

**How does the cityscape change from the main terminal throughout your route?**

Our route started on West End, in front of Stoney River restaurant near Vanderbilt's campus. We parked in a public square here. We did not park at the Music City Center because it cost 7 dollars. As the route progressed, we passed through a college town atmosphere into an office-space atmosphere, and then Saint Thomas hospital/clinic area. Shops were concentrated around the medical buildings, and then we passed through the fancy Belle Meade housing and green space, including Elmington park. There was a high concentration of churches here.

**Did you notice any specific factors or reasons why/how areas changed as you rode?**

There is more foot traffic around the hospital plaza, so there are many more shopping strips in this area.

**Observe the location of railroad tracks, roads, and interstates as you ride. Does the cityscape change?**

We thought it was weird that the sidewalk stopped once you hit Belle Meade, even though there are still random bus stops in these areas. There was also no bike lane, and no shoulder at all, when you reached this point. There was a railroad track parallel to Harding.

**Do you notice issues of class, race, gender, ethnicity, age or other factors?**

You notice a huge class difference near the Belle Meade plantation where there were fancy mansions. Also, near the synagogue and heavy church area, there were high-end apartments.

**Who rides the bus? Why in your opinion, are they using MTA, and where are they going?**

We went at 10:30 AM, and there was one college-aged student with a backpack. There were also a few people that got on/off at the Saint Thomas plaza stop, and we assume they were employees or patients. People riding the bus are probably not able to purchase a car or their car has broken down.

**Are buses equipped to handle those with physical disabilities? Bicycles?**

There is a lift for wheelchair-bound passengers and there is a bicycle rack in the front of the bus.

**Is MTA a viable type of public transportation? Why/why not?**

No, we saw a few things wrong with the route we took. Several bus stops were not covered, which was bad today because it was raining. Also the route only goes every 30 minutes, which is impractical. The route also stops at places that don't seem viable. For example, there was a stop where there was no sidewalk and only grass.

**What were your feelings and experiences about public transportation prior to this assignment?**

Zara and I both had a better experience with Chicago public transport as tourists. There were digital map screens at the bus stops that told you where to go and when your bus would arrive. This is important because I would suppose most people taking the bus do not have internet-capability on the go.

**Why does Nashville not have a subway? Should it have additional modes of public transportation?**

From seeing how few people ride the bus, we don't think many people would ride the subway. Why fund something if everyone drives anyway?

**What do you think is the goal of public transportation? Do you think that goal is being met by MTA?**

The transportation should make your day go by more smoothly, but it really ended up taking longer than if we had driven our own car. The main goal would be efficiency, especially where there are no parking garages, and in theory it would be more environmentally friendly. We don't think MTA met these goals.