

UPDATE

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May 23, 2011

Meetings

- An additional public meeting for the Major Road Plan Update has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 24 at 5 p.m. in the Small Assembly Room.
- The TPO Executive Board meeting for May 25 has been cancelled.
- The next PlanET Consortium Partners Meeting will be held Tuesday, June 21, at 1400 Oak Ridge Turnpike in Oak Ridge beginning at 10 a.m.

PlanET

PlanET staff received responses from 13 teams of consultants to a request for qualifications to provide planning services for the development of a regional plan for livable communities for the five county Knoxville metropolitan statistical area (Knox, Anderson, Blount, Loudon and Union counties) with funds provided by a U.S. Housing and Urban Development grant through its Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program. Five teams have been invited to interview with a selection committee on June 1st and 2nd. It is expected that one team will then be selected to proceed with contract negotiations to complete a scope of work for the project. See www.planeasttn.org for more information.

Together! Healthy Knox

MPC staff wants to make sure you know about an exciting new health initiative in Knox County. Together! Healthy Knox is a community approach to better health. We're getting involved - hope you will, too! Learn more at www.healthyknox.org.

Excellence Awards Voting

All Planning Commissioners are invited to a luncheon for the 2011 Excellence Awards on June 9. It will be held before the monthly MPC meeting at 11:30 in room 453 (just down the hall from the MPC offices) for a chance to view a presentation of the finalists and vote for the winners. Lunch will be provided to the commissioners, so please call Sherry Michienzi at 215-2505 or email her at Sherry.Michienzi@knoxmpc.org to RSVP.

Commissioners who are not able to attend the luncheon or who would like to review the finalists before then will be able to vote online June 6-June 17. Commissioners will receive an email with a link to the finalist gallery. Between the luncheon and online voting we look forward to having 100 percent participation from the planning commission!

Email Migration

Information Services staff are working to move MPC's email system from Groupwise to Google Apps. This will not affect any staff email addresses, only the email service provider. The migration will begin this week and should be completed in early June.

Comprehensive Planning

During the first public meetings for the South County sector plan update, citizens expressed a desire to protect their scenic areas and the qualities of the John Sevier highway area. They also expressed interest for a corridor zoning overlay of John Sevier Highway.

Comprehensive planning staff are beginning to do an examination of zoning parking standards, looking at potentially updating the requirements that have been in place since 1960s.

The planning commission has also requested that staff look at amending the regulations of the City and County zoning ordinances regarding commercial outdoor storage and display.

Holiday

The MPC office will be closed Monday, May 30 for the Memorial Day holiday.