



NASHVILLE AREA

Metropolitan Planning Organization

MEDIA ADVISORY

Media Invited: National Experts to Address Middle Tenn. Decision-Makers on “Complete Streets” Policies

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Are Middle Tennesseans able to get out and enjoy their communities on streets that are livable, or has speeding traffic taken the place of what might have been sidewalks and bicycle lanes? As municipalities plan for new roads –or revitalize or resurface existing roads– how can we ensure those plans consider a *diversity* of transportation options? A design concept known as **Complete Streets** helps to ease congestion by decreasing the amount of cars on the road, increases mobility for people who can’t or don’t drive, improves air quality, and supports physical activity as a way of life by providing a welcoming environment for pedestrians and cyclists.

WHAT: An in-depth workshop to enlighten key decision-makers on policy changes that help to balance the needs of all users of our roadways, by creating and maintaining "complete" streets.

WHO: Middle Tenn. welcomes national experts on Complete Streets policy-making & implementation:

- ✓ **Bill Floyd**, Mayor, City of Decatur, Georgia – where a Complete Streets policy has been adopted
- ✓ **Michael Ronkin**, renown expert in designing streets to better accommodate pedestrians & bicyclists, who served for 17 years as Bike/Ped Program Manager, Oregon Dept. of Transportation
- ✓ **Randy Neufeld**, strategic management consultant for National Complete Streets Coalition, director of SRAM Cycling Fund supporting innovative efforts to promote cycling in Europe and the U.S.
- ✓ Key **regional community stakeholders** on the Complete Streets issue, including elected officials, policy makers, community planners and engineers, citizen and non-profit advocates.
 - John Schroer, Mayor, City of Franklin; Ann Peterson and Ken Moore, Aldermen, City of Franklin; Ken A. Scalf, Chairman, Franklin Sustainability Commission; Linda Elam, Mayor, City of Mt. Juliet; Rick Graham, Alderman, City of Spring Hill; and Tonya Jones, Commissioner, Metro Planning Commission.

WHEN: Thursday, January 28, 2010

- ✓ **9:15-10:15 a.m. Intro to Complete Streets: *What it is, what it isn't, and what a policy means***
- ✓ **12:00-1:15 p.m. Keynote Luncheon – Mayor Bill Floyd, Decatur, Georgia** – a nearby urbanized municipality, where an ideal Complete Streets policy has been formally adopted.

WHERE: Cool Springs Marriott, 700 Cool Springs Blvd., Franklin, Tenn.

WHY: Complete Streets are a proven, cost-effective way to improve safety and accessibility for everyone using the road. Streets that reinforce livability –incorporating social, economic, *and* mobility functions into their design– play an important role in quality-of-life, so that *all* people living in our communities –regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation– feel safe and welcome on the roadways.