



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 30, 2015

**Contact:**

Mr. Nicholas Oyler, Transportation Planner/Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator

Phone: (901) 576-7130

Email: Nicholas.Oyler@memphistn.gov

## **The Memphis MPO Awards \$1.3 Million to Local Pedestrian Safety Projects**

On November 19, 2015 the Memphis Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) awarded more than \$1.3 million in Federal transportation funds to two Memphis area municipalities. The funds are for the construction of four projects that will address the safety of people walking and also improve access to neighborhood destinations.

“Taken individually, these four projects have a very local impact,” said MPO Administrator Pragati Srivastava, “but are in fact representative of the region-wide efforts underway at the MPO to advance the livability of Greater Memphis. We are pleased to fund projects like these that support safer and improved mobility for all citizens.”

The source of the funds is the federal government’s Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). TAP provides dedicated funding for pedestrian, bicycle, and transit-access projects. Under the guidelines of TAP, metropolitan areas are annually allocated TAP funds to be disbursed to local communities. The Memphis MPO awards its allocated TAP funds through a competitive application process.

After receiving applications over the summer and then scoring and ranking them in the fall, the MPO has selected the following projects to receive funding (awarded amount in parenthesis):

- **City of Hernando – Hernando Square Pedestrian Improvements:** Hernando’s historic town square will receive new crosswalks, crossing signals, and sections of sidewalk. (\$136,000)
- **City of Memphis – Macon Road Sidewalk Improvements:** New sidewalks, enhanced crosswalk markings, and bus stop shelters will be installed between Gilham Drive and Mullins Station. This will eventually connect to future improvements along Mullins Station and improve access to Shelby Farms Park. (\$640,000)
- **City of Memphis – Westmont Road Sidewalk Improvements:** Westmont between Raines Road and Western Park Drive will receive new sidewalks, high-visibility crosswalks, and signage to provide safer connections to a neighborhood park and community center. (\$268,000)
- **City of Memphis – Chiswood Street Pedestrian Safety:** In order to create safer access to an elementary school and neighborhood park, new sidewalks, raised and high-visibility crosswalks, and curb extensions will be added between Twin Woods Avenue and Country View Lane. (\$266,992)

Hernando and Memphis will provide a 20% local funding match for each project.

MPO Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator Nicholas Oyler said, “Our goal at the MPO is to strengthen the regional transportation network, and that includes providing transportation facilities that balance the needs of all users –

whether on foot, by bike, in a bus, or behind the wheel of a car. This is why the MPO adopted a new Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan last November following nearly a year’s worth of data analysis and public outreach.”

The 2014 Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan establishes regional priorities for non-motorized travel and recommends improvements to more than 1,500 miles of roads and paths. The plan maps out the region’s needs in terms of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and will assist planners in the decision-making process of how to most wisely invest limited transportation funds, such as TAP. The plan can viewed online at [www.memphismpo.org](http://www.memphismpo.org).

###