



Steering Committee Meeting #1 for WalknBike Notes April 14, 2016

The first steering committee meeting for the 2016 Strategic Plan for Sidewalks and Bikeways Update, known as WalknBike, took place on April 14. Jason Radinger, WalknBike Project Manager and Public Works Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator, introduced the committee to the project, and Gary Gatson, Executive Director for the Nashville Civic Design Center, stressed the importance of the project and how it connects to the recently released book called *Shaping the Healthy Community: The Nashville Plan*. "The book has a lot of images, photographs, maps and design concepts, strategies and policy recommendations for how we can create a healthier city through designing the built environment in ways that make us healthier every day," Gary explained.

The committee began organizing into subcommittees to allow steering committee members the opportunity to dive into more technical discussions throughout the WalknBike planning process. Members signed up for the following subcommittee topics:

- Outreach and Education
- Prioritization Methodology
- Policy & Enforcement
- Design Practices

Matt Hayes from Alta Planning + Design, the lead consultant, explained that the purpose of the plan is to outline goals, priorities and policies regarding location of the countywide sidewalk and bikeways network and provide a method for prioritizing bikeways network and provide a method for prioritizing improvements to ensure a healthy, active, safe, and vibrant community. The plan will use concepts from Vision Zero (a campaign for zero traffic deaths) and The Five E's (Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, Engineering, and Evaluation). A summary of the public outreach opportunities was also provided, as well an overview of what has been heard so to date.

Clifton Ogden, from Civic Engineering & IT, walked the committee through an overview of the current prioritization methodology. The Pedestrian Generator Index (PGI) is a prioritization tool that helps Metro make decisions and investments for both new sidewalks and existing sidewalks needing repair. The PGI uses land use categories, destinations, and street classifications to estimate demand for walking. Sidewalk condition and coordination with other Metro departments also plays a role in sidewalk prioritization. Metro does not currently have a prioritization process for bikeway improvements. Committee members were given an opportunity to share comments on the current methodology and discuss strategies to educate the public on this complex topic. Updating the prioritization process will be a major focus of the WalknBike project and will rely heavily on steering committee feedback and guidance.

The next meeting of the committee will be in early June. The project team will create a doodle poll to schedule a date that works for the majority of members.

