

Session 5 Teaser

Good afternoon!

Can you believe we're already on week 5 of TCLA?! This Wednesday we will be heading to Mt. Juliet to experience the transit options we've heard from. We will meet at the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce Lobby (211 Commerce Street Nashville, TN 37201) at **3:45 PM**. We then will depart the Nashville Chamber at 4pm and walk a couple of blocks to the **WeGo Riverfront Station** (108 South 1st Avenue). We will **take a group photo** before we board the train and then **depart at 4:20 PM**. Make sure to download the [Hytch App](#) so we can all Hytch on our way to Mt. Juliet. We then will arrive at 4:51PM in Mt. Juliet. We will then walk to the Mt. Juliet Chamber which is across from the station. We will settle in and grab our dinners and then hear from Mark Hensly of the Chamber and Matt Gardner from Imagine 1 Co who will talk about Vintage Station North. After Matt's presentation we will head to the Van Star Vans and take another group picture. After that we will **depart Mt. Juliet at 6 PM** to arrive back in Nashville **at 6:30 PM**.

Session 4 Recap

- Our fourth session was all about [Growth and Transit in Middle TN](#) and we started with a panel about growth and regional sustainability.
 - The panel included:
 - Ralph Schulz, President and CEO of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce)
 - Mayor Ken More, Mayor of Franklin
 - Howard Bradley, Former Mayor of Robertson County and VP of Business Development at F&M Bank
 - The panelist we asked the following questions: (Notes of their answers in green)
 - We generally hear about the growth that the Middle TN area has experienced over the last five years(i.e 100 people are moving to the area every day) can you give some historical context of why you think this growth has occurred?
 - The panelist talked about the importance of positive decisions made that has lead to our strong economy. They also focused on the importance of the region as a distribution center especially starting in the 70s. In the late 1990s there was a lot of talk about how the south was rising economically and many leaders in Nashville felt Nashville was being left behind. So they decided to create a plan for Nashville and for its economic growth.
 - Additionally the panelist said that the region became what it is because we were able to bounce back from the recession very quickly compared to the rest of the county.
 - Howard also mentioned that the region has done so well because elected officials have relationships with one another. There are counties where elected officials don't talk to each other and this causes a lot of problems but luckily there has been tremendous coordination happening among the mayors of Middle TN and other elected officials
 - Can you talk about how growth has affected the community you live and work in? (i.e quality of life, etc in Davidson, Williamson, Robertson County)
 - The panelist talked a lot of about growing pains of the region
 - 65% of people on Roberson county commute to Nashville (5th largest incomes in the county)
 - Even though residents in Robertson County are able to get higher paid jobs by commuting ,but they are sacrificing two hours of their days in their car instead of being social or being civically involved
 - How is growth tied to transit?

- Commute times are going up and so is gridlock
 - Mobility is vital to have a vibrant community
 - Then the panelist talked about the transit referendum
 - What are the role of community leaders in ensuring the region continues to prosper?
 - Elected officials have to create a consensus regionally
 - What are some of the biggest challenges to sustaining our growth in the region?
 - By 2040, the region will have more jobs than the people we have to do them
 - Mobility will also be a key challenge if we don't solve it
 - Mobility is also about moving goods not just people
- **Michelle Lacewell**, Deputy Director at the Greater Nashville Regional Council talked about Regional Planning. She mentioned the following:
 - Michelle talked about the work of [GNRC](#)
 - She also talked about the [Regional Transportation Plan](#)
 - She also talked about previous transportation studies they have done for the region which include:
 - Southeast Corridor Transit Alternatives Analysis
 - Northeast Corridor Mobility Study
 - Broadway-West End Transit Alternatives Analysis
 - Northwest Corridor Mobility Study
 - They are undertaking the South Corridor Transportation Study with Metro Nashville, Franklin, Brentwood Thompson's Station Spring Hill, Columbia, WeGo Public Transit and TDOT, more information about this study can be found [here](#).
 - GNRC is also currently working on updating it's Regional Transportation Plan which they will be calling the Unified Transportation Plan, learn more about how to get involved [here](#).
 - Watch the Let's Solve this Together Video [here](#).
- **Eric Hoke**, Design Director at the Nashville Civic Design Center talked about the work of the Nashville Design Center and how design can help us imagine what is possible and design for livability. He also mentioned the following:
 - The Plan of Nashville: Avenues to a Great City outlines possible projects that can add to the built environment of Nashville and out of the plan of Nashville what is really important is the [10 principles](#) that came out of the plan
 - He also talked about how we could use our waterways for transportation and how our current greenways once connected are a great transportation option for those close to them.
 - He also mentioned the work they do with [Design Your Neighborhood](#) and how they are looking for volunteers so if anyone is interested, feel free to email Eric at eric@civicdesigncenter.org.
 - They also have a great group called [Turbo](#) and host [Park Day](#) in Nashville
 - He also mentioned the following publications that the Nashville Civic Design developed that we can use as a guide.
 - [Moving TN Forward](#)
 - [Shaping the Healthy Community](#)
 - [Reclaiming Public Space I](#)
 - Eric also gave us an example of what redesigning an intersection to be a neighborhood transit center can do for an area. To see the redesign at 7th and Lafayette see his presentation [here](#).
 - Lastly the Nashville Civic Design Center will be having their annual Luncheon on Friday, November 15th. If you're interested in learning more about the event, visit [this page](#).

*All presentations can be found at the TCLA portal [here](#)