



Nashville Area MPO
School Siting Symposium
Summary of Pre-Conference Survey
January 2010



Responses: **28**

1. What level of government do you serve, if you work in government or serve on a government board or committee?

County	41%
Municipality	35%
School District	18%
State	6%

2. What jurisdiction do you serve?

Davidson	29%
Rutherford	0%
Sumner	29%
Williamson	0%
Wilson	4%
State	13%
Other	25%

3. Are you an elected official?

Yes	11%
No	89%

4. What are the main factors that should be considered when selecting a site for a new school?

Top Six Answers:

Distance from population served	93%
Walkability	86%
Availability of water/sewer	64%
Cost of land	57%
Proximity to Environment Hazards	39%
Size of Parcel	36%

5. Does the school district consult with municipalities or counties when selecting a site for a new school?

Most of the time	22%
Sometimes	22%
Never	7%
Don't Know	48%

6. Does the school district consult with municipal or county comprehensive plans when selecting a site for a new school?

Most of the time	19%
Sometimes	22%
Never	4%
Don't Know	56%

7. Do municipalities or counties consult with the school districts when reviewing applications for a new residential subdivision?

Most of the time	26%
Sometimes	30%
Never	11%
Don't Know	33%

8. In general how would you describe your jurisdictions relationship with each of the following other jurisdictions. (Mark your own jurisdiction as n/a).

School District	N/A	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Franklin Special School District	75%	12.5%	12.5%	0%	0%
Lebanon Special School District	0%	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	0%
Metro Nashville Public Schools	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Murfreesboro City Schools	33.3%	0%	0%	66.7%	0%
Rutherford County Schools	0%	0%	50%	50%	0%
Sumner County Schools	66.7%	16.7%	0%	16.7%	0%
Williamson County Schools	0%	0%	50%	50%	0%
Wilson County Schools	50%	0%	0%	0%	50%

9. What are the main obstacles to collaborations between schools districts and local (municipal or county) governments?

Top Five Answers:

Poor Communication	70%
No Tradition of Collaboration	67%
Lack of Leadership	52%
Cost	52%
Turf Battles	52%

10. How could these obstacles be overcome?

- Recognition of need for interagency communication/collaboration
- Plan for accountability
- Looking at the big picture for costs and overall child health/well-being
- Eliminating turf and political battles
- Education of decision makers on the implications of school siting

11. What would you like to get out of the school siting symposium?

- Examples of success, step-by-step guidelines, materials to share with decision makers
- How/when are transit and school design factored into the siting process
- Examples of using a Health Impact Assessment/health considerations to determine a school site
- How to foster government collaboration/reduce silos, look at big picture of how land uses affect health
- Learn about overall process and beliefs that go into school siting
- Learn about commitments to maintain historic schools and keep schools in the center of communities
- Meet the school siting staff since other government agencies do not meet with them