



## METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

**Karl F. Dean**  
Mayor

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
METROPOLITAN COURTHOUSE  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37201

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### **Mayor signs Executive Order for Nashville to build ‘Complete Streets’ during Walk Nashville Week**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – In the spirit of Walk Nashville Week, Mayor Karl Dean today signed an Executive Order formalizing Nashville’s “Complete Streets” policy, which ensures that public streets are built to accommodate all modes of transportation, including walking, bicycling and mass transit.

“For decades Nashville roads were built with only cars in mind,” Dean said. “We have come a long way in recent years in terms of adding sidewalks and bikeways, and making mass transit more convenient for people to use. This Executive Order will ensure that now and in the future we continue to take all reasonable measures to develop new and reconstructed streets in a way that makes all of these modes of transportation more accessible. It’s important for the health of our citizens and for our city’s long-term sustainability. And I could think of no better time to move forward with this policy than during Walk Nashville Week when the entire city is focused on the importance of walking.”

Dean was joined at the Executive Order signing this morning by District 7 Councilmember Erik Cole, who serves as the Metro Council representative on the Mayor’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, which recommended establishing a formal Complete Streets policy. The policy was also recommended by the Nashville Livability Project, led by Vice Mayor Diane Neighbors, the Healthy Nashville Leadership Council and the Mayor’s Green Ribbon Committee on Environmental Sustainability. Toks Omishakin, healthy living director in the Mayor’s Office, and Chris Bowles, director of the Mayor’s Office of Sustainability, also joined the mayor at today’s signing.

Just prior to the Executive Order signing, Dean participated in Walk to School Day this morning, marking his fourth walk during this 12<sup>th</sup> annual Walk Nashville Week. The mayor was joined by over 350 parents, students and walking advocates on a 1-mile walk in Hermitage that ended with a student assembly about the importance of walking at Tulip Grove Elementary.

The mayor has shown his commitment to developing more infrastructure for walking, biking and mass transit through the allocation of significant funds in both of the capital spending plans he has filed since taking office. Nashville has also been recognized for its use of federal funds on bicycle and pedestrian facilities. A report by national transportation and land use policy organization Transportation for America ranked the Nashville Metro area second highest for spending on bicycle and pedestrian safety in the top 52 Metro areas in the country.

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In the 2010-2011 capital spending plan, which was unanimously approved by the Metro Council last month, the mayor set aside \$12.5 million dollars for sidewalks, \$3 million for bikeways, and more than \$10 million for mass transit. Nashville overall is spending nearly 60 percent of its local transportation dollars on walking, biking and transit infrastructure. This excludes funding for projects like the 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue connector that will include dedicated space for walking and bicycling.

Metro Public Works in recent years has implemented Complete Street principles on roadways in rural and urban areas. The principles generally call for a “one size does not fit all” approach to design. Types of complete streets will vary based on the physical context and character of an area. The Deaderick Street improvement project, Shelby Avenue in East Nashville, Belmont Boulevard and Otter Creek are often cited as exemplar Complete Streets in the Nashville Area. Complete Streets will not always look the same, but will include bike, pedestrian, vehicle and transit facilities as needed in a manner that complements the character and setting of the area.

More information about Walk Nashville Week can be found online at:

[http://www.nashvillechwt.org/walk\\_nashville\\_overview.html](http://www.nashvillechwt.org/walk_nashville_overview.html)

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