk shows, The Forum and The Wakeup Call that airs on KAZI 88.7. He also is a co-host of The Untapped Show on KAZI 88.7 in Austin, TX.

In 2010 he was selected to be the chair of the African-American Subcommittee for the Travis County Complete Count Committee. It was his job to help ensure that as many African-Americans



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participated in the census as possible. He was selected to be on the 2020 Austin-Travis County Complete County Committee

He is a founding board member of New Leaders Council – Austin which started in 2016.



## Christina Stacy

Senior Research Associate, Urban Institute

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Christina Plerhoples Stacy is a senior research associate in the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center at the Urban Institute, where she specializes in urban economics, equity, and inclusion. Her work focuses on the intersection of economics and urban spaces and how housing, transportation, local economies, health, and crime interact.



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Stacy recently led an effort to develop a set of transportation equity metrics for metropolitan regions throughout the US, and she managed an effort to measure inclusion in US cities. She also led an effort to measure the spatial mismatch between job seekers and employers using big data from Snagajob, the largest online job search engine for hourly workers.





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**3/9/22 Session 6: Graduation**  
**4-6:30 Location TBD**

**4:00 Welcome**

Jessica Dauphin, President and CEO, Transit Alliance of Middle TN

**4:05 Debrief and Re-visit all sessions**

**5:05 Turning knowledge into action--Advocacy tool**

**5:25 Survey**

**5:30 Mission moments**

**5:35 Reports**

**6:05 Graduation Remarks**