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REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

STAR TRACKS

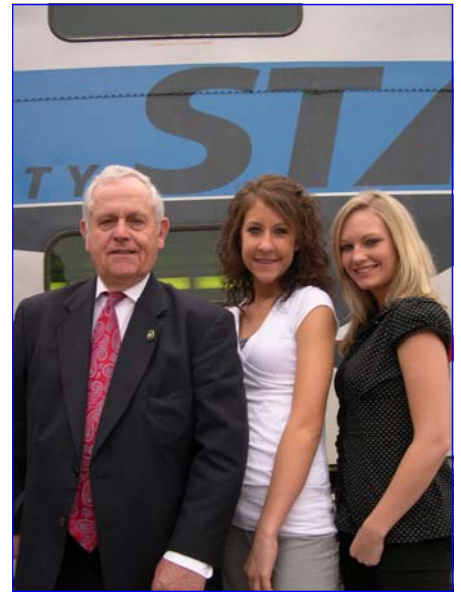


Elected commute: Rep. Stratton Bone rides our Music City Star

Representative Stratton Bone exits the Music City Star at 7:30 AM on a rainy Thursday morning with two student Pages quickly following him. "I'm glad I didn't have to compete with traffic in this weather!" he exclaims as he looks up to locate the shuttle #94 which will loop around Downtown dropping him off at Legislative Plaza by 8:00 AM.

For almost two years, Representative Bone, who represents District 46 in Wilson County, has traveled on the Music City Star from Lebanon to Downtown Nashville. "I started riding the train as a pledge to myself," he proudly states. "At first I wanted to make sure I rode at least once a week, but these days you might see me there two or three times weekly."

Representative Bone is one of many people who ride the Music City Star each work day. Like many other commuters, he enjoys riding the Star because he is able to prepare for the day ahead, allowing him to feel more relaxed and ready for work on the legislative floor.



Representative Bone, Ashley Beasley and Codye Love

"My favorite thing about riding is the people," Representative Bone said. "The time I spend on the train allows me to meet more people in my district."

When asked for suggestions to recruit more Music City Star commuters, Representative Bone recommends challenging others to ride just one day. "It all comes down to word of mouth," he observes. "If you are pleased with riding the train, tell someone and encourage them to ride. That's what I do".

In fact, that is exactly what Representative Bone has done, beginning with his assistant Robbie Farmer. "He always talks about riding the train, and how nice it is," she explains. "One day he bought me a ticket and told me to give it a try, so I did". She now rides the train between two and three times a week, claiming that her favorite thing about riding is that, "It's completely stress-free!"

"We are real fortunate to have a commuting option like the train out where I live," he states. "Public transportation is an important part of our growth as a region."

-Article written and submitted by Leigh Ann White, Varallo Public Relations

Question of the Month

Dear RTA:

What exactly are Park-and-Ride lots?

Signed, Curious Commuter

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Dear Curious Commuter:

Located throughout the region, Park-and-Ride lots are the pick-up and drop-off site for commuters each day. There is no charge to park in these lots. Commuters leave their cars and travel to work via vanpools, commuter rail and/or buses. For a complete list, visit: www.rta-ride.org/services/parkride/index.html or call: 615-862-8833. Park-and-Ride lots are unmonitored parking lots for your convenience. Please obey posted guidelines and secure your vehicle.

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Music City Star hosts TPTA Reception

The 2008 TPTA (Tennessee Public Transportation Association) Legislative Day on the Hill was recently held on March 25th. A packed day that included meetings with House Transportation Chairman Phillip Pinion and Senate Transportation Chairman Jim Tracey, individual meetings with regional legislators, and attending the Full House Transportation Meeting, was concluded with a legislative reception aboard the Music City Star.

The Music City Star pulled up to the Riverfront Station, gleaming in the afternoon spring sun. Beckoning all to "come aboard" attendees settled in to a delightful excursion down the tracks. Mixing, mingling, and delicious food were the ticket for the evening. Guests had an opportunity to talk with train commuters and discuss the numerous benefits of riding the Music City Star, and the importance of the service.



House Transportation Chairman Phillip Pinion, Diane Thorne (RTA) and Paul Ballard (MTA) enjoy the festivities.

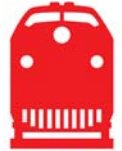
In a blink of an eye, under a starlit sky, the relaxing clickety-clack of the train came to a stop with the train whistle announcing the arrival back at the station. It had been a busy day, topped off with a most memorable train ride.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know...

A single person, commuting alone by car, who switches a 20-mile round trip commute to existing public transportation can reduce their annual CO2 emissions by 4,800 pounds per year? That is equal to a 10% reduction in all greenhouse gases produced by a typical two-adult, two-car household.

By eliminating one car and taking public transportation instead of driving, a savings of up to 30% of carbon dioxide emissions can be realized.



Commuter Rail

Taking public transportation is the most effective action individuals can take to reduce the energy use and carbon footprints.

Public transportation...

- Is estimated to reduce CO2 emissions by 37 million metric tons annually
- Provides an immediate option individuals can take to reduce their energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions
- Saves the US equivalent of 4.2 billion gallons of gasoline annually
- Provides an affordable alternative to driving
- Ridership has increased 30% since 1995
- Is a national priority that should be targeted by climate change and energy legislation.

-APTA