

UPDATE

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 8, 2010

Meetings

City Council has scheduled a **workshop** on Thursday, March 11 at 5:00 p.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building to discuss the East County Sector Plan update.

MPC staff will attend a meeting of **Westmoreland Heights** homeowners on Monday, March 15 at 7:00 at the Baptist Association Center, located at the intersection of Westland and Morrell, to discuss the R-1EN zone district and its applicability to their neighborhood.

MPC staff has scheduled a public meeting to review the proposed **R-4 (Residential / Office) zone district**, which would become a part of the City of Knoxville zoning code. The meeting has been scheduled for **Thursday, March 25**, at 6:00 p.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building. It is anticipated the proposed ordinance amendment will be scheduled for consideration by MPC at its April 8 meeting. The draft regulations are available online at www.knoxmpc.org.

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.

Excellence Awards

MPC is now accepting **nominations** for the 2010 Excellence Awards. Nominations can be submitted online or nomination forms are available at the MPC office. To be considered, the project or plan must be located in Knox County (excluding the Town of Farragut), and must have been completed after 2006. This year's Excellence Awards Banquet will be held August 26 at the Convention Center.

Development Activity

The 2009 Development Activity report is now available from MPC or online at www.knoxmpc.org. A total of 1,584 residential and non-residential building units were constructed last year, **down 32 percent** since 2008. The 2009 Office Market Analysis containing statistics on more than 500 Knox County office buildings is also recently available.

Solar Design Guidelines

Historic Zoning Commission staff have drafted **guidelines for solar technology installations** on historic properties. These provisions are designed to minimize the visual and structural impact of the devices on the historic appearance and materials of the building.

Vestal Site Improvement Plan

The Vestal Site Improvement Plan was **adopted** by the Knoxville City Council on February 23. The final plan is available on the MPC website.

Planning Efforts on the MPC March Agenda

At its March 11, meeting MPC will consider adopting the **Knoxville Regional Bicycle Plan 2009** and an update to the **Tennessee Technology Corridor Development Authority (TTCDA) design guidelines**. In addition, the annual update of the **City of Knoxville One-Year Plan** will be considered for recommendation to the City Council. Check out the March MPC agenda and background material at www.knoxmpc.org.

ARRA (Stimulus) Funds

TDOT has announced that they obligated 100 percent of the **\$572 million** in Highway Infrastructure Investment funds made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act two weeks ahead of the March 1 deadline required under the Act. Tennessee is one of the first states to obligated 100% of Recovery Act funds for highway infrastructure. "Tennessee was able to meet this deadline ahead of schedule in large part thanks to strong partnerships with the MPOs across the state," said TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely.

2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The Knoxville Regional TPO is advertising a "**Call for Projects**" for the fiscal year 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program. Any projects funded with Federal funds, excluding CMAQ projects, must be included in the TIP. Completed applications are due Friday, March 19.

Bicycle Volunteers Needed

The Bicycle Program is looking for people who are able to volunteers at a bike rodeo for kids during EarthFest on **April 17** and Child Safety Day in Townsend on **May 15**. A rodeo is a bicycle skills event for young cyclists which provides an opportunity for them to practice and develop skills that will help them to become better bicyclists. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering either day, please contact Kelley Segars at 215-3815.