



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Hamilton Springs Station Groundbreaking** *Regional leaders celebrate construction of new Music City Star station*

**LEBANON** – Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee (RTA) officials and Wilson County leaders broke ground on a new Music City Star train station in Hamilton Springs this morning, marking the start of construction for the transit component in the state's first transit-oriented development (TOD).

RTA CEO Steve Bland, Wilson County Mayor and RTA Vice Chair Randall Hutto, City of Lebanon Mayor Bernie Ash, Horn Springs Group Developer Jack Bell, Lebanon Ward 6 City Councilor Rick Bell, Tennessee Department of Transportation Multimodal Transportation Resources Division Director Liza Joffrion, and Congressman Jim Cooper attended the groundbreaking ceremony to show support for the Hamilton Springs project.

The Hamilton Springs Station will cover 3.2 acres and is a central part of the TOD – a community that has been planned, designed and being constructed to emphasize the use of transportation modes other than cars. The station will not only serve residents of the community but will also include a Park & Ride with 160 lighted parking spaces to be used by Wilson County residents.

"It is indeed an exciting day for RTA and Wilson County as we embark on the construction of another Music City Star station in the county and the seventh station along the East corridor line," Mayor Hutto said. "The addition of the Hamilton Springs Station is a great opportunity to capture new riders and provide them with another viable option for traveling to downtown Nashville. We have some great partners who are continuing to work with us on providing transit solutions for Middle Tennessee. We look forward to returning next year to officially open the station."

The station is a total investment of \$4.1 million, not including the land donation by Jack Bell and Rick Bell. It is a true regional partnership of several agencies and organizations, including the RTA, the Federal Transit Administration, the Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, the City of Lebanon, TDOT's Long-Range Planning Division, and Horn Springs Development, Inc.

The vision for the 220-plus acre Hamilton Springs property when completed includes apartments, home construction, retail and other amenities, a large central park and with access to a future regional greenway, the Hamilton Springs Station, and multiple bicycle and pedestrian connections for residents and visitors alike.

"This project puts the T in TOD," said Jack Bell, President of Horn Springs Development, Inc. "This transit stop is the key component that will help us achieve the ultimate vision of providing a community where residents can live, work and shop in a traditionally designed neighborhood while also having the option to utilize transit to access the surrounding region."

Rick Bell, co-developer of the project and City Councilor, added: "This could not have happened without the support of local, state and federal officials who understand that the success of public transportation is vital for our future. I am thankful that the Music City Star runs to Lebanon and that RTA is building this station in Ward 6, the fastest growing part of our city."

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As a need identified through the nMotion study, the opportunities TOD's provide a growing area are numerous. They leverage the access transit provides to regional destinations and focuses on development in close proximity to those places. Additional TOD's are being considered at other stops along the Music City Star route in Donelson and Mt. Juliet.

"We're delighted to see the Music City Star be the focus of this new and ambitious mixed-use development site in Wilson County," RTA CEO Steve Bland said. "As Middle Tennessee continues to experience unprecedented growth, transit-oriented development projects like Hamilton Springs are essential to provide increased mobility options through the creation of livable, walkable communities that encourage riding the train and other multi-modal transportation options."

Construction of the train station is anticipated to be completed in early 2018.

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