



METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY
Public Works Department, Mark Macy, Director

Public Meeting Scheduled To Kick off Strategic Plan for Sidewalks and Bikeways Update

Public Works, Project Team launch new website, survey, interactive map

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (Mar. 23, 2016) – The Strategic Plan for Sidewalks and Bikeways Steering Committee and project team invite the downtown community, stakeholders and the public to attend a meeting to learn about the update process, provide feedback, and get involved in the yearlong update now known as WalknBike. Nashville residents are encouraged to visit the new [WalknBike website](#), attend the kick-off meeting and also [take a survey](#) about their thoughts on Nashville’s sidewalk and bikeways network. The public meeting will be held Friday, April 15, from 12 to 1:30 p.m. at the Nashville Public Library, (Main Library) located at 615 Church St.

Mayor Megan Barry will kick off the meeting with remarks on the project, which is one of her top priorities. Project team members from WalknBike, including the lead consultant on the project, Alta Planning + Design, and WalknBike Steering Committee members will present project background, survey results and trends, and lead a discussion with the public.

“Well-planned, -designed, -built and -maintained sidewalks and bikeways are needed to serve recreation and transportation needs and to support healthy living, economic vitality and a high quality of life,” Mayor Barry said. “It is critical that they serve the needs and reflect the wishes of our citizens. Please visit the new website, take the survey and engage in this process. Your voices and participation are the key to Nashville’s having a world-class network of sidewalks and bikeways.”

“Sidewalks and bikeways are a critical component of a vibrant and livable community. With the WalknBike Steering Committee members along with Metro agencies, businesses, nonprofits, and the community and the public’s involvement, I am positive Nashville’s future as a topnotch walkable and bikeable community is extremely bright,” said Jason Radinger, WalknBike Project Manager and Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator.

Residents can offer their feedback for the upcoming plan by taking the first [community survey](#) at [Nashvillewalknbike.com](#) and/or providing comments on the interactive map. The initial results from the survey will be released at the kick-off meeting on April 15.

The current plan was put in place in 2003 and updated in 2008. The purpose of the plan is to outline goals, priorities and policies regarding the location of the countywide sidewalks and bikeways network and provide a method for prioritizing improvements to ensure a healthy, active, safe and vibrant community. Mayor Barry directed Metro Public Works to move forward with updating the Strategic Plan for Sidewalks and Bikeways shortly after taking office.

Since 2003, Nashville has added more than 300 miles of sidewalks and 130 miles of bikeways, and this update will lay out a plan for how to build on that growth and make Nashville a leading example of how cities are investing in their pedestrian and bikeways infrastructure.

“What we’ve been hearing a lot from the community is that we need to have a clear plan for a network, for sidewalks and bikeways, so that everyone can get out and walk and bike for recreation, transportation, to get to a friend’s house, to get to work or school,” said WalknBike Steering Committee member Nora Kern, Executive Director, Walk Bike Nashville. The steering committee for the project held an organizational meeting on Tuesday, March 22, and discussed goals and expectations for the project, which include robust public engagement. Notes from the meeting can be seen at [Nashvillewalknbike.com](#). A list of the steering committee members is attached.

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About WalknBike

WalknBike is a Metro Public Works-led initiative to upgrade the Strategic Plan for Sidewalks and Bikeways. The project team is comprised of a steering committee made up of internal and external partners and includes a robust public engagement process, evaluation of peer and aspirational cities, updated inventory of Davidson County’s sidewalk and bikeways, modernized project prioritization, a comprehensive funding strategy, and new tools to provide easier access to information about implementation and program progress. WalknBike will be the second update to Metro’s 2003 plan. The last update was 2008. This yearlong process depends on your input. Help Nashville prioritize strategic, equitable investment in sidewalks and bikeways at [Nashvillewalknbike.com](#).

Project Team

Led by Metro Public Works, project team members include WalknBike Steering Committee members and Alta Planning + Design