



Summer 2015

Special Music City Star train to July 4th fireworks sells out again

The Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee's (RTA) July 4th Music City Star train to the celebration at Nashville's Riverfront Park was a sellout again.

The round-trip ticket is considered a bargain in both the affordable \$14 price and the convenience it provides. Riders can avoid the congested drive to Nashville, the headache of parking, and the post fireworks traffic jam leaving only the stress-free enjoyment of one of the most impressive fireworks displays

in the nation.

A total of 950 tickets were available to the public for the special excursion train. Tickets went on sale June 1 and sold out on June 13 – three weeks prior to the holiday.

Each year for the event, the train departs from Lebanon Station, stops in Martha, Mt. Juliet, Hermitage and Donelson and arrives at Nashville's Riverfront Station at 5 p.m. The return train to Lebanon leaves 30 minutes after the fireworks show ends.



Riders board the 4th of July train.

Northwest Corridor Study now underway

A Northwest Corridor Transit Study to evaluate transit options between Clarksville and Nashville is underway. Approximately 100 interested stakeholders attended community sessions, the first of which was held at the Clarksville Chamber of Commerce. The meeting was one of three sessions held during the month of April in Clarksville, Ashland City and Nashville.

The study will build upon previous efforts and will examine enhanced, cost-effective transit improvements in the northwest corridor and address anticipated traffic growth and congestion along Interstate 24.

"The level of excitement and support from the public and local officials for a transit solution along this corridor is encouraging," RTA Director of Planning and Grants Felix Castrodad said.

The Northwest Corridor Transit Study team is working with RTA to establish the Northwest Corridor Ad-



Corridor Study open house, Clarksville

visory Committee (NCAC) that will provide guidance for the public outreach and engagement of the larger community, as well as input on the need and purpose for the project, the alternatives, which will be studied, and the evaluation criteria that will be used (including cost) to screen and evaluate alternatives. For more information on meetings, visit RTA's website: www.rtarelaxandride.com.



Wilson County Fair, RTA partner to offer special fair train

In partnership with the Wilson County Fair, the RTA will be operating a special Music City Star excursion train to the Wilson County Fair on Saturday, August 15 and Saturday, August 22.

Each Saturday during the fair, the Music City Star will depart from Riverfront Station at 2 p.m., stop in Donelson at 2:12 p.m., Hermitage at 2:20 p.m., Mt. Juliet at 2:28 p.m., Martha at 2:37 p.m., Lebanon at 2:51 p.m., and arrive at the Temporary Fairgrounds Station at 3 p.m.

The return train to Nashville will leave the Temporary Fairgrounds Station at 9 p.m., with boarding for the return trip beginning at 8:30 p.m.

An allotment of 400 tickets is available to the general public each week. Cost is \$21 for ages 13 and older and \$16 for ages 6-12. An additional \$2.50 processing fee is added to each adult and child ticket. There is no charge for children age 5 and younger.

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Mayor Hutto driving force behind St. Jude Music City Marathon Train

Wilson County Mayor Randall Hutto and Premier Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine in Lebanon combined efforts in late April to get runners to and from Lebanon and surrounding areas to the 2015 St. Jude Music City Marathon using the Music City Star.

Premier Orthopaedics, who sponsored the special train service, is not only a large player in sports medicine in Wilson County but throughout the region with 11 locations covering Davidson, Rutherford and Wilson Counties.

Premier's Physicians and physical therapists were onboard the train

travelling to and from the marathon, advising participants on how to prepare for the run and how to care for aching muscles afterwards, a win-win for Premier, marathon runners and the Music City Star.

"In Wilson County, we are always looking for ways to utilize the train not only taking people into Nashville but also bringing people out of Nashville, and this just seemed to be like a perfect marriage," Hutto said.

The \$12 excursion train was the brainchild of Mayor Hutto who wanted to promote Wilson County and the use of the Music City Star. The partnership



Wilson County Mayor Randall Hutto and Premier Orthopaedics Staff

between Wilson County and Premier Orthopaedics is expected to continue annually with proceeds going to St. Jude.



Wilson County Fair

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The ticket includes round-trip train fare and one-day admission to the fair. Parking is free at all of the outlying stations (Donelson, 2705 Lebanon Pike; Hermitage, 4121 Andrew Jackson Parkway; Mt. Juliet, 22 E. Division St.; Martha, 65 Martha Circle; Lebanon, 334 W. Baddour Parkway). Customers are encouraged to park at these stations as there is no parking available at Riverfront Station.

Tickets are available for purchase online at ticketsnashville.com and WilsonCountyFair.net. Tickets will be on sale until 24 hours prior to departure or until they are sold out, whichever comes first.

Customers who purchased the special tickets will need to show their ticket to train personnel for scanning when boarding on both trips. Children age 5 and younger will need a printed ticket, and parents should request these tickets when they make their purchase. Weekday Music City Star tickets and passes are not accepted on the Wilson County Fair train.

Backpacks and folding chairs will be allowed onboard. Any items that will not fit underneath the seat or on luggage racks, such as large coolers, bikes and wagons, are not permitted on the train.

For more information, visit the official Wilson County Fair website at WilsonCountyFair.net.

NEWS & NOTES

2015 Strategic Plan

The Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) along with the RTA has launched the first phase of a year-long strategic planning protocol with a round of community meetings. Officials have said their goal is to engage a minimum of 10,000 residents in the planning process, which also will include work sessions with neighborhood and civic groups. The sessions are one aspect of the Strategic Plan, which aims at developing a sophisticated platform of transit services for area residents to keep ahead of transportation needs based on the city's



continued growth. MTA conducts a strategic plan every five years. For more information visit nMotion2015.org.

July Public Meetings

The MTA and RTA held four public meetings in July regarding proposed service adjustments for its biannual system changes.

The RTA presented proposed adjustments for Route 87X Gallatin Express and possible service reductions for regional routes to Rutherford, Williamson and Wilson counties as well as a proposed five percent fare increase for all RTA services.



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