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Missoula Long Range Transportation Plan Launches

The Missoula Metropolitan Planning Organization is embarking on a federally mandated update to its Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Dubbed Activate Missoula, the 2016 LRTP is a 30-year plan that sets the direction and strategies that will shape our region's transportation network. The plan encompasses all modes of transportation -- walking, bicycling, transit, and driving, as well as discussions of freight, rail, and air -- and will identify future priorities for projects and funding.

Public participation is critical to the plan's success. There are several ways to get involved this next month. We invite news reporters to take a look and help us spread the word.

First, please visit the project website: www.activatemissoula.com and sign up to receive updates on the "participate" page. With one click, you can also tour the "virtual open house" and then submit comments about your transportation concerns and ideas on the interactive "wiki map."

Second, attend one or both of the public meetings that will launch the plan process in November. Join the project team on **November 4th** for a **Bicycle Facility Planning Workshop** at the Missoula Public Library (301 E. Main St.) from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Participants will take an in-depth view of the current Missoula bicycle network and help envision its future. We will talk about regional bicycle travel, as well as "neighborhood greenway" connections. Sign in at 5 p.m. Coffee and light snacks will be provided.

On **November 5th** the first **Activate Missoula Transportation Summit** will be held at the Holiday Inn Downtown (200 S. Pattee St.) from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Participants will learn about the process for the LRTP update, project goals, and previous recommendations during a short presentation. There will be several interactive stations for you to learn about transportation projects and for you to let us know your priorities. Sign in at 5 p.m. Coffee and light snacks will be provided.

Looking ahead, the project team will host a second Public Open House in late winter or early spring 2016 to share the analysis of existing transportation conditions and needs and to continue the conversation with the community.

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Please e-mail or call Jessica Morriss for more information or to schedule an interview.