

UPDATE

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

February 22, 2010

Meetings

- MPC staff will be accepting comments and answering questions about the annual update to **Knoxville's One Year Plan** during at the last in a series of public meetings:
 - February 24 - West and Northwest Sectors; Bearden Middle School Cafeteria at 6 p.m.
 - February 25 - An additional One Year Plan meeting has been added to the schedule to make up for the February 10, South Sector meeting at Dogwood Elementary that was canceled due to weather. The meeting will be held on February 25 at 6 p.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.
- KAT will be conducting a series of public meetings to present proposed changes to the **KAT route system**:
 - West – February 23 - L.T. Ross Building, 2247 Western Ave.; 5:30 p.m.
 - East – March 2 – Cansler Family YMCA, 616 Jessamine St.; 5:30 p.m.
 - Downtown – March 3 – City County Bldg, 400 Main St.; 5:30 p.m.
 - North – March 16 – UNITE Bldg, 1124 North Broadway; 5:30 p.m.
 - South – March 18 – Cecil Webb Rec Center, 953 E. Moody Ave; 6:30 p.m.

Office Market Analysis

The 2009 Office Market Analysis containing statistics on more than 500 Knox County buildings is now available and can be purchased for \$75. A PDF version is available for \$50.00. Call 215-2500 for more information.

Comprehensive Planning

- Staff is beginning work on a **Commercial Corridor Overlay** zoning district. This was one of the implementation measures called for in the East County Sector Plan.
- At the March MPC meeting, the Downtown Design Review Board will be recommending an amendment to update their sign ordinance to allow **hanging signs** with a minimum seven-foot clearance instead of the current minimum clearance of 10 feet.

Park, Recreation and Greenways Plan Adopted by City and County

The Knoxville-Knox County Park, Recreation and Greenways Plan was adopted by the Knox County Commission on January 25 and the Knoxville City Council on January 26. The final version of this plan is now available in the MPC Library and on the MPC website.

Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)

On February 18, the Knoxville TPO participated in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a partnership with other local authorities in the Oak Ridge area to develop and implement a **regional integrated transportation project** within the Oak Ridge Energy Corridor.

Staff is tracking legislation currently in Congress that may provide the next round of stimulus funding for transportation and related projects. TDOT has announced the projects selected to receive CMAQ funds. Twelve projects in the Knoxville region were chosen. The list of projects will be discussed during the TPO Executive Board meeting on February 24.

Knoxville Area Transit (KAT)

The KAT Transit Development Plan is now available on the TPO website, www.knoxtrans.org. TPO Principal Planner Doug Burton worked with KAT in the creation of this plan that will provides guidance for operational and capital changes for KAT over the next five years. The plan also includes a variety of immediate, system-wide operational changes that will coincide with the opening of its downtown transfer center, Knoxville Station.

City takes the wrappers off the proposed R-4 zone district regulations

At the urging of Vice-Mayor Bob Becker, the City of Knoxville administration has released MPC staff to continue its effort to replace the existing R-4 zoning regulations with new regulations intended to create a **flexible, mixed-use zone district** that will allow the development of residences and low intensity office and professional uses within mixed-use land use plan classifications. The district is intended to be used as a transition between more intense development and low density residential uses, within a neighborhood center, or at the edge of established neighborhoods along arterial and major collector streets. Permitted structures would be compatible with adjacent residential uses by limiting heights, regulating the scale of buildings and requiring buffers and landscaping around non-residential parking areas. A public meeting to review the proposed ordinance and receive comments will be scheduled in March with the intent to consider the ordinance change at the April MPC meeting.