



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# **Greater Nashville Regional Council Announces Regional Smart Mobility Assessment**

Nashville, Tenn. --- The Greater Nashville Regional Council (GNRC or Regional Council) has initiated a Regional Smart Mobility Assessment to provide community leadership, IT directors, transit agencies, planning and public works departments, traffic operations managers, and other stakeholders with a framework for how emerging technologies can improve and optimize the region's transportation systems.

"It is critical to ensure that we have an understanding of the existing technology across our region as well as proactively plan for its continuing evolution as part of our transportation system," said Mary Esther Reed, Mayor of Smyrna and chair of the GNRC's Transportation Policy Board. "We are excited to begin this study and look forward to engaging individuals across the region in this process."

The study will provide an opportunity for area stakeholders to align priorities and set a vision for regional cooperation around technology and how it can be used as a critical tool for transportation improvements. Additionally, the effort will examine how incorporate changing technology and smart mobility tools in the transportation planning process to increased convenience, safety, and efficiency of operations. The assessment will also help define how the transportation system can prepare for and thrive in a multimodal environment and with vehicles that are connected, shared, and even automated.

GNRC selected global consulting firm Stantec to lead the project, and the firm will receive support from local sub consultant team members EDR Group, Wilmot, and duGard Communications. Over the coming months the study team will work with local jurisdictions to evaluate existing infrastructure, identify characteristics of connected systems, and location and type of communications infrastructure needed throughout the region. The effort will as detail how investments in technology can reduce traffic and emissions, improve health and safety, benefit economic development, and enrich the transportation planning process, and identify opportunities for private-sector collaboration and investment.

Findings and recommendations from this study will inform the update of the region's long-range transportation plan which is scheduled for adoption in early 2021. This plan serves as the gateway

to federal transportation funds for investment across Middle Tennessee out to the year 2045. For more information about GNRC's transportation planning activities visit [NashvilleMPO.org](http://NashvilleMPO.org) or [Connected2040.org](http://Connected2040.org).

**About GRNC:**

The Greater Nashville Regional Council is one of nine development districts across the state. It serves as the primary forum for collaboration among mayors and county executives from 52 cities and 13 counties across Middle Tennessee. The Regional Council programming includes economic and community development, policy, regional research and data analysis, community planning, and aging and disability services. The Regional Council footprint includes Cheatham, Davidson, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys, Montgomery, Robertson, Rutherford, Stewart, Sumner, Trousdale, Williamson, and Wilson, and all incorporated municipalities and metropolitan governments located within these counties. For more information on the Greater Nashville Regional Council visit [GNRC.org](http://GNRC.org).

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