

UPDATE

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

August 10, 2009

Meetings

- A **training session** for the Knox County Commission, Knox County Board of Zoning Appeals and the Metropolitan Planning Commission has been scheduled to provide background on land use law and the role each of these bodies plays in the planning and zoning processes. Staff from the County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS) and State Planning office will lead the session, which has been set for Thursday, August 20 beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the UT Conference Center.
- The **Hillside and Ridgetop Task Force** continues its series of public meetings. There are still two meetings left:
 - Monday, August 10; 6:30 p.m.; Ramsey House - 2614 Thorn Grove Pk
 - Monday, August 17, 6:30 p.m.; Farragut Town Hall – 11408 Municipal Center Drive
- The **TPO Technical Committee** meeting on August 11 will include discussion of CMAQ fund projects and ARRA projects. The meeting's agenda is available at <http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/aug09/agenda.pdf>. The TPO Executive Committee will meet on August 26.
- TPO staff will participate in a workshop along with the Lenoir City and Loudon County planning commissions on August 13. They will be discussing the **Hwy 321 Corridor Study**.
- The **Sustainable Development Working Group** briefed the City Council, County Commission and Planning Commission on its proposed sustainable development program on Monday, July 20 and conducted a public meeting on July 30. A presentation of the proposed program to the Development Corporation and the Joint Economic and Community Development Board is scheduled for Thursday, August 13 at 7:30 a.m. at the Chamber Partnership offices at 17 Market Square.
- A special meeting has been called for the **Infill Housing Design Review Committee** on Monday, August 17 in the MPC large conference room.
- A **public meeting to review MPC Practices and Procedures** has been scheduled for Thursday, August 27 at the Cansler YMCA, 616 Jessamine Street, at 5:30 p.m. This is a follow-up to a previous public meeting to help inform the public on how MPC operates and solicit additional ideas.
- The Knox County **Transfer of Development Rights Task Force** will meet on Monday, August 31, to finalize their recommendation to the County Commission on whether or not the County should pursue the development of a TDR program.
- Staff from the city's Department of Policy and Communications and MPC moderated a **Fort Sanders Long-Range Planning** meeting on August 6. The meeting was part of a regular series of public meetings that are looking at prior planning efforts for the Fort Sanders area and determining an action plan to implement the recommendations of these efforts. The next committee meetings are scheduled for Thursday, September 3.

Excellence Awards

Planning Commissioners have already received an invitation for the 2009 Excellence Awards to be held Tuesday, August 18. Commission Chair Trey Benefield will be giving the keynote speech on the Sustainable Development Incentive Program. If you are interested in attending this annual event please be sure to contact or RSVP Laura Stout at laura.stout@knoxmpc.org or 215-3234.

Spreading the Word

Information services staff are working to develop an **email network** to disseminate information about upcoming meetings, MPC news, agenda activity and more. Soon, anyone will be welcome to sign up from the MPC website for the types of notification they would like to receive. Along with the MPC Facebook page and improved calendar, this is part of a larger effort to keep the public informed about the agency's activities.

Town Center District

DRAFT changes to the zoning ordinances for the City of Knoxville and Knox County are now available online. These changes include modifications based on public input from two public forums held in July. A summary of revisions to the proposed amendments also are available online. The proposed Town Center amendments are scheduled on the September 10 MPC agenda to allow City and County administrative staff an opportunity to review them prior to MPC making a recommendation to City Council and County Commission.

Comprehensive Planning

- Buzz Johnson and Mike Carberry have been working on the **TTCDA Design Guidelines**, which should go before the TTCDA Board on Monday, August 10 for review and comment.
- Staff have recieved back from city and county staff the maps with additional greenways they would like to see in the **Parks and Greenway Plan**. MPC staff are now working on the final draft, which is currently scheduled for the September 10 MPC meeting.
- Comp Planning staff have nominated the infill homes constructed by Knox Housing Partnership along Chestnut Street in conjunction with the Infill Housing Design Guidelines and MLK Corridor Plan for the **state APA awards**.

News

- TPO is now accepting applications for **Smart Trips Coordinator**.

MPC Calendar

The MPC website now features an extended calendar that lists all public meetings through the end of 2009 in addition to the existing rollover calendar feature on the website front page and a printable pdf calendar for the current month.