





# 2016



**2016 WAS A YEAR OF GROWTH AND ENERGY FOR ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION IN NASHVILLE.** We saw record numbers at the Tour de Nash, Walk to School Day and Open Streets Nashville, as more and more people try out walking and biking for transportation and as part of a healthy lifestyle.

Our Walk Bike University classes are booming, and with a spotlight in the national press for our Adult Learn to Ride classes, we are seeing more people—of all ages and backgrounds—join the movement.

2016 was also the first full year in office for Mayor Barry and a new Metro Council. We saw major commitments from our new city leaders to change our transportation system's status quo—from a Metro budget with \$30 Million for sidewalks, to the launch of an update to the city's strategic bike and pedestrian plan, to a council ordinance to restrict construction closures of sidewalks and bikeways. Ten years ago, getting so many elected officials to focus on active transportation would have been a success, but today the bar continues to rise. It is no longer enough to talk the talk, we are now pushing our city to walk the walk.

The momentum for safe streets, all-abilities bikeways and access to sidewalks is growing, but the challenges presented by retrofitting Nashville's sprawled communities remain. It is going to take all of us – citizens, elected officials, business leaders and advocates – to make our city accessible and safe for all. We must continue to rethink how Nashvillians get around our city. This will mean talking to our friends, encouraging our family members and constantly holding our city officials to account for providing safe and inviting streets, sidewalks, bikeways and greenways.

WALK BIKE NASHVILLE WORKS TO  
EDUCATE ALL NASHVILLIANS SO  
THAT THEY CAN SAFELY ACCESS  
THE CITY'S STREETS, BIKEWAYS,  
GREENWAYS AND SIDEWALKS.

EDUCATE

## WALK BIKE UNIVERSITY

Hosted **37** free community classes for **485** participants. These classes were taught by our 13 volunteer instructors and included everything from Adult Learn to Ride, to City Cycling, to Fix-a-Flat, to our Policy Walk and Policy Ride.



## WALK BIKE AMBASSADORS

We trained **37 NEW WALK BIKE AMBASSADORS**, bringing the total number to 92. Our Ambassadors are trained in advocacy, Nashville's transportation history, and how to make a difference. They form our core group of volunteers and advocates.



## SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS

We provide hands-on assistance to Metro public schools to help promote walking and bicycling. This includes in-school Bike Rodeos, a Walking School Bus training, and a pilot Walking Audit program to identify infrastructure barriers. SRTS also included our **15th Walk to School Day** (63 participating schools 17,500+ walkers) and 2nd Walk & Roll to School Day (13 schools).



## TRAVEL GREEN

We work to encourage businesses to promote walking and biking among their staff and customers. In 2016 we had over 30 business members and consulted with a variety of businesses across the city hoping to install bike parking or other active transportation amenities.



WALK BIKE NASHVILLE SEEKS TO  
PROMOTE FUN, MEANINGFUL EVENTS  
FOR WALKING AND BIKING AND  
BELIEVES THAT THESE EVENTS CAN  
INCREASE WALKING AND BICYCLING  
ACTIVITY IN OUR CITY.

ENGAGE

## TOUR DE NASH

The 12th Annual Tour de Nash took place on May 21 and was the largest ever: with **over 1,200 riders** registering for one of the three routes, the Family Ride, the 25-Miler, and the 45-Miler. The Tour highlights Nashville's best urban bikeways and greenways and is geared towards welcoming riders of all ages and abilities. Riders ranged in age from 1-83 and came from 124 different zip codes. The majority of people who ride in the Tour reported that they were more likely to ride a bicycle in Nashville as a result.



## OPEN STREETS NASHVILLE

The second Open Streets Nashville was on October 30th on 2.3 miles of 12th Ave South, connecting the 12th South, Edgehill and Gulch neighborhoods. Open Streets Nashville works to activate people, support local businesses and inspire public spaces by temporarily closing iconic streets to cars. **Over 10,000 people** came out to walk, bike, skate, dance, exercise and experience their neighborhoods without cars.





## BIKE MONTH

May is Bike Month in Nashville. In 2016 our city-wide calendar included **over 90 rides and events** hosted by clubs, non-profits and businesses across the city. WBN organized Nashville Bike to Work Day, with 9 guided routes leading to a celebration at Public Square, a Pop-Up on the Pedestrian Bridge, the Ride of Silence, Walk & Roll to School Day and the Policy Ride, which featured Edgehill and Music Row.



## WALK MONTH

October is Walk Nashville Month. In addition to hosting events throughout the month to encourage walking, we also use social media and our blog to promote the benefits of getting around on two feet. This year events included Open Streets Nashville, Walk to School Day, Walk to/from/at Work Day, a Pop-up on The Pedestrian Bridge, and the Policy Walk featuring Jefferson Street and Germantown.



## RIDES AND WALKS AROUND TOWN

We don't just support walking and bicycling in their designated months, but seek to provide opportunities for people of all ages to try out our sidewalks and bikeways throughout the year. This year we hosted unique events including a Walking Tour of Little Kurdistan, a Nashville Murals Bicycle Tour, the Coldest Day of the Year Ride, and Beginner Greenway Rides. In addition we work to connect people to other groups around town through our events calendar.



## BIKE VALET

Walk Bike Nashville provided free bike valet parking at 12 event dates and **parked over 745 bicycles**. Bike Valet encourages riding a bike to some of our city's busiest festivals (Live on the Green, Earth Day, Tomato Fest etc) and helps festival organizers reduce car-parking needs.





# WALK BIKE NASHVILLE PROMOTES PUBLIC POLICIES THAT SUPPORTS OUR MISSION AND ADVOCATES FOR THE INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDED TO GET MORE PEOPLE SAFELY WALKING AND BICYCLING.

# ADVOCATE

## HB1650

Walk Bike Nashville teamed up with partners across the state to fight HB1650, which would have prevented TDOT from spending money on walking and biking. Through letter writing, an active petition and local media coverage we ensured that active transportation can still be supported across the state.

## #DONTBLOCKMYWALK

After an effective social media campaign drew attention to the frequent closure of sidewalks and bikeways during construction projects, Walk Bike Nashville supported the passage of a bill by Councilwoman Allen and accompanying regulations to limit right-of-way closures and increase provision of alternate routes.

## LIVABLE STREETS PROJECT

In order to better address the transportation-deficient parts of the city, we launched the Livable Streets Project, which focuses on engaging with residents, organizations and businesses along the Nolensville corridor. Through a partnership with Conexion Americas we were able to participate in the Envision Nolensville project and have secured funds to complete a follow-up advocacy campaign around crosswalks near bus-stops along the corridor.



# OTHER EFFORTS:

## WALKNBIKE

Walk Bike Nashville was heavily involved in the update to our city's Strategic Plan for Sidewalks and Bikeways, WalknBike. As a result, all four of original asks were included in the final plan.

## POLICY WALK AND RIDE

Each year we team up with the Mayor's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee to host a Policy Walk and Policy Ride to educate elected officials and community leaders about our walking and biking infrastructure.

## TN BIKE SUMMIT

Walk Bike Nashville was an official sponsor of the 2016 TN Bike Summit, which took place in April in Chattanooga. In addition to sponsoring and leading a session at the event, we led a contingent of advocates, board members and staff to attend the two-day session.

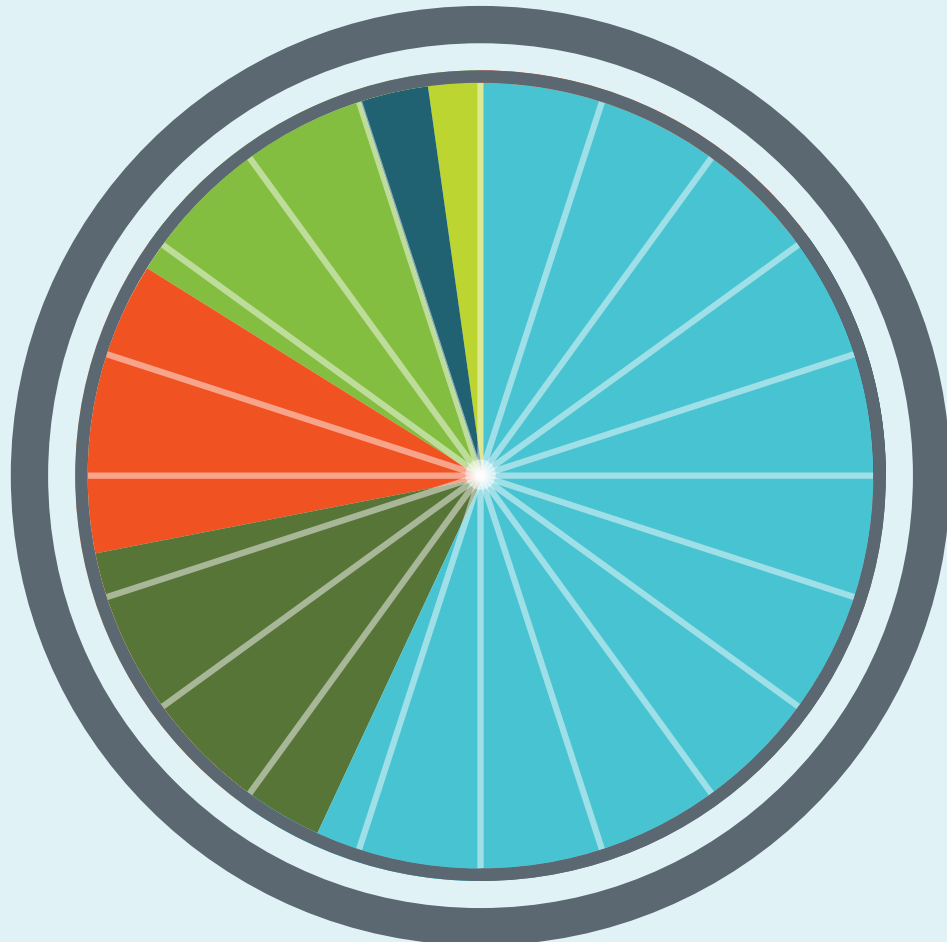
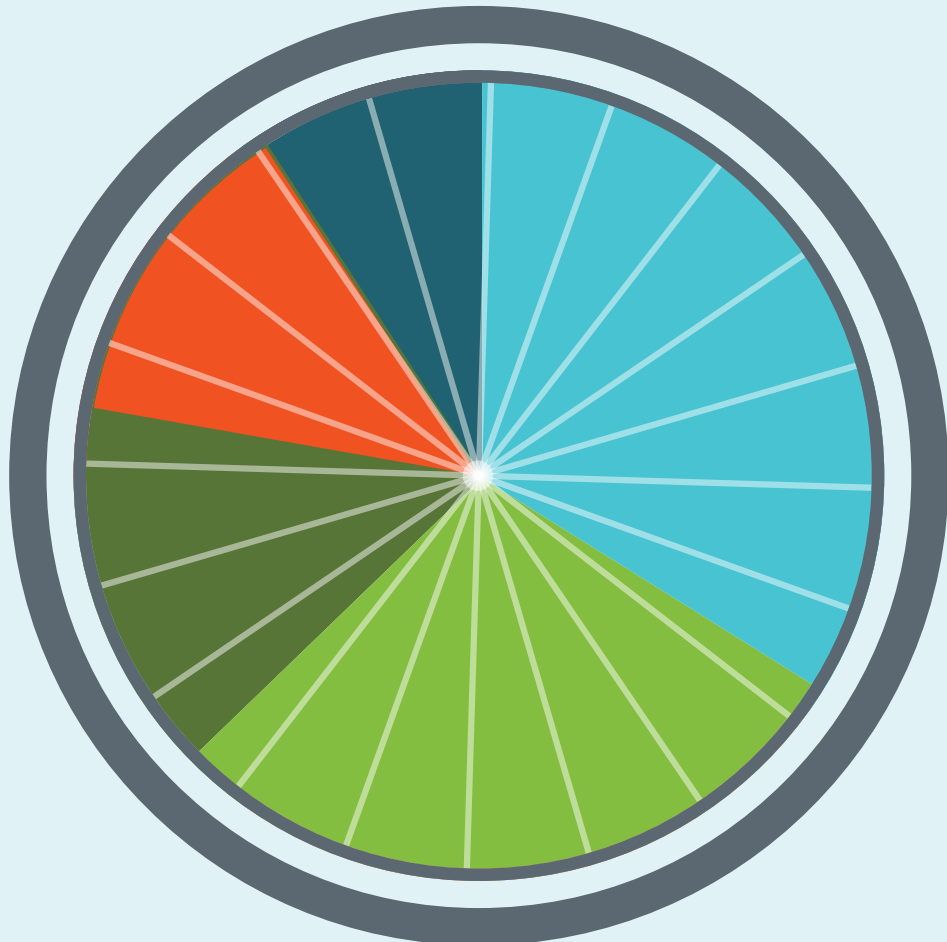
## YOUR VOICE IN THE ROOM

Core to our advocacy is ensuring we are in the rooms where decisions are made. We want to be the voice of the broader walking and bicycling community. To this end, in 2016 our staff and board served on the WalkNBike Steering Committee, the Plan to Play: Parks and Greenways Steering Committee, Moving Forward, the Livable Nashville Committee, the Health Dept's Active Transportation Committee, the Mayor's Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee and in countless other discussions with city leaders about our transportation system.



# END OF YEAR REPORT FY 2016

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