

## MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 25, 2020

## WeGo proposes service changes for Spring 2021 Public feedback sought as agency adjusts service for COVID-19 long-term response

**NASHVILLE** – In a continuation of efforts to adjust public transit service in Nashville and Middle Tennessee in response to ridership needs and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, WeGo Public Transit will have an open public comment period starting Monday, January 25 through Thursday, February 15, 2021.

During this time, customers will be able to view proposed service changes, participate in virtual meetings to provide comment directly to WeGo staff members, and submit feedback via mail, phone, and email as the agency works to ensure the changes proposed will meet the needs of the communities served.

## **Proposed Spring Service Changes**

Since March 2020, WeGo has adjusted service due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic's impact on ridership. These service adjustments have allowed the agency to conserve resources, strategically assign vehicles to support social distancing onboard busier routes for customers, and actively respond to ridership fluctuations through various phases of lock down and reopening throughout the region.

Through the pandemic, WeGo Public Transit has observed changes in ridership behavior that are likely to last well after our region returns to normal, necessitating a more permanent reallocation of resources. Building upon the most recent Saturday+ enhanced schedule under which WeGo has operated since fall service changes took effect on September 13, 2020, the spring service changes would feature the following long-term adjustments:

Frequency Improvements to support social distancing		Expanded Service Hours extended until 11:15 p.m.	
3 West End/White Bridge 4 Shelby 5 West End/Bellevue 6 Lebanon Pike 7 Hillsboro 17 12 <sup>th</sup> Ave South 18 Airport	23 Dickerson Rd 34 Opry Mills 41 Golden Valley 52 Nolensville Pk 55 Murfreesboro Pk 56 Gallatin Pk 77 Thompson	3 West End/White Bridge 4 Shelby 7 Hillsboro 8 8 <sup>th</sup> Ave South 17 12 <sup>th</sup> Ave South 18 Airport 19 Herman 22 Bordeaux	23 Dickerson Rd 28 Meridian 29 Jefferson 50 Charlotte Pk 52 Nolensville Pk 55 Murfreesboro Pk 56 Gallatin Pk
Routing Improvements to better respond to pandemic ridership patterns		Discontinued Services permanent service suspensions until demand or funding permits reinstatement	
23 Dickerson Rd	34 Opry Mills	24 Bellevue 35 Rivergate 38 Antioch 43 Hickory Hills	64 Star Downtown Shuttle 72 Grassmere/Edmondson 73 Bell Road 96 Murfreesboro
Route Combinations to better utilize resources while preserving service		Reduction in Service due to decreased ridership	
87 Gallatin and 92 Hendersonville 91 Franklin and 95 Spring Hill		8 8 <sup>th</sup> Ave South 21 Wedgewood	25 Midtown 34 Opry Mills

For more detailed information on these changes, customers are invited to visit the Customer Information Window at WeGo Central or <u>visit us online at WeGoTransit.com</u> to view a <u>chart outlining the proposed changes</u> in comparison to current service levels, as well as a <u>presentation</u> that provides more context.

Customers may also participate in any of the virtual public meetings for which the times and dates are listed below. Call-in details to participate in the meetings to ask questions or provide comment can be found at <a href="WeGoTransit.com">WeGoTransit.com</a>:

- Thursday, January 28, Nashville MTA Board Meeting 2:30 p.m.
- Thursday, February 4, Webex, 12-1 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 9, Webex, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, February 11, Webex, 12-1 p.m. (focused on regional services only)

Please note that attendance at the above meetings is not required for comments. Comments may be mailed to WeGo Public Transit Community Engagement, Attn: Public Meeting Comments, 430 Myatt Drive, Nashville, TN 37115; submitted by telephone by calling Customer Care at 615-862-5686; or emailed to WeGoTransit@nashville.gov through February 15, 2021.

An overview of the new plan will be available at WeGoTransit.com on Monday, January 25. Members of the public are encouraged to sign up for WeGo's newsletter, follow them on social media, and visit WeGoTransit.com for continuous updates.

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