



MEDIA ADVISORY

Documentary Filmmaker Brings Story of Detroit's Woes to Transit Conversation in Middle Tenn.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 16, 2010

Media Contact: Mary Beth Ikard, APR
615.880.2452 | ikard@NashvilleMPO.org

NASHVILLE, Tenn.— In recognition of the American Public Transportation Association's fifth annual national *Dump the Pump Day*, Nashville will play host to Aaron Wolf -- the writer, producer, and director of a feature documentary about the past and future of transportation.

- WHO:** Aaron Wolf - Writer, Director, Producer of the PBS documentary *Beyond the Motor City*; city planners, urban growth experts, bike and transit advocates, **elected officials** and concerned citizens
- WHAT:** Documentary film screening and discussion on the past and future of transportation in America by examining the story of Detroit. *Beyond the Motor City* is part of PBS Blueprint America, a national, multi-platform initiative examining the state of America's transportation infrastructure.
- WHEN:** Thursday, June 17 – “Dump the Pump Day” as designated by the American Public Transportation Association. **TWO SCREENINGS** will be offered:
- ✓ **DAYTIME** presentation by the filmmaker to Middle Tennessee Mayors Caucus and Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee, **11:30am**
 - ✓ **EVENING** [free] screening for grassroots groups and the public. Feature documentary with filmmaker remarks starting at **6:15pm**, preceding reception at **5:30pm**.
- WHERE:** **DAYTIME SCREENING** for Middle Tennessee **Mayors Caucus** and **Transit Alliance** held in the Auditorium of the **Nashville Downtown Public Library** – Auditorium. Media, please check in with Mary Beth Ikard upon arrival— mobile phone: 615-579-0605.
- EVENING SCREENING** for grassroots groups and the public held at Watkins College of Art, Design & Film, 2298 Rosa Parks Boulevard in Nashville's MetroCenter, in Watkins Theater.
- WHY:** The Blueprint America screening tour aims to provoke public attention and energize debate on: new hopes for accessible, clean, and modern mass transit in America; the role of cities, and consumers, in shaping the next generation of transportation systems; and a roadmap for revitalizing the way we move through our cities and neighborhoods.

FILM DESCRIPTION

Detroit is the crucible in which the nation's ability to move toward a modern 21st century transportation infrastructure is put to the test. *Beyond the Motor City* shows how investments in the past profoundly shaped Detroit's physical layout, population growth and economic development. Before being dubbed the Motor City, Detroit was once home to the nation's most extensive streetcar system. In fact, it was that vast network of streetcars that carried workers to the area's many car factories. And it was the cars made in those factories that would soon displace the streetcars in Detroit — and in every major American city.

(Continued on page 2)

Detroit’s engineers went on to design the nation’s first urban freeways and inspired much of America’s 20th century transportation infrastructure system —from traffic signals to gas stations— that became the envy of the world. But over the last 30 years, much of the world has moved on, choosing faster, cleaner, more modern transportation and leaving America — and Detroit — behind.

But over the last 30 years, much of the world has left Detroit—and America—behind, choosing faster, cleaner, more modern transportation. In a journey that takes us into the neighborhoods of Detroit and then beyond to Spain, California, and our nation’s capital, *Beyond the Motor City* urges us to ask how we might finally push America’s transportation system into the 21st century.

The Rockefeller Foundation, as part of its Sustainable Transportation initiative, is a major funder of the film and the director's exclusive six-city tour, which includes: Detroit, Memphis, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Indianapolis, **Nashville**.

DUMP THE PUMP!

To encourage evening film patrons to leave the car at home and take transit to the Watkins free public screening, MTA is offering extended service of the #9 MetroCenter route. Bus service will be offered back to Music City Central after Q&A with the filmmaker concludes at 8:30pm. Those attending the screening may board a **9 Metro Center** bus at **Music City Central Bay 11** at either 4:10 or 4:38 p.m. to get there prior to the reception, or at 5:23 p.m. to get to Watkins during the reception, but prior to the filmmaker’s remarks.



About the Nashville Area MPO:

The Nashville Area MPO is the federally-designated transportation planning agency for over 2800 sq. mi. and more than 1.5 million people throughout Davidson, Rutherford, Sumner, Williamson, Wilson, and parts of Maury and Robertson counties. Serving as a regional partnership among the U.S. DOT, Tennessee DOT, local elected leadership, local planning and public works directors, the business community, and citizens across the five-plus county planning area, the MPO leads in the development of the region’s long-range transportation plan and short-range Transportation Improvement Program, and contributes to ongoing conversations about issues such as land use, economic development, climate change and the environment, safety and security, and health. To learn more, visit NashvilleMPO.org.