



***Metro Public Health Dept***

N a s h v i l l e / D a v i d s o n C o u n t y

**Protecting, Improving, and Sustaining Health**

# Resolution

## **Recognizing the potential health benefits of Metro Nashville's proposed transit plan and urging support for the May, 2018, referendum**

- WHEREAS,** The Metropolitan Board of Health for Nashville and Davidson County shares the mission of the Metro Public Health Department to protect, improve and sustain the health and well-being of all people in Metropolitan Nashville; and,
- WHEREAS,** Plans and decisions about transportation can have significant positive or negative impacts on the health of the population, and,
- WHEREAS** Health in All Policies is an approach that helps ensure that projects and policies have neutral or beneficial impacts on health and its determinants<sup>(1)</sup>; and,
- WHEREAS,** Davidson County's population is expected to grow to 853,744 <sup>(2)</sup> by 2040, a 25 percent increase from 2016; and,
- WHEREAS,** Longer commuting distances have been shown to increase stress and obesity, and reduce physical activity and cardiorespiratory fitness <sup>(3)</sup>; and
- WHEREAS,** Nearly 80 percent of Davidson County's workers drive to work, alone <sup>(4)</sup>; and,
- WHEREAS,** Limited or inadequate transportation options can reduce access to important services and goods, including educational and health care services and healthy food, particularly among the poor <sup>(5,6)</sup>; and,
- WHEREAS,** Evidence supports a causal relationship between exposure to traffic-related air pollution and exacerbation of asthma; and is suggestive of a causal relationship with onset of childhood asthma, non-asthma respiratory symptoms, impaired lung function, total and cardiovascular mortality, and cardiovascular morbidity <sup>(7)</sup>; and,
- WHEREAS,** Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for people between the ages of 1 and 34 <sup>(8)</sup> and public transit passengers have about one-tenth the fatality rate of car occupants <sup>(6)</sup>; and,
- WHEREAS,** Transportation-related physical activity can promote health by increasing daily total physical activity through walking or bicycling to transit stops <sup>(9)</sup>; and,
- WHEREAS,** The Metropolitan Government has proposed a transit plan called Let's Move Nashville; and,
- WHEREAS,** A referendum will held May 1, 2018, on whether to adopt this plan; and,
- WHEREAS,** The financing mechanism for the plan includes a half-cent increase in the sales tax from July, 2018, through 2022, increasing to one cent thereafter; and

**WHEREAS,** The Nashville Chamber of Commerce estimates 47 percent of that sales tax will be paid by non-Davidson County residents; and,

**WHEREAS,** The Let's Move Nashville plan includes free or reduced fares for low income residents to mitigate the impact of the sales tax increase; and,

**WHEREAS,** Under the state law allowing for the referendum and its financing plan Nashville will now be able to create Transit Oriented Development districts along transit corridors, allowing it to capture some of the increased property value for reinvestment in affordable housing;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Metropolitan Board of Health of Nashville and Davidson County, on this 12th day of April, 2018, recognizes the potential public health benefits of an improved transportation system and believes the Lets Move Nashville plan being considered by referendum on May 1 will benefit the health and wellbeing of Nashville and Davidson County and its citizens, and encourages citizens to vote in support of the proposal;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Metropolitan Board of Health of Nashville and Davidson County recommends using a Health in All Policies approach to ensure that future transportation policies and projects, including Let's Move Nashville as it evolves, have positive or neutral impacts on the determinants of health of Nashvillians, and that public health considerations are systematically integrated into transportation planning, design, and decision-making processes <sup>(10)</sup>.

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**Carol Etherington, MSN, RN, Chair**

Metropolitan Board of Health of Nashville/Davidson County

**Francisca Guzman, Vice Chair**

**Thomas W. Campbell, M.D., Member**

**Samuel L. Felker, J.D., Member**

**A. Alex Jahangir, M.D., Member**

**Margreete Johnston, M.D., Member**

<sup>1</sup> American Public Health Association. (2010). *The Hidden Costs of Transportation*.  
[https://www..org/~ /media/files/pdf/factsheets/hidden\\_health\\_costs\\_transportation.ashx](https://www..org/~ /media/files/pdf/factsheets/hidden_health_costs_transportation.ashx)

<sup>2</sup> Tennessee State Data Center, Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research, ``Tennessee Population Projections: 2016-2070.'' <http://tndata.utk.edu/sdcpopulationprojections.htm>

<sup>3</sup> Commuting Distance, Cardiorespiratory Fitness, and Metabolic Risk. Hoehner, Christine M. et al. American Journal of Preventive Medicine , Volume 42 , Issue 6 , 571 - 578  
[http://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797\(12\)00167-5/pdf](http://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797(12)00167-5/pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Data USA: Davidson County.  
<https://datausa.io/profile/geo/davidson-county-tn/>

<sup>5</sup> Farhang, Lili and Bhatia, Rajiv. Transportation for Health. *Race, Poverty & the Environment*. 2005/2006. <https://reimagerpe.org/files/13.Lili.Farhang.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> Litman, Todd. Evaluating Public Transportation Health Benefits. *Victoria Transport Policy Institute*. November 2016. [http://www.vtpi.org/tran\\_health.pdf](http://www.vtpi.org/tran_health.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> HEI Panel on the Health Effects of Traffic-Related Air Pollution. 2010. Traffic-Related Air Pollution: A Critical Review of the Literature on Emissions, Exposure, and Health Effects. HEI Special Report 17. [www.healtheffects.org](http://www.healtheffects.org)

<sup>8</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC Recommendations for Improving Health through Transportation Policy. 2011. <https://www.cdc.gov/transportation/docs/final-cdc-transportation-recommendations-4-28-2010.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> Walking to Public Transit: Steps to Help Meet Physical Activity Recommendations. Lilah M. Besser, MSPH, Andrew L. Dannenberg, MD, MPH  
[https://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/articles/besser\\_dannenberg.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/articles/besser_dannenberg.pdf)

<sup>10</sup>. National Association of City and County Health Officers' report *Health in All Policies: Experiences from Local Health Departments*.  
<http://www.naccho.org/programs/community-health/healthy-community-design/health-in-all-policies>