



For immediate release

Media contact:

Karl Houston, VP, Marketing & Communications
Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce
615-743-3068
khouston@nashvillechamber.com

Report Contact:

Matt Bailey, VP, Regional Policy
Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce
Office: 615-743-3155
mbailey@nashvillechamber.com

Nashville Area Chamber Releases 2021 Vital Signs Report

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (February 17, 2022) – The Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce released its 2021 Nashville Region’s Vital Signs report. Vital Signs is created by the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, relying on the Chamber’s Research Center for data collection and analysis. The Greater Nashville Regional Council (GNRC) is the Chamber’s lead partner in creating Vital Signs.

For nearly a decade, the Vital Signs report has illuminated issues impacting Middle Tennessee’s economic well-being and quality of life, serving as a resource for elected and appointed officials and business and community leaders. Vital Signs considers each issue and pairs data from the Census and other sources with original survey data from a survey of Middle Tennessee residents – providing an analysis of the issues before the region *and* how Middle Tennesseans feel about those issues. Vital Signs 2021 addresses four issues impacting the Middle Tennessee region – Workforce and Economic Development, Childcare, Housing, Transportation, and Infrastructure.

“The combination of research data and community feedback on an annual basis through Vital Signs creates the opportunity for prioritization that benefits the entire regional community,” said Ralph Schulz, president, and CEO of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce. “This year’s report identifies a critical challenge facing the region, and the nation, as the economy recovers from COVID – is the lack of an available, qualified workforce and the obstacles Middle Tennesseans face in joining the labor force and finding work.”

This edition of Vital Signs discusses some of the most significant workforce barriers Middle Tennesseans face:

- Aiding Middle Tennesseans in securing needed training, education, or certification to compete and thrive in the evolving workforce.
- Providing childcare that is high quality, affordable, and accessible for Middle Tennesseans.

- Addressing housing affordability – creating affordable housing across incomes and proximate to work.
- Tackling transportation challenges, including onerous commutes, given Middle Tennessee’s limited transit options.

GNRC Executive Director Michael Skipper stated, “The Vital Signs report is an important resource for local and elected leaders across the region to gain additional insight and context for the challenges and opportunities experienced in Middle Tennessee. Our partnership with the Nashville Area Chamber presents a unique opportunity for public-private sector collaboration.”

Based on quantitative data and Middle Tennesseans’ opinions on challenges and solutions, understanding these issues around workforce is the work of Vital Signs 2021. The issues, challenges, and opportunities presented in Vital Signs 2021 must receive continued thought, action, and collaboration across sectors for the continued prosperity of the Middle Tennessee region.

In addition to the support of the Greater Nashville Regional Council, the Chamber would like to thank its Vital Signs Supporting Sponsors: Barge Design Solutions, Bradley and FirstBank, its Technology Partner: Atiba, and its Media Partners: *The Tennessean* | LOCALiQ. The report was prepared in cooperation with the US Department of Transportation - Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and the Tennessee Department of Transportation. The project was funded (in part) under an agreement with the State of Tennessee Department of Transportation.

To view the report, visit www.nashvillechamber.com/vitalsigns.

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About Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce and Partnership 2030

The Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce is Middle Tennessee's largest business federation, representing more than 2,000 member companies. *Belong, engage, lead, prosper* embodies the Chamber's focus on creating economic prosperity by facilitating community leadership. Established in 1990 as an economic development and community enhancement initiative of the Chamber, Partnership 2030 is a regional cooperative dedicated to making Middle Tennessee among the nation's best places to live, work and do business. Partnership 2030 is supported by a diverse group of public and private companies as well as governmental agencies from the organization's 10-county service area. The work of the Chamber is supported by its members, Partnership 2030 investors and sponsors; the Chamber's Pivotal Partners (a partnership at the highest level for all Chamber programs and events) are Bass, Berry & Sims, BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, Community Health Systems, Gresham Smith and Regions. For more information, visit www.nashvillechamber.com.

About Greater Nashville Regional Council

The Greater Nashville Regional Council (GNRC or Regional Council) is a public agency created through the Tennessee Development District Act of 1965 by the TN General Assembly. GNRC is a regional planning and economic development agency across 13 counties in Middle Tennessee, and governed by a regional council comprised of city mayors, county mayors/ executives, state legislators, appointments representing business/industry, and appointments representing minority populations. The Regional Council administers a variety of state and federal grants programs on behalf of local governments and offers economic and community development services, policy and planning assistance, and aging and disability resources to its member communities. More information is available at GNRC.org.