



**INTELLIGENT TRANSIT**

FOR THE IT CITY NASHVILLE

**Nashville Transit Proposal Centered Around Autonomous Vehicles  
and Double-Decker Highways  
"Intelligent Transit for the IT City" Vision Proposed by Metro Councilman Robert Swope**

**FACT SHEET**

Unveiled in Nashville, TN, on April 10th by Metro Councilman Robert Swope  
Dubbed "Intelligent Transit for the It City Nashville"

Key guiding principles of the Intelligent Transit plan: 1) Mass transit and personal transit are complementary elements rather than separate transportation options. 2) A transportation plan needs to be based on regional needs rather than individual county needs. 3) We must look at creating mobility by taking into account existing mass transit options and future technologies.

For images, go to <https://goo.gl/VuiSz6>.

Plan details:

- The plan encompasses the entire Middle Tennessee region, with 10 counties working together as one.
- Electric vehicles will operate within an autonomous transportation environment, and personal transit vehicles will provide last-mile/first-mile options. All will be managed through MTA and RTA.
- Planned are 16 regional autonomous vehicle transit centers and 18 municipal transit centers, resulting in trips from Murfreesboro to downtown Nashville in less than 30 minutes, any time of day.
- NextGEN autonomous electric rapid service vehicles – a blend between buses and trains – will provide service 24/7/365 with scheduled runs during peak hours in the morning and evening and one-hour service during the remaining parts of the day.
- Autonomous vehicles (AVs) will run on dedicated autonomous vehicle lanes along the inside medians of freeways. The only infrastructure additions will be "passing positions" where the center lane is widened just 8 feet for a length of 50 feet only every 10 blocks to enable AVs running in opposite directions to pass one another.
- Wireless, environmentally clean charging stations enable the system to run 24/7/365. Vehicles never need to stop to recharge; they charge as they operate.
- We will work with MTA and RTA to create a holistic, 100% environmentally clean transit grid.
- Personal transit options will be created with a public-private partnership with a fleet service operator. Personal Transit Vehicles on demand will pick people up at their homes and deliver them to the nearest transit center for a minimal fee estimated at 40 cents a mile.
- Our plan is to move the Music City Central main terminal to the current PCS Metals facility just south of the stadium.

- To deal with the 35% of the downtown traffic that passes through Nashville without stopping, our solution is to double stack areas of I-65, I-40 and I-24, with the help of the federal government and the State of Tennessee.
- Steps to be taken:
  - Construct regional and metro roadway infrastructure to create dedicated autonomous vehicle/electric vehicle lanes
  - Move Music City Central to a more efficient space
  - Purchase a fleet of autonomous electric vehicles
  - Construct 16 regional and 18 municipal transit centers
  - Update or replace existing stops throughout Davidson county
  - Double stack I-65, I-24 and I-40 through town
  - Implement the power grids and control systems necessary to facilitate this fully functional transit environment
- The entire Intelligent Transit Plan will be funded through a modern Public Private Partnership (P3). It includes private equity funding, working together with municipal, state and federal governments for funding in a 25% private, 25% municipal, 50% state and federally shared program.
- Total cost \$1.65 billion: \$400 million in private investment, \$150 million from the State of Tennessee, \$700 million from the federal government, and \$400 million from Nashville (a fraction more than Nashville may spend on a new soccer stadium).

#### Advantages of the plan:

- Reduces the number of vehicles traveling to and from downtown, especially during peak travel hours. (Currently 50% of traffic congestion comes from surrounding counties.)
- Saves billions of dollars when compared to other proposed plans.
- NextGEN autonomous vehicles (AVs) are smooth, sleek, comfortable and affordable.
- NextGEN AVs are beautiful and comfortable, will offer free wireless and will cost less than one half of the price Nashville currently pays for its electric buses.
- AVs need little or no costly infrastructure to operate, only re-striping of the highways and possibly minor barrier additions. No need to expand existing roadways as light rail does.
- With no fixed infrastructure to physically move, routes can be altered very quickly when needed as and when community needs change in the future.
- AVs know where they are, where all other AVs are and respond accordingly in a fraction of the time and physical space that human drivers require.
- Equality and independence in transit become reality for everyone in 2-5 years. Even Access Riders will have greater mobility, far quicker and at a fraction of the costs they currently incur.
- The new Music City Central Terminal will become an iconic destination for Nashville much like Union Station and Grand Central Terminal. It will weave culture, art, retail and music into the urban fabric that is uniquely Nashville. Moving it to a better location means it can be delivered in a fraction of the time and at less than 20% of the proposed cost in the Lets Move Nashville plan.
- The technology to implement this plan with autonomous vehicles is available now and will be implemented not in 12 years but within the next 12 months!

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