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MTA Bus Route Observations

For our route, we chose to ride the 18th bus toward the airport and back. The local transportation area was difficult to navigate initially, but once we found the bus deck it was hard to miss. Another spectacle hard to miss was the long line for the bus going toward Wal-Mart. While we stood with one other man to go to the airport, the line to Wal-Mart had at least forty customers ready to ride. Our bus pulled up, and something I found interesting was the bike rack on the front of the bus. I realized that if I had a bike at Belmont, I could have the option to get around everywhere for free.

Once we boarded the bus, the driver seemed surprised by our presence and warned us that he was going straight to the airport and back. Once we left the station, the bus's lights turned off and the atmosphere became warm. There were only two other passengers riding. Our ride to the airport consisted of a lot of straight highway with billboards and exits along the way.

We first passed The Arcade which was surrounded by a lot of ethnic locations. There was a German restaurant next to a Pho restaurant which was across the street from a restaurant serving gyros. We then came upon the business district, which was identifiable by the many tall business buildings and banks. Next on the route was the tourist district on South Broadway. We only drove passed it but we could see enough to notice the crowd that had formed rather early on a Tuesday night. In the same area but just past South Broadway was Bridgestone Arena, continuing the entertainment theme of the tourist district but also had appeal to the natives. Down the street from Bridgestone was an area filled with hotels, catering to the tourist district nearby.

On our way out of downtown, we came across an area filled with local small businesses, what we referred to as the commercial area. This area was not as well lit and the sidewalks did not have pedestrians on them like downtown had. We passed a Mega Bus pickup station. There was a clear difference from the active downtown atmosphere. We then turned under the highway overpass and got on the highway heading to the airport. Things that stood out along the interstate were Crazy Horse, a number

of car shops, and the fact that everything was considerably less attractive and less nice-looking once we hit the highway. Then we came to a section of the highway that was walled and we were unable to see what was along the highway. When the walls went away, we noticed we were driving through an area with a lot of large warehouses and very few shops. We noted that land was most likely cheaper out here so businesses could afford larger buildings. Once we got closer to the airport, there were quite a few hotels along the highway. We noticed that the billboards out here advertised things such as the lottery, casinos, and things to do outside of the city, like ziplining. This contrasted the billboards closer to downtown that advertised Nashville attractions, such as the Ryman and the Johnny Cash Museum.

The only advertisement inside of the bus was a Spanish cartoon, and the only litter was also a Chiquita pineapple wrapper in the floor. The airport, which was outside of the city, had a lot of parking options. While coming back, we noticed that Korean Veterans Boulevard is the dividing line between the commercial aspects of Nashville and the corporate buildings of the business and financial district.