

## Transit For All Your Trips

In today's world, the day begins a lot earlier and ends a lot later. Some people work a traditional 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. shift during the week, while others work non-traditional hours and on weekends, or second- and third-shift jobs. This means, we are commuting at different times of the day.

As we've seen since COVID-19 first appeared in our region back in March, essential workers rely on transit. Even during the Safer at Home Order when non-essential services were shuttered, we still provided more than 10,000 rides per day to hospital staff and grocery store workers whose shifts often fall outside of the typical working hours. When we aren't in a pandemic, there are hospitality industry employees working at hotels, restaurants, bars, and clubs to keep our booming tourism industry running who utilize our services.

But the impact of transit doesn't stop there. It also provides a way for students to get to class, to participate in extracurricular activities, and to get to part time jobs. It helps to support the local economy when people go to the mall or local shopping centers. And, it allows folks to have a safe way to enjoy all the entertainment options Nashville has to offer, as long as those activities conclude before 10 p.m.

The fact is, most Nashvillians can't rely on transit because our service has not evolved with how the city operates. We operate fewer hours than most major cities, leaving workers without adequate ways to get to work and people relying on a car to enjoy their city. Another challenge is that most routes don't run very often in the evening and on weekends. So even if your bus is running, it might be a long wait.

In theory, people could just take an Uber or Lyft at these times. However, not everyone can afford this option. It gets expensive quickly during peak times when there's surge pricing.

We know from polling customers and prospective future riders that along with frequency, providing service both earlier and later in the day is one of the most commonly requested service improvements. To do that, we need more funding to pay our operators and fuel and maintain our buses.

How would that work?

Through our Better Bus plan, we know that we can improve the span of service offered for 95 percent of current riders with an addition \$3.2 million in annual operating funds. This means that they can travel earlier in the morning and later at night.

Here's what that would look like:

<p>On our top nine routes</p> <p>4:15 a.m. - 1:15 a.m. on Monday-Friday 5:15 a.m. - 1:15 a.m. on Saturday 5:15 a.m. - 11:15 p.m. on Sunday</p> <p>Routes represent 73 percent of current ridership</p>	<p>Extend service on most other local routes until 11:15 p.m. daily</p> <p>Routes represent 95 percent of current ridership</p>
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With another \$3.3 million, we can improve evening and weekend frequency so that it's not such a long wait between buses.

Information on the rest of the Better Bus Plan is available on our website and you can [click here](#) to learn more about the Mayor's Transportation Plan.