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Coordinating land development and transportation investments drive job growth and household savings on fuel, time

*Nashville Area MPO, local agencies invite public to participate in improving regional land use
and transportation plans for Robertson, Sumner and Wilson Counties*

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Community workshops are set for early December to give citizens a look at future growth and development across Robertson, Sumner and Wilson Counties, and to weigh in on preferences for how that growth should occur in order to support quality-of-life.

The Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) –a multi-county, regional planning agency– is working closely with local planners and community leaders to develop a plan to address growth for the next 25 years. “Middle Tennessee is expected to grow by close to another million people within the next couple of decades. That growth will present challenges for communities across the region,” said Michael Skipper, director of the Nashville Area MPO. “We must be thinking now about how those people will commute or use our transportation system to carry out their daily activities.”

As part of the Tri-County Transportation Land Use Study, community and regional planners will host the workshops as follows:

- **Sumner County:** Thurs., Dec. 3, Hendersonville Public Library, 140 Saundersville Rd. – Meeting is 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. with presentation at 5:30 p.m. Light refreshments served.
- **Robertson County:** Mon., Dec. 7, The Farmer’s Bank, 3490 Tom Austin Highway, Springfield (next door to Lowe’s, upstairs training room) – Meeting is 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. with presentation at 5:30 p.m. Light refreshments served.
- **Davidson County:** Tues., Dec. 8, Nashville Downtown Partnership, 150 4th Avenue North (on 4th Avenue North between Commerce and Broadway Streets) – Open house from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Light lunch served.
- **Wilson County:** Tues, Dec. 8 - Lebanon City Hall, 200 North Castle Heights Ave., Lebanon, TN – Meeting is 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. with presentation at 5:30 p.m. Light refreshments served.

Kicked off in late 2007, the Tri-County Transportation & Land Use Study is a first-of-its-kind effort in the region to bring local governments, citizens, and businesses together across jurisdictional boundaries to talk about significant growth issues. The MPO will use this effort to generate ideas for the regional transportation plan. Local governments expect to use the effort to develop or improve upon their own comprehensive plans. This second series of meetings recaps input and feedback from the first round, and gives citizens a chance to learn about land use and transportation strategies that might be available to planners.

“We strongly encourage people to ‘save the date’ and participate in the discussion,” Skipper said. “Linking transportation and land use issues is critically important – this effort goes a step further to improve coordination of local planning activities across city and county boundaries. We can draw certain conclusions from predicting the future based on historical trends and existing policies, to get a sense of how well that future might meet our goals for mobility, economic prosperity, and environmental sustainability. If we want a different outcome, we can outline certain steps, actions and decisions to change course. Community growth plans play a key part in ensuring a high quality-of-life for the region; coordination of these plans is becoming increasingly essential as our communities grow closer together.”