

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES



The Guiding Principles are the fundamental values expressed by Nashvillians throughout the process of creating NashvilleNext. They were created, refined, and reviewed during the first year of the planning process. Afterwards, they set direction for the rest of the work of the plan. These Principles guided each Resource Team in creating their Elements' Goals & Policies. The Principles also shaped the three Alternate Futures.

Once adopted, the Guiding Principles continue to provide the longest term view of what the plan intends to achieve. Actions, maps, policies, and even goals change in response to successes, setbacks, opportunities, and circumstances, but the Guiding Principles should change only in response to a substantial change in public sentiment.

# Opportunity is about equity and fairness for all.

Nashville and the region are becoming more racially, ethnically and age diverse. For our region to continue to prosper, everyone needs equitable access to opportunities to advance their well-being regardless of their circumstances. Inequities and lack of access to basic services, jobs and housing prevent residents from fully participating in our community, its economy and civic life. We all gain from creating a place where all people can improve their lives and contribute to the larger community. Meaningful opportunities for all is both a means to a healthy, prosperous, resilient community and an end that will benefit the entire community.

- » We will recognize the critical importance of equity and integrate it into our decisions and policies, as well as our practices and methods for engaging communities. By doing so, we will expand opportunities for all residents, meeting the needs of their unique communities.
- » We celebrate our diversity and capitalize on the talents and resources across our diverse city to achieve our economic, social and physical potential.
- » We commit to work in partnership to create a fair and just system so that all residents can fulfill their potential.



# ENSURE OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL



## In 2040,

- » Nashville is stronger because it values diversity in all its forms.
- » Providing meaningful access for full participation for all is central to Nashville's culture. As Nashville changes and decisions are made, we have remained committed to equity and inclusion.
- » All Nashvillians, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, ability, income, gender, sexual orientation, where they were born, or where they live, are welcome and their voices are valued.
- » We are vigilant in protecting human rights for all to provide for inclusive civic life.
- » Nashville ensures that all communities are engaged in decision making and share in the city's growth, prosperity, and quality of life.



## Impact Action Items

- » Review annually the progress of Metro and the city in improving opportunity and inclusion and reducing disparities.
- » Base future planning processes on inclusive community engagement.
- » Integrate new Nashvillians into neighborhoods and the community, with particular focus on New Americans.
- » Provide high speed Internet access to all communities.

# Accessibility is critical for equity.

Today's society has become accustomed to having choices—in housing, transportation, education, jobs, and recreation, among others. To allow for choice and encourage opportunity, Nashvillians of all ages, incomes, and abilities need access to basic things—safe, affordable, and accessible housing, employment opportunities, healthy and affordable food, transportation options, recreation, a sustainable natural environment, well-designed places to gather and connect with neighbors, and, increasingly, choice and access to evolving technology to participate in today's active online world.

- » We will provide transportation choices in all communities so people have the choice to travel by foot, bicycle, car, or transit to make jobs, education, and daily needs accessible while creating a healthier and more sustainable community.
- » We will provide our community with tools and resources to access the fundamental needs for growth and enhancement of life regardless of age, background, or ability.



# EXPAND ACCESSIBILITY



In 2040,

- » Nashville is accessible, allowing all Nashvillians to come together to work, to play, to learn, and to create community, regardless of background or ability.
- » Nashville's accessibility extends to transportation, employment and educational opportunities, online capabilities, civic representation, access to nature and recreation, and government services.
- » In Nashville, we are all able to participate and contribute to community decision-making and the future of our community.



## Impact Action Items

- » Create a high capacity transit system to provide genuine accessibility to jobs, housing, and services, as well as regional connectivity.
- » Establish a sufficient and ongoing funding source for the Barnes Housing Fund.
- » Remove barriers and expand opportunities for diverse housing options for all.

# Access to prosperity improves all.

Nashville has long thrived due to a historically diversified economy. Our diversified economy relies on providing work for low-, moderate- and high-skilled workers; providing pathways for individuals to improve their skills and earning power; and providing a low cost of living, which draws workers of all skill levels to Nashville.

To build upon our prosperity, we must continue to grow our creative and innovative culture, maintain our city's affordability, increase our quality of life, and create, attract, and develop workforce talent. Meanwhile, Nashville's prosperity has not reached everyone. More can be done to create pathways for all Nashvillians to provide for themselves and their families and contribute to our rich economy.

- » We will strive to keep Nashville affordable for the broad range of residents who call Nashville “home” and who contribute to its economy, community, and civic life.
- » We will prioritize policy and infrastructure investments in housing, education, and mobility needed to draw new employers and create opportunity for broader participation in our growing economic base.
- » We recognize the importance of creating, retaining, and recruiting businesses and providing appropriate locations for evolving economic activities.
- » We will support local hiring and improve job training options for our community.
- » We will identify and reduce barriers and expand opportunities for all to participate in our economic prosperity.



# CREATE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY



In 2040,

- » Nashville's economy is diverse, dynamic, and open. It benefits from our culture of arts, creativity, and entrepreneurialism.
- » Our strong workforce and high quality of life make Nashville's economy nationally and internationally competitive.
- » Nashville's success is based on promoting opportunities for individual growth and success, for small and local businesses and entrepreneurs.
- » To provide a foundation for future growth and prosperity, Nashville meets its infrastructure needs in an environmentally responsible way.

## Impact Action Items

- » Identify and support investment ready business locations.
- » Strategically prioritize public investments in designated centers to coordinate public and private investment.
- » Match workforce development opportunities to growing economic sectors.



# Neighborhoods are the heart and soul of Nashville.

Nashville is stronger due its diverse neighborhoods in rural, suburban, and urban settings. Neighborhoods throughout Nashville should be both complete and strong. Nashville has many “complete” neighborhoods that provide choices and opportunities in housing and transportation and have access to employment, education, and recreation. Nashville has many “strong” neighborhoods whose residents enjoy rich social connections, opportunities for success in life, and voices that are heard in the decisions that affect them. We will strive to expand the qualities of completeness and strength to all neighborhoods in Nashville.

- » We are committed to addressing housing challenges and solutions through an inclusive, equitable, and holistic approach that balances the need for more housing, and a diversity of housing, with a commitment to preserving the character of neighborhoods.
- » We recognize that different choices between rural, suburban, and urban neighborhoods reflect our rich history and diversity and will ensure that, as neighborhoods become more complete, they will retain and enhance the basic elements of their character.
- » We will promote fair and equal access to housing; address current and future housing needs and resolve the geographic mismatch between housing, employment, support services, and facilities.



# FOSTER STRONG NEIGHBORHOODS



In 2040,

- » Neighborhoods are the building blocks of our community: they are where we live, work, shop, and gather as a community.
- » Our neighborhoods are complete. They are healthy, safe, affordable, and connected – with vibrant parks, welcoming libraries, accessible shopping and employment, valued and protected natural features and strong schools.
- » Our diverse neighborhoods give our community character and grow with us as we move into the future.



## Impact Action Items

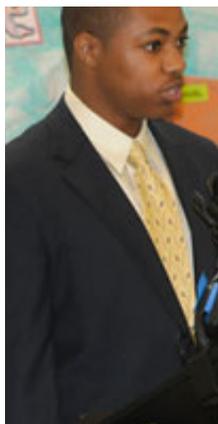
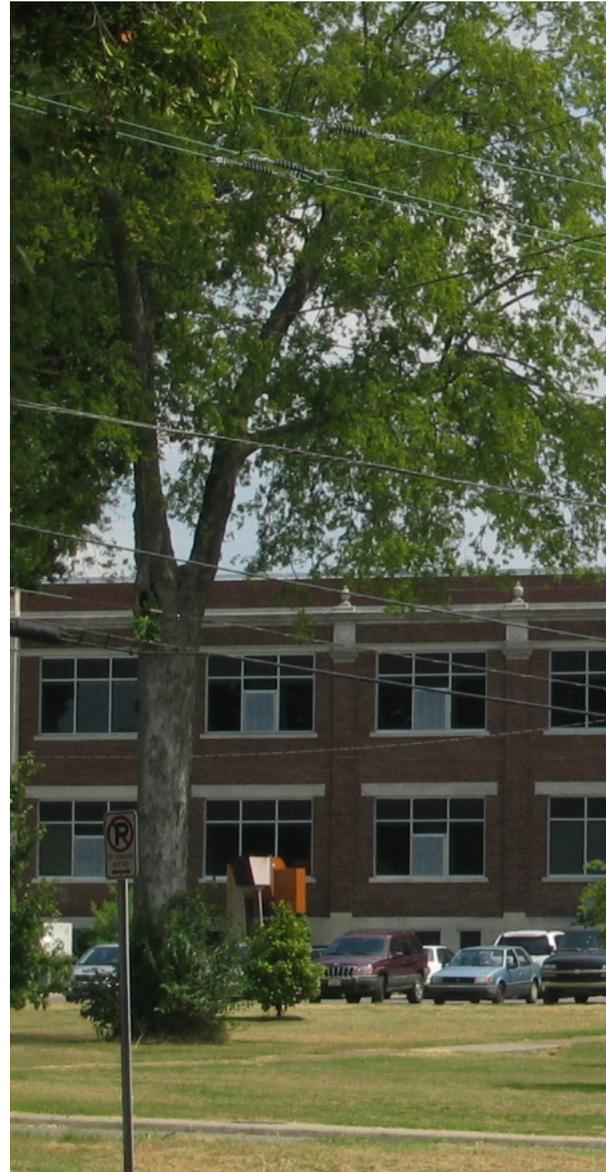
- » Develop context-sensitive residential models and development standards and support neighborhood services and capacity building.
- » Direct sewer service to suburban and urban communities to maintain rural areas as a viable lifestyle choice.
- » Implement a proactive housing program to ensure long-term housing affordability including consideration of inclusionary housing and home repair assistance strategies.

# Educational access for all is our foundation.

Education is how we prepare our children for tomorrow's challenges, and how we keep our residents ready to successfully participate in evolving workforce and civic life.

Access to educational resources is critical to help Nashvillians fulfill their potential as individuals and positively contribute to a healthy community and prosperous, sustainable economy. Increased demographic diversity, technological evolution, and an increasingly interconnected global economic structure require a lifetime learning system founded in a pre-kindergarten, elementary, secondary, and higher educational environment accessible to all and strengthened through a strong physical, social, and emotional support system.

- » We cannot build a better future unless every child in every part of our community has access to a good education.
- » We will ensure that all Nashvillians enter kindergarten ready to learn.
- » We will develop the necessary support systems and opportunities for all to have access to tools necessary to contribute to the economic and social future of the community.
- » We will expand opportunities for lifelong education through traditional and nontraditional systems.



# ADVANCE EDUCATION



## In 2040,

- » Community investment is key to Nashville's success in PK-12 education. Neighborhoods, businesses, institutions, nonprofits, families, individuals, and Metro work to ensure access to opportunity for all children through child care and school choices, transportation options, and engaging Nashvillians in supporting children and families.
- » Lifelong learning benefits from the community's investment in continuing education, retraining opportunities, and literacy.
- » Nashville's excellent colleges and universities are community assets that educate our youth and adults, are a tremendous resource for the community, and add to the community's prestige.



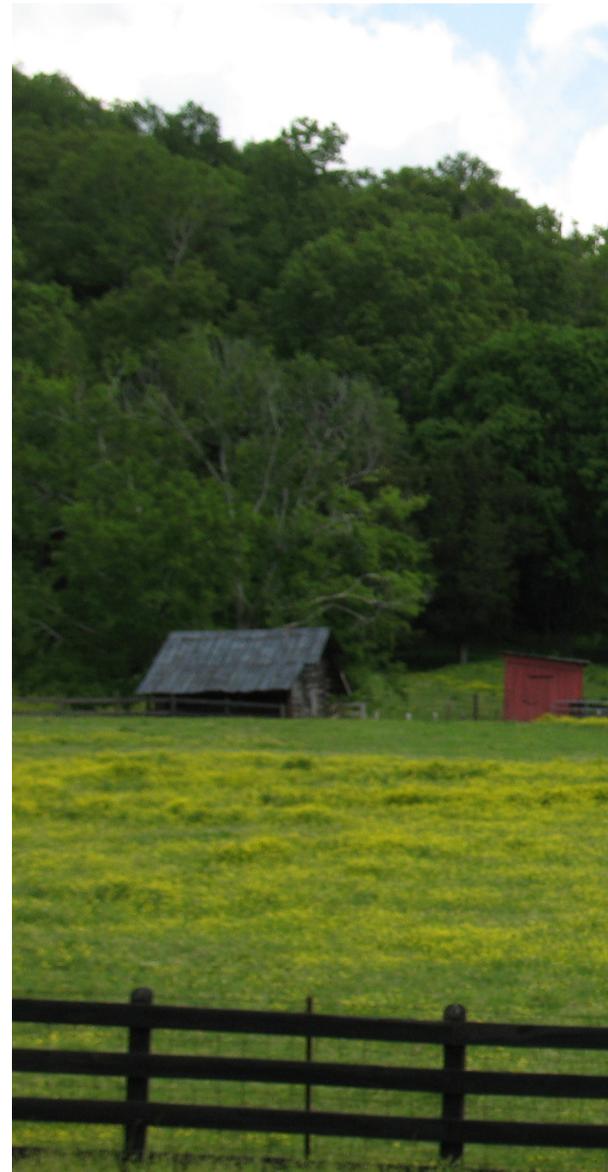
## Impact Action Items

- » Expand and provide universal access to pre-kindergarten programs to ensure all children have the foundation to learn.
- » Expand programs designed to increase graduation rates and design post-graduation programs to serve the needs of an evolving economic system.
- » Pursue nontraditional sites and design of schools to serve as a neighborhood anchor, a civic resource and a bridge between educational and other public services and the community.

# Environmental stewardship is our responsibility.

Nashville's diverse and vibrant natural environment is one of its major assets. The way we preserve and develop land has a direct impact on our health and quality of life. Preservation of the natural environment and thoughtful development with a goal of stewardship will ensure the benefits of Nashville's natural environment for generations to come. We will seek to create safe, healthy, and attractive places to live and work while enhancing our natural environment.

- » We will build a community founded on land and water conservation, preservation of sensitive environmental conditions, and sustainable development practices.
- » We will promote efficient transportation and well-designed walkable neighborhoods to achieve healthy living, preserve the natural environment, and encourage resiliency and safety in the face of natural and manmade disasters.
- » We will permanently sustain the ecological function, resource value, and character of sensitive environmental and rural lands.
- » We will bring nature into the city through parks, greenways, a healthy urban forest, and clean streams, creeks, and rivers.
- » We will leave future generations an environment that is healthier than today's.



# CHAMPION THE ENVIRONMENT



In 2040,

- » Nashville has unique natural environments of breathtaking beauty, exceptional parks and greenways, abundant water, and agricultural land that supports local food production. The natural landscapes of Nashville—from the Cumberland River to the hills of Beaman and Warner Parks—are part of our identity.
- » We protect these landscapes because they contribute to our health and quality of life and retain the historic character of Nashville.
- » Nashville enables sustainable living through transportation options, housing choices, economic and social diversity, and thoughtful design of sustainable buildings and infrastructure.



## Impact Action Items

- » Institute partnerships and strategies to protect and enhance the Cumberland as a complete and living river.
- » Increase funding and expand the purchase and preservation of land for public recreation and open space.
- » Expand programs and institute more complete regulations to protect Nashville's sensitive environmental resources.

# 'Nashville' is our strength.

Nashville/Davidson County has a culture grounded in inclusivity and friendliness, creativity and entrepreneurship, and concern for others. Nashville will experience significant growth in the coming years, but we can retain and build upon the culture that makes Nashville unique and strong—a culture that supported equity and civil rights early; that provides opportunities for everyone from song writers, to small businesses, to new Americans; that picked up and cared for our battered neighbors after the flood of 2010; that respects our history and looks eagerly to the future.

- » We will open ourselves to understand and take advantage of our rich history and the resources and the ideas from new and old Nashvillians alike to build a more sustainable community and broader economic base.
- » We will celebrate Nashville's musical heritage, artistic energy, and the cultural diversity of our residents, and take action to share those experiences for the benefit of each other, the region, and the world.
- » We will build upon Nashville's creative and entrepreneurial spirit.
- » We will strive to emulate our community's compassion, as shown in our response to the flood of 2010 and the volunteerism that occurs daily in our community.



# BE NASHVILLE



## In 2040,

- » Nashville is strong because we lift one another up and help people help themselves.
- » We are strong because of our culture of creativity, respect for history, and optimism for the future.
- » We are strong because of our welcoming culture that represents the best of Southern hospitality and celebrates Nashville's multiculturalism.
- » Nashville recognizes its role in the region and responds to improve and advance regional activities, quality of life, and well-being for all.

## Impact Action Items

- » Improve Nashville's neighborhoods by enhancing walkability, bike friendliness, and recreational opportunities in a neighborhood appropriate manner.
- » Re-establish and adequately support art and music education programs for all ages and community offerings that recognize and grow the creative and entrepreneurial culture of Nashville.
- » Establish a transparent and strategic prioritization component in developing the annual Capital Improvements Budget to direct Nashville's public investments into implementation of the identified priorities.

