



PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
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CARTA Invites Community to Help Shape the Future of the Brainerd Road and Lee Highway Corridor

Public Workshop Scheduled for June 24 at Brainerd Recreation Center

CHATTANOOGA, TN — The Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority (CARTA) invites residents, businesses, property owners, community organizations, and corridor stakeholders to participate in a public workshop for the Connect the Corridor initiative, a community-driven effort focused on the future of the Brainerd Road and Lee Highway corridor.

The workshop will be held on **Wednesday, June 24, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** at the Chris L. Ramsey Sr. Community Center (Brainerd Recreation Center), located at 1010 North Moore Road in Chattanooga.

Connect the Corridor is a collaborative planning effort that examines how transportation, housing, safety, infrastructure, and economic development can work together to create a stronger future for one of Chattanooga's most important corridors.

While the project includes evaluating enhanced transit options and future express bus service, CARTA emphasizes that the initiative is about much more than buses.

“This is a city-building project. We are looking at how transportation investments can help connect working families to affordable housing, jobs, healthcare, education, and opportunity,” said Charles D. Frazier, Chief Executive Officer of CARTA. “We are looking at how safer streets, better infrastructure, and reliable transportation can support both the people who live here today, and the growth Chattanooga will experience tomorrow.

“Just as importantly, this effort helps position our community to pursue federal infrastructure funding that can bring new investment into the corridor and accelerate the improvements residents want to see.”

The Brainerd Road and Lee Highway corridor serves thousands of residents and workers every day. As Chattanooga continues to grow, the corridor faces increasing challenges related to traffic congestion, safety, accessibility, and housing affordability.

The Connect the Corridor initiative seeks to address these challenges through a coordinated strategy focused on:

- Improving safety for pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders, and drivers
- Expanding access to jobs, healthcare, education, and essential services
- Supporting housing opportunities near transportation investments
- Creating faster and more reliable transportation options
- Reducing household transportation costs
- Strengthening local businesses and commercial districts
- Building stronger connections between neighborhoods and community destinations
- Positioning Chattanooga to compete for federal and state infrastructure funding that can help deliver corridor improvements and community investments

One concept under evaluation is the introduction of an express transit service operating alongside CARTA's existing Route 4 service. While Route 4 would continue serving local stops, an express service could provide significantly faster travel times by stopping only at key destinations along the corridor. This approach would allow residents to reach downtown employment centers, schools, healthcare facilities, and other destinations more quickly while preserving local access.

For many working families, access to reliable transportation can be just as important as access to affordable housing. By reducing travel times and improving mobility options, the corridor has the potential to expand access to employment opportunities while helping households reduce transportation costs. In some cases, improved transit service may allow families to reduce their dependence on multiple vehicles, creating meaningful savings that can be redirected toward housing, education, healthcare, and other household priorities.

The study will also identify projects that may be eligible for future federal and state grant funding. By establishing a community-supported vision and implementation strategy, Chattanooga can better compete for infrastructure investments that improve safety, accessibility, and mobility throughout the corridor. Potential future projects could include sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, mobility hubs, transit stations, enhanced shelters,

lighting improvements, and other investments that strengthen connections between neighborhoods, housing, jobs, and community destinations.

The June 24 workshop will provide community members with an opportunity to learn about the project, review existing conditions, share concerns and priorities, and help shape the long-term vision for the corridor.

Community input will play a critical role in guiding recommendations and future investment strategies.

Event Details

Connect the Corridor Public Open House

Chris L. Ramsey Sr. Community Center (Brainerd Recreation Center) 1010 N. Moore Road, Chattanooga, TN 37411

Wednesday, June 24, 2026, 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Getting There — Free Transportation to the Workshop

- **Free Shuttle:** A dedicated shuttle will run a continuous loop between N. Moore Road at Brainerd Road and the Chris L. Ramsey Sr. Community Center from **4:00 PM to 8:00 PM**. No fare is required.
- **Free Route 4 Bus Service:** All rides on CARTA Route 4 along the corridor will be **free from 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM** on June 24.

Prizes and Giveaways

Attendees can enter to win raffle prizes including **7-day CARTA bus passes, Incline Railway tickets, and free parking passes.**

For additional project information and future engagement opportunities visit www.connectthecorridor.com.