



Nashville Area MPO
Complete Streets Symposium
Event Summary
January 28-29, 2010

Symposium Summary

On January 28-29, 2010 over 100 participants of the Nashville Area MPO Complete Streets Symposium discussed ways in which streets connect people with communities. The Symposium was conducted by experts from the National Complete Streets Coalition, Randy Neufeld and Michael Ronkin. Participants were taken through a series of modules and group exercises that included an Introduction to Complete Streets, Implementation Basics, Overview of Complete Streets Essentials, Implementation Challenges and the 6-Step Process. Participants used three case studies from the Nashville region to practice using the 6-Step Process, which includes steps for analyzing an existing street and considering options for how to make a street inclusive of multiple modes of transportation. Participants included members of the public and private sectors with representation from various local, regional and state level offices of regional and community planning, engineering, transportation planning, public health, planning and zoning commissions, elected officials, non-profits, parks and students from Vanderbilt University's Community Development and Action graduate program.

The Symposium began with opening remarks by Michael Skipper, Director of the Nashville Area MPO and MPO Executive Board Member, Mayor Rogers Anderson of Williamson County. The Symposium included a panel discussion of Complete Streets in Knoxville, TN and Franklin, TN, as well as a keynote luncheon presentation by Mayor Bill Floyd of Decatur, GA. Decatur was one of the first cities in the nation to incorporate Complete Streets, Active Transportation and Health into a city transportation plan. Case study areas highlighted during the 6-Step Exercise included Hendersonville, Madison and East Nashville.

Symposium Participant Survey Results

Participants responded that the quality of the speakers and the real-life application of the materials were the best parts of the symposium. Mayor Bill Floyd's keynote address was the highlight of the Symposium and a favorite of the attendees. Participants commented that the Symposium fully explained the concept of Complete Streets and showed how to put the concepts into practice. Participants also learned what resources are available to them for Complete Streets, including sample policies and design manuals. The top recommendations from participants for next steps would be to create or update Community Plans, Subdivision Regulations, Zoning Codes and Comprehensive Plans to include Complete Streets and to adopt local Complete Streets policies. Participants also rated the visual presentations, networking and peer-city examples of Complete Streets highly.

Next Steps

Next steps for the MPO around Complete Streets include encouraging local jurisdictions to adopt Complete Streets policies.