



**JOINT RELEASE from the Shelby County Mayor's Office and Shelby County
Commission Office**

Lee Harris, Mayor

Mark Billingsley, Chairman

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SHELBY COUNTY MAYOR AND COMMISSION CHAIRMAN THRILLED BY
GRANT AWARDED TO MEMPHIS AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

*MATA awarded with \$12 million federal Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development
(BUILD) grant.*

MEMPHIS, TN – Memphis Area Transit Authority has been awarded a \$12 million federal grant to create a Bus Rapid Transit line in Memphis. This grant is possible after years of work in a region wide collaboration between Shelby County, Memphis, MATA, University of Memphis, elected officials in Washington D.C., and the business community.

“I am excited to see this new investment in public transit, which will continue to build the movement for transit,” says Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris. “This grant and other investments in transit will lift our entire community. All of us benefit from reduced air pollution and emissions, reduced wear and tear on our infrastructure, and reduced traffic congestion that flow from expansion to transit. These are all positive outcomes that can be expected when we expand public transit.”

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“The Shelby County Board of Commissioners have strived to provide support and tangible resources towards transportation efforts within our community as evidenced by the \$2.5 million budget appropriation made to the Memphis Area Transit Authority this fiscal year,” says Shelby County Commission Chairman Mark Billingsley. “We are thrilled that the federal funding was secured and we look forward to the impact the new Bus Rapid Transit line will have upon the citizens of our great county.”

“I am thrilled to learn that our community will receive \$12 million to fund the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridor. A hearty congratulations goes to MATA and the Office of Planning and Development led by John Zeanah for making a compelling case that was supported by many stakeholders throughout the business, medical, and education communities,” says Shelby County Commissioner Brandon Morrison. “We are very appreciative to the Department of Transportation and also to our representatives in Washington for supporting our vision for a first class rapid transit line. The benefits of having a line with frequent service from downtown, up Union Row, through the medical district to the University of Memphis will be transformational for transit and for our citizens. This year’s application was strengthened through evidence of the positive impact on our community’s opportunity zones associated with the goal of building a skilled workforce.”

“This grant award is the result of years of hard work done by Memphis Area Transit Authority, City of Memphis, and Shelby County Government, along with partners from the business and education community like FedEx, Greater Memphis Chamber, University of Memphis, and many others,” said John Zeanah, director of the Memphis and Shelby County Division of Planning and Development. “The collaboration of these organizations demonstrates the importance of elevating public transit in our community.”

(end of release)