



REGIONAL
TRANSPORTATION
AUTHORITY

\$6 MILLION FOR MUSIC CITY STAR PART OF FINAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDING CONFERENCE REPORT

501 Union Street
Sixth Floor

Nashville
Tennessee
37219-1705

Phone
615.862.8833

Fax
615.880.3901

www.rta-ride.org

Cheatham
Davidson
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Robertson
Rutherford
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Wilson

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Contact: Teresa McKissick
Regional Transportation Authority
(615) 862-8833
tmckissick@gnrc.org

NASHVILLE, Tennessee, November 18, 2005 – The Music City Star Commuter Rail East Corridor is solidly on track to begin service next year.

This is due to today's announcement that the Fiscal Year 2006 Transportation, Treasury, Judiciary and Housing & Urban Development Appropriations conference report includes \$6 million for this project.

"Everyone with the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) is elated that the funds have been approved. This will allow us to complete a project that we have worked on for many years. We are thankful to U.S. Senators Bill Frist and Lamar Alexander and U.S. Congressmen Jim Cooper and Bart Gordon for the dedication they have shown this project and the community. We are confident that mass transit and the Music City Star will play a vital role in the growth of our region," says RTA Board Chairman and Cheatham County Mayor Bill Orange.

The Music City Star East Corridor will provide commuter rail passenger service between Downtown Nashville's Riverfront Station and the City of Lebanon in Wilson County. The 32-mile rail service has six planned stations.

MORE

“We are extremely thankful to the efforts of Senators Frist and Alexander and Congressmen Cooper and Gordon for their unprecedented support and commitment to carrying the full appropriations amount to the funding committees. Without their unwavering support, the project would not be where it is today, says Bill Farquhar, Director of the Commuter Rail project and Interim Executive Director for the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA).

The Regional Transportation Authority is the lead agency for the Music City Star project. The RTA was created by state statute in 1988 for the development of a regional transportation system for Middle Tennessee. Since then, it has developed one of the largest rideshare programs in the Southeast, with services assisting commuters with vanpooling, carpooling and “Relax and Ride” commuter bus service between downtown Nashville and the following cities: Hendersonville, Murfreesboro, Smyrna, LaVergne and the Middle Tennessee State University Campus.

The RTA Board is comprised of city and county mayors of the nine-member counties of Cheatham, Davidson, Dickson, Maury, Robertson, Rutherford, Sumner, Williamson and Wilson, the Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Transportation and six citizen members appointed by the Governor.

For more information on RTA services or the Music City Star visit www.rta-ride.org or www.musiccitystar.org or call 615.862.8833.

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