



Session 1: The Need for Transportation
Recap and sneak peek at 2/10

Session I Recording

More resources:

[Vital Signs](#)

[Regional Coordination Study](#)

[Nashville's own Green New Deal \(of sorts\)](#)

[Harvard Research connects air pollution contributes to higher COVID-19 death rates](#)

[Race and asthma rates](#)

[Transit Center dives into the Nashville failed referendum](#)

[Chicago's L Train and the economy](#)

[OpEd Nashville deserves access to high-quality transportation options](#)

[Nashville Council just passed a law to reduce speed limits on Tuesday night from 30 MPH to 25 MPH. Here is some information about why this is so important](#)

[Economy and transit. Does it help to invest in transit?](#)

[Alexa Voytek's Presentation](#)

Next Week:

Pre-work:

Please take the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TransitAlliance>

[Watch Jessica's TEDx Talk \(12 minutes\)](#)

[Read through the TN state archives on historical transportation projects](#)

Urban Institute:

[Cities, Neighborhoods, and Metro](#)

[The Unequal Commute \(data tool for Nashville\)](#)



[Access to Opportunities through Equitable Transportation \(findings from data above\)](#)

Session 2: Intersection of Health and Equity: A deep dive into how transit can improve the quality of life

Leslie Meehan, [Tennessee Department of Health](#)

Carol Westlake, [TN Disability Coalition](#)

Clifton Harris, [Urban League of Middle TN](#)



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

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.



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

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.



Alexa Voytek

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

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.