



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Music City Star experiences record year of ridership *Train celebrates fifth anniversary of service on September 18*

NASHVILLE – The Music City Star celebrates its fifth anniversary on September 18 with record ridership.

More than a quarter of a million passenger trips were taken aboard the Star during the fiscal year ending June 30, a new record for the Middle Tennessee regional train.

The 250,626 passenger trips taken during the fiscal year represents a 24 percent increase compared to the previous fiscal year ending June 30, 2010.

Since the first complete fiscal year of service that ended in June 2008, ridership on the Star has increased 50 percent.

“We are very pleased with the number of people riding the Music City Star,” RTA Board Chair Jo Ann Graves said. “The fifth anniversary also is a very significant milestone. It validates the importance of the service to the citizens it serves in Middle Tennessee and demonstrates how important public transit investments are to the future of the region.”

Average daily ridership also is on the rise. In July 2011, an average of 1,225 passenger trips were taken daily on the Star compared to 843 average passenger trips in July 2010, an increase of 45 percent.

In 2011, the Music City Star already has set single-month records for ridership three times, most recently in June with 26,989 passenger trips.

In addition, the Star set a new single-day ridership record on April 19 with 1,374 passenger trips.

“It is an outstanding accomplishment for the Music City Star to hit this milestone. Everyone in Lebanon and Wilson County should be pleased that the state’s first modern day regional train serves our county,” RTA East Corridor Steering Committee Chair and Lebanon Mayor Philip Craighead said. “Ridership is better than ever, and we all need to support our train and mass transit in the region.”

The Music City Star makes three morning and afternoon trips weekdays from Wilson County to downtown Nashville and back. An additional Friday evening trip is offered for people who want to enjoy fine dining, music and the excitement of Music City. Advance purchase one-way tickets range from \$4.25 to \$5 at Hermitage, Mt. Juliet, Martha and Lebanon stations and \$1.60 at Donelson Station.

General information about the Music City Star is available online at musiccitystar.org. Customers also may contact Customer Care at (615) 862-5950 weekdays from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Attached is a graph of Music City Star’s ridership for the past five years.

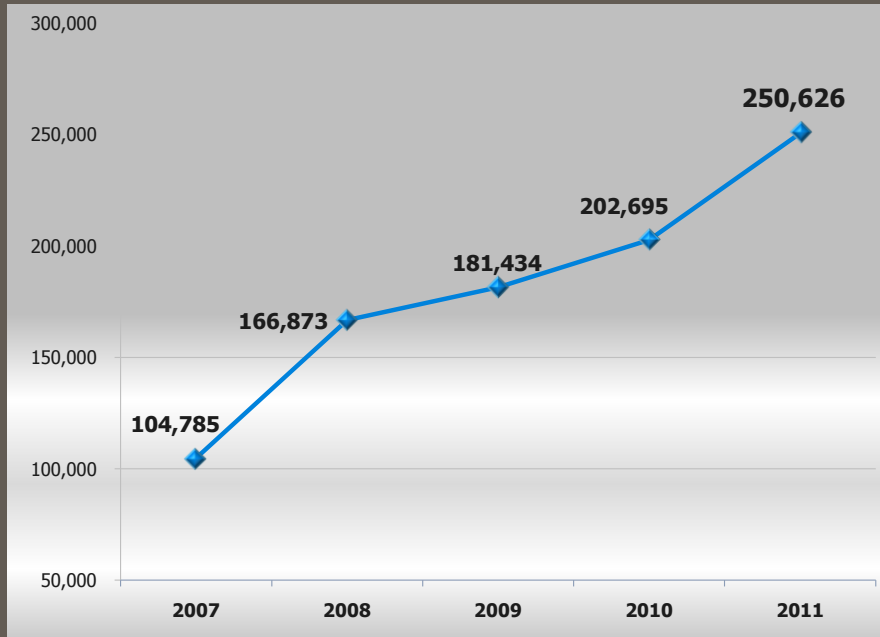
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Music City Star Ridership



Annual Ridership FY 2007 – 2011



To celebrate the fifth anniversary, Friday, Sept. 16 is Customer Appreciation Day for Music City Star riders. Wilson Bank & Trust will provide free coffee to customers at all of the train stations in the morning and the RTA staff will provide light refreshments and special gifts to train customers Friday afternoon at Riverfront Station beginning at 4 p.m. In addition, a drawing will be held for two club-level tickets to the Tennessee Titans' game against the Houston Texans at LP Field on October 23.

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