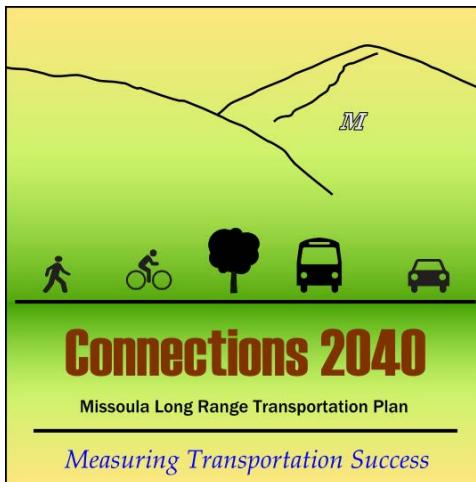

NEWS RELEASE

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Community Invited to Participate and Comment on Missoula's 2012 Long Range Transportation Plan Update



The Missoula Metropolitan Planning Organization invites the community to a **Kick-Off Public Workshop on Thursday, March 8**, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the **Holiday Inn Parkside** to participate and comment on the 2012 update of the Missoula Long Range Transportation Plan.

Do you have an idea for a new bike trail or sidewalk project? Do you see the need for better bus service in your neighborhood? Please bring your ideas to the workshop where your input can have an impact on what projects are constructed in the future.

The 2012 Long Range Transportation Plan Update takes a comprehensive look at Missoula's transportation system: sidewalks, bike lanes, trails, transit and vehicular transportation with the intended goal to

identify transportation needs and lay out a plan on how to match these needs with available funding.

"In the face of uncertain federal transportation funding, this planning process becomes even more important as a tool for prioritizing the projects that the public wants to see happen the most and what will benefit the Missoula community to the greatest extent," said Bill Carey, Missoula County Commission Chair and member of the Transportation Planning Coordinating Committee.

The Missoula 2012 Long Range Transportation Plan will set forth a vision of for how future transportation dollars will be allocated within the Missoula area. The update is an opportunity to bring projects and programs up for public discussion that will be essential to Missoula's economic success and to start the planning process now to ensure the money and coordination is in place when the time comes that Missoula will need certain projects implemented.

Join us on **March 8th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Holiday Inn Parkside** to learn more about it.

For more Information about the 2012 Missoula Long Range Transportation Plan, Visit:
http://www.co.missoula.mt.us/transportation/L RTP_2012.htm

Ann Cundy, Senior Transportation Planner, Office of Planning and Grants 258-4931