



NEWS RELEASE

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Martha Station Grand Re-Opening Celebration held today

NASHVILLE – Music City Star customers boarding in Martha now have a permanent station to call their own.

Today, the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) held a Grand Re-opening Celebration for its newly constructed Martha Station, which is located at 65 Martha Circle (State Route 109 and Powell Grove Road) in Lebanon.

“Our train customers will truly appreciate this new station and the wonderful customer amenities it provides,” Gallatin Mayor and RTA Board Chair Jo Ann Graves said. “We now have another beautiful train station that looks more like the other four suburban stations in Wilson and Davidson counties.”

Construction of the permanent station began in December 2009 and was completed earlier this month. Major improvements include a new paved Park-and-Ride lot with 74 parking spaces and 6 ADA accessible parking spaces, four customer shelters, an ADA-accessible boarding ramp, and improved lighting for customers.

“More and more people are riding the train than in previous years, and more are boarding at Martha,” Graves said. “With the recent improvements, I am confident even more people will use this train station and ride the Music City Star to and from Nashville.”

The new train station cost approximately \$1.6 million to build and was funded with \$650,000 in federal funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and other federal funds. Knestrick Construction of Nashville was the construction manager and had approximately 60 individuals working on the project.

“Having a more permanent station makes riding public transit more convenient and enjoyable,” RTA board member and Wilson County Mayor Randall Hutto said. “This station is just another step in continuing to grow public transit in our county and within the Middle Tennessee region.”

The public was invited to attend the celebration and had the option to travel by train to the event. A Music City Star train departed from Riverfront Station and a second departed from the Lebanon Station. The trains returned to their origination station following the festivities.

Martha Station opened as a temporary station on September 18, 2006 when the Music City Star first began service. A permanent station was not built then because the track would soon be realigned due to pending improvements to Highway 109.

“The development of this station is wonderful and is helping us in our efforts to give people more alternatives besides the automobile. I have ridden the train several times and it is a great way to travel to and from Nashville. I strongly encourage more people to try it.” RTA board member and Lebanon Mayor Philip Craighead said.

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RTA CEO Paul J. Ballard added, "Having the necessary infrastructure for our customers is a vital part of expanding transit, attracting new riders, and becoming one of the solutions to the area's traffic congestion problems. I am pleased we are continuing to make the needed improvement in this area. "

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