



NEWS from the Shelby County Mayor's Office

Lee Harris, Mayor

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11th Floor, 160 North Main, Memphis, Tennessee 38103

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MAYOR LEE HARRIS ANNOUNCES SUSTAINABILITY PLAN FOR \$10 MILLION IN
DEDICATED FUNDING FOR MATA**

The dedicated, yearly funding will allow MATA to impact the lives of hundreds of thousands of people in Shelby County.

MEMPHIS, TN – Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris presented his funding plan for the future of transit to the Shelby County Commission. The proposed sustainability fee for third vehicles will generate at least \$10 million in new funding for MATA. The plan implements a fee of \$145 for third vehicles and beyond.

The investment will have zero impact on most families. There will be no increase in taxes. A sustainability fee on third and subsequent vehicles will not affect 83% of residents.

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The proposal will have a big impact on transit. A dedicated investment of at least \$10 million has an economic impact of more than \$40 million as a result of expanded job access and reduced car crashes.

This plan would have a big impact on poverty. There are 15,000 available jobs in Shelby County. More frequency helps people get a job and keep a job.

The investment would have a big impact on our shared environment. It would increase ridership by at least one million rides, therefore reducing emissions by thousands of metric tons.

“Everyone has to play a role in trying to preserve our shared environment, even local elected officials,” says Mayor Harris. “We will all enjoy the benefits of clean air, reduced congestion, and a reduction in poverty. This sustainable investment in transit helps achieve all those objectives.”

“This landmark plan will dramatically change the trajectory of funding for public transit in this community,” says Gary Rosenfeld, CEO of MATA. “An investment of this magnitude provides more opportunities for people to get to work and school and overall improve their quality of life.”

The administration is seeking a Commission vote on an investment in transit and a transit plan by February 2020.

(end of release)