



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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WeGo to hold series of public meetings on upcoming budget ***Agency to propose service reductions, fare increases due to \$8.7M deficit***

NASHVILLE – WeGo Public Transit is facing an operating budget deficit of \$8.7 million for the upcoming fiscal year, starting July 1, 2019. Proposals to address this deficit will be introduced at the agency’s May 23 board of directors meeting and followed by a series of public meetings in early June to record public feedback.

To address this deficit, which is largely due to a reduction of Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) funding from the previous administration, general inflation, and a third consecutive year without an increase in funding from Metro Nashville, the agency is proposing both strategic service reductions and a fare increase.

“Nashville remains as one of the largest metropolitan areas in the United States without a dedicated funding stream for mass transit, which means that we must continue to compete with other critical priorities for the city such as education, affordable housing, and public safety,” WeGo CEO Steve Bland said. “The proposals we are taking to the Board and the public have been developed to minimize the negative impacts on customers where possible, and in a manner that can make the system more effective in the long-run when additional funding resources are again available to increase service offerings. Having said that, we know that these proposals will create hardships for many individuals in our city.”

Proposed service reductions would be a combination rescheduling, rerouting, combining, and in some cases, eliminating routes that exceed a reasonable cost to operate. WeGo’s base fare, which has not been increased since 2012, is currently \$1.70 one-way and still below that of similarly sized transit systems.

The public is invited to attend the following meetings to learn more about proposed changes and to get their feedback on the record.

Thursday, May 30
Madison Library
5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Thursday, June 6
Hadley Park Regional Center
5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Tuesday, June 11
Lentz Public Health Center
5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Tuesday, June 4
Southeast Community Center
5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Monday, June 10
WeGo Central Meeting Room
5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Wednesday, June 12
WeGo Central Meeting Room
10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Wednesday, June 5
East Park Community Center
5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

In addition to attending public meetings, members of the public are encouraged to sign up for WeGo’s newsletter, follow them on social media, and visit WeGoTransit.com to get more information on proposed service and fare changes.

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Editor's Note: To request this information in an alternative format, please call 615-862-5950 for an ADA Coordinator.