

Mayor Cooper's Four-Year Commitment Tracker

Following the release of his First 100 Day Report, Mayor John Cooper published his administration’s Commitment Tracker, which listed 50 promises made by Mayor Cooper during the 2019 mayoral campaign. Following through on these commitments will be Mayor Cooper’s focus over the next four years. [Current count is 51]

“I intend for this commitment tracker to be a transparent resource for residents as well as an accountability mechanism for my team. Tracking my administration’s progress on these fifty commitments will help keep us focused on core priorities over the next four years. I campaigned with a 47-page policy platform, and I want to be clear that I intend to follow through on the commitments I made. I’m encouraged by the progress we’ve made in the first 100 days, and I recognize the important work ahead to make Nashville a city that works for everyone.”

-Mayor John Cooper

The database will be updated monthly by the Mayor’s Office. [Updated 1/17/20 to reflect an existing commitment to firefighters and better pay as a component of public safety]

#	Policy Priority Area	Commitment	Status
1	Financial Stewardship	"Obtain additional revenue from tourism and development." (Policy Platform, page 8)	Successful. Mayor Cooper secured: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a \$12.1 million annual Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) from the Convention Center Authority • an additional \$3.6 million payment from the Nashville Convention & Visitors Corp for FY2019-20.
2	Financial Stewardship	"The Music City Center does not pay property taxes; perhaps it should before we raise residents’ property taxes." (Policy Platform, page 10)	See above. Mayor Cooper secured a \$12.1 million annual PILOT from the Convention Center Authority.
3	Financial Stewardship	"I will provide robust support for the Blue Ribbon Commission to identify savings and revenue opportunities." (Policy Platform, page 13)	In progress. The BRC is currently focused on tourism costs and revenues.

4	Financial Stewardship	"Bad deals and park giveaways will end when I become mayor." (Policy Platform, page 16)	In progress. The Mayor's Office is working closely with Economic and Community Development staff on strategies that emphasize community development and preserve our city's green spaces.
5	Financial Stewardship	"MNPDP spent more than \$4 million on special events overtime through the end of April 2019 ... Private events need to begin paying for their own costs." (Policy Platform, page 11)	In planning. The Mayor's Office has met with MNPDP to discuss solutions to police overtime spent on private events.
6	Financial Stewardship	"I am running for mayor to provide sound financial management...and get our city's finances back on track." (Policy Platform, page 14)	On track. In response to a presentation by the state comptroller, who expressed serious concerns with Metro's \$42 million budget shortfall, the Mayor's Office recently submitted a balanced budget and corrective action plan that was approved by the state comptroller's office. •Part of the budget solution was updating Metro Water Services' PILOT, which resulted in an additional \$10 million annually.
	Policy Priority Area	Commitment	Status
7	Education	"As mayor, I will commit to directing over half of new revenue into our school system." (Policy Platform, page 37)	Assessing feasibility for FY2021.
8	Education	"I will join the voices of those advocating at the state level for revisions to the Basic Education Program funding formula to better account for the needs of urban districts and secure more funding for our schools." (Policy Platform, page 37)	In planning.

9	Education	Pay raises to MNPS staff. "As mayor, I am committed to finding mechanisms to not simply provide one-time raises for teachers but also finding a longer-term, sustainable vision for teacher salaries that provide the opportunity for more growth over time." (Policy Platform, page 38)	In progress. Mayor Cooper commissioned an expert compensation study to understand how we can better attract and retain educators through the creation and implementation of a strategic long-term compensation plan. Results of the study expected in February 2020.
	Policy Priority Area	Commitment	Status
10	Affordable Housing	The Barnes Fund needs a dependable source of funding and I will work with the community to create one. (Policy Platform, page 32)	Negative movement due to current budget constraints, but Mayor Cooper stands by this commitment. Part of the fall 2019 Barnes Fund grant round was delayed, which was a difficult decision made in order to plug the city's \$42 million budget gap and prevent state supervision of the city's finances. Mayor Cooper is fully committed to making the Barnes Fund whole as well as making sure it is effective.
11	Affordable Housing	"I will facilitate the creation of a real ten-year plan to preserve and create a meaningful number of affordable housing units at an appropriate price with measurable results." (Policy Platform, page 4)	In planning.
12	Affordable Housing	Cooper wants to include affordable housing "as part of every development Metro incentivizes." (Policy Platform, page 19)	In planning.
13	Affordable Housing	"I will also explore ways to use tax increment financing for affordable housing with the end goal of putting workers closer to jobs. As mayor, I will define a strategy for when and how to use TIF on affordable housing projects. (Policy Platform, page 32)	In planning.

14	Affordable Housing	Establish a revolving loan fund for affordable housing, seeded with an initial \$10 million from Metro. (Policy Platform, page 33)	In planning.
15	Affordable Housing	"We need to bring real expertise to housing policy and get it out from under the political purview of the Mayor's Office." (Policy Platform, page 33)	In planning.
16	Affordable Housing	Improve the functioning of MDHA. "I want the Metro Development and Housing Agency to focus on the housing part of its mission, rather than just the development aspect." (Policy Platform, page 33)	In progress. Mayor Cooper appointed Paulette Coleman, founding chair of Nashville Organized for Action and Hope's affordable housing task force, to the MDHA Board of Commissioners. Her appointment along with former Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell, a passionate advocate for affordable housing, represents a determined effort to reshape the board and focus its efforts on housing.
	Policy Priority Area	Commitment	Status
17	Neighborhoods	Invest in stormwater infrastructure. (Policy Platform, page 6)	Substantial investments made. In October 2019, Mayor Cooper redirected \$17.5 million from the stalled SoBro-Gulch pedestrian bridge project. Funds were diverted immediately to neighborhood infrastructure projects, including \$13.63 million for 52 separate culvert and bridge projects in 24 council districts around the county.

18	Neighborhoods	Make 25 mph the default speed limit for neighborhood streets to ensure that residents are kept safe. (Policy Platform, page 27)	Successful. Implementation in progress. In October 2019, the Mayor's Office announced the rollout of lower speed limits in neighborhood streets. The neighborhood speed limit reduction initiative will impact neighborhood streets currently signed at 30 mph, reducing the posted speed limit to 25 mph.
19	Neighborhoods	"We need to find ways to significantly lower our cost per linear foot of new sidewalk [construction]. We should bring some of the sidewalk project work in-house at Metro Public Works because we know sidewalks are going to be a stable long-term capital spending need." (Policy Platform, page 26)	In progress, Mayor's Office has been evaluating costs.
20	Neighborhoods	Jefferson Street. "It needs to be this incredible path into the 21st century, and that's going to require a redevelopment plan. That's going to require infrastructure and that's requiring all of these separate [university] campuses connecting to this plan that in the future people are going to go, 'Wow, that is the greatest street in the South.'"	In planning.
21	Neighborhoods	"I will commit to a goal of raising the percentage of Nashvillians who live within a 10-minute walk of a park from 37 to 50 percent." (Policy Platform pages 45-46)	Assessing feasibility.
22	Neighborhoods	"Our parks system is unusually dependent on a single source of funding compared to park systems in our peer cities. We need to find new ways to finance programs so residents can have greater access to these resources. Other cities have found new funding sources by creating citywide park improvement districts and by creating business improvement districts around parks, identifying sponsorship opportunities, and developing more robust public-private partnerships to support our parks." (Policy Platform page 46)	Assessing feasibility.

23	Neighborhoods	"I will direct Parks to develop new ways to receive feedback, including working with neighborhood advisory groups to solicit input." (Policy Platform, page 46)	In planning.
24	Neighborhoods	"As for parking privatization, I will not as mayor be sending that to council." (Policy Platform, page 8)	Commitment fulfilled. As promised, Mayor Cooper decided not to move forward with the previous parking privatization plan and the procurement was subsequently nullified by the courts.
25	Neighborhoods	"Without programs that make it possible for small businesses to continue, we risk losing the foundation of what makes our city and neighborhoods unique. We should do more to target incentives to help entrepreneurs start and grow businesses here." (Policy Platform, page 23)	In planning.
26	Neighborhoods	Direct Metro Parks, Public Works and Water Services to work together to expand green infrastructure such as retention ponds and bioswales. (Policy Platform, page 46)	In planning. Mayor Cooper formed a sustainability advisory board that will review this concept.
	Policy Priority Area	Commitment	Status
27	Transportation	"As mayor, I am committed to developing a people-first transportation plan that is focused on helping you get to where you work and where you live in a timely, safe, and cost-effective manner. I will present a fiscally responsible [transportation] plan within my first year in office." (Policy Platform, page 6)	In progress. Mayor Cooper announced a transportation planning timeline to conclude by end of September 2020.
28	Transportation	Planning. "I will start by listening to the residents of this city. I commit to creating and publishing a public engagement plan for transportation planning." (Policy Platform, page 28)	In progress. Mayor Cooper's transportation team will conduct at least 11 public listening sessions in January and February 2020, with additional listening sessions occurring with community and stakeholder groups.

29	Transportation	Connectivity. "Connect neighborhoods through bus system improvements, and invest in infrastructure like sidewalks to improve pedestrian safety." (Policy Platform, page 6)	In planning.
30	Transportation	Traffic. Fix problem intersections, utilize smart traffic signals to better control traffic, widen turning lanes on key routes, and limit construction lane closures. (Policy Platform, page 25)	In planning.
31	Transportation	"Let's stop placing bus stops in ditches and instead create covered, well-lit stops where people can wait safely and comfortably." (Policy Platform, page 25)	In planning.
32	Transportation	"Only 12.9% of Davidson County households live within a half mile of high-frequency bus service at rush hour. I'm committed to increasing that to 25% and also bringing the percentage of households living within a 1/2 mile of all-day frequent service up from 9% to 12.9%." (Policy Platform, page 25)	Assessing feasibility. Transportation planning is underway.
33	Transportation	"Moving forward, the Nashville Connector Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program should have sustained support and all corporations that receive any sort of incentive funding from the city should be required to have strong TDM plans in place." (Policy Platform, page 26)	In planning.
34	Transportation	Traffic Calming. "Calming traffic in pedestrian-heavy areas using actual physical measures such as reduced lane widths, speed tables, raised crosswalks, roundabouts, curb extensions, and better lighting are reasonable cost solutions and best practices that we must implement." (Policy Platform, page 27)	Progress made. In October 2019, Mayor Cooper redirected \$17.5 million from the stalled SoBro-Gulch pedestrian bridge project. Funds were diverted immediately to neighborhood infrastructure projects, including \$1.5 million for traffic calming.
35	Transportation	Create a Metro Nashville Department of Transportation. (Policy Platform, page 27)	In planning.

36	Transportation	"WeGo needs more funding, not less, to ensure that it is accessible, fast, frequent, and reliable. ... Let's actually listen to the requests of those who use public transportation by having buses run more frequently and extend the hours buses operate." (Policy Platform, page 25)	In planning. Meetings have been held with WeGo leadership and Mayor Cooper will continue discussions during the FY 2021 budget process.
	Policy Priority Area	Commitment	Status
37	Public Safety	"Body cams are important. It's important for people to realize that it is a very expensive undertaking. We need to do body cameras but we need to get them done right. So have a test period that evaluates the technology and the process. ... The cost makes you have to make sure that the pilot program works and is successful." (WKRN, 7/9/19)	Progress as of 12/10/19: Following the construction of necessary wireless video upload infrastructure, MNPd will deploy approximately 24 BWCs in March to officers in its DUI and Traffic Enforcement Units to test the new network. In May, when upload infrastructure is completed in all 8 precincts, MNPd will deploy an additional 20 BWCs in "beta" for 3 months. The purpose of the beta rollout is to determine all-in costs and fine-tune operational procedures. The pilot will last for 3-6 months, at which point the Mayor's Office will evaluate the results with expert technical advisors. The Mayor's Office is working through remaining policy issues.
38	Public Safety	"Nashville needs all of the approximately 1,500 police positions funded." (Policy Platform, page 41) "I will fill the 100+ officer vacancies in the police department." (campaign mailer)	In planning. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •As of December 23, 2020, MNPd has 110 officer vacancies. •Mayor Cooper is in conversations with MNPd and the FOP about how to address this issue. •Human Resources has a compensation study underway.

39	Public Safety	"Fully staff our E-911 call center." (campaign mailer)	<p>In planning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor Cooper has met with representatives from SEIU Local 205, and staff from the Mayor's Office has had discussions with Human Resources to better understand the unique resource challenges at the Emergency Communications Center. • HR has recently published a job posting for a new DEC Director. • Mayor Cooper reviews weekly public safety rates and performance stats with department leadership of MNPd, NFD, OEM and DEC.
40	Public Safety	"After consulting with residents and with policy leadership, I will ask the police chief to set specific goals for reducing crime, reducing unnecessary uses of force, and improving public levels of satisfaction with the police." (Policy Platform, page 41)	<p>In progress.</p> <p>One early result of conversations and collaboration with MNPd is that the Police Department and the Community Oversight Board agreed to participate in discussions initiated and facilitated by the Mayor's Office leading to a Memorandum of Understanding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor Cooper reviews public safety rates and performance stats weekly with MNPd leadership.
41	Public Safety	"My administration will reinstitute the practice of conducting an annual survey to measure public levels of trust in the police." (Policy Platform page 41)	<p>In planning.</p>
42	Public Safety	"We need implicit bias and de-escalation training that goes above-and-beyond the standards required by the State of Tennessee." (Policy Platform page 42)	<p>In planning.</p>

43	Public Safety	"In consultation with our police department, I will also direct our department to identify proven, evidence-based programs to target our most serious challenges, such as gun violence." (Policy Platform, page 43)	In planning.
44	Public Safety	Create a public safety subcabinet that brings together representatives for MNP, Sheriff, District Attorney, Public Defender, the Division of Youth Services, Community Oversight Board, Office of Family Safety, probation and parole, and representatives from non-profit and faith-based groups. (Policy Platform, page 42)	Evaluating efficacy.
45	Public Safety	"I pledge to attend police-resident meetings in every precinct each year as Mayor." (campaign mailer)	In planning. Mayor Cooper has visited police precincts and held monthly Mayor's Night Out events. The Mayor's Office is currently scheduling police-resident meetings in each of the 8 precincts for 2020.
46	Public Safety	Promote officer safety and wellness, which is a pillar of President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. This includes providing officers with "technological support" and "full access to mental health resources." (Policy Platform, page 43)	In planning.
47	Public Safety	"Our police and firefighters work hard to keep our city safe, but they need more support from City Hall. John Cooper will deliver more resources to ensure property staffing levels are met and better pay for our first responders who protect our families." (Campaign mailer, September 2019)	In planning.
	Policy Priority Area	Commitment	Status

48	Ethics and Transparency	The mayor wants to "develop an enforceable ethics code that would apply to all Metro departments and employees." (Policy Platform, page 19)	In progress. Mayor Cooper has commissioned a Public Integrity Task Force to review current practices related to ethics and government transparency.
49	Ethics and Transparency	"Work with Metro Council to create an independent Metro Inspector General." (Policy Platform, page 19)	In progress. Mayor Cooper has commissioned a Public Integrity Task Force to examine the need for an independent Inspector General to work with Metro as well as the Office of Internal Audit.
50	Ethics and Transparency	Conduct performance reviews of Metro departments and agencies to improve effectiveness and increase transparency of how tax dollars are spent. (Policy Platform, page 13)	In progress. Mayor Cooper has tasked Kristin Wilson, Chief of Operations and Performance, with the responsibility of conducting performance reviews of Metro departments and agencies. The Mayor's Office has also hired Diego Eguiarte as Director of Performance Management to identify areas of performance improvement within Metro Government.
51	Ethics and Transparency	"Review Metro's current open records practices, to make sure that the public's work is being done in a lawful, transparent, and public way." (Policy Platform, page 19)	In progress. Mayor Cooper has commissioned a Public Integrity Task Force to review Metro Government's current open meeting and public records policies.