

UPDATE

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

January 25, 2010

Meetings

- Comprehensive Planning staff will be presenting a draft of the **East County Sector Plan** and the Ochs Report during a meeting on Monday, January 25 at 7p.m. in the Small Assembly room, City-County Building. This plan will then be considered at the February 11 MPC meeting. A draft of the plan is available on the MPC website.
- The city of Knoxville has scheduled a second public meeting on Wednesday, January 27 at 5:30 p.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City-County Building to share details and gather public opinion on renovations planned for the **Henley Street Bridge**. The city will send their recommendations to TDOT, who is planning to rebuild the bridge.
- Several MPC staff members will be attending the **TAPA Winter Retreat** January 27-29.
- MPC staff will be accepting comments and answering questions about the annual update to **Knoxville's One Year Plan** during a series of public meetings, all beginning at 6 p.m.:
 - February 10 – South Sector; Dogwood Elementary School Library
 - February 17 – North, East and Central Sectors; New Harvest Community Center
 - February 24 – West and Northwest Sectors; Bearden Middle School Cafeteria

TPO

- The TPO has requested that the Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation expedite the process required to get EPA to redesignate the Knoxville Region back into attainment status for **Ozone** since the air quality monitoring data for the years 2007 - 2009 shows that the area is now meeting the current standard.
- The presentation from the January 5 public meeting regarding the **Oak Ridge Bicycle Pedestrian Plan** is now available online at www.cortn.org.
- TPO will be resuming work on the **321 Corridor Study**. The consultant on this project is currently doing field work to identify the intrinsic qualities of the corridor and how to maintain and capitalize these qualities to keep it as a scenic byway and eventually get it designated as a national scenic highway.

Some 2009 MPC Actions in Review

- MPC considered 74 requests to change **zoning** in 2009 (down from 139 requests in 2008).
 - 41 requests were in the City, 33 requests were in the balance of Knox County. In 2008, the requests were about evenly split between city and county.
 - 42 requests (58%) were approved by consent, meaning there was no discussion at a public hearing.
 - 2 requests were withdrawn after staff recommendation was published.
 - 30 requests were considered after conducting a public hearing.
 - 10 requests were approved as requested.
 - 10 requests were modified by the planning commission.
 - 10 requests were denied by the planning commission and no appeals of MPC were upheld.
- MPC considered 12 amendment requests to the **Knoxville One Year Plan** (down from 21 requests in 2008) and 17 amendment requests to the **Land Use Plan** of the Knoxville-Knox County General Plan (down from 33 requests in 2008).
 - 9 One Year Plan amendment requests were approved by consent, while 1 request was modified and 2 requests were denied by the planning commission.
 - 4 Land Use Plan amendment requests were approved on consent, while 6 requests were approved as requested, 1 request was modified, 5 requests were denied and 1 request was withdrawn after staff recommendation was published.
- MPC approved 21 concept plans for **residential subdivisions** in 2009 with a total of 934 new lots for houses and duplexes created (down from 1,105 new lots in 2008)
 - In the **urban growth area** 389 new lots (up for 285 in 2008) were approved at an average density of 3.8 dwelling units per acre.
 - In the **planned growth area** 543 new lots (up from 471 in 2008) were approved at an average density of 3.7 dwelling units per acre.
 - In the **rural area** only 2 new lots (down from 648 in 2008) were approved at an average density of 0.4 dwelling units per acre. Please note that many large lots, particularly in the rural area are created without the need for concept plan approval.
 - In 2009 it took 27.3 acres to accommodate 100 new houses and duplex dwelling units, compared to 71.5 acres in 2008, a nearly 3-fold difference.