

Bowling Green-Warren County

MPO

Metropolitan Planning Organization

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Newsletter

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Traveling north on US 31W (Nashville Road) , near Highland Way.

Get to Know the MPO

On June 3, 2003, the Governor of Kentucky designated the Bowling Green-Warren County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Its boundary includes the Bowling Green urban area as well as the balance of Warren County. The MPO makes transportation policies for Bowling Green and Warren County. The MPO reviews short- and long-range transportation plans and programs and annually endorses a course of action to make those plans a reality.

The local MPO is less than 15 years old, but MPOs began dotting the nation's landscape in the 1960s. The Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973 required an MPO for all urbanized areas with a population greater than 50,000 to develop transportation plans in order to receive federal funds for road projects. Since then, the responsibilities of an MPO in transportation planning have expanded, and the importance of public participation has grown.



WKU Transit transports students to various locations throughout Bowling Green. As seen in this photo, looking north towards WKU, the CSX railroad and a greenways trail run along Creason Street.

A critical component of the MPO is citizen participation and involvement in all elements of the transportation planning process to create an inclusive vision for the region. We seek out and consider the needs of people traditionally underserved by the existing transportation system, such as those who face challenges getting to work or medical appointments. The MPO staff consults with local, state, and federal agencies responsible for other planning activities that are affected by transportation decisions to help gauge the needs of the community and move Bowling Green and Warren County forward.

Metropolitan Transportation Plan Public Meeting

The MPO will hold a public forum **Tuesday, September 15, 2015**, to receive the community's input on a draft transportation plan. The forum will be held from **4 to 6 p.m.** in the second floor conference room of the City-County Planning Commission office, located at 1141 State Street.

The MPO is currently updating its Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), which will serve as a guide for transportation improvement projects from 2016 to 2040. The purpose of the forum is to collect input on the MTP draft, which addresses a variety of transportation issues involving highway, bicycle, pedestrian, and public transportation. Input regarding the MTP will be used to guide future planning efforts for the Bowling Green-Warren County area in order to best meet the needs of our transportation system and address the issues expressed by the community.

A public comment period for the MTP will open beginning September 11 and end October 10. The comments received from the public, both at the meeting and throughout the public comment period, will be incorporated into the final 2016-2040 MTP.

For more information on the MPO, a copy of the current MTP, or to comment, please visit <http://www.warrenpc.org/mpo>, or contact Karissa Lemon, MPO Coordinator, at (270) 842-1953 or karissa.lemon@bgky.org.



MPO staff reviews transportation projects listed in the MTP with attendees of the previous MTP public meeting, June 2015.

Current Happenings

The Bowling Green-Warren County MPO works in close coordination with transportation officials throughout our county as well as other federal agencies to address the transportation needs of our community. Local entities are working hard to maintain our roadways and create an interconnected and efficient transportation system.

Warren County Public Works has begun its road resurfacing for FY 2015-2016. Work is currently being performed on portions of Elrod Road and Neal Howell Road, with a section of Hydro Pondsville Road to begin shortly. In addition, road crews are continuing to improve shoulders and clear right-of-ways of brush and tree limbs in preparation for winter weather.

The Smallhouse Road Corridor project, under operation by the City of Bowling Green Public Works, is underway with the first phase focusing on widening the portion from Campbell Lane through the intersection with Highland Way to three lanes. A sidewalk is planned for one side of the roadway. The design is complete and any necessary easement/property acquisition is set to begin in early fall. Additionally, a public meeting is set for September to share details of the project with stakeholders. The completed widening will address traffic congestion, primarily at the signalized intersections with Campbell Lane and also at Highland Way, as well as pedestrian needs along the highly traveled corridor.

The Bowling Green City Commission continues to put a high priority on making Bowling Green a walkable community. They dedicate, on average, \$500,000 annually toward the construction of new sidewalks through the City's Sidewalk Program which was first implemented in 2008. Since that time, the City has constructed 8.3 miles of new sidewalk throughout town.



Looking south toward the intersection with Campbell Lane, cars travel along this section of Smallhouse Road, part of the Phase I construction.



This stretch of College Street, looking south, was a portion of roadway the City recently resurfaced.

Projects are prioritized annually based a set of criteria. Construction is currently pending at five locations totaling 9,500 linear feet, with completion anticipated in January 2016. An additional 7,300 linear feet of new sidewalk is being designed.

Additionally, the City utilizes municipal aid funds to complete approximately \$110,000 in sidewalk reconstruction. This construction focuses on existing sidewalks in need of repair and/or compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act standards. City staff is currently completing sidewalk inspections city-wide, utilizing an in-house developed GIS tool. From this, sidewalk segments in critical need will be identified for rehabilitation.

While the City and County are hard at work, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) District 3 works to maintain roadways serving a 10-county area and maintains approximately 2,450 miles of state highways. Currently under way in Warren County are the final stages of construction of Phase II widening on KY 884 (Three Springs Road). The finished product will match the previous widening phase with five lanes and sidewalks going from the car dealership to just past Flea Land. The project is expected to be completed by the end of the year and will increase the safety and efficiency of this area of Warren County experiencing significant growth.

In the northern part of Warren County, a new interstate interchange will connect I-65 to US 31W. This connector project will positively benefit the economy in our community by providing improved access to the Transpark, US 68, and US 31W. The connector road will also alleviate large truck traffic and general traffic flow on KY 446 and US 31W in a busy part of Bowling Green located south of the Transpark. The completion of this project is estimated to be 18 to 24 months away.



BG in Motion

Bike Safety & Laws in Kentucky

In support of safe cycling for all – riders and drivers – it is important to remember that cooperation is key. Both cyclists and drivers must be aware of their surroundings and respect the rules of sharing the road. Bicyclists and motor vehicles have the same rights on all Kentucky roadways. However, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's support of Share the Road states that cyclists:

- may ride on the shoulder of the highway.
- must use bike lanes "whenever feasible." Not, for example, if they are blocked, littered, or unsafe.
- may ride two abreast in a single highway lane.

Though helmets are not required in Kentucky, they are encouraged for the safety and well-being of riders!

Bicyclists should always make eye contact with drivers before proceeding through an intersection. Below exemplifies the proper turning signals that cyclists should use to notify motorists of the intended action.¹



Left Turn



Right Turn



Stop



Alternative Right Turn

¹ Information provided by: <http://bikewalk.ky.gov> and <http://bikesafety.caa.ca/>



Cumberland Trace Elementary School held a Bike/Walk to School Day last spring. Photo submitted by a Cumberland Trace representative.

Walk to School Day!

International Walk/Bike to School Day is a global event that involves communities from more than 40 countries walking and biking to school. Thousands of schools across America participate every October in this worldwide endeavor to get their students active, involved, and to promote greener living.

The Greenways Commission is encouraging all schools, including elementary, middle, high and beyond, to plan a Walk/Bike to School Day this October. Though the international day takes place during Fall Break of City and County schools, this Walk/Bike to School Day is a month-long event and can be planned for any day in October! Everything you need to plan an event can be found at: <http://www.walkbiketoschool.org/>

Upcoming Meetings

- MPO MTP Public Meeting - September 15 @ City-County Planning Commission, 4-6pm
- Technical Advisory Committee - September 28 @ 1pm*
- Greenways Commission - October 5 @ 4pm*
- Policy Committee - October 12 @ 9am
- Technical Advisory Committee - October 26 @ 1pm
- Policy Committee - November 9 @ 9am**
- Technical Advisory Committee - November 23 @ 1pm

*All MPO TAC and Greenways Commission meetings are held at the City-County Planning Commission, 1141 State Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room

**All MPO PC meetings are held at BG City Commission Chambers, 1001 College Street, at 9 a.m.

Tell us what you think!

Do you have questions, comments, or concerns regarding our transportation system? Send us your input to help us plan for the future of our city.

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