

## **Positives and Negatives in Nashville**



#### **Top-5 Positives in Nashville**

Selection rate for the top 3 positives among 16 options

- 43% Good outdoor rec., parks, green spaces
- 33% High quality healthcare and hospitals
- 31% Good restaurants, shopping, entertainment
- Creative gathering space for music, artists, 30% etc.
- 24% Being a welcoming, accepting place

#### **Top-5 Negatives in Nashville**

Selection rate for the top 3 negatives among 13 options

- 51% Traffic/congestion/it's hard to get around
- 47% Too much growth/not being managed well

G

28%

A little worse

A lot worse

- 31% Lack of public transportation
- Increased tension/fighting between state and 31% the City
- 28% Lack of affordable housing/shortage/cost

Top-2 Favorite Visions For Nashville			10 Very Important Neighborhood Features	
Selection rate for the most and second most favorite vision among 5 visions			Selection rate for the top 10 out of 15 respondent-selected features	
60%	The Connected City		Parks and green spaces	76%
52%	Nashville's Neighborhoods are its Stars		Grocery stores	69%
41%	Nashville is Home The Place of Inclusion and Belonging Creativity, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship Supercenter		Reliable garbage and waste removal	66%
30%			Bikeable and walkable throughout	63%
0070			Schools	59%
17% Music and Arts Epicenter			Sidewalks with good lighting on both sides of every street	57%
The percent that feel they <b>Belong</b> in Nashville.			Police presence/Crime prevention resources	54%
49%, Strongly Belong 34%, Somewhat Belong 34%, Somewhat Belong		Access to public transportation	49%	
		Affordable housing options	47%	
		Doint Doiong	Entertainment/restaurants	44%
Growth Impact on Nashville Growth Orientation				

8%

A little better

35%

Neither better nor worse

21%



# Housing

#### **Top-2 Goals For Housing**

Selection rate for the most and second most important goals among 5 goals



Make sure there is plenty of affordable housing in the communities of Nashville for people who keep the city going (musicians, artists, teachers, firefighters, police officers, etc.)

- Ensure we are building a variety of housing options in all our neighborhoods to reduce housing shortages and lower housing costs
- Ensure low-cost housing options are equally 43% available to people of all walks of life
- Ensure people can afford to stay in their homes 35% and are not being forced out
- 24% Eliminate homelessness

## **Housing Priorities Importance**

Mean score on a scale of 1-Not at all important to 10- Extremely Important

Increase affordable housing requirements and

- 8.1 incentives for developers to make sure they generate more affordable housing options Create more community partnerships and
- 7.7 programs making more housing more affordable for more people
- Build more compact and less expensive housing 7.6 closer to where people live, work, and play
  - Provide more buyer/renter assistance and support
- to get people into housing and help them stay 7.3 there

Build more homes to increase the housing supply

which will bring down housing prices and help 6.7 meet demand

# **Education**

### **Top-2 Goals For Education**

Selection rate for the most and second most important goals among 5 goals



Ensure they have the skills they will need to be



- successful in the workplace
- Provide a way to lift children out of poverty and level the 45% playing field for their future
- Ensure they are well informed and able to engage in civic 29% and political matters in their community
- Ensure they are prepared for college 18%

## **Education Priorities Importance**

Mean score on a scale of 1-Not at all important to 10- Extremely Important

- Improve teacher quality through better recruitment, 9.0 compensation, training, etc.
- Increase funding for public education (per pupil spending 8.8 is way below comparable cities)
- Increase access to affordable, high-guality childcare and 8.8 early childhood education
- Focus on early childhood health and education-without a 87
- good start, chances for success go way down
- Focus on failing schools to do whatever is needed to turn them 8.2 around
- Increase personalized student focus and support to teach kids 8.2 in ways that best fit their individual needs
- Focus on modernizing our school facilities and materials-8.1 every child deserves a clean and up-to-date place to learn
- 8.1 Increase school safety
- Increase the schooling choice and options available to parents 6.5 to make sure their child gets the best education



Agree with the statement *Investing* in public education is an important priority for Nashville

# **Mobility**

## **Top-2 Goals For Mobility**

Selection rate for the most and second most important goals among 4 goals

81%

Make it easier to get around Nashville-to and from downtown and from one place to another in the region (connecting different parts of the City and Downtown better)

- Ensure everyone has good access to downtown and the important parts of the region-make transportation options
- 56% equally accessible to all across Nashville/Davidson Co.
- Make it easier to get around inside the neighborhoods and 40% communities where people live
- Improve transportation safety and reduce crashes and personal 22% injuries

## **Mobility Priorities Importance**

Mean score on a scale of 1-Not at all important to 10- Extremely Important

Improve and increase public transportation availability

- and options throughout the city (light rail, bus rapid 8.8 transit, expanded bus service)
- **Reduce traffic congestion** 8.6

Improve bicycle and pedestrian connectivity and infrastructure across the city and in the surrounding

- 8.0 communities (bikeable streets, sidewalks, greenway and trail networks, etc.)
- Improve road maintenance and operations on existing roads 8.0
- Promote flexible and remote work schedules to reduce the 6.9 need and impact of commuting
- Construct new street and highway improvements to better 6.7 connect parts of the city



Agree with the statement *Investing* in city-wide public transportation is an important priority for Nashville 54



# Housing

#### Comments

- Developers should be forced to include 25% of housing they build should be affordable
- Be willing to bend/amend zoning rules that are outdated or that fail to serve the current residential situations/needs. Uphold strict zoning/building standards for new development/construction. Prioritize local builders/developers
- Decriminalize homelessness. Focus on subsidized restoration of older homes to preserve housing stock, not just development of new housing. Intensive focus on more affordable rental units.
- Address the "Missing Middle" housing shortage by up-zoning for gentle density (duplexes, fourplexes) in neighborhoods. 40% of the land in Davidson County being zoned for single and two-family development is unsustainable.
- More thoughtful zoning allowing a range of housing from single family to multi family in the same neighborhood. Restrictions or disincentives for building or investing in additional non-owner occupied short term rental properties.
- Reform zoning to allow for incremental densification in what are now single family zoned neighborhoods.
- A full and comprehensive municipal survey of public land that could be employed for affordable housing partnerships across city departments.
- Increase density along main arteries where public transportation already exists first.
- Offer property tax discounts if you are in certain fields like teaching, police, fire, etc as that would make it more affordable for some to live/stay

# Education

#### Comments

- Increase teacher pay. Add more social workers into the schools. Create a public school system that supports teachers and school staff. Ensure that all schools are equitable
- Develop more schools, smaller schools, and smaller classrooms. Children need to be known and have some individual attention. More parental involvement must happen. And children need to go to school in their neighborhoods so their parents can be involved.
- No vouchers and charter schools.
- Early childhood literacy support, ensuring parents and caregivers have the tools and information they need to be able to read to their children. A portion of this is also increasing access and availability for early childhood childcare.
- Reduce financial barriers to higher education, whether academic or vocational, particularly for racial/ethnic minorities. Promote cooperative relationships among colleges/universities, vocational training programs, and public schools to help young students.
- Develop non-college degree programs, especially trade programs, to train kids for well-paying jobs that do not require a college education.
- I think we need MUCH lower teacher-student ratios so that teachers can work with a small group of students and get to know their individual needs. Teachers should have connections to all the available social services.
- More charter schools
- Teachers need to be paid more, provided resources and support that is needed
- I believe the nashville public school system is too big to be managed in the way in which it is presently being managed. I would suggest it being divided up in the boroughs with regional managers, general managers over seeing each region and individual school.

# Mobility

### Comments

- Building a light rail system should absolutely be the priority. I understand it will take a lot of time and money, but it is a complete necessity. For this to be successful, it must have broad reach to connect people to where they need to go.
- Connecting sidewalks, bike lanes that don't make car traffic worse, handicap accessible crosswalks
- Given the number of visitors we have coming to Nashville, I think it's important to get light rail from the airport to downtown.
- Nashville needs to completely reimagine a city built around people rather than around cars. Prioritize public transportation and pedestrian/bicyclist safety.
- Require all new developments to include sidewalks with no exceptions
- Incentivize public transportation. Make driving unappealing. Build out environmental awareness. Invest in regional transportation and make it affordable.
- This is the "I am a magician" dream: A SUPER CIRCLE -Construct a circular tunnel under the city, of a diameter of 5 or 6 miles, that connects with up and down ramps to each of the I-24s, I-65s, I-40s, and Ellington Parkway
- Focus on 15-minute city planning so people don't need to go far each day
- More connectivity using greenways and bikeways to make it easier to get from one place to another without getting in a car. Also light rail along I-24 between Nashville and Murfreesboro.
- More frequent bus service More routes Make it easier to get around by bus without having first to go downtown



#### **Comments**

- A strong and connected neighborhood association that organizes neighborhood activities and meetings so that you get to know and become friends with your neighbors and have a real sense of shared community.
- Excellent public schools with transportation for ALL children
- Stop tearing down beautiful homes and replacing them with tall and skinny.
- Varied living situations so people of different economic situations can live close together and get to know each other.
- Sidewalks/multimodal connectivity/walkability/bikeability/safety features (e.g. good lighting)
- Safety strong police presence and good police / neighborhood relations
- Community and culture are very important. Gentrification in Nashville is on the rise and preserving historic neighborhoods and their families should be a priority.
- Ideally everywhere you go regularly would be within a 15-minute, safe walk or ride on public transit.
- Better communication among city council members, mayor and the public.
- Community events and things that are easily accessible. Playgrounds, green spaces, farmers markets, coffee shops.

# One Change

#### Comments

- More affordable housing for low income and middle-income people
- Affordable, efficient public transportation that covers the whole county and runs every 15 minutes
- Prioritization of local businesses and consumers over franchises and tourism.
- I would add art exhibits that were free to go to. More areas to walk that are free and calming. I would ensure that people could afford to live in the city
- It would be wonderful if we had more sidewalks for people who have to walk or wait for a bus. More bus routes in West Nashville near Cheekwood. I'd have to drive to a place to catch the bus to work and there are no sidewalks
- More affordable housing so hourly workers & low-income families can live in the city core and/or desirable, safe neighborhoods.
- More family-friendly options.
- More inclusive community decision making about how our city functions, looks, feels and engages rather than highest corporate bid takes all.
- A shift in focus. To shift from catering to tourist to truly caring about what benefits folks who live in Davidson County.
- SIDEWALKS!! In all neighborhoods!

# Big Ideas

#### Comments

- Public transport; increase neighborhood walk ability to shops/restaurants/grocery stores; cap rent increases/rent control; limit landlords; promote/incentivize work from home for corporations
- Realize that each neighborhood may have different priorities and desires. For our neighborhood, public transportation, access to downtown is NOT an important consideration. We want safe areas where children can go to school & play in their yard
- Nashville needs to be an example of The Beloved Community. We have the resources to do it. We just need to prioritize people over politics, greed, and a quest for notoriety. We don't have to be a slick city - we need to be a loving city.
- Leveraging the power and knowledge in our universities to optimize systems in the city.
  For example, Vanderbilt has the strongest education college in the country so the presence of subpar K-12 education in the city is an embarrassment
- Tourism based on recreation I see it in Chattanooga; Asheville & Charlotte, NC, Richmond VA - it is promotion of outdoor sports, parks and activities as a draw for tourists.
- Something Nashville needs to start focus on is improving and upgrading its infrastructure e.g. storm water drainage, safe and adequate water supply, etc.

## Youth

#### Comments

- Common sense gun reform has to happen to make kids safer in all settings- not just schools!
- A city that welcomes them everywhere. A city that loves children, not corporate growth.
  Well lit, well cared-for Playground and green spaces all over our neighborhood hubs.
  Gathering spaces for families. Funding for local efforts at community engagement.
- Community centers that have facilities for food, tutoring, and laundry and increasing mental health supports for families
- Include children in participatory community planning - kids inherit the future, and should have a say in how they want their community to evolve
- Schools should be open beyond school hours through partnerships with nonprofits, arts organizations, and the recreation department to provide multi generational programming that engages youth, provides family programming, and creates a gathering place
- Safe ways to get around and between neighborhoods (sidewalks and transit!)
- Job training Strengthen opportunities within mayor's summer youth job program.