



# CLEAN AIR QUARTERLY

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## CAP Welcomes New Program Administrator

The Clean Air Partnership of Middle Tennessee has joined with the Clean Air Partnership of Williamson County to hire program administrator to manage the two programs.



*Becky Taylor  
CAP Program  
Administrator*

Becky Taylor joins the Clean Air Partnership this fall with more than 10 years of experience in the nonprofit industry.

For the last eight years, Taylor has served as the director of the CWA-Cayce Learning Center, a community and education based non-profit, located in east Nashville. Throughout her career, she has spoken at several national conferences and has participated in action groups and committees on the local level.

Taylor holds a bachelor's degree in public and urban affairs from Virginia Tech University.

"I am very excited to work with the Clean Air Partnerships of Williamson County and Middle Tennessee to improve air quality and environmental sustainability throughout the region," Taylor said. "Together these two organizations can make a significant impact on these issues in our area."

"We are thrilled to have Becky join the CAP team and look forward to tremendous growth of our program in months ahead," said Laura Artates, CAP of Middle TN board chair.

## Nashville's First Indoor Transit Center Now Open

Nashville bus riders no longer have to wait for buses outside in the elements.

Music City Central (MCC), Nashville MTA's new downtown transit center is now open for business. The center is located at 400 Charlotte Avenue between 4th and 5th Avenues North, near the Municipal Auditorium in downtown Nashville.

"Nashville is a great and growing city, and as we have grown, so too have the services of the Nashville MTA," Mayor Karl Dean said. "We now have a bus system that reaches all major corridors in our city and demand for services has never been higher."

The grand opening is the culmination of a project that has been in development since 2004. Located in the heart of the Central Business District in downtown Nashville, MCC with 434,314 square feet of space, is close to the destinations of customers and is convenient to tourists.

The multi-level facility features climate-controlled waiting rooms with comfortable seats,

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## Coming to a Store Near You: More Energy Efficient Televisions

With the holiday season just around the corner, consumers now have more energy efficient choices when shopping. Starting November 1, televisions meeting EPA's new, more comprehensive energy efficiency specification were available in stores nationwide.

Televisions that meet the new Energy Star specification will be up to 30 percent more energy efficient than conventional models. If all televisions sold in the United States met the new Energy Star requirements, the savings in energy costs would grow to be about \$1 billion annually and greenhouse gas emissions would be reduced by the equivalent of about 1 million cars.

The new specification requires energy efficiency when televisions are on, as well as off or in "standby" mode. It also requires the use of external power supplies that have earned the Energy Star label where applicable.

This new specification is important since televisions being sold now are larger, in use more hours a day, and offer more vibrant pictures, which can impact the amount of electricity they use. In fact, some of the largest, high resolution televisions can use as much as 500 kWh per year.



*Televisions that meet the new Energy Star specification will be up to 30 percent more energy efficient than conventional models.*

Energy Star qualified televisions can be found at most stores where electronics are sold. An up-to-date list of models that meet the new specification is available [here](#).

Consumers are also encouraged to ask their sales associate for newly qualified Energy Star televisions to ensure they are getting one that qualifies under this enhanced specification.

For more information about the new televisions and other energy start products visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

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## Congressional "Bail-Out" Includes Bike Commuting Credit

The financial "bail-out bill" recently passed by Congress and signed into law by President Bush includes a provision that may provide cyclists who ride to work up to \$240 to offset their commuting cost and hopefully will encourage more bicycle commuting.

The bill offers employers a \$20 per month per eligible employee tax credit to cover reimbursement expenses related to the needs of commuter bicyclists. As it is currently worded, almost anything related to bicycle commuting could be covered.

This tax credit is only for employers, so you'll need to convince your employer to set up a pro-

gram to make it work. You submit your receipt for bicycle expenses to your company and they reimburse you for the cost in your paycheck. At the end of the year your company claims a tax credit for the amount they've reimbursed employees. Contact Becky Taylor, CAP program administrator, at [becky@cleanairpartnership.info](mailto:becky@cleanairpartnership.info) for more information about talking to your employer.

To learn more about this and other biking and walking issues, please visit <http://walkbikeforum.blogspot.com>, a new Bicycle and Pedestrian Blog created by the Nashville Area MPO, a federally mandated transportation planning organization.

## Music City Central Cont.



*Music City Central is located at 400 Charlotte Avenue between 4th and 5th Avenues North, near the Municipal Auditorium in downtown Nashville.*

continuous storefront windows and terrazzo flooring in the upper and lower grand entries; a staffed Customer Care Center; ticket vending machines; a Dunkin' Donuts shop; space for a small retail business such as a newsstand; public restrooms for customers; and a community meeting room for neighborhood and civic groups.

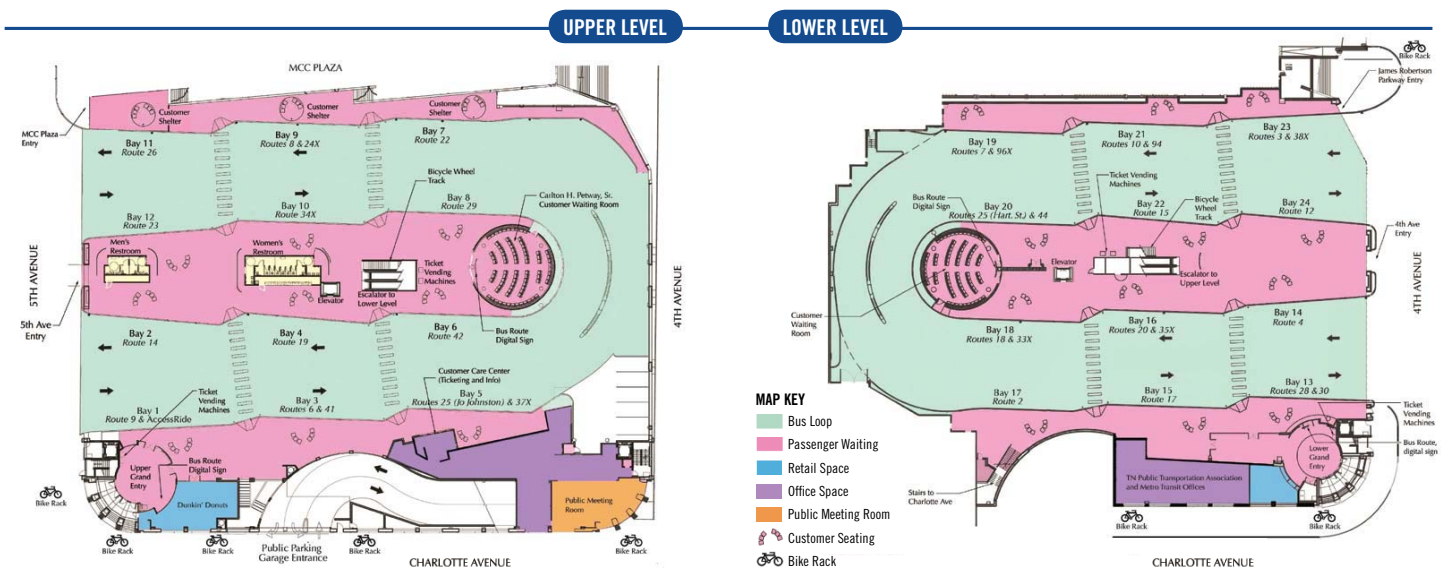
"The development of this facility is the next

essential step in building a world-class transit system in Nashville," MTA CEO Paul J. Ballard said. "Having the necessary infrastructure for our customers is a vital part of expanding transit, attracting new riders, and becoming one of the solutions to the area's traffic congestion problems."

Much of MCC is enclosed to protect passengers from the elements. In addition, several advanced mechanical ventilation system designed with both passenger safety and environmental conservation in mind were installed.

A portion of MCC is open air, with buses entering and exiting on both 4th and 5th Avenues North. There are 24 bus bays, and all routes have been assigned a bus bay. All bus bay numbers are printed on route schedules as well as on signage throughout MCC. Up to 20,000 people are expected to travel through MCC each weekday.

While MCC will serve as the union station for buses, the MTA will continue to operate administrative and other support functions from its main office on Nestor Street. There are no longer any bus operations on the Downtown Transit Mall on Deaderick Street.



*Pictured above is the floor plan for MTA's new indoor transit center. This graphic is available for download at [http://www.nashvillemta.org/PDF/MCC\\_Levels08.PDF](http://www.nashvillemta.org/PDF/MCC_Levels08.PDF).*

# REAL PEOPLE CHRONICLES

*A new section dedicated to sharing successes of average people trying to make a difference.*

*Walk Bike Nashville Executive Director Shannon Hornsby shares her experience with bicycle commuting and her efforts to reduce trips in her car.*

*by Shannon Hornsby*

## *Living Close-In*

Nashville is a car-centric city. But with more people moving into the urban core, we're seeing small changes in behavior and an increased demand for transportation choices. Consider the spike in gas prices over the summer. Bike shops were clearing out of inventory and bicycles from basements and garages once collecting dust were brought in for repairs on a scale the city had never seen.

As a self-proclaimed bicycle commuter, this spike in gas prices did not affect me quite like others. I also own a Honda Civic, but only filled the tank once every other week. Yes, my car boasts a solid 32-34 mpg in the city and 36-38 mpg on the highway, but I still made a conscious effort to decrease the miles I drove each week, to increase the number of trips I made by foot or by bicycle, and truly focus on how that was possible.

It required truly planning out my weeks: write out a grocery list and stick to it, drink coffee at home instead of going to the local coffee shop, eat all meals at home instead of going out, and host pot-luck style gatherings of friends instead of going out on the town. These are just a few of the "simple" changes made, but I still needed more change.

With a lease ending, my choice of living location became a priority. Already living within 1.6 miles of almost everything I need, it didn't quite seem possible to find a more accessible location. But I did.

On Sept. 30, we moved just four blocks from 5-Points (without increasing rent). This had a much greater impact upon my habits than I thought probable. For example, I filled the gas tank on Oct. 5 and did not return to the gas station until Oct. 26.

Now that I lived within walking distance of the grocery store, post office and other amenities, the car often sat for days without being driven. With three weeks between fill-ups, I was able to minimize the dollars pumped into the gas tank and maximize the miles driven. Instead of multiple trips to the grocery in the car each week, one large trip is made and any other items needed throughout the week are obtained by walking just four short blocks to the local market. The savings came out to \$17.50 each month just in gas.

It may not be possible for you to change transportation habits or living location so easily, but sitting down and taking a serious look at patterns and needs can really help to establish an understanding of what can be changed. Everyone can plan trips in the car and by doing so we can each decrease the miles driven per day or per week. Each of us can make a commitment to be a little more disciplined by not succumbing to those, "I'll make a quick run to the store" moments. Instead of driving to the store down the street to grab that bottle of wine or gallon of milk, bundle up, grab a backpack and take a walk. It's healthy, for your body and for the air.

### *Upcoming Events*

**CAP Board of Directors Meeting:** Noon, Nov. 19 @ Metro Parks Administrative Office

**Together Making Nashville Greener Public Meeting:** 5:00 p.m., Nov. 20 @ Mt. View Elementary

**Together Making Nashville Greener Public Meeting:** 10:00 a.m., Nov. 22 @ Inglewood Library