

UPDATE

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 19, 2010

Meetings

The public meeting on the initial draft of the **Hillside and Ridgetop Protection Plan** for Knoxville and Knox County originally scheduled for Monday, April 19 at 6 p.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building, has been **postponed** to give the task force more time to review the plan. The draft Background Report and the draft Plan are now available on the MPC website.

The City of Knoxville will host a public meeting to present and discuss three potential concept designs for the **Cumberland Avenue Streetscape Project** at 6 p.m., Monday, April 19, at the University Visitors Center, 2704 Kingston Pike.

Knox County Commission will host a public meeting regarding the **East County Sector Plan update** on Thursday, April 22 at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium of Carter High School.

The Knoxville-Knox County Food Policy Council will host a **public meeting regarding Community Gardens** on Tuesday, April 27 at 6:30 p.m. at Tribe One, 2112 E. Magnolia Avenue. Community members are invited to share their vision for promoting local food production through community gardens and help the Food Policy Council identify a role in that effort.

The **TPO Executive Board** meeting scheduled for April 28 has been **cancelled**.

A **work session for the MPC commissioners** to review the Hillside and Ridgetop Protection Plan has been scheduled for Thursday, April 29 at 5:30 p.m. in the MPC's large conference room.

A **Building Healthy Communities...and Preventing Obesity! workshop** will be held Friday, April 30 8 am – 5 pm at the Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy, 1640 Cumberland Avenue. Participants will explore and discuss access to affordable food, creating a more walkable community, public administrators as public health officials, and building inter-agency partnerships. The workshop is free, but you must register before April 22. Contact Betsy Harrell at 865-974-0931 or email bharrel5@utk.edu.

Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities

On April 13 Knox County Health Department hosted Jonnie Hyde, a representative from the National Association of County and City Health Officials in Washington, who conducted a training class for **Health Impact Assessments (HIAs)**, which looks at the health impact of land use and other policy decisions. This training included an introduction to the current HIA being conducted in conjunction with the Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities program.

Regional Transit Corridor Analysis

TPO is now soliciting proposals from firms, joint ventures and/or partnerships to prepare a comprehensive analysis of key regional corridors and/or areas that could be transit ready in the next ten years within the Knoxville Region. Submittals must be received by Friday, May 21. More information is available at www.knoxtrans.org

Comprehensive Planning

Staff have drafted a new residential district, called **R-1HK**, for the City of Knoxville zoning code. This district is designed for older Knoxville neighborhoods to recognize their small lot patterns and the development characteristics common to pre-World War II development. It will be used to foster neighborhood conservation and compatible new development. Staff will begin meeting with city staff to review the ordinance before it is presented to the public.

Comprehensive Planning is beginning to turn their attention to the review of **parking standards** beginning with urban parking standards. They will examine these standards with the purpose of minimizing large expanses of asphalt and examining if too much parking is required for some uses.

Bike Program News

The **TPO Regional Bicycle Plan** will be going to Knoxville City Council for adoption on April 20. Plan will also go before County Commission on April 26. Though the plan was already adopted by the TPO Executive Board, this process will raise awareness of the plan at the local level.

The Bike Program will hold **two bicycle rodeos** for kids. One is April 17 from noon to 3 p.m. at EarthFest and the other is in Townsend on May 15. Contact Kelley Segars if you would like to volunteer.

Kelley Segars is serving on the Transportation subcommittee of the UT Campus Master Plan update process. She will be representing bicycle issues, as well as other transportation modes.