

Metro Transit Authority Collection

Collection Summary

Title: Metro Transit Authority Collection

Summary: A collection of artifacts, clippings, correspondence, ephemera, historical materials, minutes, publications, and reports relating to the history and activities of the Metropolitan Transit Authority. Dates range between 1879 and 2002.

Physical Description: 16 boxes; 7.04 linear feet

Language: English

Stack Location: Section 9, shelves 22-24

Repository: Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville-Davidson County, 615 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37219

Historical/Biographical Note:

The Metropolitan Transit Authority was first chartered in 1973, after the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County applied for a federal grant to purchase the Nashville Transit Company, thus creating a transfer from private to public ownership.

Public transportation in Nashville itself has a long history, beginning with the McGavock and Mt. Vernon Horse Railroad Company and the South Nashville Street Railroad Company in 1860. Both companies used steam and mules in order to power rail cars, and Nashville's first electric streetcar was later introduced in 1889.

Between 1865 and 1890, a number of independent transit companies were formed, merged, and disbanded, until they eventually consolidated into the United Electric Railway. In the late 1890s, the Nashville Street Railway Company consolidated with all remaining competing lines, and later the Nashville Railway and Light Company was organized to take over the Nashville Railway and the Cumberland Electric Light and Power Company.

The Nashville Railway and Light Company operated its services by electric railway until 1926, when the operation of buses was introduced. In 1930, the Tennessee Electric Power Company took over, and it later phased out the streetcar system in the early 1940s. The name of the company was then changed to Southern Coach Lines, Inc., and later changed to Nashville Transit Company in 1953.

Today, the Metropolitan Transit Authority offers over 50 bus routes and serves over ten million riders in Nashville annually.

Scope and Contents of the Collection:

This collection contains artifacts, newspaper clippings, minutes, publications, reports and assorted ephemera relating to the history, operation, and services of the Metro Transit Authority. The dates range from 1879 to 2002, and the materials help to document the advancement of Nashville's public transportation system and its impact on community development within the city. Some maps, routes, and schedules are included, as well as reports documenting income and expenses, plans for public transportation, and needs analysis. This collection depicts Nashville's continuous growth through the lens of public transportation history, and provides a record of Nashville's streetcar lines as well as its bus routes.

Index Terms:

Subjects:

Buses.

Nashville and Davidson County (Tenn.) Metropolitan Transit Authority

Public transit.

Public transportation

Streetcar lines

Streetcars

Transportation.

Transportation and community development

Related Collections:

David H. Steinberg Collection

Metro Transit Authority Photographs Collection

Ralcon Wagner Collection

Arrangement:

This collection is arranged into ten series: *artifacts, clippings, correspondence, ephemera, grant applications, history, legislation, minutes, publications, and reports*. Series are arranged alphabetically.

The *artifacts* series contains a bus horn, a film from the GMC Truck and Coach Division entitled "Fact of the Matter," coins taken from an MTA bus token machine, and a book of orders from the Nashville Railway and Light Company. The *clippings* series contains various newspaper and press clippings relating to the Metro Transit Authority and public transportation. Most clippings are focused on Nashville.

The *correspondence* series contains some general correspondence from within the MTA, as well as a memorandum about a public opinion survey on heated bus shelters and ridesharing services.

Ephemera contains advertisements, brochures, flyers, invitations, routes and schedules, and time cards. Some noteworthy items in this series are leaflets urging for the economic withdrawal movement for civil rights, materials relating to the inauguration of MTA, and a leaflet regarding the features of a new MTA coach in 1974.

The *grant applications* series contains applications for two grants: a capital acquisition grant, and a demonstration grant for the UMTA marketing study.

The *history* series contains materials relating to the history of MTA and public transportation in Nashville. Included in this series are essays, slide presentations, and data reports.

Legislation includes a resolution authorizing the Metropolitan County Mayor to make and file an application for a federal grant to assist in the purchase of upgrading the mass transit system, appropriations, and an approval of a contract between the Nashville Railway and Light Co., the Department of Highways and Public Works, and the Davidson County Highway Commission for the improvement of Harding Road.

The *minutes* series contains meeting minutes from the Metro Transit Authority.

The *publications* series contains various materials dealing with mass transportation, newsletters and magazines, proceedings, and compilations of court documents.

The *reports* series includes financial statements, income, expense, and statistical reports, population and housing, and progress reports.

Contents Listing:

Safe:

Artifacts--Bus Horn

Artifact Box:

Artifacts--Film (GMC Truck and Coach Division)

Box 1:

Artifacts--MTA Coins

Box 2:

Artifacts--Order Book, 1903-1915

Box 3:

Folder 1: Clippings--Advertisements, 1949-1951
Folder 2: Clippings--ATA Man of the Year, 1970
Folder 3: Clippings--Cleveland Railway Company, c.1930
Folder 4: Clippings--First Electric Street Car, 1889
Folder 5: Clippings--General, 1940-1949
Folder 6: Clippings--General, 1950-1959
Folder 7: Clippings--General, 1960 (originals)
Folder 8: Clippings--General, 1960 (copies)
Folder 9: Clippings--General, 1960-1969
Folder 10: Clippings--General, 1970-1979
Folder 11: Clippings--General, 1990-2000
Folder 12: Clippings--General, 1994
Folder 13: Clippings--General, 1995

Box 4:

Folder 1: Clippings--General, 1996
Folder 2: Clippings--Nashville Business Journal, 1993-1997
Folder 3: Clippings--Press Clippings, 1992
Folder 4: Correspondence--General, 1940-1949
Folder 5: Correspondence--General, 1950-1959
Folder 6: Correspondence--General, 1960
Folder 7: Correspondence--General, 1980-1989
Folder 8: Correspondence--Public Opinion Survey, 1961
Folder 9: Correspondence--Ridesharing Services, c.1980
Folder 10: Ephemera--Advertisements, c.1980s
Folder 11: Ephemera--Alex Haley Celebration, 1977
Folder 12: Ephemera--Brochures, c.1980s
Folder 13: Ephemera--Bus Fare Changes, 1972
Folder 14: Ephemera--Civil Rights, c.1960s
Folder 15: Ephemera--Copacabana, c.1950s
Folder 16: Ephemera--Exact Fare Program, c.1969
Folder 17: Ephemera--Inauguration of MTA, 1973
Folder 18: Ephemera--New MTA Coach, 1974
Folder 19: Ephemera--Press Release, c.1975
Folder 20: Ephemera--Reader's Digest Press Release, n.d.
Folder 21: Ephemera--Routes and Schedules, 1926-1984
Folder 22: Ephemera--Time Card, 1888
Folder 23: Grant Applications--Capital Acquisition Grant, 1972
Folder 24: Grant Applications--Demonstration Grant, 1975

Box 5:

Folder 1: History--Day the Buses Disappeared, The, n.d.
Folder 2: History--History of MTA, n.d.
Folder 3: History--History of Public Transportation, n.d.
Folder 4: History--History of Public Transportation in Nashville, 1951-1973

Folder 5: History--History of the Street Railway System, n.d.
Folder 6: History--History of Transportation, n.d.
Folder 7: History--Maxwell House Menu, 1879
Folder 8: History--Mileage Data, 1946-1990
Folder 9: History--MTA Slide Presentation, 1977
Folder 10: History--Plaque Display Information, 1979
Folder 11: History--Street Railway System, n.d.
Folder 12: Legislation--Application for Grant, 1972
Folder 13: Legislation--Appropriations, 1972
Folder 14: Legislation--Approval of Contract, 1930
Folder 15: Minutes--Aug.-Dec. 1986
Folder 16: Minutes--Jan.-Dec. 1987
Folder 17: Minutes--Jan.-Dec. 1988
Folder 18: Minutes--Jan.-Dec. 1989
Folder 19: Minutes--Jan.-Dec. 1990
Folder 20: Minutes--Jan.-Dec. 1991
Folder 21: Minutes--Jan.-Dec. 1992
Folder 22: Minutes--Jan.-Dec.-1993
Folder 23: Publications--Agreement and By-Laws, 1966
Folder 24: Publications--ATE Directory, 1987
Folder 25: Publications--*Bank Data*, 1980
Folder 26: Publications--*Bus Review*, 1974
Folder 27: Publications--*Bus Ride*, 1972
Folder 28: Publications--Contract No. 36, 1989-1990

Box 6:
Folder 1: Publications--*Daily Commuter, The*, 1982-1983
Folder 2: Publications--Disability and Retirement Allowance Plan, 1950-1956
Folder 4: Publications--Land and Title Department, Book 54, n.d.

Box 7:
Folder 1: Publications--Land and Title Department, Book 55, n.d.

Box 8:
Folder 1: Publications--Land and Title Department, Book 55, n.d.
Folder 2: Publications--*Line-Up, The*, 1978
Folder 3: Publications--Lookout Mountain Incline Railway, c.1990
Folder 4: Publications--Memorandum of Agreement, 1949-1953
Folder 5: Publications--Memorandum of Agreement, 1956-1970
Folder 6: Publications--Memorandum of Agreement, 1973-1984

Box 9:
Folder 1: Publications--Memorandum of Agreement, 1990-2002
Folder 2: Publications--Model Traffic Ordinance, 1953
Folder 3: Publications--*Motor Coach Age*, 1986
Folder 4: Publications--*MTA Reports*, 1974-1977
Folder 5: Publications--*Nashville*, 1978

Folder 6: Publications--*Nashville!* Magazine, 1974
Folder 7: Publications--Nashville Railway and Light Company, 1860-1911
Folder 8: Publications--Proceedings of the American Transit Association, 1946

Box 10:

Folder 1: Publications--Proceedings of the American Transit Association, 1947
Folder 2: Publications--Proceedings of the American Transit Association, 1948
Folder 3: Publications--Proceedings of the American Transit Association, 1949
Folder 4: Publications--Public Service Careers, 1979
Folder 5: Publications--*Read as You Ride*, 1923
Folder 6: Publications--*Southern Coachman, The*, 1947-1949
Folder 7: Publications--Tour Guide Script, c.1980s

Box 11:

Folder 1: Publications--Traffic and Parking Code, 1988
Folder 2: Publications--Transportation Franchise in the City of Nashville, v. 1, 1920-1942
Folder 3: Publications--Transportation Franchise in the City of Nashville, v. 1, 1920-1942

Box 12:

Folder 1: Publications--Transportation Franchise in the City of Nashville, v. 1, 1920-1942
Folder 2: Publications--Transportation Franchise in the City of Nashville, v. 2, 1946-1952

Box 13:

Folder 1: Publications--Transportation Franchise in the City of Nashville, v. 2, 1946-1952
Folder 2: Publications--Truck Repair and Service Directory, 1958
Folder 3: Reports--Automobile Schedule, 1950
Folder 4: Reports--Committee for Community Excellence, 1983
Folder 5: Reports--Electrolytic Mitigation, 1907
Folder 6: Reports--Feasibility Study, 1978
Folder 7: Reports--Financial Statements, 1967-1970
Folder 8: Reports--Financial Statements, 1971-1974
Folder 9: Reports--Five Year Plan for Transit, 1986

Box 14:

Folder 1: Reports--Improvements in Facilities, Fares and Service, 1972
Folder 2: Reports--Income, Expense and Statistical Reports, 1973-1976
Folder 3: Reports--Income, Expense and Statistical Reports, 1977-1978
Folder 4: Reports--Income, Expense and Statistical Reports, 1979
Folder 5: Reports--Income, Expense and Statistical Reports, 1980
Folder 6: Reports--Income, Expense and Statistical Reports, 1981
Folder 7: Reports--Income, Expense and Statistical Reports, 1982-1983
Folder 8: Reports--Income, Expense and Statistical Reports, 1984

Box 15:

Folder 1: Reports--Income, Expense and Statistical Reports, 1985
Folder 2: Reports--Income, Expense and Statistical Reports, 1987
Folder 3: Reports--Income, Expense and Statistical Reports, 1988
Folder 4: Reports--Income, Expense and Statistical Reports, 1989
Folder 5: Reports--Income, Expense and Statistical Reports, 1990-1992
Folder 6: Reports--Management by Objective, c.1979
Folder 7: Reports--Motor Vehicle Registration, 1919-1967
Folder 8: Reports--MTA Facts, 1977-1978
Folder 9: Reports--Operational Achievements, 1969-1977
Folder 10: Reports--Park-Ride Proposal, 1957
Folder 11: Reports--Population and Housing, 1942
Folder 12: Reports--Population by Census Tracts, c.1950
Folder 13: Reports--Schedule and Work Analysis, 1969-1976
Folder 14: Reports--Schedules, 1982

Box 16:

Folder 1: Reports--Study of Urban Transportation, 1961
Folder 2: Reports--Supervisor's Log, 1951
Folder 3: Reports--Task Force on Mass Transit, 1986
Folder 4: Reports--Ten Year Report, 1983
Folder 5: Reports--Transit Marketing Project, 1975
Folder 6: Reports--Transit Marketing Project, 1975
Folder 7: Reports--Transit Needs Analysis, 1986
Folder 8: Reports--Vendor List, n.d.

Restrictions:

Restrictions on Access: In-library use only.

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Administrative Information:

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Provenance: Metropolitan Transit Authority

Processing Information: Processed by Kelley Sirko, August 2017.

Accruals: No further accruals expected.