



Transportation Priorities/Issues List

(adopted by the Board of Directors December 13, 2007)

Local

Surface

The Chamber supports the construction of a street connector from 28th Avenue North and Charlotte Avenue to 31st and Park Plaza to complete the non-interstate circle around the city, thereby connecting our higher education institutions and hospitals while promoting economic development in the Jefferson Street area.

Funding

In order to implement a comprehensive transportation system that will enhance the livability and economic vitality of a growing Middle Tennessee, the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce supports amending existing RTA statutes to establish the authority for a source of local and regional dedicated funding for public transportation services. Such taxing authority would be subject to voter approval and/or the approval of local legislative bodies.

Communications

The Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce encourages members to offer employees sustainable commuter benefits and to incentivize other transportation demand management strategies to better manage traffic congestion, on-site parking demand, and air quality; improve worker productivity; and enhance the ability of business to attract and retain qualified staff.

Nashville MTA

The Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce supports funding an expansion of MTA services in order to address overcrowding on buses and a growing demand for transit throughout Davidson County.

State

User Tax

The Chamber recommends that the General Assembly raise additional dedicated funds for transportation by increasing the fuel tax, vehicular registration fee or by indexing the current fuel tax or a combination of the above. Additionally we recommend that enabling legislation be passed to allow cities and counties to pass a local option fuel tax dedicated to transportation after a successful referendum vote.

Projects

1. The Chamber recommends that TDOT provide the estimated \$20 million needed to rebuild the I-40/Donelson Pike interchange to improve access to the Nashville International Airport.
2. The Chamber supports the widening and reconstruction of I-65 north from the junction of I-24 at Fern Street to the interchange of US 31W (Dickerson Road). This is the third phase of TDOT plan to widen I-65 in Nashville from I-24 to SR 386 (Vietnam Veteran's Blvd) and currently carries 170,000 vehicles/day.
3. The Chamber supports the continued funding and development of SR-840 South and encourages TDOT to expedite the funding and construction of the projects to be built to lessen the impacts created by the hold status of SR-840 North. The completion of SR-840 will positively benefit the economic environment of Middle Tennessee by enhancing strategic transportation arteries and further connecting our major urban areas and growing smaller cities.
4. The Chamber supports the acceleration of TDOT's I-65/US 41A (Rosa Parks Blvd) interchange improvement project to better serve the business community in Metro Center. A total of 45,000 vehicles use US 41A at Metro Center every day. The project includes ramp widening and modifications plus signal improvements to improve operation and safety (recommended by the Area Business Councils).

Federal

Projects

1. Nashville International Airport In-Line Electronic Detection System (EDS) and Addition
2. Runway Safety Area project at John Tune Airport (JWN)