

# 2035 Regional Transportation Plan

A multi-billion dollar transportation strategy for livability, sustainability, prosperity, and diversity

Making Progress: Transportation Planners & Programmers Turn Ideas into Reality Transportation Research Board Thursday, May 24, 2012

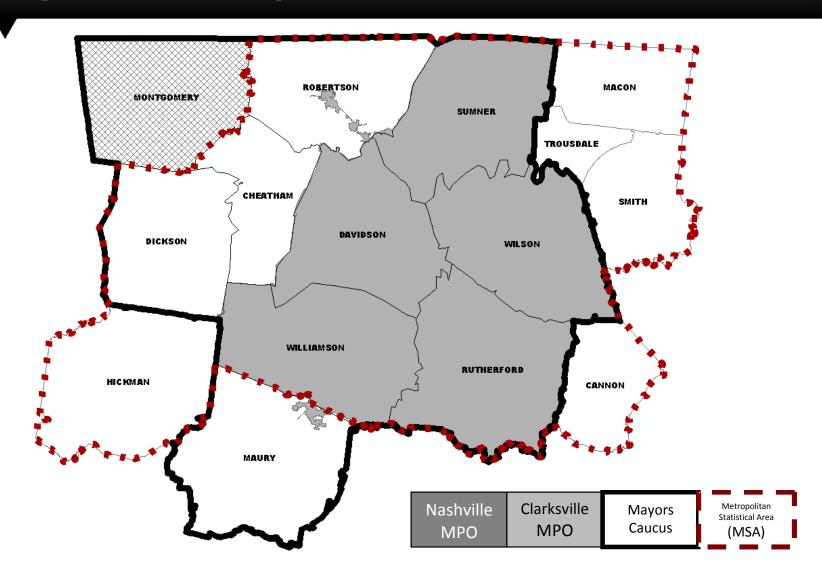
### In General, Beyond the Standard PPP ...

Recommendations from **major studies** with their own ancillary public involvement tactics: Tri-County Transportation & Land Use Study, Freight Goods & Mobility Study, Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Study, Northeast Corridor Mobility Study (transit AA)

Freight Advisory, and Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory committees

- Quantitative Public Opinion Polling (national & local)
- ⇒ Speakers' Bureau Strategy that focused on groups "beyond the usual suspects" young professionals, African-American community leaders, older Americans
- Rebranding / Website Overhaul, 3minute video (visualization) of Plan
- Social Media campaign: facebook, Twitter etc
- ⇒Public hearings as "Community Conversations" spearheaded by municipal mayors. Regional symposiums School Siting, Complete Streets
- ⇒Documentary film screening in partnership with Transit Now Nashville

### Regional Geographies in Middle TN

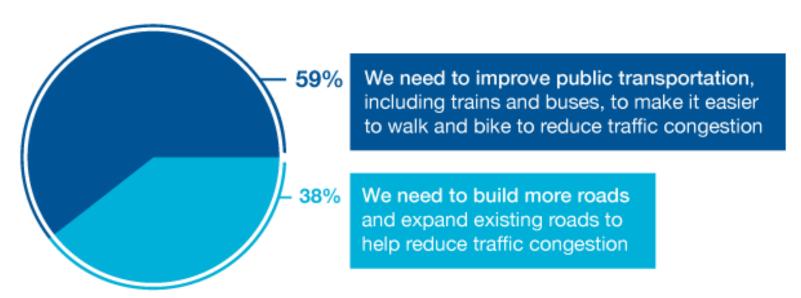


### **Public Opinion Data - National**

Transportation for America

### Preference to Reduce Traffic Congestion

Future of Transportation National Survey



(National telephone survey of 800 registered voters: 700 landline interviews & 100 cell phone interviews.)

### Middle Tennessee Public Opinions

- Three strategies provided for improving transportation in Middle Tennessee; respondents then asked to prioritize—
  - **≥1st choice**: improve and expand mass transit options
  - **≥2nd choice**: make communities more walkable & bike-friendly
  - **3rd choice**: build new or widen existing roadways

### Middle Tennessee Public Opinions

### **Personal Experiences**

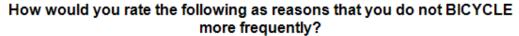
- Respondents provided with several statements about transportation and asked their level of agreement—
  - **≥** Walking/biking is good way to get exercise (94%)
  - ≥ If safe & convenient, I'd walk or bike more (64%)
  - ≥ If safe & convenient, I'd use transit more (62%)
  - "At least once a week, I can't find a ride" (12%)

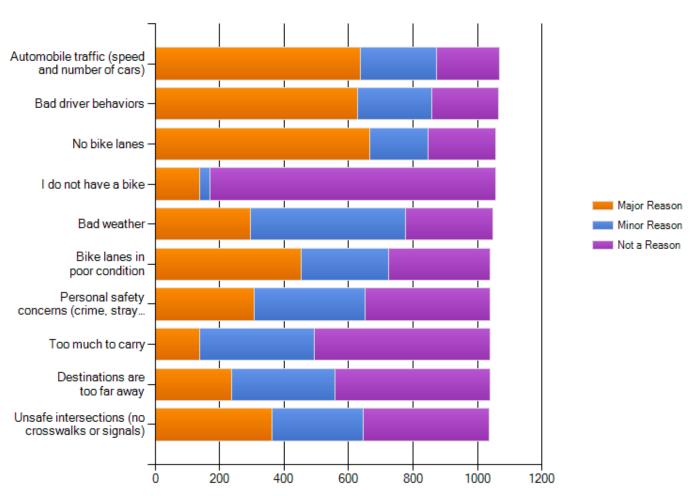
### Middle TN Public Opinions

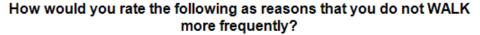
- Current transportation
- Middle Tennessee residents are most satisfied with:
  - the maintenance of roadways in their area (63%)
  - → overall levels of roadway congestion in their area (54%)
  - → how walkable their community is (49%)
- Middle Tennessee residents are least satisfied with:
  - → How safe it is to ride a bicycle in their community (42%)
  - Availability of mass transit services in their area (29%), with lack of transit options considered the greatest problem in Middle TN, followed by lack of walking & bicycling options.
- Of several issues mentioned, the most important to solve was to provide alternatives to driving.

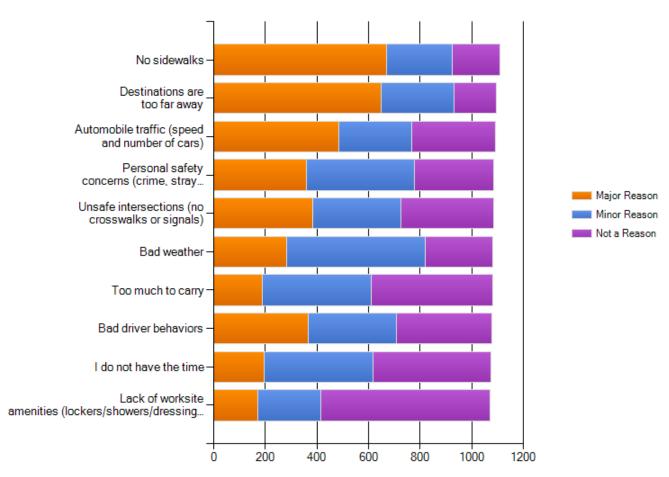
### Middle TN Public Opinions

- Mass Transit
- Respondents provided with statements about mass transit, asked their level of agreement. Agreed most with:
  - ≥ Good mass transit is important for the economy (83%)
  - ▶ We need regional mass transit to prepare for growth (83%)
  - More people will use transit due to fuel prices (74%)
- Funding
- When asked about preferences for funding transport improvements:
  - → Applying a new impact fee on private land developers (55%)
  - Vehicle registration fee or wheel tax (47%)
  - Vehicle emissions fee (46%)
  - ⇒ Fee for single occupant cars to use in a carpool lane (46%).
  - ≥ 67% felt gas tax shouldn't increase as the cost of gas increased

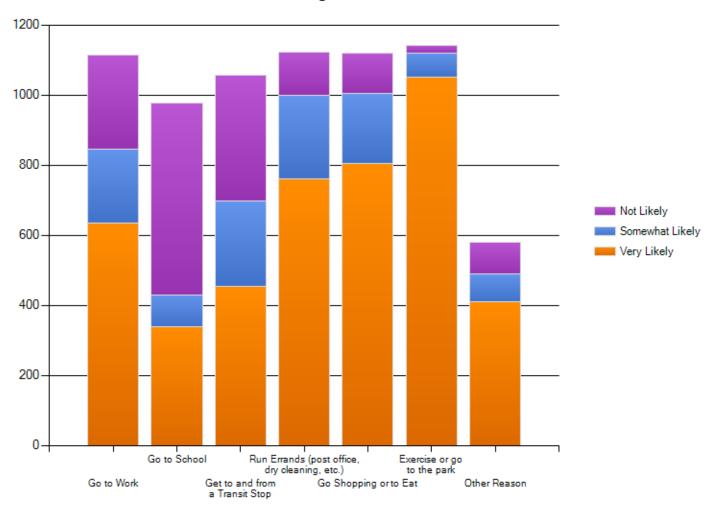




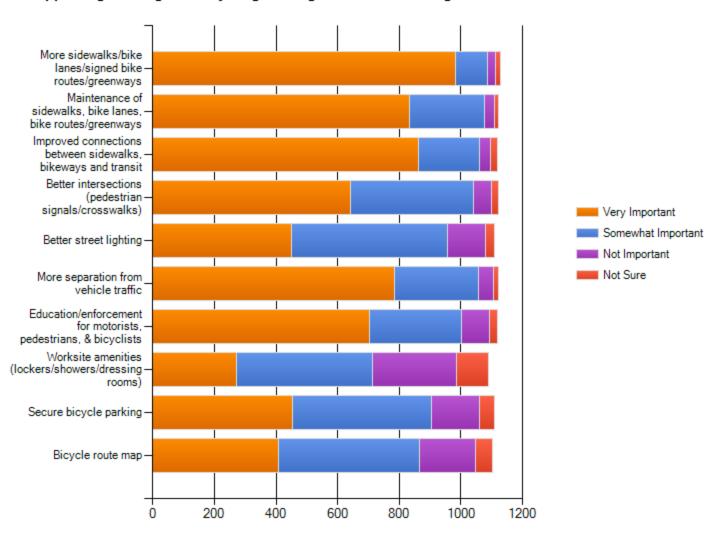




If it were safe and convenient, how likely would you be willing to walk or bike for the following reasons?



How important do you think the following improvements would be in supporting walking and bicycling in the greater Nashville region?



# Shifting Policy

### **Guiding Principles – 2035 Plan**

- Livability MPO plans and programs shall work to enhance the quality of life in the region by supporting initiatives that increase opportunities for affordable housing, education, jobs, recreation, and civic involvement without increasing the burden on citizens to enjoy their community.
  - "Livability means being able to take your kids to school, go to work, see a doctor, drop by the grocery or Post Office, go out to dinner and a movie, and play with your kids at the park all without having to get in your car." ~Sec. Ray LaHood
- Sustainability MPO plans and programs shall strive to support growth and prosperity without sacrificing the health, environment, natural and socio-cultural resources, or financial stability of this or future generations.
- **Prosperity** − MPO plans and programs shall contribute to the continued **economic** well-being of the greater Nashville area by investing in transportation solutions that increase access to education, jobs, and amenities, reduce the cost of living and doing business, and attract new investment to the region.
- Diversity MPO plans and programs shall recognize the multitude of needs and the variety of perspectives and backgrounds of the people that live and work in the greater Nashville area by promoting a range of transportation choices that are designed with sensitivity to the desired context.

## Regional Goals – 2035 Plan

- → Maintain & Preserve the Efficiency, Safety, & Security of the Region's Existing Transportation Infrastructure ("Fix-it-First");
- Manage Congestion to Keep People and Goods Moving;
- Encourage Quality Growth & Sustainable Development Practices;
- Protect the Region's Health & Environment;
- Support the Economic Competitiveness of Greater-Nashville;
- Offer Meaningful Transportation Choices for a Diverse Population (demographic trends: Boomers & Gen Y, more ethnic diversity);
- Encourage Regional Coordination, Cooperation, Decision-Making;
- → Practice Thoughtful, Transparent Financial Stewardship by Ensuring Transportation Improvements meet Regional Goals.







# #1 A Bold, New Vision for Mass Transit

#2

Support for Active
Transportation & Walkable
Communities

#3

Preservation & Enhancement of Strategic Roadways

nashvillempo.org

### WHAT ARE OUR CHOICES?

LOCAL & EXPRESS FIXED-ROUTE BUS





A system of buses operating on designated routes in mixed traffic for local circulation or longer distance commuting. An important component of any mass transit system, and critical to the success of rapid bus or rail





BRT offers uniquely-branded buses customized to provide a service comparable to LRT typically traveling in dedicated lanes and hosting premium amenities at stations. Usually easier and cheaper to implement than LRT, but limited capacity.

LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT (existing ●) (proposed ●)---





LRT is a high-frequency train (or streetcar-style) service operating in mixed-traffic and/or in dedicated lanes, powered by over-head electrification. Typically provides more capacity and can be cheaper to operate than BRT in the long-run.





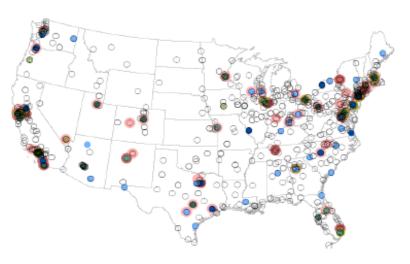
A premium intra-regional train service that operates in exclusive right-of-way, allowing it to offer superior travel times. Powered by over-head or third-rail electrification. Usually the most expensive transit mode to build.

COMMUTER RAIL (existing 
) (proposed 
)-----





A suburban-oriented service operating during peak travel times to and from a central city -often sharing right-of-way with freight movements requiring a heavy vehicle for safe operation. Usually powered by diesel-electric locomotive.



Simply put, mass transit is no longer just a Northeast or West Coast solution to moving people. In urban areas around the United States, including America's heartland, transit is being seen as a viable and sensible investment that can help communities reach their goals for mobility, environmental sustainability, and economic prosperity.

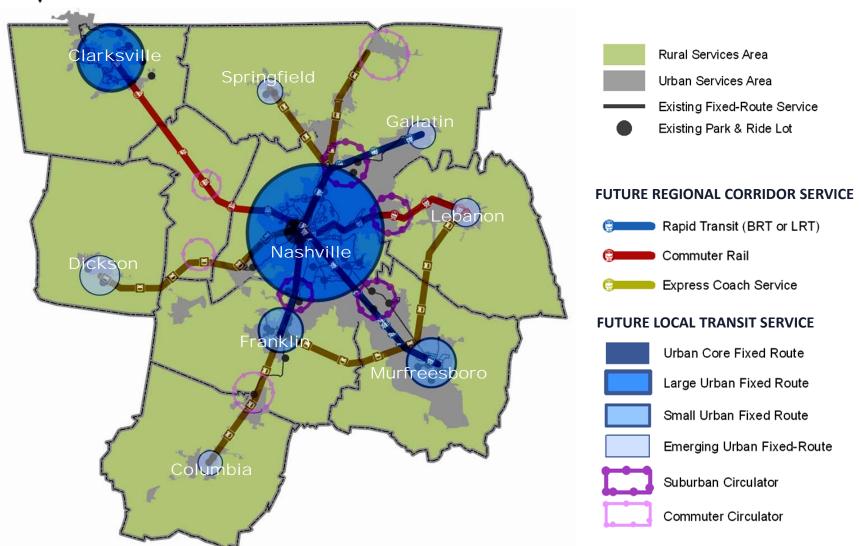
"The time is now for action. We must take steps now to ensure the continued economic success of our region." - Mayor Karl Dean, Metro Nashville-Davidson County

"We cannot continue along the same path we are on now and expect traffic to get any better. Our citizens deserve more choices." - Mayor Jo Ann Graves, City of Gallatin

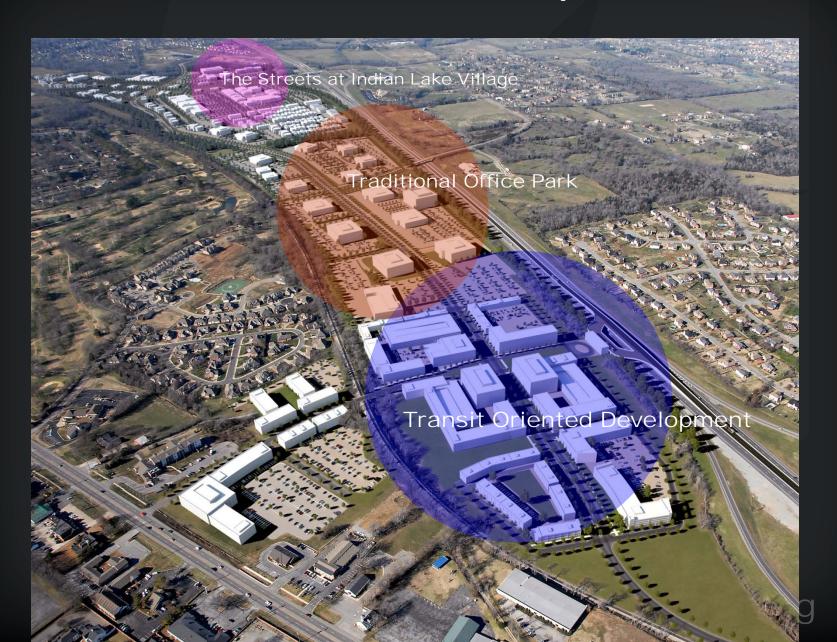
"If we are serious about transit, and I believe we are, we must begin the process of identifying a stable and reliable source of funding for our vision." - Mayor Rogers Anderson, Williamson County

"The business community has made this one of its top priorities." -Ralph Schulz, President, Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce

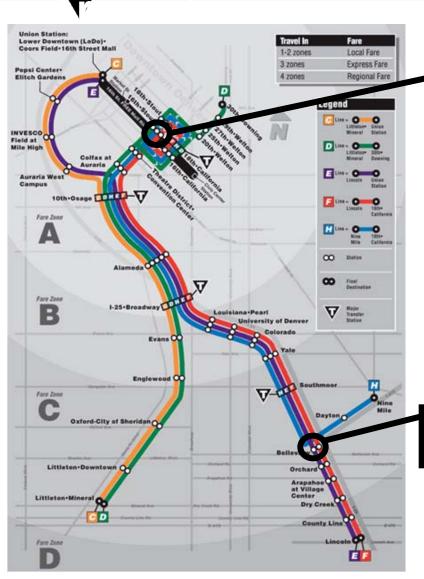
### A Bold, New Vision for Mass Transit

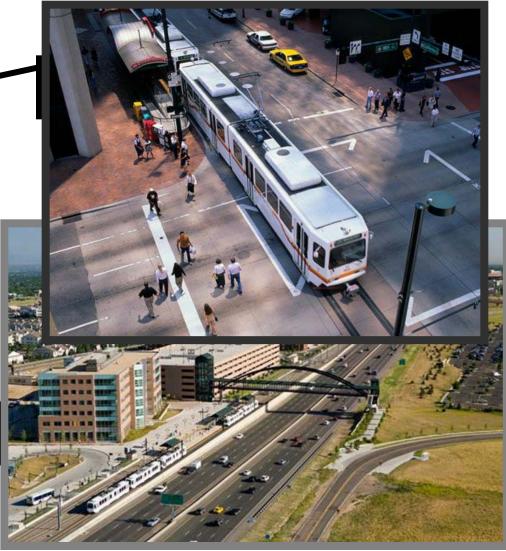


# Northeast Corridor Rapid Transit

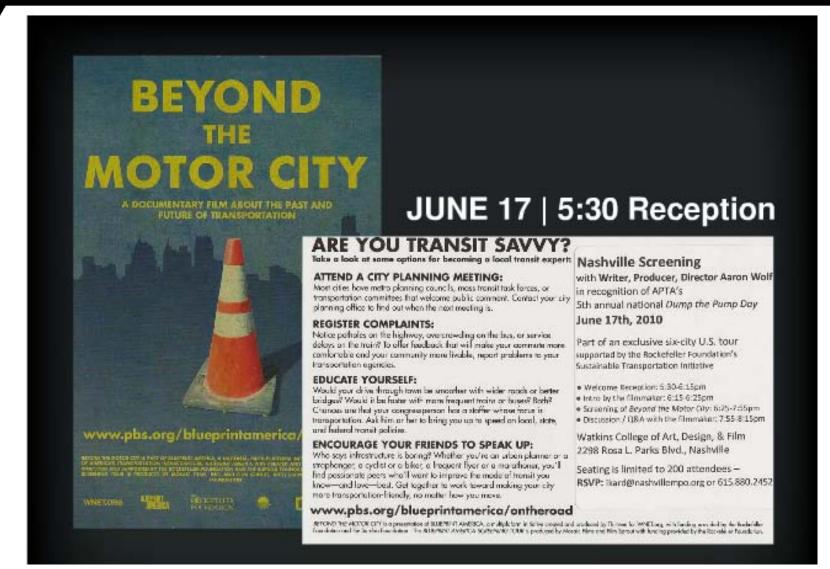


### Denver – Urban/ Suburban Rapid



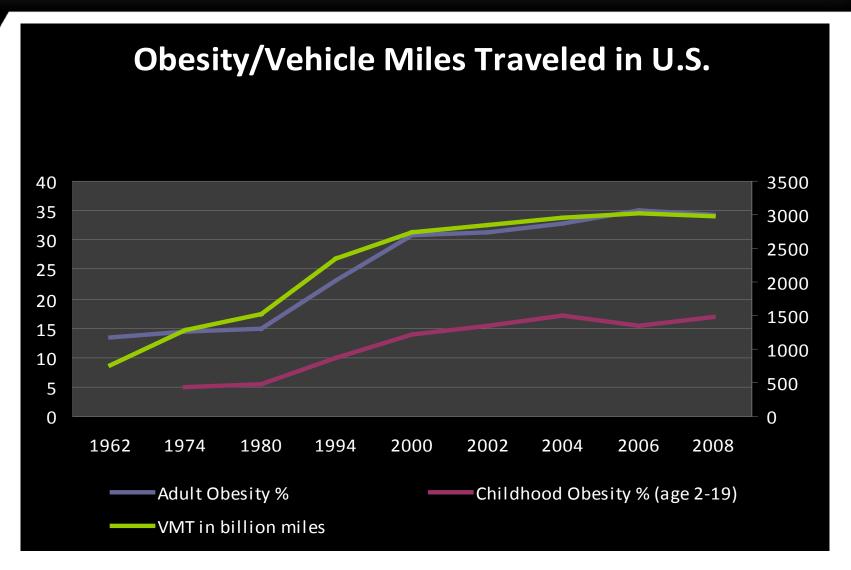


### PBS' Beyond the Motor City

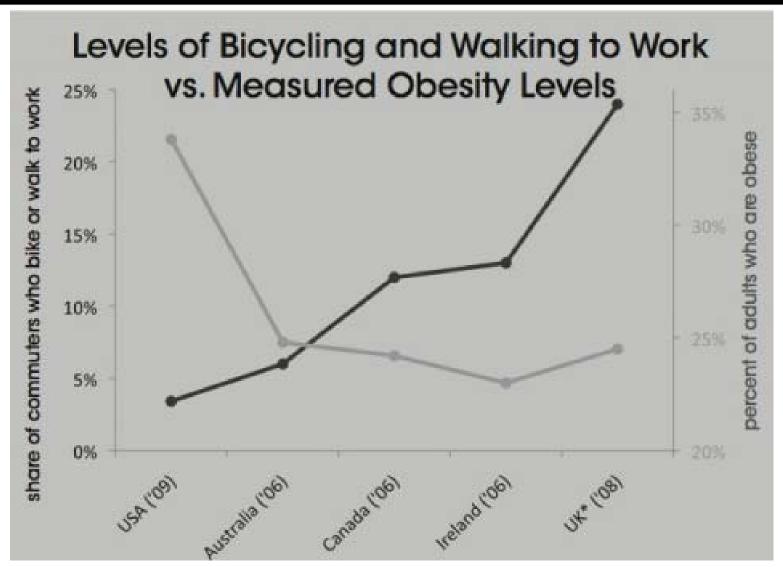


# Support for Active Transportation & Walkable Communities

### Why Active Transportation?



## Why Active Transportation?





NASHVILLE AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

### **BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN STUDY**

**NOVEMBER 2009** 



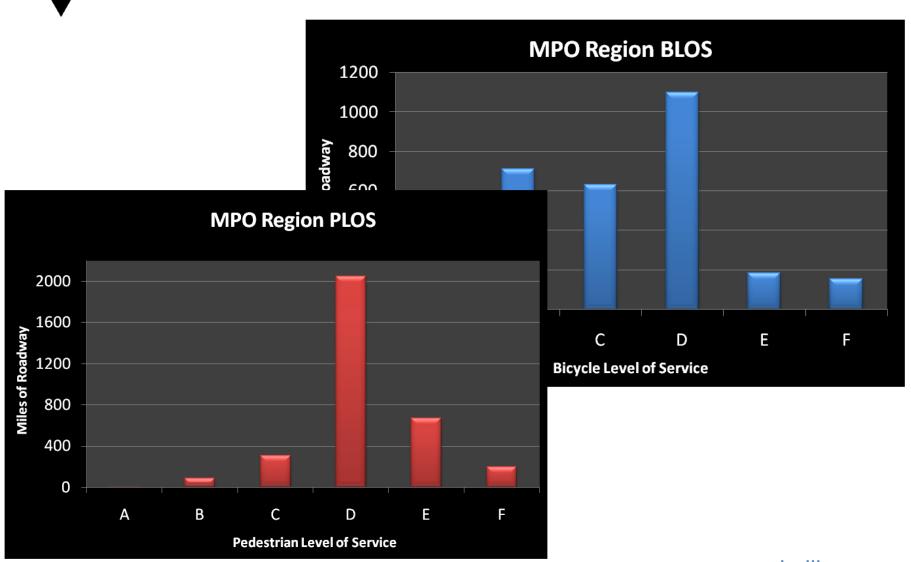
RPM TRANSPORTATION CONSULTANTS, LLC HAWKINS PARTNERS, INC. SPRINKLE CONSULTING, INC. VARALLO PUBLIC RELATIONS





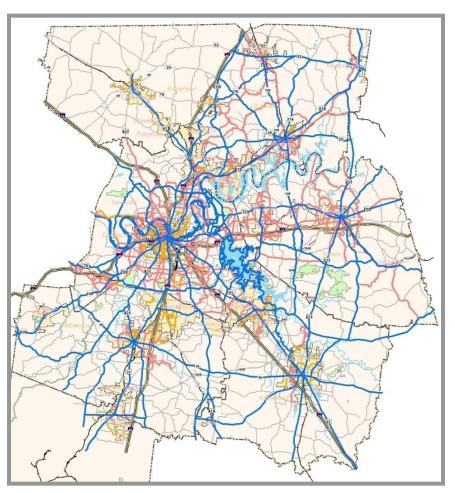


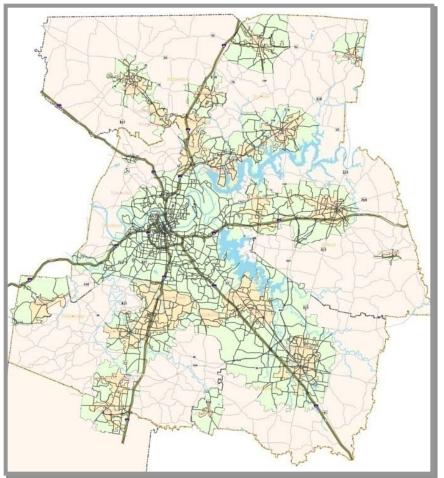
### What We Learned – Regional LOS Analysis



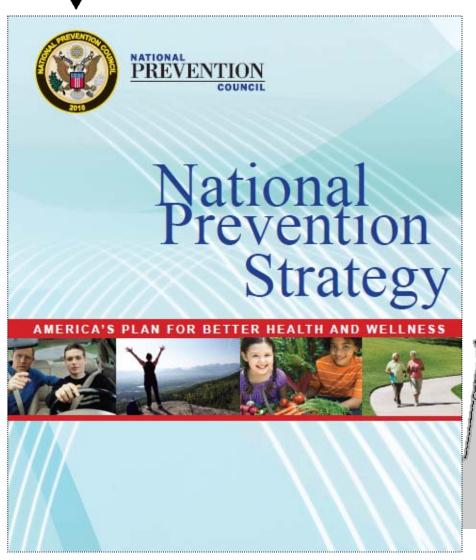
### A Vision for Future Active Transportation

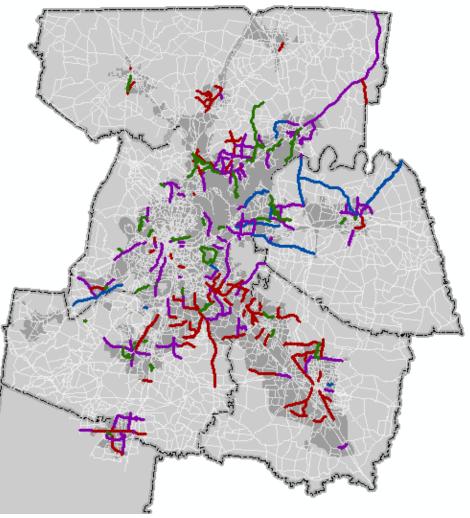






### **Support for Active Transportation**





## 2035 Plan Provides (active transport):

- Regional, comprehensive vision for bike/ped facilities;
- Guidance for roadway design standards to accommodate non-motorized modes of transport;
- Support for public \ law enforcement education to increase safety for walking and bicycling;
- New emphasis on multi-modal accommodations with:
  - → 75% of proposed roadway project proposals included a sidewalk, bicycle lane, or shared-use lane;
  - ≥ 15% of FHWA Urban Surface \$ for active transport;
  - ➡ Guidance for utilizing other grants (Safe Routes to School and Transportation Enhancements).

### Project Evaluation & Scoring Criteria

### Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization 2035 Regional Transportation Plan | Project Evaluation Criteria

Endorsed by MPO Executive Board on March 17, 2010

EVALUATION CRITERIA	SCORE
TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS	100
SYSTEM PRESERVATION & ENHANCEMENT	15
Project Improves Existing Route	+
Project Upgrades Route to Context Sensitive/ Prescribed Design Standards	+
Project Addresses Major Maintenance (e.g., bridge repair, etc.)	+
Project Integrates ITS Technology	+
Project Has Sustainable Operations/ Ongoing Maintenance Support	+
QUALITY GROWTH, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, & ECONOMIC PROSPERITY	15
Project Supports Quality Growth Principles	
Project Improves Accessibility and/or Connectivity to Existing Development	+
Project Located in Preferred Growth Area	+
Project Supports Infill/ Redevelopment	+
Project Incorporates Streetscaping/ Enhancements	+
Project Located Near Mixed-Use, High Density Areas	+
Project is Consistent with Desired Urban Design/ Form-Based Codes	+
Project Corrects Poor Storm water Flow/ Drainage	+
Project Improves Utility Location	+
Project Contributes to Grid Development/ Roadway Network Connectivity	+
Project Supports Existing or Planned Economic Development	
Project Located Near Existing Jobs	+
Project Located In High Job Growth Areas	+
Project Improves Multi-Modal Access to Jobs and Retail	+
Project Provides Improved/ New Access to Planned Growth Area	+
Project Endorsed by Local Chamber of Commerce	+
MULTI-MODAL OPTIONS	15
Project is Located within a Strategic Multi-Modal Corridor	
Route Includes Existing Transit Service	+
Route Includes Planned Transit Service	+
Route Includes Existing Pedestrian/ Bicycle Facilities	+
Route Includes Planned Pedestrian/ Bicycle Facilities	+
Project Incorporates Multi-Modal Solutions	
Project Improves Modal Conflict (e.g., traffic signals, grade separation, dedicated lanes)	+
Project Includes Transit Accommodations (e.g., pullouts, shelters, dedicated lanes, signal priority)	+
Project Includes Pedestrian Amenities (e.g., benches, bulb outs, pedestrian refuges, etc)	+
Project Includes Sidewalk Improvements (bonus for b+p priority)	+
Project Includes Bicycle Facility Improvements (bonus for b+p priority)	+
Project Makes a Connection to another Modal Facility	+
Project Includes Carpool Lane	+

# Freight Project Scoring Criteria

• Safety and Security = 20 Points

Project reduces traffic accidents and improves the safety and security of travelers

• Environmental Impacts = 10 Points

Project minimizes negative environmental and/or social impacts

Mobility = 20 Points

Project improves the movement of freight / system performance

Cost Effectiveness = 20 Points

Amount of investment required / funding sources

• Technology = 15 Points

Project utilizes technological initiatives to improve freight transportation

• Support to Local, State, and Regional Plans = 15 Points

Project supports area plans and addresses freight needs

### 2035 Plan Gets National Nod

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HOME ISSUES

CONTRIBUTORS

→ Top Stories: Keystone XL Pipeline | Defending the Clean Air Act

#### Kaid Benfield's Blog

### Nashville's promise for a greener transportation future



Posted February 15, 2012 in Curbing Pollution, Living Sustainably, Moving Beyond Oil

Tags: MPO, qualitygrowth, smartercities, smartgrowth, sprawl, sustainablecommunities, tennessee, transportationplan







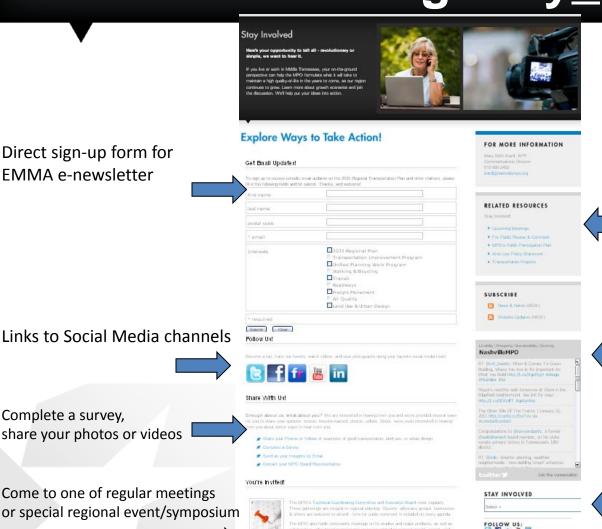


"For a transportation plan, and a guiding philosophy for allocating transportation investment, that's pretty darn good in a place that has been called one of the **most** sprawling & congested in the country. The proof...will be in the actual decisions made on the ground. But this is fantastic guidance for planners & citizens alike to measure those decisions against."

### New USTP Investment Strategy

- → 15% minimum investment in Active Transportation & Walkable Communities
  - ≥ Sidewalks, bicycle lanes, greenways, transit stops, amenities MPO BPAC PRIORITIZATION!
- **10% minimum** flexed to Transit
  - Combined with FTA funds to help implement regional vision for mass transit
- ⇒ 5% minimum reserved for stand-alone ITS/ Incident Management Upgrades
  - Support for smaller projects that make our system smarter and more efficient

# NashvilleMPO.org/Stay\_Involved



CongletTranslate

Public Participation Plan, Web 2.0 Policy, Upcoming Meetings Calendar, **Current Work Program** 

Twitter feed window: @NashvilleMPO & its most relevant partner orgs (Walk/Bike Nashville, Clean Air Partnership of Mid TN, Transit Now Nashville, Smart Growth America)

Involvement options, Web 2.0 channel thumbnails appear on every page throughout site

Complete a survey,

### facebook.com/NashvilleMPO





A Regional Partnership for Mobility, Economic Prosperity, Environmental Sustainability, & Health through Quality Investments in Transportation.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IS WELCOME & ENCOURAGED. Comments here are moderated.

On Twitter @NashvilleMPO.

520 People Like This

Rondi

Watson

Nashville Area MPO "The environmental effect of all this congestion is downright gross: in 2009, 3.9 billion gallons of fuel were wasted--equal to 130 days of flow in the Alaska Pipeline."



New report quantifies just how much a car commute crushes your

₱ 5 minutes ago + Like + Comment

The Texas Transportation Institute at Texas A&M University has released its annual Urban Mobility Report, which includes data on how much time, money, and mental health urban-area car commuters lose to congestion every year. Spoiler alert: Car commuting is expensive, crazy-making, and bad for the en-

♠ about an hour ago · Like · Comment



Nashville Area MPO "Cars are a leading cause of climate change. Your feet are zero-pollution transportation machines." (via Walk Score)

Nashville Area MPO More information on the RTA vote from this morning.

transit | Nashville Business Journal

Regional Transportation Authority passes key measure for mass

Nashville, TN News - View Daily Local Business News, Resources & more in

Yesterday at 11:54am \* Like \* Comment

Sally Robertson, Pat Clements and Emily Ogden like this.



Sally Robertson So are bicycles. 🌠 23 hours ago 🖒 1 person · Flag

www.bizjournals.com

Nashville, Tennessee,

♠ Wednesday at 1:41pm \* Like \* Comment.



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Nashville Area MPO Important news: Middle Tennessee's Transit Authority JUST voted to reconstitute itself as a major next-step toward establishing a regional \*dedicated funding\* source for the expansion / sustainability of transit infrastructure & operations.

Wednesday at 9:19am \* Like \* Comment

Terri Hammond Sterling, Eric Howell, Ron Yearwood and 6 others like this.



1. Think Broad

Filters

2. Don't be a Bore

3. Permission to Get Wonky

4. Tell people you're on FB!

5. Tag organizations/people (...Use facebook "as Nashville Area MPO")

6. Web 2.0 Policy

(http://SocialMediaGovernance.com/policies.php)

If they don't like it offline, they won't like it online. ©





### Twitter.com/NashvilleMPO







@USATODAY: Pedestrian fatalities rise while overall traffic fatalities decline. What do you think is goin' on? http://usat.ly/gzBE6J

19 minutes ago via web

RT @UrbanLandInst New Report: Buses Are America's Fastest Growing Transportation Mode http://bit.ly/dGrgat #transit

2:00 PM Jan 20th via web

grist The U.S. has as many as eight parking spaces per car. - http://bit.lv/fE06wQ @mims reports

12:34 PM Jan 19th via TweetDeck

Retweeted by NashvilleMPO and 15 others

"Cars are a leading cause of #climate change. Your feet are zeropollution transportation machines." via @walkscore

1:55 PM Jan 20th via web

@nashvillebiz on reconstitution of @MiddleTN\_RTA as next-step toward dedicated funding for regional #transit - http://bit.ly/g4XHw

3:44 PM Jan 19th via web

@MiddleTN\_RTA JUST voted to reconstitute itself as major nextstep toward establishing dedicated funding 4 #transit ops http://bit.ly/eqNgrX

11:23 AM Jan 19th via web

urbandata Since 1960s; US vehicle miles traveled per capita have tripled, #obesity rate has increased from 14% to 35%. #publichealth via @NashvilleMPO

1:21 PM Jan 18th via HootSuite

Retweeted by NashvilleMPO and 15 others

transportdata @NashvilleMPO is giving webinar talk on how #publichealth can be incorporated into #urbanpolicy around #transit, active transport.

1:17 PM Jan 18th via HootSuite

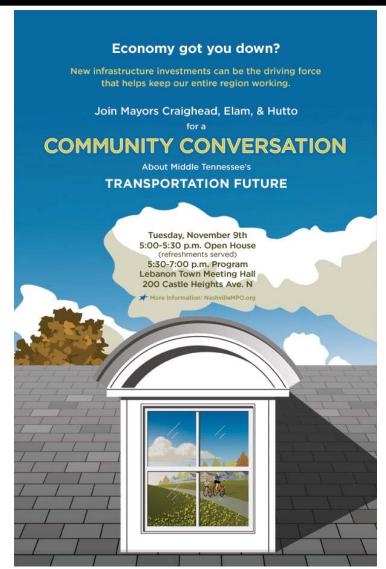


- 1. Listen First
- 2. Identity matters
- 3. Who's tweeting?
- 4. Stroke egos wiifm?
- 5. BREAKING NEWS
- 6. Accessible + authority = <u>Trust</u>
- 7. Timely & Active (for the love..., NO automation!)
- 8. 70-20-10 rule



### Community Conversations - 2035

corresponding live feed USTREAM.com – overall (6 meetings), 250 people logged on to watch via the Web.



nashvillempo.org





Livability. Sustainability. Prosperity. Diversity.

Michael Skipper, AICP Executive Director skipper@nashvillempo.org Mary Beth Ikard, APR Communications Director ikard@nashvillempo.org