



Metro Transit Authority Collection

Collection Summary:

Title: Metro Transit Authority Collection

Summary: A collection of artifacts, clippings, correspondence, ephemera, historical materials, minutes, publications, and reports relating to the history and activities of the Metropolitan Transit Authority. Dates range between 1879 and 2002.

Physical Description: 19 boxes; 7.71 linear feet

Language: English

Stack Location: Section 9, shelves 22-25

Repository: Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville-Davidson County, 615 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37219

Historical/Biographical Note:

The Metropolitan Transit Authority was first chartered in 1973, after the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County applied for a federal grant to purchase the Nashville Transit Company, thus creating a transfer from private to public ownership.

Public transportation in Nashville itself has a long history, beginning with the McGavock and Mt. Vernon Horse Railroad Company and the South Nashville Street Railroad Company in 1860. Both companies used steam and mules in order to power rail cars, and Nashville's first electric streetcar was later introduced in 1889.

Between 1865 and 1890, a number of independent transit companies were formed, merged, and disbanded, until they eventually consolidated into the United Electric Railway. In the late 1890s, the Nashville Street Railway Company consolidated with all remaining competing lines, and later the Nashville Railway and Light Company was organized to take over the Nashville Railway and the Cumberland Electric Light and Power Company.

The Nashville Railway and Light Company operated its services by electric railway until 1926, when the operation of buses was introduced. In 1930, the Tennessee Electric Power Company took over, and it later phased out the streetcar system in the early 1940s. The name of the company was then changed to Southern Coach Lines, Inc., and later changed to Nashville Transit Company in 1953.

Today, the Metropolitan Transit Authority offers over 50 bus routes and serves over ten million riders in Nashville annually.

Scope and Contents of the Collection:

This collection contains artifacts, newspaper clippings, minutes, publications, reports and assorted ephemera relating to the history, operation, and services of the Metro Transit Authority. The dates range from 1879 to 2002, and the materials help to document the advancement of Nashville's public transportation system and its impact on community development within the city. Some maps, routes, and schedules are included, as well as reports documenting income and expenses, plans for public transportation, and needs analysis. This collection depicts Nashville's continuous growth through the lens of public transportation history, and provides a record of Nashville's streetcar lines as well as its bus routes.

Index Terms:

Subjects:

Buses.
Public transit.
Public transportation
Streetcar lines
Streetcars
Transportation.
Transportation and community development

Related Collections:

David H. Steinberg Collection
Metro Transit Authority Photographs Collection
Ralcon Wagner Collection

Arrangement:

This collection is arranged into ten series: artifacts, clippings, correspondence, ephemera, grant applications, history, legislation, minutes, publications, and reports. Series are arranged alphabetically.

The *artifacts* series contains a bus horn, a film from the GMC Truck and Coach Division entitled "Fact of the Matter," coins taken from an MTA bus token machine, and a book of orders from the Nashville Railway and Light Company.

The *clippings* series contains various newspaper and press clippings relating to the Metro Transit Authority and public transportation. Most clippings are focused on Nashville.

The *correspondence* series contains some general correspondence from within the MTA, as well as a memorandum about a public opinion survey on heated bus shelters and ridesharing services.

Ephemera contains advertisements, brochures, flyers, invitations, routes and schedules, and time cards. Some noteworthy items in this series are leaflets urging for the economic withdrawal movement for civil rights, materials relating to the inauguration of MTA, and a leaflet regarding the features of a new MTA coach in 1974.

The *grant applications* series contains applications for two grants: a capital acquisition grant, and a demonstration grant for the UMTA marketing study.

The *history* series contains materials relating to the history of MTA and public transportation in Nashville. Included in this series are essays, slide presentations, and data reports.

Legislation includes a resolution authorizing the Metropolitan County Mayor to make and file an application for a federal grant to assist in the purchase of upgrading the mass transit system, appropriations, and an approval of a contract between the Nashville Railway and Light Co., the Department of Highways and Public Works, and the Davidson County Highway Commission for the improvement of Harding Road.

The *minutes* series contains meeting minutes from the Metro Transit Authority.

The *publications* series contains various materials dealing with mass transportation, newsletters and magazines, proceedings, and compilations of court documents.

The *reports* series includes financial statements, income, expense, and statistical reports, population and housing, and progress reports.

Contents Listing:

Safe:

Artifacts--Bus Horn

Artifact Box:

Artifacts--Film (GMC Truck and Coach Division)

Box 1:

Artifacts--MTA Coins

Box 2:

Artifacts--Order Book, 1903-1915

Box 3:

Folder 1: Clippings--Advertisements, 1949-1951

Folder 2: Clippings--ATA Man of the Year, 1970

Folder 3: Clippings--Cleveland Railway Company, c.1930

Folder 4: Clippings--First Electric Street Car, 1889

Folder 5: Clippings--General, 1940-1949 Folder 6: Clippings--General, 1950-1959

Folder 7: Clippings--General, 1960 (originals)

Folder 8: Clippings--General, 1960 (copies)

Folder 9: Clippings--General, 1960-1969

Folder 10: Clippings--General, 1970-1979

Folder 11: Clippings--General, 1990-2000

Folder 12: Clippings--General, 1994

Folder 13: Clippings--General, 1995

Box 4:

Folder 1: Clippings--General, 1996

Folder 2: Clippings--Nashville Business Journal, 1993-1997

Folder 3: Clippings--Press Clippings, 1992

Folder 4: Correspondence--General, 1940-1949

Folder 5: Correspondence--General, 1950-1959

Folder 6: Correspondence--General, 1960

Folder 7: Correspondence--General, 1980-1989

Folder 8: Correspondence--Public Opinion Survey, 1961

Folder 9: Correspondence--Ridesharing Services, c.1980

Folder 10: Ephemera--Advertisements, c.1980s

Folder 11: Ephemera--Alex Haley Celebration, 1977

Folder 12: Ephemera--Brochures, c.1980s

Folder 13: Ephemera--Bus Fare Changes, 1972

Folder 14: Ephemera--Civil Rights, c.1960s

Folder 15: Ephemera--Copacabana, c.1950s

Folder 16: Ephemera--Exact Fare Program, c.1969

Folder 17: Ephemera--Inauguration of MTA, 1973

Folder 18: Ephemera--New MTA Coach, 1974

Folder 19: Ephemera--Press Release, c.1975

Folder 20: Ephemera--Reader's Digest Press Release, n.d.

Folder 21: Ephemera--Routes and Schedules, 1926-1984

Folder 22: Ephemera--Time Card, 1888

Folder 23: Grant Applications--Capital Acquisition Grant, 1972

Folder 24: Grant Applications--Demonstration Grant, 1975

Box 5:

Folder 1: History--Day the Buses Disappeared, The, n.d.

Folder 2: History--History of MTA, n.d.

Folder 3: History--History of Public Transportation, n.d.

Folder 4: History--History of Public Transportation in Nashville, 1951-1973

Folder 5: History--History of the Street Railway System, n.d.

Folder 6: History--History of Transportation, n.d.

Folder 7: History--Maxwell House Menu, 1879

Folder 8: History--Mileage Data, 1946-1990

Folder 9: History--MTA Slide Presentation, 1977

Folder 10: History--Plaque Display Information, 1979

Folder 11: History--Street Railway System, n.d.

Folder 12: Legislation--Application for Grant, 1972

Folder 13: Legislation--Appropriations, 1972

Folder 14: Legislation--Approval of Contract, 1930

Folder 15: Minutes--Aug.-Dec. 1986

Folder 16: Minutes--Jan.-Dec. 1987

Folder 17: Minutes--Jan.-Dec. 1988

Folder 18: Minutes--Jan.-Dec. 1989

Folder 19: Minutes--Jan.-Dec. 1990

Folder 20: Minutes--Jan.-Dec. 1991

Folder 21: Minutes--Jan.-Dec. 1992

Folder 22: Minutes--Jan.-Dec.-1993

Folder 23: Publications--Agreement and By-Laws, 1966

Folder 24: Publications--ATE Directory, 1987

Folder 25: Publications--*Bank Data*, 1980

Folder 26: Publications--*Bus Review*, 1974

Folder 27: Publications--*Bus Ride*, 1972

Folder 28: Publications--Car Pooling Information, 1974-1981

Folder 29: Publications--Contract No. 36, 1989-1990

Box 6:

Folder 1: Publications--*Daily Commuter, The*, 1982-1983

Folder 2: Publications--Disability and Retirement Allowance Plan, 1950-1956

Folder 4: Publications--Land and Title Department, Book 54, n.d.

Box 7:

Folder 1: Publications--Land and Title Department, Book 55, n.d.

Box 8:

Folder 1: Publications--Land and Title Department, Book 55, n.d.

Folder 2: Publications--*Line-Up, The*, 1978

Folder 3: Publications--Lookout Mountain Incline Railway, c.1990

Folder 4: Publications--Memorandum of Agreement, 1949-1953

Folder 5: Publications--Memorandum of Agreement, 1956-1970

Folder 6: Publications--Memorandum of Agreement, 1973-1984

Box 9:

Folder 1: Publications--Memorandum of Agreement, 1990-2002

Folder 2: Publications--Model Traffic Ordinance, 1953

Folder 3: Publications--*Motor Coach Age*, 1986

Folder 4: Publications--*MTA Reports*, 1974-1977

Folder 5: Publications--*Nashville*, 1978

Folder 6: Publications--*Nashville!* Magazine, 1974

Folder 7: Publications--Nashville Railway and Light Company, 1860-1911

Folder 8: Publications--Proceedings of the American Transit Association, 1946

Box 10:

Folder 1: Publications--Proceedings of the American Transit Association, 1947

Folder 2: Publications--Proceedings of the American Transit Association, 1948

Folder 3: Publications--Proceedings of the American Transit Association, 1949

Folder 4: Publications--Public Service Careers, 1979

Folder 5: Publications--*Read as You Ride*, 1923

Folder 6: Publications--*Southern Coachman, The*, 1947-1949

Folder 7: Publications--Tour Guide Script, c.1980s

Box 11:

Folder 1: Publications--Traffic and Parking Code, 1988

Folder 2: Publications--Transportation Franchise in the City of Nashville, v. 1, 1920-1942

Folder 3: Publications--Transportation Franchise in the City of Nashville, v. 1, 1920-1942

Box 12:

Folder 1: Publications--Transportation Franchise in the City of Nashville, v. 1, 1920-1942

Folder 2: Publications--Transportation Franchise in the City of Nashville, v. 2, 1946-1952

Box 13:

Folder 1: Publications--Transportation Franchise in the City of Nashville, v. 2, 1946-1952

Folder 2: Publications--Truck Repair and Service Directory, 1958

Folder 3: Reports--Action Program for Transit Improvement, 1971

Folder 3: Reports--Automobile Schedule, 1950

Folder 4: Reports--Appraisal Financial and Operating Survey, 1951

Folder 5: Reports--Appraisal of Nashville Transit System, 1951

Box 14:

Folder 1: Reports--Automobile Schedule, 1950

Folder 2: Reports--Central Transfer Feasibility Study, 1978

Folder 3: Reports--Committee for Community Excellence, 1983

Folder 4: Reports--Discussion Paper, 1979

Folder 5: Reports--Electrolytic Mitigation, 1907
Folder 6: Reports--Evaluation Procedures, 1975
Folder 7: Reports--Feasibility Study, 1978
Folder 8: Reports--Final Study Design, c.1975
Folder 9: Reports--Financial Statements, 1967-1970
Folder 10: Reports--Financial Statements, 1971-1974

Box 15:

Folder 1: Reports--Five Year Plan, 1979
Folder 2: Reports--Five Year Plan for Transit, 1982
Folder 3: Reports--Five Year Plan for Transit, 1986
Folder 4: Reports--Five Year Planning Considerations, 1981
Folder 5: Reports--Five Year Transit Improvement Program, 1980
Folder 6: Reports--Hospitals and Medical Centers, 1967
Folder 7: Reports--Improvements in Facilities, Fares and Service, 1972
Folder 8: Reports--Income, Expense and Statistical Reports, 1973-1976
Folder 9: Reports--Income, Expense and Statistical Reports, 1977-1978

Box 16:

Folder 1: Reports--Income, Expense and Statistical Reports, 1979
Folder 2: Reports--Income, Expense and Statistical Reports, 1980
Folder 3: Reports--Income, Expense and Statistical Reports, 1981
Folder 4: Reports--Income, Expense and Statistical Reports, 1982-1983
Folder 5: Reports--Income, Expense and Statistical Reports, 1984
Folder 6: Reports--Income, Expense and Statistical Reports, 1985
Folder 7: Reports--Income, Expense and Statistical Reports, 1987
Folder 8: Reports--Income, Expense and Statistical Reports, 1988

Box 17:

Folder 1: Reports--Income, Expense and Statistical Reports, 1989
Folder 2: Reports--Income, Expense and Statistical Reports, 1990-1992
Folder 3: Reports--Long Range Transit Plan, 1979
Folder 4: Reports--Long Range View of Transit in Nashville, 1972
Folder 5: Reports--Management by Objective, c.1979
Folder 6: Reports--Mass Transportation Goals, 1975
Folder 7: Reports--Motor Vehicle Registration, 1919-1967
Folder 8: Reports--MTA Energy Contingency Plan, 1981
Folder 9: Reports--MTA Facts, 1977-1978
Folder 10: Reports--Operating Survey, 1951
Folder 11: Reports--Operational Achievements, 1969-1977
Folder 12: Reports--Park-Ride Proposal, 1957

Box 18:

Folder 1: Reports--Petroleum Shortage Contingency Plan, 1979
Folder 2: Reports--Population and Housing, 1942
Folder 3: Reports--Population by Census Tracts, c. 1950
Folder 4: Reports--Ridesharing and the Knoxville Commuter, 1975

Folder 5: Reports--Schedule and Work Analysis, 1969-1976

Folder 6: Reports--Schedules, 1982

Folder 7: Reports--Special Transportation Services, 1978

Folder 8: Reports--Study of Urban Transportation, 1961

Folder 9: Reports--Supervisor's Log, 1951

Folder 10: Reports--Task Force on Mass Transit, 1986

Folder 11: Reports--Ten Year Report, 1983

Folder 12: Reports--Transit Alternatives, 1976

Folder 13: Reports--Transit Marketing Project, 1975

Box 19:

Folder 1: Reports--Transit Marketing Project, 1975

Folder 2: Reports--Transit Needs Analysis, 1986

Folder 3: Reports--Transportation Plan for Elderly and Handicapped, 1979

Folder 4: Reports--Transportation Plan for Elderly and Handicapped, 1980

Folder 5: Reports--Transportation Planning in the Central Business District, 1972

Folder 6: Reports--Vendor List, n.d.

Restrictions:

Restrictions on Access: In-library use only.

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Administrative Information:

Copyright: The Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville-Davidson County retains intellectual property rights to this collection. Some restrictions may apply.

Provenance: Metropolitan Transit Authority

Processing Information: Processed by Kelley Sirko, August 2017.

Accruals: No further accruals expected.