



**Memphis MPO**  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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## **Memphis MPO Announces \$2.6M in Alternative Transportation Projects**

*New Federal Funding Supports Projects Encouraging Bicycling, Walking, and Transit Use Throughout Mid-South*

**MEMPHIS, Tenn.**— The Memphis Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) region, which includes Shelby County, TN, DeSoto County MS, and portions of Fayette County TN and Marshall County, MS, has committed itself to creating a comprehensive multi-modal strategy that includes bicycling, walking, and transit use as integral parts of the transportation infrastructure. The MPO's vision seeks to take advantage of the benefits that alternative forms of transportation can offer to the region, such as greater mobility, lower transportation costs, safer streets, cleaner air, less traffic congestion, lower healthcare costs, and greater quality of life.

The Memphis MPO adopted the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan in 2011 that guides local jurisdictions in planning and design decisions to prioritize non-motorized travel throughout the Memphis MPO region. The plan identifies more than 1,500 miles of corridors within the region most suitable for enhancements that will promote more bicycling, walking, and transit use. Projects addressing needs identified in the MPO's Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Study received priority consideration for awards.

"For the last several years, a renewed focus on pedestrian and bicycle travel has invigorated local jurisdictions to make investments that make it easier and safer for local residents to get around without their cars. Since 2010, member jurisdictions have increased the total mileage of bicycle and pedestrian facilities by 18% which includes a 60% increase in dedicated bicycle facilities," said Kyle Wagenschutz, Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator for the Memphis MPO. "This grant program is a great opportunity for the Memphis MPO to continue to help local jurisdictions keep up with the growing demand by citizens in our region for these types of projects and facilities."

Federal transportation legislation known as MAP-21 (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century) was passed in 2012 that created the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). Under MAP-21, each large urban metropolitan region is allocated an amount of funding proportional to its population. This funding can be used in accordance with regional goals and values on projects that promote bicycling, walking, transit use, and other non-motorized forms of transportation. The grant funds require a governmental agency as the project sponsor and will cover up to 80% of total project costs (minimum 20% local match required).

The MPO's Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) created project scoring criteria and, along with MPO staff, conducted reviews of project applications. The ATAC is comprised of stakeholders, advocates, and citizens with interests in promoting active forms of transportation in the Memphis MPO region. Through quarterly meetings, ATAC members provide feedback on planning processes, and in this case, help to establish funding priorities for projects throughout the Mid-South.

Proposals were funded in both Tennessee and Mississippi areas of the Memphis MPO region, creating connections to schools, parks, employment centers, public transit and other community destinations. The MPO was able to

award monies toward active transportation projects in every jurisdiction that submitted a proposal even though \$4.1 million in requests were received from member jurisdictions for the \$2.6 million in available funds,

#### **2013-2014 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROJECTS INCLUDE:**

- **Collierville, TN:** Collierville Center Connect Phase 2 - Improvements along Center Street from Starlight Drive to Keough Road including bike lanes, sidewalks, signage, lighting, crosswalks, landscape improvements, benches and bike racks. (\$880,000)
- **DeSoto County, MS:** Community Intersection Improvements - Provide landscaping and aesthetic improvements at highway interchanges and at the Mississippi Welcome Center in Desoto County. (\$96,668)
- **DeSoto County, MS:** Delta View Bike Trail and Park Overlook – Improvements include signed bicycle route along Delta View Road and construction of park overlook. (\$40,000)
- **DeSoto County, MS:** Hernando DeSoto River Park Overlook – Construction of a scenic overlook with interpretive signage at Hernando DeSoto River Park. (\$36,000)
- **DeSoto County, MS:** Nesbit Fire Station Trail and Connector – Improvements include signed bicycle route along McIngvale Rd. and Pleasant Hill Rd. (\$24,000)
- **Germantown, TN:** Germantown Greenline Trail Extension – Extension of the Germantown Greenway Trail from its current terminus at Nashoba Park to Cameron Brown Park. (\$271,304)
- **Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA):** Bus Bike Rack Replacement Project – Replacement of bike racks mounted to the front of fixed service vehicles. (\$36,000)
- **Memphis, TN:** Ball Road Sidewalks - Repair, replacement, and new construction of sidewalks, ADA ramps, curb, and gutter along Ball Road/Ketchum Road between Perry Road and Airways Boulevard and Manchester Road between Ball Road and E Alcy Road. (\$250,000)
- **Memphis, TN:** Central Library Pedestrian Access - This project includes the installation of a high visibility mid-block crossing linking the transit stop on the south side of Poplar Avenue with the Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library to the north. (\$75,000)
- **Memphis, TN:** Dunbar Elementary School Safety Project - Improve conditions for pedestrian travel in the vicinity of Dunbar Elementary School including sidewalks, ADA curb ramps, crosswalks, and signs. (\$100,000)
- **Memphis, TN:** Hanley Elementary School Safety Project - Improve conditions for pedestrian travel in the vicinity of Hanley Elementary School including sidewalks, ADA curb ramps, crosswalks, and signs. (\$120,000)
- **Memphis, TN:** Mississippi Blvd. Signalized Pedestrian Crossings - Installation of bulbouts, curb ramps, crosswalks, and pedestrian signals and countdown timers at the intersections of Mississippi Boulevard and Walker, McLemore, and South Parkway. (\$130,000)
- **Memphis, TN:** Range Line Road Sidewalks - Construction of sidewalk, curb, and gutter, along sections of the west side of Range Line Road between St Elmo Avenue and Wellons. (\$179,000)
- **Memphis, TN:** Wolf River Greenway Phase 5 – Construction of a two-way cycle track to connect terminus of planned WRG Phase 4 at Nedra Ave. to existing bicycle facilities at Chelsea and McLean. (\$271,305)
- **Southaven, MS:** Carriage Hills Subdivision Bike/Ped Improvements – Construction of sidewalks and bicycle lanes in Carriage Hills Subdivision north of Rasco Rd. (\$150,000)

“Across the Mid-South, communities are investing in infrastructure that makes their streets and neighborhoods more livable,” says Pragati Srivastava, Administrator of the Memphis MPO. “Getting around without a car is a growing trend in urban areas across the country enabling people to live closer to jobs, save time and money, and reduce pollution.”

Investments in bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, coupled with education programs, public service campaigns, and policies that support and encourage safe and efficient alternative transportation choices, can help to grow a larger mode-share of bicycling, walking, and transit use by citizens in the Memphis MPO region. For information on MPO efforts to support a transportation system that’s safer and more inclusive of active trip-making, visit [www.memphismpo.org](http://www.memphismpo.org).

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