



## **NEWS from the Shelby County Mayor's Office**

***Lee Harris, Mayor***

Vasco A. Smith, Jr., Administration Building  
11<sup>th</sup> Floor, 160 North Main, Memphis, Tennessee 38103

### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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Lauren Lee  
Public Information Officer  
Office: 901.222.2322  
Mobile: 901.481.3422

### **SHELBY COUNTY COMMISSION PASSES HISTORIC INVESTMENT IN TRANSIT**

*The ordinance approved on third reading dedicates at least \$1 million of the CIP budget to transit every year.*

Memphis, TN - On February 10, 2020, the Shelby County Commission passed an ordinance that dedicates 1.5% of the Shelby County CIP budget to public transit. This dedicated, yearly funding is the first such investment in Shelby County history.

Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris: “Yesterday, the County Commission voted to approve the first dedicated funding stream for public transit in our County’s history. The plan that was approved was the first part of our two-part plan to make a significant, yearly investment in transit. This was a great step forward and this part of our plan, it should be noted, does not include any tax or fee increase whatsoever. Although I believe that we need to continue the conversation around public transit, this was a historic vote. For the first time ever, Shelby County will be making a yearly, seven-figure investment in public transit projects. This new dedicated funding could help MATA replace some of its aging fleet, innovate and add new technology, like new fareboxes, and lead to the construction of countless new bus shelters that are sorely needed throughout our community.”

VASCO A. SMITH, JR. ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
160 North Main Street, 11th Floor Memphis, TN 38103  
901-222-2000 Fax 901-222-2005  
[www.shelbycountyttn.gov](http://www.shelbycountyttn.gov)



Shelby County Commissioner Van Turner: “I want to extend my appreciation to Mayor Harris and my colleagues for supporting a much needed dedicated source of capital funding for public transit. This is a win for Mayor Harris, the Board of Commissioners, the citizens, and the bus riders in this community. Safe, affordable, reliable, and economically friendly public transportation is the backbone for any thriving and progressive metropolitan community. This ordinance represents one meaningful step toward making this a reality.”

MATA CEO Gary Rosenfeld: “We are pleased to see the Shelby County Commission take such an important step in the betterment of public transit in our community. All residents benefit from an investment in public transportation. This includes those who live outside of Memphis and those who never use a bus. When we add buses, we are taking cars off the road. An investment in public transportation means less traffic and improved air quality for all of our residents. This will result in reduced commute times and reduced wear and tear on our roads.”

Sponsors of the CIP Ordinance were Commissioner Van D. Turner, Jr., Chairman Mark Billingsley, Commissioner Willie F. Brooks, Jr., Commissioner Mickell Lowery, Commissioner Tami Sawyer, Commissioner Brandon Morrison, Commissioner Michael Whaley, and Commissioner Edmund Ford, Jr.

(end of release)