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REALTORS FAVOR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION

REALTORS® See Correlation Between Housing and Transportation

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (June X, 2010) – The Greater Nashville Association of REALTORS® has announced their support of regional transportation efforts being led by the Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee. Lucy Smith, President of GNAR, said that the economic development of the Middle Tennessee region is tied closely to the provision of viable options for travel to work, entertainment venues, shopping opportunities and other destinations. She also commented that diverse transportation choices also provide a positive environmental impact, like reduced auto emissions.

Smith said that a key part of the home buying process involves having a manageable commute to and from places like work and school that are a part of a homeowner's typical day. Housing options, including affordable communities near rail and bus lines, will ensure greater options for where people can live without having unreasonable commutes to where they work or play.

"The idea of a regional mass transportation plan has been discussed for years," said Smith. "It is significant that real fundamental steps are being taken to move it from conversation to reality. The leadership of Mayor Dean and other area mayors involved in the Middle Tennessee Mayor's Caucus, along with

efforts of the Metropolitan Planning Organization and Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee means the process has truly begun to create and implement a plan.”

“A thorough approach is needed for this planning process using a long-term view so that the right short-term decision can be made,” Smith said. “Having Ed Cole in place as the Executive Director of the recently formed Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee means the right strategic thought and follow-through will be applied. Ed’s demonstrated leadership in prior positions at the Tennessee Department of Transportation and Cumberland Region Tomorrow provide ample evidence that he is very capable of addressing a large undertaking like the creation of the regional transportation plan.”

Mayor Dean stated that the involvement of the REALTOR® organization is welcomed and appreciated. “The REALTORS® support for this plan is consistent with their progressive and active involvement in the growth and development of Nashville and Middle Tennessee,” said Mayor Dean.

By announcing their support of the efforts the Transit Alliance, GNAR is taking steps to be involved in the process, including informing their members of the progression of the process. One example of this is an upcoming informational meeting on August 12 for GNAR members to hear an update on the planning process. Attending the meeting will be Ed Cole, executive director of the Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee, along with Japanese General Consul Hiroshi Sato who will share the difference the use of mass transit options has made on Tokyo.

“The support of the Greater Nashville Association of REALTORS® is very meaningful,” said Ed Cole. “Their leadership in helping the community focus on this important issue is greatly appreciated. Their local insights, as well as research from their national association, will help considerably as we move forward with the planning process.”

The Greater Nashville Association of REALTORS® is one of Middle Tennessee’s largest professional trade associations and serves as the primary voice for Nashville-area property owners. REALTOR® is a registered trademark

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