

THE HONORABLE ROGERS ANDERSON, CHAIRMAN



NASHVILLE AREA

Metropolitan Planning Organization

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Leslie A. Meehan, AICP
Director of Healthy Communities
December 3, 2012

2009 Regional Bike/Ped Study Accomplishments and Updates

- ➔ Installing sidewalks and bikeways; greenways
- ➔ Biennial Pedestrian and Bicycle Count Program
- ➔ Complete Streets Policies (Nashville and Hendersonville; TDOT)
- ➔ Organized Rides
- ➔ Employee Outreach programs
- ➔ Bike Month Promotion
- ➔ Active Transportation Program
- ➔ Tennessee Bicycle Summit

Middle Tennessee Transportation and Health Study

Transportation, Physical Activity and Health Data Collection and Analysis

Middle Tennessee Transportation and Health Study

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Welcome! The Middle Tennessee Transportation and Health Study is sponsored by the Nashville Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Clarksville Urbanized Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, and the Tennessee Department of Transportation. If you have received a participation letter, please [Start Here](#) to begin the survey.



Every day, thousands of people move through the middle Tennessee region—in cars, on buses, by foot, on bikes. To plan for the projects of *tomorrow*, we need to understand how you travel *today*. Your participation in this important survey will help improve the future of transportation for all of us.



www.middletnstudy.com

nashvillempo.org

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NASHVILLE AREA

Metropolitan Planning Organization

Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting

Monday, December 3, 2012 | 11:30 AM

MPO Office at the Fulton Office Complex | Davidson Conference Room
800 Second Avenue South, 2nd Floor | Nashville, Tennessee

Attendees:

Michael Heilbronn (YMCA), David Kleinfelter (Walk/Bike Nashville), Josh Stone (MTSU), Bob Richards (TDEC), Peter Pressman (Nashville Striders), Joe Pagetta (WNPT), Laurel Creech (Mayor Dean's Office), Kasey Talbott (Cumberland Region Tomorrow), Kate Whelley (MTA), Becky Taylor (Clean Air Partnership of Middle Tennessee), William Anderson (Veloteers), Dare Bible (TN State Health Dept), Tom Evans (Bike n' Walk Hendersonville and Bike/Walk Tennessee), Timothy Whitten (City of Hendersonville), Michael Briggs (Metro Nashville Planning Department), Mark Bradfield (Metro Greenways), Preston Elliott (Franklin Transit Authority, Williamson BPAC and RPM Transportation), Michael Skipper (Nashville Area MPO), Leslie Meehan (Nashville Area MPO)

Minutes

1. **Welcome & Introduction of New Members – 10 Minutes** (handout)
Members went around the table to introduce themselves and their organizations.
2. **Conferences – 10 Minutes**
 - Tennessee Bicycle Summit, May 21-24 2013 Memphis
Brief discussion on the first statewide bicycle summit in Tennessee held in Chattanooga in May of 2012. Comments were that the summit included a variety of diverse topics including health, and was well-attended by both advocates as well as private and government-sector planners. The event included a showcase of Chattanooga bicycle facilities. There is much anticipation about the Memphis summit as Memphis has done incredible work around bicycle facilities and education in the last few years.
 - Major Taylor Cycling Convention
Brief recap of the National Major Taylor Cycling Convention held in Nashville in the summer of 2012. The convention focuses on encouraging African Americans to bicycle and works on barriers to bicycling. The convention featured several national speakers including Andy Clarke from the League of American Bicyclists.
3. **Local BPAC Updates– 30 Minutes**
 - Davidson County BPAC (handout)

Laurel Creech gave an update about several exciting initiatives happening in Nashville:

Bronze Level Bicycle Friendly City - Nashville has recently been designated as a Bronze Level Bicycle Friendly City by the League of American Bicyclists. About 30 signs will be placed along bikeways and trailheads across town announcing the designation.

<http://www.bikeleague.org/programs/bicyclefriendlyamerica/communities/NashvitalityApp> – Nashville has developed a smart phone app that will show where the closest trails, bikeways, parks, recreation centers, etc. are to a person. Users will have the option of selecting routes (for example, they decide to walk one mile) and the app will select the route for them. Nashville is excited about this unique way to connect people with opportunities to get active.

Walk 100 – Mayor Dean is also doing a second round of Walk 100 walks where residents are invited to walk on various greenways and sidewalks throughout the city in a series of walks that will total 100 miles when completed.

www.walk100miles.com

Artistic Bicycle Racks – Nashville is working with the Metro Arts Council on a second round of artist bicycle racks that will be placed on public and private property throughout the city to provide bicyclists a place to lock their bicycles once they reach their destinations. Thirty new racks will be installed by the summer of 2013. Nashville currently has ten artistic bicycle racks in the downtown area that were installed a few years ago.

- **Music City Bikeway**

The music city bikeway opened earlier this year. The 26-mile route goes from Percy Priest Dam to Percy Warner Park, primarily on greenway and bike lanes.

http://www.nashville.gov/pw/projects/Music_City_Bikeway.asp

- **Nashville Groove**

Nashville recently published the Nashville Groove map which shows bicyclists how to get from one neighborhood to another in the larger downtown area using neighborhood streets, which are characterized by lower speeds and traffic volumes. Laurel handed out copies of the Nashville Groove map.

<http://www.nashville.gov/mayor/docs/bpac/NashvilleGroove.pdf>

- **Bike Share**

Nashville has two types of bike share – a free bike share at eight community centers (Nashville Green Bikes), and a new fee-for-service bike share that will include 200 bicycles at 20 stations within several miles of downtown Nashville. The grand opening will be December 13, 2012 at noon. www.nashvillebicycle.com

- **Moving in Harmony**

The Moving in Harmony campaign was part of the CPPW funded grant to the Metro Health Department. The campaign promotes cars, bicyclists

and pedestrians sharing the road.
<http://nashvitality.org/movinginharmony>

- Rutherford
 - Health Fairs
The Rutherford County Health Department has been attending health fairs at school and businesses and handing out the Same Rules, Same Roads cards as well as brochures on helmet fit and bicycling safety.
 - Driver's Education Classes
The EMS team for Rutherford is attending local driver's education classes to teach students about the rules of the road for bicyclists and pedestrians.
 - MTSU Bicycle Friendly University Application
MTSU is preparing to apply to be a Bicycle Friendly University. The school recently received a \$39,000 Green Energy grant which has been used to install covered bicycle parking on campus and helps to fund a full-service bicycle shop that is staffed by students in the outdoors program. The school is also hosting weekly ice-cream rides and has a commuter fleet of bicycles that students can check out for 48 hours after a one-time purchase of a \$15 pass. The rental includes a helmet and bicycle lock. A health assessment of the program is being conducted to determine the amount of exercise students get who check out the bicycles versus students who do not participate in the program. MTSU is also collecting other commuting data using GPS units for faculty. The data will be used for future grant applications to demonstrate that by providing opportunities for active transportation, students, faculty and staff have the opportunity to engage in more physical activity.
 - Public Service Announcement
The Rutherford County BPAC developed a public service announcement that runs on the local government channel and discusses proper helmet and bicycle fit, as well as how to share the road with bicyclists and motorists. The PSA may be viewed on the MPO website http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vjo2kLx41qU&feature=player_embedded.
- Williamson
 - Public Service Announcements
The Williamson County BPAC has also developed several public service announcements that explain the rules of the road for bicyclists and cars. The PSAs are all less than two minutes and air being air through the Air Care show to 53 counties across Tennessee. The five videos are all on You Tube and may be accessed on the MPO website http://www.nashvillempo.org/regional_plan/walk_bike/public_education.aspx.
 - Same Rules Same Roads Cards (handout)

The Williamson and Rutherford County BPACs worked to develop the Same Rules, Same Roads card. The card is a small, laminated card on yellow cardstock that lists the rules of the road for bicyclists on one side and the rules for motorists on the other. The cards have been extremely popular and the MPO has handed out several thousand in the past year. The MPO encourages organizations to print their own cards. The cards may be downloaded for free at http://www.nashvillempo.org/docs/bikeped/SRRS_PocketCard.pdf

- **Strategic Planning**

The Williamson BPAC is currently going through a strategic planning process to develop priorities for walking and bicycling for the county. The next MPO BPAC meeting will include an update on the process.

4. TDOT Update - 20 Minutes

- **Participating in public comment for TDOT projects**

Jessica Wilson has been working hard to let the MPO bicycle and pedestrian coordinators know about upcoming public meetings on roadway projects. Tom Evans stated that attending the meetings is a good way for advocates to voice their opinions about the need for bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Leslie Meehan passes along information to area advocates once she learns about meetings from TDOT. <http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/public/>

- **SRTS Awards for 2012 and next application cycle**

The remaining \$9 million + of Safe Routes to School dollars from SAFETEA-LU will be awarded in two grant cycles by TDOT. The next grant application is due January 15, 2013. Communities are strongly encouraged to apply. The money is 100% and does not require a local match. Grant awards are up to \$250,000 and the projects must be within 2 miles of an elementary or middle school. <http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/bikeped/saferoutes.htm>

- **TDOT Bike Route Plan**

TDOT is developing a new recreational bicycle route plan that will help cyclists navigate both the urban and rural areas of the state. The routes may be found in the study technical documents on the TDOT website <http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/bikeped/pdfs/Tech-Memo-2-111211.pdf>

- **Resurfacing Projects (handout)**

Jessica Wilson has done an outstanding job of communicating potential resurfacing projects to the MPOs so that the projects can include planned bikeways when possible. The 2013 resurfacing projects were handed out for informational purposes. TDOT was able to accommodate planned facilities in a number of instances.

- **Safety Funding**

The new transportation bill – MAP 21 – almost doubled the amount of money available for roadway safety. TDOT is currently identified bicycle and pedestrian crash hot spots across the state as well as a method for prioritizing the projects. Stay tuned for more updates at the next BPAC meeting.

5. MPO Update - 30 Minutes

- Middle Tennessee Health and Transportation Survey
The MPO is conducting a regional household travel survey with a focus on health. The data collection is complete and the results will be available in the spring. For more information see www.middletnstudy.com
- Focus on Health and Transportation
The MPO has recently changed the title of the bicycle and pedestrian planner (Leslie Meehan) to Director of Healthy Communities. The title change reflects the shift of the MPO from looking at alternative modes of transportation as a way to alleviate congestion, to looking at the public health impacts of transportation policy and projects, including physical activity and obesity, injury, air quality and food access.
- Bike Ped Study Update
The MPO will be conducting an update of the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian study during 2013. Details of the update will be discussed at the next BPAC meeting.
- Discussion of focus areas from Bike Ped Study (handout)
Brief discussion on some of the major accomplishments since the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Study was conducted, included dedicated funding for bicycle and pedestrian facilities and education, as well as adoption of Complete Streets policies and conducting bicycle and pedestrian counts.
- Same Rules Same Road Card (*see above*)
- MAP 21 (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century)
Brief discussion on the Transportation Alternatives program of MAP-21. More information included in the agenda item below on call-for-projects.
- Bike Ped Counts – Recap of 2011 and Prepare for 2013 (handout)
The results of the 2009 and 2011 bicycle and pedestrian counts were handed out and there was discussion on whether or not the counts should include new locations. The general consensus seemed to be to keep the existing locations and not to add additional locations.
- Crash Data – Regional Crash Survey and TN DOS
Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed.
- Survey on Attitudes Towards Bicyclists – Why I Don't Like Bikes
Discussion on the value of conducting a survey to find out about the emotions and attitudes of why some motorists feel strongly about not wanting bicyclists on the roadways. The intent of the survey would be to find any common themes and to use that information to tailor messaging around why sharing the road is important.

6. Call for Projects – 10 Minutes

- Recap of Active Transportation Program
 - 2012 Awards and Next Call for Projects

Staff provided a brief re-cap of the 2012 awards and announced that the next call-for projects would be in late 2013. The Transportation Alternatives program call-for-projects will be announced at the same time and will likely use the same process.

- **MPO TIP 2014-2017**

Felix Castrodad from the MPO provided a brief overview of the current TIP cycle. Applications are due December 16, 2012 and the staff will evaluate the projects. As this time, staff does not have a report on how many bicycle or pedestrian projects will be submitted for the funding cycle.

7. Next Steps, Announcements, other Discussion

Williamson Anderson discussed the 3-Foot signs that have been placed in Mt. Juliet and asked if the MPO could fund similar signs for other places in the MPO region.

8. Adjourn - Next Meeting: TBD

The next meeting will be announced after the first of the year. Future topics include the update of the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Study and the 2013 Bicycle and Pedestrian Counts. An update on the safety money allocation from TDOT to bicycle and pedestrian safety will be included.