



NEWS RELEASE

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North County Sector Plan Update Gets Underway

MPC staff has begun to update the North County Sector Plan and has scheduled a community meeting to kick-off the planning process. Rather than making formal presentations, MPC will use an open-house format to gather input from the public – residents should come by the meeting when they can and stay as long as they wish. Display boards will be set up to show information on North County growth trends, existing land use patterns, transportation infrastructure, and other community data. Residents can talk with staff one-on-one about issues related to the future of their sector. The open-house is scheduled for Monday, September 26 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Powell Library, 330 West Emory Road.

The North County Sector includes the areas of Knox County roughly bounded by Clinton Highway to the west, Callahan Drive/Rifle Range Road to the south, Brown Gap Road/Bell Road to the east, and the Knox/Anderson county line to the north. This plan will update the current North County plan that was adopted in 1998. Sector plans address proposed land uses, investment in community facilities, such as parks and greenways,

and changes to transportation systems. The plans serve as guides in making recommendations for zoning cases and capital improvements.

The North County Sector has seen a 23 percent increase in population (approximately 10,000 people) from 2000 to 2009, along with the creation of 3,700 new residential building lots, ranking it among the fastest growing sectors in Knox County. From 1998 to 2008, over 350 acres of new office and commercial development occurred. Possible issues of concern in the sector are the redevelopment of underused/vacant shopping centers and the creation of new parks and greenways, because park acquisition has not kept pace with population growth. (A more detailed look at existing conditions and trends can be viewed at www.knoxmpc.org/northcounty.)

The process to update the North County Sector Plan will take several months. Residents are encouraged to attend the opening session on the 26th, and there will be additional opportunity for participation throughout the planning process. Other rounds of public meetings to discuss citizens' ideas and concerns will occur in coming months.

For more information on the North County Sector Plan and the long-range planning process in general, contact MPC's Mike Reynolds at 865-215-2500 or mike.reynolds@knoxmpc.org.

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