MEDIA ADVISORY
For Immediate Release
Sunday, August 18, 2024

Media Contacts:
CSmith@matatransit.com

Memphis Area Transit Authority Takes Initial Steps to Maximize its Budget While Ensuring Rider Needs & Safety

MATA is temporarily suspending trolley service and making difficult decisions regarding non-essential staff roles & vendor support

Memphis, TN—Memphis Area Transit Authority leaders are prioritizing necessary rider service options as they finalize their budget.

Most recently, a trolley brake issue resulted in the Tennessee Department of Transportation recommending costly updates. Rather than making that spend right now, MATA leaders have decided to halt all trolley service until further notice. Alternatively, downtown riders can use Groove on Demand, which the Downtown Memphis Commission operates.

"The balance is very delicate," said Bacarra Mauldin, MATA interim CEO. "While we want a system of choice and transportation options, for now, we must focus on the needs of riders who rely on public transportation to get to work, doctor appointments, school and other critical destinations."

In addition to pausing trolley services, MATA is also streamlining its staffing and vendor costs. They have reviewed every line item and expenditure as they prepare to submit the final budget for approval. Every affected employee will be notified in the coming

weeks and receive support securing alternate employment. In addition, vendor contracts have been discontinued and/or dramatically scaled back.

"We are not alone. Transit agencies nationwide are facing difficult times that call for difficult decisions," said Mauldin. "We must act accordingly to ensure MATA's financial stability as we seek future solutions to rebuild our city's transit system."

Community conversations also continue, helping MATA leaders determine how the 2024-2025 budget will affect fixed routes and on-demand service.

For a full listing of community meeting times and dates, visit matatransit.com and click the "community tour" link.

###