



NASHVILLE AREA

Metropolitan Planning Organization

MEDIA ADVISORY

Major Announcement on Regional Transportation Efforts at Middle Tenn. Mayors Caucus & Transit Alliance Meeting

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. – At a Feb. 4th meeting of the Middle Tennessee Mayors Caucus, the newly-elected MPO Board Chair, Mayor Karl Dean of Nashville, will announce details of a critical period in 2010 for public and municipal involvement in multi-billion dollar transportation investments for the region.

The Middle Tennessee Mayors Caucus was formed in July of 2009 in order to provide leadership on important issues facing a growing region. Gallatin Mayor Jo Ann Graves is the inaugural chair of the Caucus – an organization that serves as an opportunity for city and county mayors to build important working relationships with one another. Several Caucus mayors serve on the MPO Board, which has the authority to select projects for federal funding.

WHO: Mayors on the MPO Executive Board, businesses and community leaders involved in area chambers of commerce, and the Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee.

WHAT: Announcement – details on significant 2010 update to Regional Transportation Plan.

WHEN: Thurs., Feb. 4, 2010, 11:35 a.m.

✓ *MEDIA AVAIL with Mayor Dean's remarks begins promptly at 11:35 a.m.*

WHERE: Convention & Visitors Bureau, One Nashville Place, 150 4th Ave N, Suite G-250, Nashville 37219

WHY: The Nashville Area MPO is currently in the midst of a major update to its multi-billion dollar regional transportation plan that would include a vast scope of federally-funded transportation projects in the metropolitan area. The MPO may set aside money for projects that support significant policy initiatives such as transit – including what would be new options for Middle Tennessee like passenger rail or Bus Rapid Transit– as well as walkable/bikeable communities, livability, and sustainability. The plan can depict an innovative vision for transportation in the region, but ultimately must establish a path to realistic financial feasibility.

About the MPO:

Established through federal legislation, the Nashville Area MPO has the authority to plan, prioritize, and select transportation projects in the metropolitan area for federal funding and to coordinate any major transportation initiative that has significance to the region. The Nashville Area MPO is the regional transportation planning agency for more than 1.5 million people throughout Davidson, Rutherford, Sumner, Williamson, Wilson and parts of Maury and Robertson counties.