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Riding the bus cuts down on air pollution

To the Editor:

When evaluating the spending priorities for Metro, it's important to look at the big picture of what we want Nashville to be. MTA is more than just a service for people who have no other means of transportation; it's also the most flexible option for those who want to leave their cars at home when they commute to work.

Traffic congestion and air quality are important issues for Middle Tennesseans. More people on buses and fewer people in cars leads to less traffic and better air quality, and that's a good thing.

If everyone in Middle Tennessee would carpool or take public transit to work just once a week, one of our largest pollution sources would be cut by 20 percent.

The Clean Air Partnership of Middle Tennessee is making a big push in 2007 to educate people about the small changes in individual behavior that can have a big impact on the quality of the air we breathe, and about the ridesharing opportunities that are available to Middle Tennesseans (www.CleanAirPartnership.info).

As our leaders make funding decisions regarding public transit, it's important to look at the big picture. It's more than just getting from point A to point B. It's also about how we get there.

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