Purpose
The purpose of this project is to create a more attractive, economically successful, vibrant and safe Cumberland Avenue.

Project History
This project was conceived through a planning study, "A History of Connection, Cumberland Avenue Corridor Plan" by Glatting Jackson Kercher Aglin, Inc, which was adopted by MPC and City Council in 2007. The key results, concepts, and recommendations focused on two things, the streetscape and the urban design plan. The streetscape recommendations were for a road diet which includes reducing Cumberland Avenue from four travel lanes to three lanes, one of which would be a dedicated turn lane. This would allow for wider sidewalks and improved pedestrian spaces. The urban design plan recommends new zoning regulations including a form base code which would allow for a mix of uses such as residential, office and commercial on one parcel. Also there are recommendations for improved open spaces, new parks and as well as more public parking resources.

Project Vision
The Cumberland Ave Corridor Project will take a currently semi-suburban, auto-oriented corridor that is frequently used as a pass through on the way to somewhere else and make it into an urban, multi-modal corridor providing safe and attractive transportation for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit, and cars, while creating a unique urban district with a variety of opportunities for people to stay and discover a great place.

Project Contacts
For more information and current postings, please visit our website at www.cityofknoxville.org/policy/cumberland

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Study Area
Project Implementation

Currently the city of Knoxville is working on implementing both the streetscape and urban design plan.

For the streetscape plan, the city has contracted with the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) to hire a team of consultants who will provide environmental analysis of the project and detailed design drawings for the reconstructed Cumberland Ave. The streetscape plan will include proposals for wider sidewalks, street trees and plantings, street furniture, accommodations for transit and transit users, crosswalk design, engineering specifications for the roadway and signalization, as well as many other factors.

Additionally, the city has contracted with the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) for the creation of a form base code that will be applied to the blocks along Cumberland Avenue. The form base code will allow for the redevelopment of parcels at a much higher density.

Two other studies are being conducted by the MPC at the city's request to supplement the adopted plan. Those plans include a Parking Study and a Traffic Circulation Study. The first document includes an analysis of existing public parking, recommendations for future management of public parking and proposals for new public parking facilities. The traffic circulation study will analyze the anticipated traffic changes from the road diet on Cumberland Avenue and ways to maintain safety on neighborhood roads.

Project Timeline

| Urban Design Project | Streetscape Project | Notification of the Cumberland Ave. Corridor Project to property owners and business owners | Request for Qualifications due to the City of Knoxville for the Cumberland Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project | June 2008 | July 2008 | Anticipate that the form base code will be presented to the public for comment and consideration. | Anticipate that the form base code will be presented to MPC for recommendation to City Council. | August 2008 | September 2008 | Anticipate the start of consultant work on the Environmental Assessment and detailed design drawings | Anticipate environmental phase completed with necessary TDOT approval | January 2009 | January 2010 | Bid and construction contractor selection | March 2010 | Spring 2010 | Anticipate the start of road construction; construction will likely take 22 months |

Public Involvement

Public participation in this process will be critical to accomplishing a more attractive and vibrant Cumberland Avenue. Please plan to provide your input through public meetings, phone calls, e-mails or other communication methods.