



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

WalknBike To Continue To Collect Public Input for Plan Update After a Successful Kickoff Meeting

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts:

Jenna Smith (615) 880-2439 direct, (615) 967-8186 cell

Kennetha Price (615) 862-8763 direct, (615) 210-6004 cell

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (April 19, 2016) – More than 150 community members attended the 1st public meeting at the Nashville Public Main Library to kick off the 2016 Strategic Plan for Sidewalks and Bikeways Update, known as WalknBike. Meeting participants heard remarks from Mayor Megan Barry; Mark Macy, Public Works Director; and listened to a presentation and project overview from the project team.

In her remarks, Mayor Megan Barry highlighted the importance of the WalknBike project, saying that creating a plan to make Nashville a more pedestrian- and bike-friendly city is one of her top priorities. “Working together as a community to improve the safety and accessibility of our streets for pedestrians and bicyclists is the focus of this project, and we want to hear from you,” said Mayor Barry. “Together we will determine what is best for our community, and for our quality of life.”

Since WalknBike began recording feedback online last month, the project team has collected nearly 1,600 responses to the survey. 83% of residents taking the survey disagree that walking is a “safe, convenient and practical way” to get around Nashville. The most common impediments to walking listed included a lack of sidewalks, sidewalks in poor condition and safety concerns. Nearly 80% of residents taking the survey disagree that biking is a “safe, convenient and practical way” to get around Nashville. The most common impediments cited include unsafe roadways and a lack of bicycle infrastructure. Over 2,700 Nashvillians have commented on the WalknBike project’s interactive map. The interactive map allows citizens to provide their thoughts and concerns, and to identify project opportunities for creating a more bicycle and pedestrian-friendly Nashville-Davidson County. Residents who have not taken the survey or commented on the map may do so at nashvillewalknbike.com.

“We’ve heard loud and clear from the public that we must continue to increase our efforts to make Nashville a more walk-able and bike-able community. The WalknBike Project team and steering committee look forward to hearing from and working with citizens from every corner of our community about what they want to see in our future plans,” said Jason Radinger WalknBike Project Manager.

After kickoff remarks and a project overview and presentation, members of the WalknBike project team and Steering Committee met with citizens at public input stations which included:

- Station #1: Address Map: Participants asked to place a dot to identify where they live
- Station #2: Project Overview and Previous Planning Efforts: Project schedule, planning process, goals and key outcomes
- Station #3: Current prioritization methodology review and preference options for public input (bicycle facility types, streetscape amenities, etc.)
- Station #4: Public Statements: Large boards for the public to place sticky notes to answer the following questions:
 - Walking in Nashville is/should be...
 - Biking in Nashville is/should be...
 - I would walk/bike more if...
- Station #5: Map Exercise: Large poster of the comments received to date on the online interactive map; Existing condition maps; Workstation to view and comment on the interactive map
- Station #6: User Survey; Hard copy user survey's for participants to complete

WalknBike 2016 Strategic Plan for Sidewalks and Bikeways Update Steering Committee Members are:

- **Jason Radinger** – Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, WalknBike Project Manager; Metro Public Works
- ***Mary Beth Ikard** – Transportation and Sustainability Manager, Mayor's Office
- ***Mary Pat Teague** – Associate Director, Community, Neighborhood and Government Relations; Vanderbilt University; BPAC Member
- **Steve Anderson** – Chief of Police, Metro Police
- **Steve Bland** – CEO, Metro Transit Authority (MTA)
- **Tracy Buck** – Director, Prevention and Wellness Division, Metro Public Health
- **Rochelle Carpenter** – Senior Policy Analyst, Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
- **Adams Carroll** – MPO Regional Active Mobility Planner, Metro Planning Commission
- **Felix Castrodad** – Director of Planning and Grants, MTA
- **Mayra Cervantes** – Marketing and Community Engagement Coordinator, Conexión Américas
- **Laurel Creech** - Sustainability Manager, Metro Department of General Services
- **Shain Dennison** – Assistant Director, Greenways and Open Space Division, Metro Parks and Recreation
- **Kenton Dickerson** – Volunteer, Tennessee Disability Coalition
- **Dr. Stacy Dorris** – Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine; Walk Bike Nashville Board Member
- **John Drake** – Central Precinct commander, Metro Nashville Police Department
- **Gary Gaston** – Executive Director, Nashville Civic Design Center
- **Debra Gibbs** – Assistant Professor in Occupational Therapy, Belmont University; Council on Aging Board Member
- **Michael Gilliland** – Lieutenant, Special Operation Division, Metro Police

- **John Gore** – Vice President, Barge Cauthen & Associates
- **Jerry Hall** – ADA Coordinator, Metro General Services
- **John Harkey** – Healthy Nashville Leadership Council Member; BPAC Member
- **Cindy Harrison** – Project Manager, Metro Parks and Recreation
- **Kristen Heggie** – Project Manager, Skanska
- **Angie Henderson** – Metro Councilmember, District 34
- **Nora Kern** – Executive Director, Walk Bike Nashville
- **Michelle Lacewell** – Deputy Director, MPO
- **Tommy Lynch** – Director, Metro Parks and Recreation
- **Mark Macy** – Director, Metro Public Works
- **Leslie Meehan** – Assistant Director of Primary Prevention, Tennessee Department of Health
- **Dr. Bill Paul** – Director, Metro Public Health
- **Evan Pendency** – Student, Belmont University
- **David Proffitt** – Director of Facility Planning and Construction, Metro Nashville Public Schools
- **Keith Rawls** – General Manager, Nashville B-cycle
- **Jonathan Russell** - Community Transportation Planner, Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)
- **Michael Skipper** – Executive Director, MPO
- **Doug Sloan** – Executive Director, Metro Planning
- **Tom Turner** – President and CEO, Downtown Partnership
- **Mary Vavra** – Senior Landscape Architect/Planner, Lose & Associates; Transit Now Nashville Board Member
- **John Vick** – Division of Epidemiology and Research, Metro Public Health
- **Peter Westerholm** – Fellow, MPO, BPAC Member
- **Nancy Whittemore** – Director, Metro General Services
- **Jessica Wilson** – Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, Tennessee Department of Transportation
- **Ron Yearwood** – Assistant Director, Nashville Civic Design Center

*WalknBike Co-Chair

The [WalknBike Steering Committee](#) met on April 14. The Committee began organizing into subcommittees which will include Outreach and Education, Design Practices, Policy and Enforcement, and Prioritization Methodology.

WalknBike will continue to collect feedback at events, conduct a peer and aspirational city comparison, and evaluate the pedestrian and bicycle network and prioritization process in Nashville. Additional public meetings will be held throughout the spring and summer. To stay connected with the project and future meeting dates, visit Nashvillewalknbike.com.

About WalknBike

Led by Metro Public Works, Metro project team members include Metro Planning Commission, Metro Public Health Department, MTA, MPO, Metro Nashville Police Department, Metro General Services, Metro Nashville Public Schools, and Metro Parks and Recreation. The project team is also composed of Alta Planning + Design, Civic Engineering and Information Technology, Hawkins Partners, Inc., MP&F Public Relations, and a steering committee made up of internal and external partners. The project 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. The project purpose is to upgrade the Strategic Plan for Sidewalks and Bikeways. 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.



(Photo: Mayor Megan Barry / MP&F PR)



(Photo: Kick off Participants at Station / MP&F PR)



(Photo: April 14 Steering Committee meeting / MP&F PR)



(Photo: April 14 Steering Committee meeting / MP&F PR)



(Photo: Mark Macy, Public Works Director / MP&F PR)