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## NEWS RELEASE

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### Community Invited to Learn and Comment on Active Transportation Plan



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**The Missoula Metropolitan Planning Organization** invites the community to an **Open House on Wednesday, May 4**, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the **Missoula Public Library** Large Meeting Room to learn and comment on the final draft of the 2011 Missoula Active Transportation Plan.

**The 2011 Active Transportation Plan** takes a comprehensive look at Missoula's active transportation system: sidewalks, bike lanes, trails, what works, what doesn't, what needs to be improved and what can help make Missoula an even more livable community.

The Active Transportation Plan identifies projects throughout Missoula that will extend the existing system, close the gaps where deficiencies exist, and provide design concepts for safer and more pleasant ways to walk and bike around Missoula.

"It is important to ensure that residents of our community have multiple options for access to their places of work, recreation, schools, shopping, and other destinations and that we work on providing ways to reduce their household transportation costs," said Michele Landquist, Missoula County

Commissioner and Chair of the Transportation Policy Coordinating Committee.

The plan offers policy recommendations to improve the safety and convenience of our system and offers ways to educate and promote walking and biking in Missoula. The Active Transportation Plan also discusses the community benefits of investing in active transportation facilities such as economic vitality, public health and wellness, reduced household transportation costs and improved air quality.

The plan offers the public a chance to shape Missoula's future, said Mayor John Engen, who will welcome the community at the Open House.

"I'm increasingly convinced that each generation's work is to create great community assets that the next generation may take for granted, in the best sense of that turn of phrase," he said. "The sidewalks, trails, paths and connections we enjoy today are the products of the folks who came before us with a vision for the community that offers more for everyone. 'Active transportation' is really the practical, convenient, safe and fun way for us to get everywhere without a car."

The Missoula 2011 Active Transportation Plan will be adopted as an amendment to the Missoula Growth Policy and will be used as a guiding document for the private and public development of non-motorized facilities.

Join us on **May 4<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 7:00 pm in the Missoula Public Library** to learn more about it.

For More Information and to view the Draft 2011 Missoula Active Transportation Plan, Visit: <http://www.co.missoula.mt.us/transportation/>