



**RELEASE from the Shelby County Mayor's Office**

***Lee Harris, Mayor***

Vasco A. Smith, Jr., Administration Building  
11<sup>th</sup> Floor, 160 North Main, Memphis, Tennessee 38103

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DECEMBER 3, 2019

Lauren Lee  
Public Information Officer  
Office: 901.222.2322  
Mobile: 901.481.3422

**MAYOR LEE HARRIS TO PRESENT THE BENEFIT INVESTING  
\$10 MILLION IN TRANSIT WOULD HAVE ON REDUCING POVERTY**

*Mayor Harris will be accompanied by Professor Elena Delavega for Wednesday's presentation.*

MEMPHIS, TN – Investing \$10 million in transit would greatly impact rates of poverty in Shelby County. Mayor Lee Harris will make this case to the Shelby County Commission Wednesday. The presentation will feature Professor Elena Delavega, Associate Professor at the University of Memphis, and Gregory Blumenthal, researcher for MICAH.

**Shelby County Commission General Government Committee  
160 North Main, 6th Floor Conference Room  
Wednesday, December 3rd at 8:40am**

“We have more than 200,000 people living in poverty in this community and, according to recent statistics, our poverty rate is climbing. This year, more than 25,000 residents live in poverty that were not in poverty 12 months ago,” says Mayor Harris. “Too many individuals in our community do not have transportation that they can rely on to get to a job and keep a job. Our residents should be able to get to a job, keep a job, and be able to get home from that job in time to have dinner with their family.”

VASCO A. SMITH, JR. ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
160 North Main Street, 11th Floor Memphis, TN 38103  
901-222-2000 Fax 901-222-2005  
[www.shelbycountyttn.gov](http://www.shelbycountyttn.gov)



“I am looking forward to presenting my research to the Shelby County Commission on the relationship between poverty and the lack of adequate public transportation in Shelby County,” says Professor Delavega. “Memphis needs comprehensive and affordable public transportation if we are to become one of the leading cities of the 21st century.”

### **The Three E’s**

Wednesday’s presentation on the impact a \$10 million investment in transit would have on Equity is Part Two in the “Three E’s” series of presentations to the Shelby County Commission.

### **Environment**

In November, Mayor Harris presented the benefits to the Environment. The investment would produce more than one million new rides, therefore reducing emissions by thousands of metric tons.

### **Equity**

December’s presentation is on Equity. This plan would have a significant impact on poverty. According to data from the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce, there are more than 16,000 available jobs in Shelby County. More frequent transit service helps people get to a job and keep a job.

### **Economy**

Next month the Mayor will lead a discussion around the economic benefits of investing in transit. For instance, dedicated investment of at least \$10 million has an economic impact of more than \$40 million as a result of expanded job access.

The administration is seeking a Commission vote on a plan to invest \$10 million in transit by February 2020. To see the proposal, go to <https://www.future4transit.com/>.

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