

WeGo Star Future Direction Strategy

- Engaging
Community
- Building
Consensus
- Enhancing
Connectivity

**PUBLIC MEETING
DRAFT TRANSIT PLAN**

JULY 2024

Welcome and Overview

- Introductions
- Nashville/Davidson County – CHYM
- Project Context & Goals
- Previous Public Engagement
- Scenario Analysis
- Preferred Option – Conceptual Schedule
- Next Steps
- Interactive Feedback/Input
- Final Q & A



Nashville's Transportation Improvement Program



CHOOSE HOW YOU MOVE





Voters **Decide**
November 5

CHOOSE HOW YOU MOVE

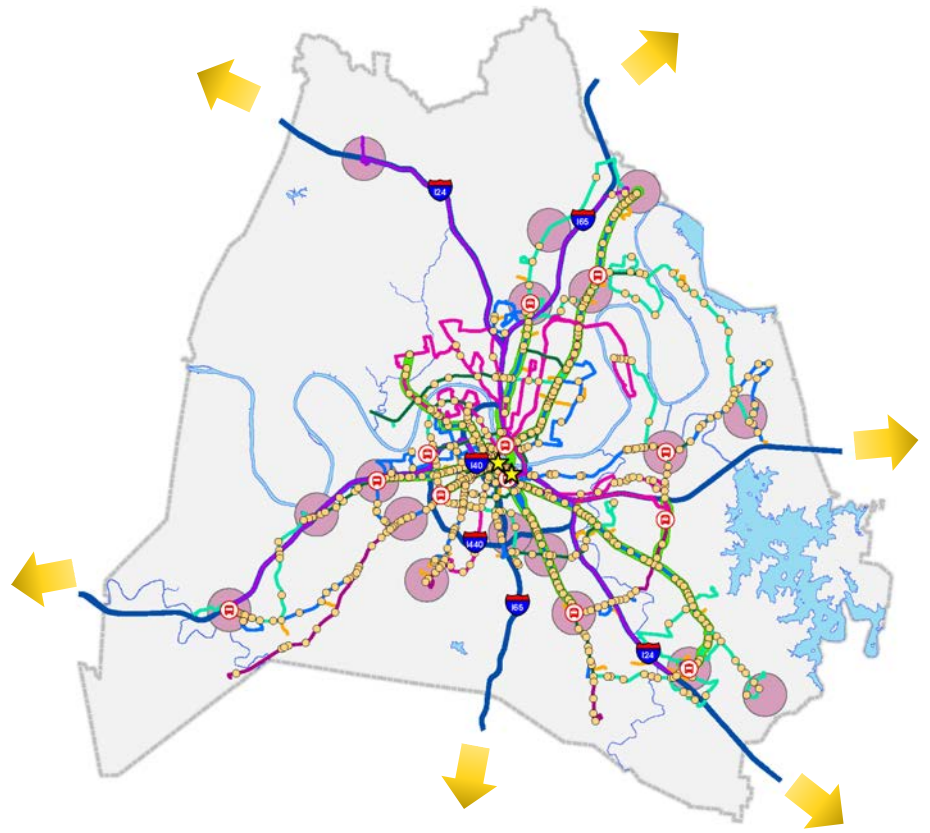
- Completes the Priority **Sidewalk** Network when combined with annual capital spending
- Upgrades nearly 600 Traffic **Signals**
- 24/7/365 and Expanded Transit **Service**
- Improves **Safety** for All Users



CHOOSE
HOW YOU
MOVE



nashville.gov/transit



Sidewalks



Service



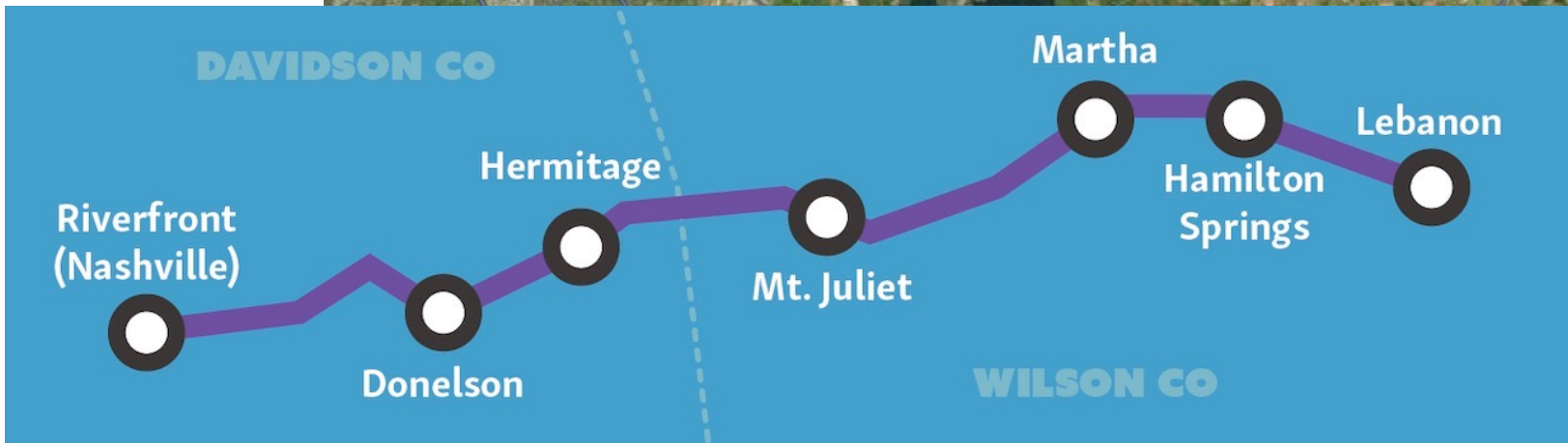
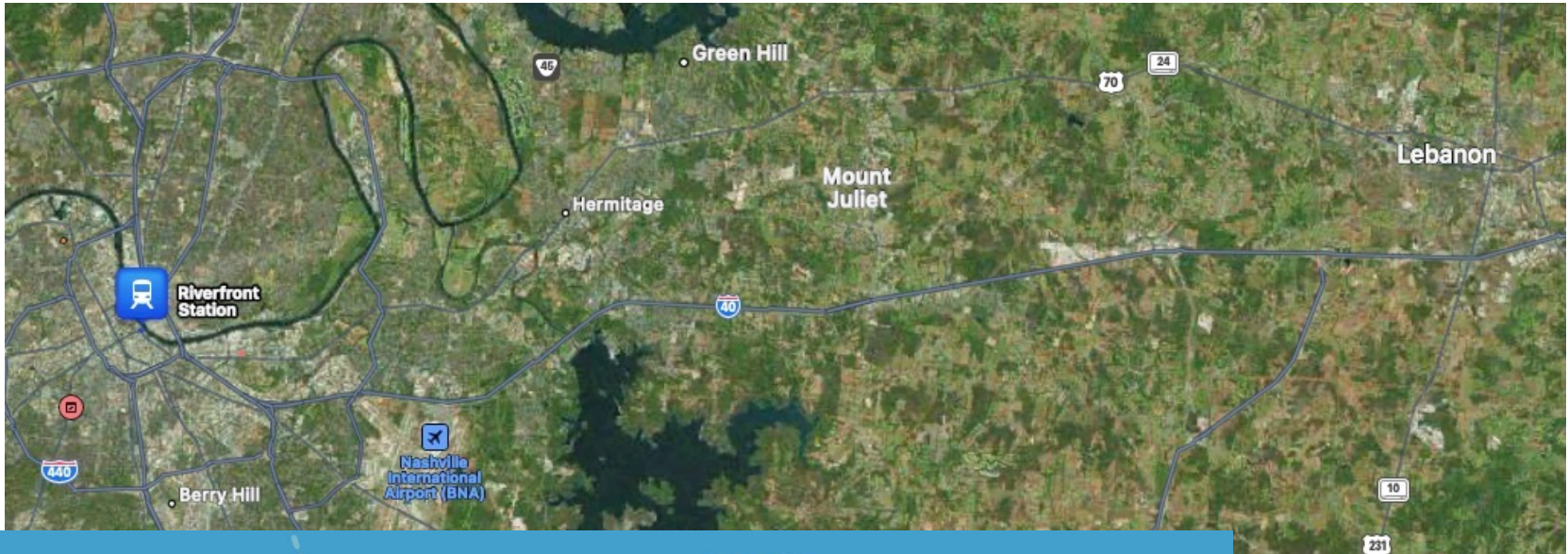
Signals



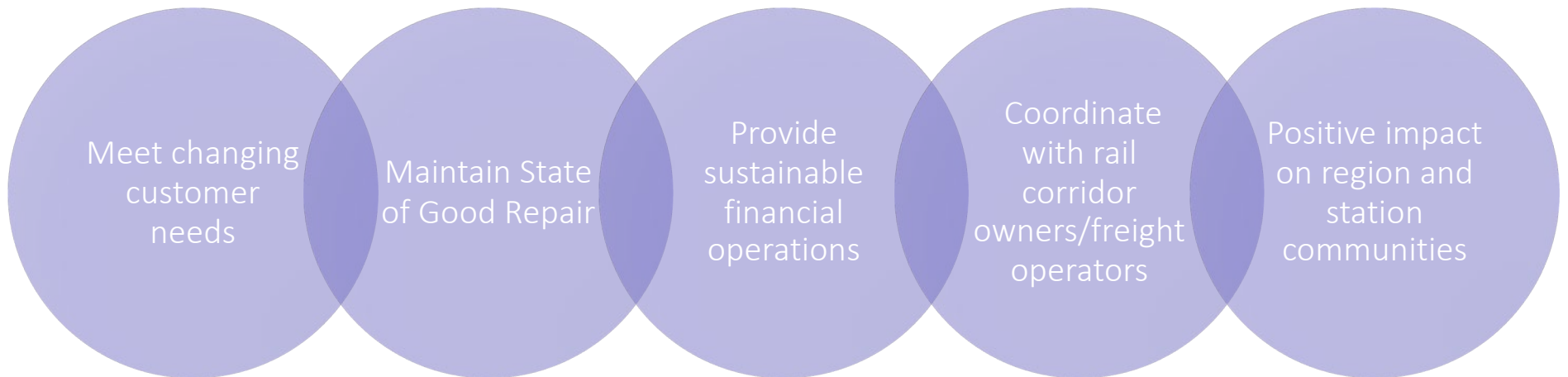
Safety



WeGo Star Project Context



Project Goals



Public Engagement Themes



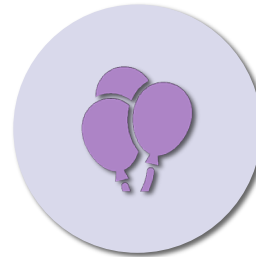
Evening Service



Weekend Service

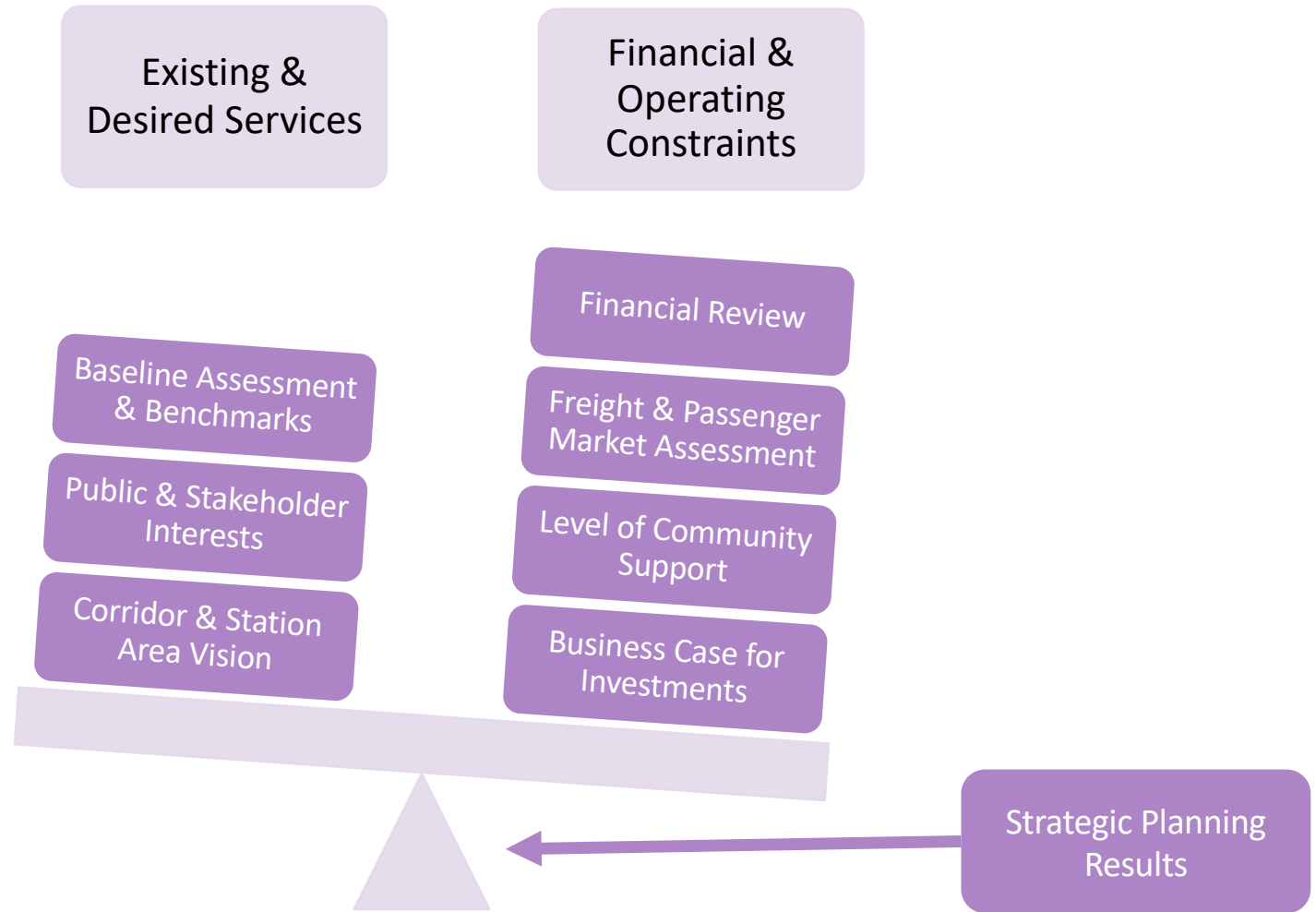


Mid-Day Service



Special Events Service

Project Highlights & Challenges



Alternatives Summary

Short-Term

- Weekday evening service
 - Require tradeoffs, if we add passenger trips to schedule in evening an equal number of trips annulled (spreading schedule will result in fewer peak trips)
- Weekend service
- One trainset in service as opposed to two trainsets
- Generate limited ridership gains (-3% to +35%)

Long-Term (2045)

- Special event service to GEODIS Park/Nashville Fairgrounds
- Infill station near Driftwood/Nester
- All-day passenger service (includes Positive Train Control - PTC)
- Very expensive (\$14M - >\$500M) capital costs, and increase to annual Operations and Maintenance (O&M) costs (3% - 154%)
- Limited return in terms of ridership and fare revenue (3% - 75%)



WeGo Star – Preferred Option

- WeGo Star weekday morning and afternoon peak period and evening service
- All trains to Lebanon
- WeGo Star day and evening Saturday service
- WeGo Star special events and Titans service on Sundays
- Mid-day regional bus roundtrips between Lebanon and Riverfront on weekdays (Wilson County WeGo stations and Riverfront Station, fixed route bus currently serves Davidson County stations)
- *Optional* On-Demand Microtransit service for Wilson County stations (van type contracted service for catchment zones operating 1 hour before until 1 hour after WeGo Star scheduled service; or WeGo Link Uber service for Wilson County)

Preferred Option – Business Case



Transit Plan Viability



Infrastructure – new siding near Martha Station; new yard track and amenities; additional train set



Tri-Party Agreement – amendment for passenger operating hours



RJ Corman – coordination, negotiation, and O&M contract



Funding – identify and secure capital costs and increased annual O&M costs



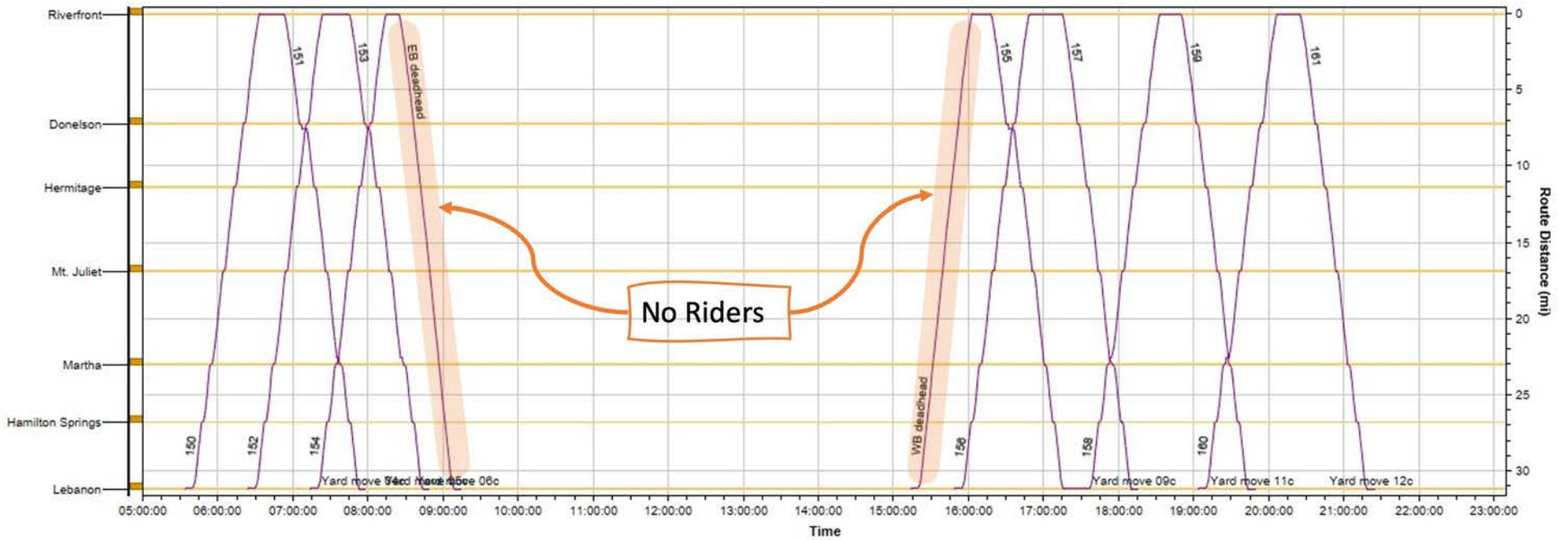
Regulatory Compliance – stay within mainline track exception, 49 CFR 236.101 (PTC waiver)



Preferred Option – WeGo Star

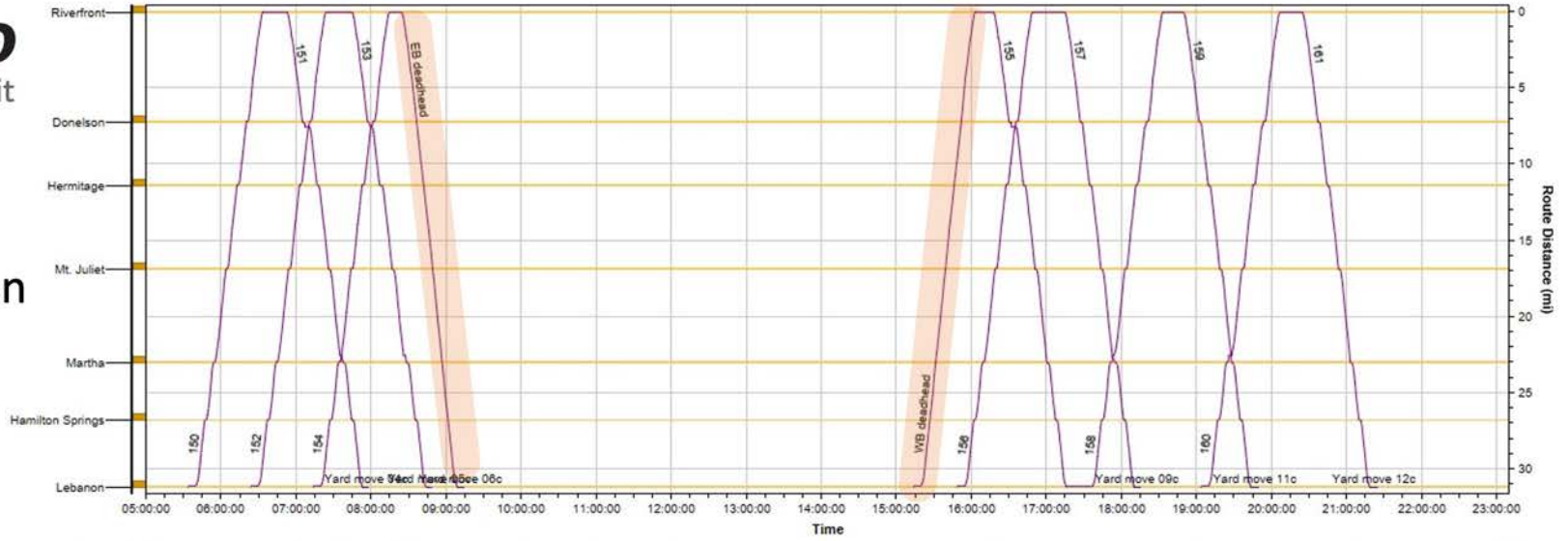
- Weekday – morning and afternoon peak, evening service
- Saturday – day and evening service
- Sunday – special event service
- All trips Lebanon to Riverfront
- Uses one morning peak outbound trip and one inbound afternoon peak as deadheads (no riders) to add evening service
- Requires four trainsets and four crews

Preferred Option - Weekday

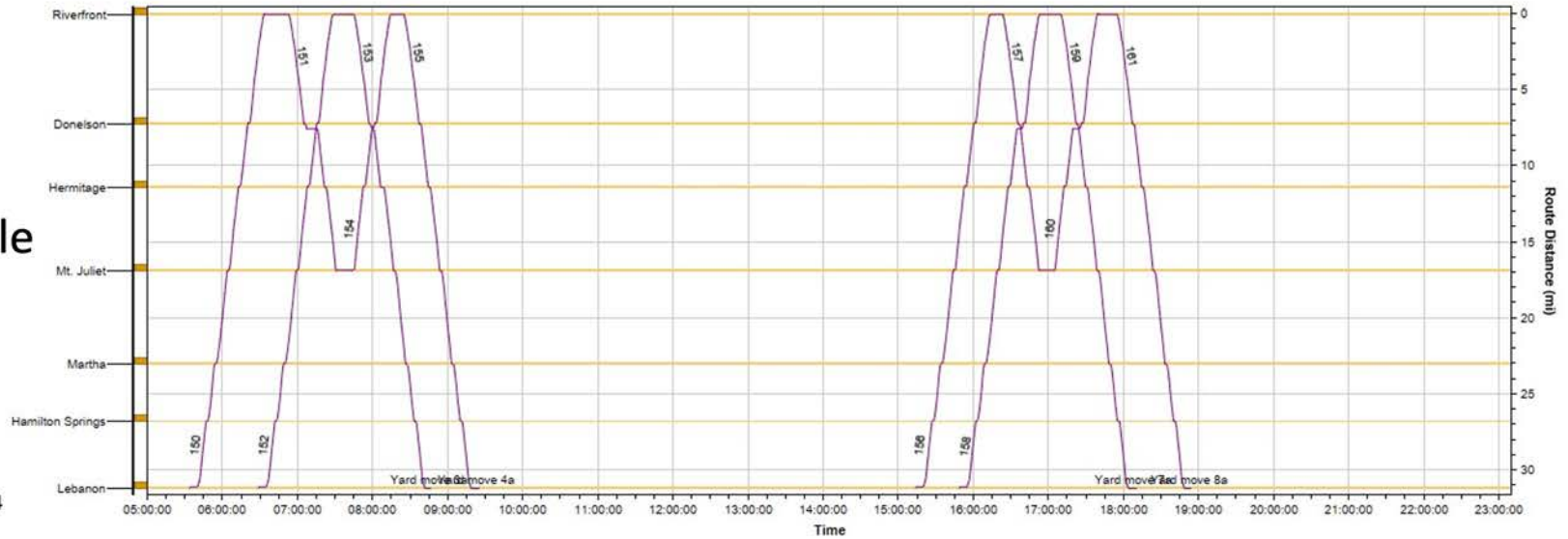




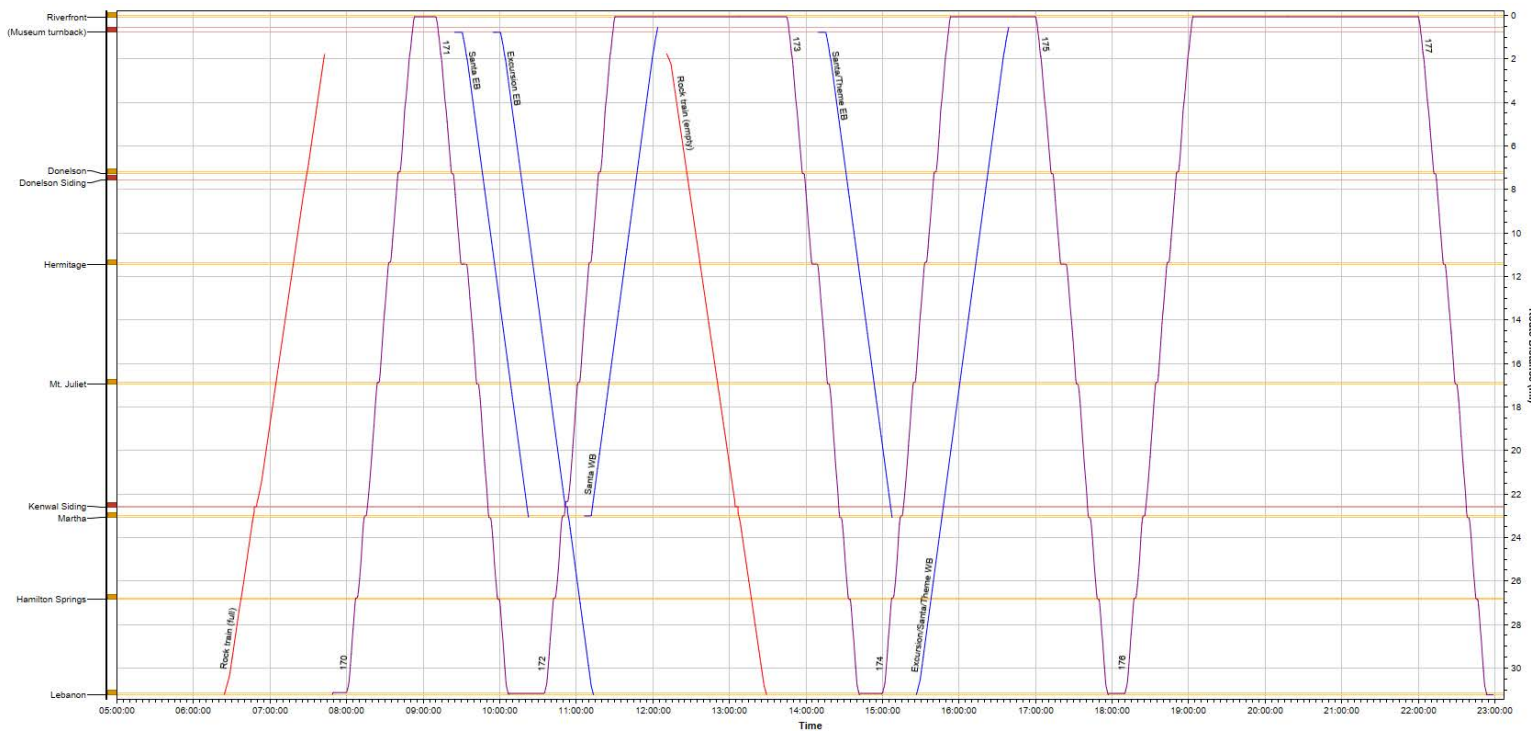
Preferred Option



Current Schedule



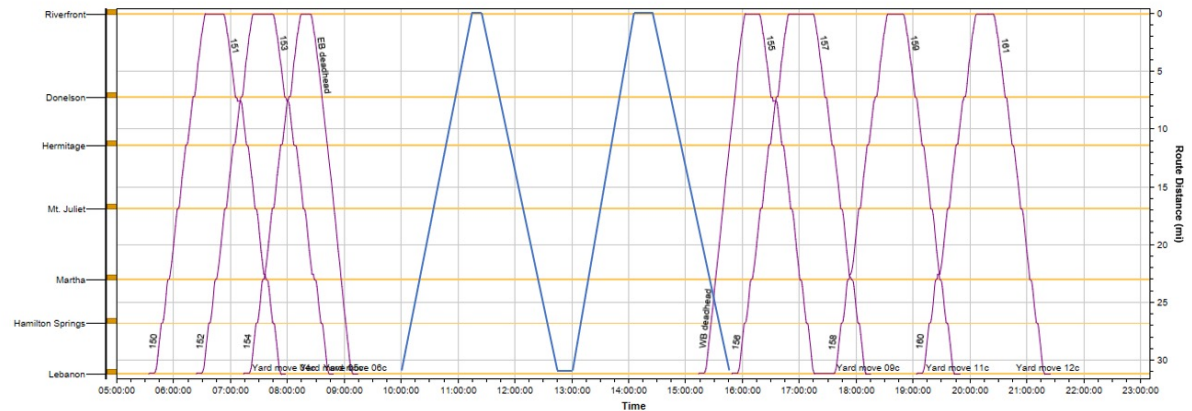
Preferred Option - Saturday



- Eight WeGo Star trips
- Conservative schedule to accommodate excursions and rock train
- Have to maintain significant windows for both
- Could use a varying Saturday schedule to address excursions

Weekday Mid-day Regional Bus

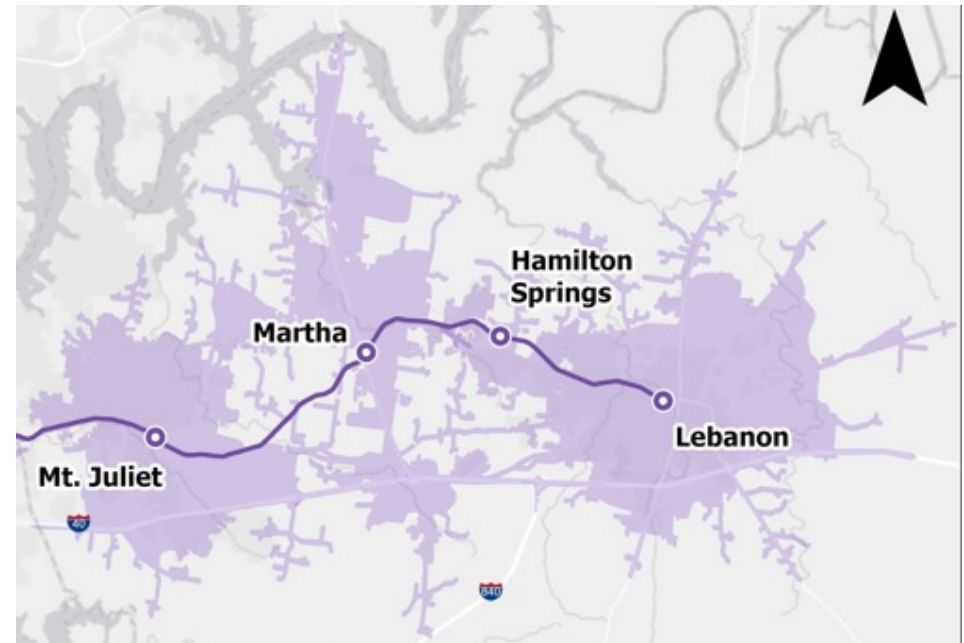
- Fills in service during the mid-day gap
- Service to/from Wilson County Stations to Riverfront and WeGo Central
- Davidson County stations serviced by WeGo fixed route bus
- Assumes two round trips
 - Subject to WeGo scheduling/planning review



Align mid-day schedule with trip demand.

On-Demand Microtransit – Wilson County

- Optional and/or pilot
- On-demand van type service
 - Three vans per catchment area
 - 1 hour before and after scheduled WeGo Star service (05:00 – 22:00 hours)
 - Estimated at \$45/hour (vehicle and operator)
- On-demand WeGo Link service
 - Coordination with Uber
 - Uber doing capacity analysis
 - Could use tiered approach
 - More economic
 - Possible coordination with Mid-Cumberland Human Resource Agency (MCHRA)



Preferred Option Annual O&M Costs

Option	Additional Annual O&M Cost*	Ridership Impact	Pros	Cons
WeGo Star	\$4.3 million	Positive	All trips Lebanon, Best overall schedule, fewest negative impacts	Cost of four trainsets and crews, plus 2 passenger trip losses (~3 and ~9 riders)
Mid-day regional bus	\$0.3 million	Minimal	Provides better all-day connectivity/access	Cost vs. small ridership gain
On-Demand Microtransit (van-based model)	\$2.2 million	Minimal	If Uber capacity, good economic option	Cost of van-type service vs. little return in ridership

*Costs are estimates and subject to final vetting/review with RJ Corman (freight operator).

*WeGo Star current annual O&M ~\$5.4 million.

Capital Cost Estimates

Description	Estimated Cost*
Martha Siding (0.51 miles track and 2 interlockings)	\$2-3 million
New yard track	\$1 million
Additional train set	\$1.2 million
Required Maintenance of Way (MOW) Capital Project Advancement	\$5 million
Total Estimated Capital Costs	\$9.2-10.2 million

*Estimated costs are conceptual and not based on engineering, subject to final vetting/review.

Challenges and Next Steps

- Funding – increased annual operations and maintenance and capital investment
- Alignment on Transit Plan with RJ Corman (freight operator) and Nashville Eastern Railroad Authority (NERA)
- Negotiate changes to the Tri-Party agreement and O&M contract
- Obtain/authorize budget for capital improvements
- Obtain/authorize budget for additional O&M expenses
- Complete infrastructure improvements (procurement, engineering, construction, commissioning)
- Recruit and retain required staff
- Public engagement/education of service changes

Take the Survey!

- Use the QR code or website link to take the Round 2 - WeGo Star Future Study Survey
- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WeGoStar2>
- Please help us spread the word



Thank You – Questions?

