

Mayor Karl Dean, Chairman



NASHVILLE AREA

**Metropolitan Planning Organization**

# Active Transportation Program Project Evaluation & BPAC Organization

Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee  
July 12, 2011

# Discussion Items

- ➔ Recap of Last Meeting
- ➔ Active Transportation Program Call-for-Projects
  - BPAC role during project evaluation with a focus on defining qualitative assessment categories
- ➔ BPAC Organizational Structure
  - Discuss proposed activities for the BPAC post-regional study
  - Peer review of other BPACs
  - Staff recommendations for MPO BPAC activities and structure

# Active Transportation Program Call-for-Projects

[nashvillempo.org](http://nashvillempo.org)

# Active Transportation Call-for-Projects

- ➔ \$2.5 million in Urban Surface Transportation Program grant funds over next 4 to 5 years
  - Authorized by the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan
  - Programmed in the FYs 2011-15 Transportation Improvement Program
- ➔ Eligibility limited to those projects or programs that improve the active transportation system throughout the Nashville Area MPO planning area
  - At least one infrastructure project
  - At least one non-infrastructure project
- ➔ Evaluation Process: SEE HANDOUT

# BPAC Project Evaluation

- ➔ BPAC will be asked to rate each project on a scale of 0 (worst) to 5 (best) for four separate categories:
  - Promotion of Environmental and Public Health
  - Expected Utility/ Usage
  - Contribution to the Built Environment
  - Value over No-Build/ No-Action
  
- ➔ **TODAY'S TASKS:**
  - Finalize categories
  - Discuss thought process for scoring each category to help create guidance BPAC members

# BPAC Organizational Structure

[nashvillempo.org](http://nashvillempo.org)

# BPACs in other areas

- ➔ Chattanooga
  - Predominately information sharing
- ➔ Knoxville
  - Subcommittees for events, media, enforcement
- ➔ Puget Sound
  - TE/TIP project selection criteria, outreach, measuring bike/ped demand, design guidelines, advise local gov't
- ➔ Sacramento
  - Advises Board on bike/ped in plans and project priorities
  - Awarding funding, online bike/ped trip planner, Bicycle Commute Month
- ➔ San Francisco
  - 3 members per county – gov't, bike coalition, general public (MPO does not have BPAC)

# Regional BPAC: Main Objectives

- ➔ Provide a direct, formal relationship between users and advocates of active modes of transportation and MPO decision-makers
- ➔ Assist staff in the formulation of policy, plan, program, and project recommendations
- ➔ Provide the MPO with additional resources to advance regional policies in support of active transportation

# Regional BPAC: Proposed Activities

- ➔ **Evaluate projects** for state and federal funding, as needed
- ➔ Provide a **peer exchange** for local BPACs, non-profit advocacy, and public-sector agencies
- ➔ **Co-host regional/statewide symposium** or summit to advance issues related to the non-motorized modes of transportation
- ➔ **Provide input on scoping regional planning studies** of walking and bicycling infrastructure
- ➔ **Assist in the coordination of information** related to regional policies, plan, programs, and projects that improve walking & bicycling infrastructure

# Regional BPAC: General Characteristics

- ➔ **15 to 25 members**
  - Appointed by local BPAC, local mayor/county executive, or MPO chair
  - Serve multi-year terms
- ➔ **3 to 5 members per MPO County**
- ➔ **Mix of organizational backgrounds**
  - public-sector, private organizations, individuals, etc.
- ➔ **Mix of professional training/ background**
  - policy, planning, engineering, law enforcement, etc.
- ➔ **Meet as necessary, in-person or by tele/web conference**
  - at least quarterly, but not likely on a monthly basis

# Regional BPAC: Membership

- ➔ **Local BPAC Representatives** – as designated by the Local BPAC
- ➔ **Public Sector Agency Representatives** – as designated by the Mayor/ County Executive
  - Planning, Engineering, Parks & Recreation, Health, Law Enforcement, schools, etc.
  - Rotating Geography
- ➔ **Non-Profit Advocacy Representatives** – as appointed by the MPO Chair
- ➔ **Concerned/ Interested Individuals** – as appointed by the MPO Chair

# MPO Study Recommendations

## ➔ Build Knowledge and Awareness

- Hold Regional Bike/Ped Summit
- Foster relationships between public and private sector (chambers, bike shops, engineering companies)
- Create GIS database with transit routes for mapping/planning purposes
- Establish an annual report on bike/ped activities
- Create website with routes and maps
- Publicize bike/ped projects and events
- Establish a Bicycle Ambassadors program
- Integrate bike/ped safety curriculum into schools and other educational programs
- Create, fund and implement bicycle media campaigns
- Work with local police on enforcing bike/ped laws
- Continue the bike/ped count program
- Analyze crash data

# MPO Study Recommendations

## ➔ Create Policies & Programs

- Designate a local bike/ped coordinator in every jurisdiction
- Require continuing education for staffs involved in bike/ped decision making
- Integrate recommendations of bike/ped study into local ordinances and guidelines
- Create, fund and implement a regional bicycle parking program
- Encourage local governments to adopt Complete Streets policies



## **Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, July 12, 2011 | 11:30 AM**

MPO Office at the Fulton Office Complex | Nash Conference Room  
800 Second Avenue South, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor | Nashville, Tennessee

### Meeting Minutes

- 1. Welcome & Introductions** – *Attendees included: Leslie Meehan and Michael Skipper, Nashville Area MPO; Tom Evans, Bike/Walk Tennessee; Ted Cornelius, YMCA; Peter Pressman, Nashville Striders; Becky Taylor, Clean Air Partnership; William Anderson, Veloteers; Cindy Harrison, Metro Greenways; Michael Briggs, Metro Planning; Bob Murphy, RPM Transportation; Amanda Watson, MTA; Jeff Keeter, MNPD; Toks Omishakin, Mayor Dean's Office*
- 2. Call for Projects** – *BPAC Members who did not attend the June 1, 2011 were given a brief overview of the discussion from that meeting. The topics included the Principles, Goals and Objectives of the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan, the reserved STP dollars for Active Transportation, and the proposed Scoring Criteria for evaluating projects applying for the STP funding. Members were provided with the Active Transportation Call for Projects handout provided at the June meeting. The handout covers the background and funding availability, eligible applicants, eligible project categories, proposed proposal content, the proposed project evaluation and scoring process for both MPO staff and BPAC members, and the proposed timeline.*

*The conversation focused primarily on the structure for project review, which begins with quantitative analysis by staff, qualitative review by BPAC members, and a final analysis by staff (applicant project management history, demonstration of local match), before taking the final project candidate recommendations to the MPO TCC and Executive Board. The BPAC will be conducting a qualitative analysis ranking projects on a scale from 0 (worst) to 5 (best) with four factors. The discussion led to the need to create different factors for infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects. As a result, the Active Transportation Call for Projects handout has been modified with the following criteria: Infrastructure Projects: 1. Promotion of Environmental and Personal Health (including Safety), 2. Expected Utility/Usage, 3. Contribution to the Built Environment, 4. Value over No Build/No Action; and Non-Infrastructure Projects: 1. Scope of Audience/Reach, 2. Consistency of Message to Regional Goals, 3. Synergy with other Programs, 4. Sustainability of Effort.*

*BPAC members discussed ranking projects individually and how that might play into individual preferences/local information influencing a member's scoring (which is ok). Consensus among members for scoring is not the objective. Biases help MPO staff to understand perspectives among BPAC members. However, projects should reflect what is best for the region, not just for one area.*

*Discussion included:*

- *Recap of Discussion from June Meeting*
  - *Tiers of Project Review*
  - *Qualitative and Quantitative Scoring*
- *Qualitative Criteria Discussion*
- *Schedule – Target date for announcement of call for projects is now August 17<sup>th</sup> at the MPO Executive Board Meeting*

**3. BPAC Responsibilities and Structure**– *BPAC members revisited the discussion started at the June 2011 about dissolving the existing BPAC and forming a new BPAC by appointment. Consensus was that given the time sensitivity to spend the STP funding in light of Federal rescission of Transportation dollars, that it is more efficient to keep the current BPAC membership rather than go through an application and training process for new BPAC members. The BPAC was then shown a Power Point which highlighted activities that the BPAC could undertake, including evaluation of projects for state and Federal funding (as needed), providing a peer exchange for local BPACs, co-hosting a regional/statewide bike/ped symposium, providing input on bike/ped components of planning studies, and assisting in the coordination of information related to bicycle and pedestrian policies, planning, programs and projects. The BPAC was also provided with examples of other BPAC structures, meeting frequencies and responsibilities from the following cities: Chattanooga, Knoxville, Seattle, San Francisco and Sacramento. BPAC members expressed an interest in being educated on the transportation funding process so they can educate others, coordinating with other groups such as transit groups, and providing support and a forum to exchange ideas for local BPACs. Discussion included:*

- *Discussion of BPAC priorities and responsibilities*
  - *Review of peer BPACs*
  - *Vision for Nashville BPAC*
- *Appointment of BPAC*
  - *Structure and makeup of BPAC*
  - *Application and appointment process*

**4. Next Steps, Announcements, and other Discussion** - *the next steps included revising the MPO Active Transportation Call for Projects handout and development of a project application. Staff will send the application out for BPAC review prior to the August 17, 2011 MPO Executive Board meeting.*

**5. Adjourn** - *Next Meeting: TBD The next meeting will include review of the call for projects and review of the quantitative and qualitative scoring sheets for MPO staff and BPAC members.*