

DOWNTOWN SUMMIT
Comment Cards Received
November 19, 2013

Virginia

Use the rickshaw to take residents to and from their car.

Regina

Hire downtown ambassador – Steve Dupree? – to woo business leaders to choose Knoxville
Address streetscape at KARM underpass – make it difficult to cross street – safety from cars
Greyhound to Transit Center – adaptive reuse for their building
Children’s Museum to lot where News Sentinel was
Food trucks should park everyday under I-40 at Central/Sunday garage sale in the lots there
Recruit “Made in USA” light industrial to Cherry Street exit – tons of empty space
Fill in the gap teeth (parking lots) in Downtown
TVA to condos/apartments?
No I-40 in downtown – my dream goal for downtown!
Develop the large building along Broadway – one block north of mission
Emory Place to restaurant

Kevin

Great Meeting! Truly appreciate the work & interest of so many. Special thanks to Mayor Rogero & staff. Rick Emmett earns his pay downtown every day. Thank you, Rick.

Kristen

Nice Meeting. Thanks!

There is a lot of support for redevelopment directed toward developers through TIFs, façade grants, etc. And people love to talk about filling up square footage with retail, restaurants, breweries,” etc. Those are all private entities that have to be created and operated to have a thriving city atmosphere. Is there any potential to provide incentives, financing support to small, locally-owned businesses in order for these places to exist? Large retailers like Mast & Urban Outfitters benefit from public investment through the development that comes with having them as anchor tenants. But the small, local businesses are what originally created the momentum and distinct character that downtown now enjoys.

I also think the food truck pilot program should be used to try to stretch downtown. Locating food truck parking/events more along edges of the city, such as Depot, can help stretch development in those directions instead of Market Square and Gay Street, which are already busy.

And though many restaurants are negative toward food trucks, food trucks can positively benefit retail. And I don’t believe that the city can develop policy that protects the interest of one type of business (restaurants) over another (retail).

Rhonda

Please integrate Jackson streetscape with 100 block of Gay Street. Wide Sidewalk!! Please!

No Name

Well organized program.

Brian

Why isn't there a statue of General Knox somewhere visible? (Henley corridor?)

Just do Cumberland Ave. – it's a wreck and the plan is good.

Current Baptist Hospital plan is mundane, myopic and lacking dynamic design. Please reconsider basis for plans.

Please consider, with the completion of the Henley Bridge reconstruction, the Henley Street corridor for updates, vegetation, and sculpture but mostly to encourage pedestrian traffic between UT campus, museum/World's Fair Park/Convention Center and Downtown. The potential for this connectivity is too vast to ignore in lieu of an interstate mindset.

We must put an end to "booting." It is ruining years of parking perception progress.

Cohesiveness/consistency in sidewalk, streets, lighting, trash, etc. (Market Street, 100 Block improvements are terrific-please do more.)

More trash cans please.

Please enforce mixed use construction/renovations.

Nanci

Continued events like the Farmer's Market that draw people to the city to shop on a regular basis all year long!

Incentives for small businesses to open in downtown – not just developer tax breaks

Increased signage & brochure maps that point people to new developed areas – not just Market Square

Ground floor spaces – encourage landlords to rent to retail

Communication between departments – ex. engineering and residents and merchants

We need a downtown retail coordinator:

- to recruit new/unique businesses to locate downtown

- to have a good mix of restaurants/retail/office space/residential

- work with developers to keep current on available spaces to rent

- encourage developers to have different size spaces especially small for startups

- strive to form a viable merchants association

- walking tours & events – coordinate with Convention Center and Visit Knoxville

- paint the sidewalks

- in new development areas the right mix of merchants is vital for success!

Use CBID money to help the downtown as a whole – promote and financially support events – not just buildings – let all the people that pay the tax have input

Amanda

Directional signs for retail – small and large. Public restrooms. Aid to small retail – maybe a liaison to talk to business and show what Knoxville has to offer. A retail coordinator, help those that are here and

those looking to move into downtown. Better downtown maps. Bike lane to connect downtown and UT. Thank you for all you have done!

No Name

To the extent possible, I would really like to see locally owned businesses in the CBID. I know a lot of people were excited to have Urban Outfitters locate downtown but I was disappointed. Have they fulfilled their economic promise?

No Name

Great presentations and information. Thank you for this meeting! I especially enjoyed the panel. Great perspectives shared.

No Name

Units pricing is so high offered \$300,000 and above
Any new owner 2 bed units – better price
Grocery in town
Info about Old Knox High renovation

Rhonda

Is there a plan for a grocery store downtown?
Need more visible calendars of upcoming events or anything that is “going on” downtown in one easy place to find and that all residents and tourists know to go – it is currently a several stop web surfing to find daily calendars of what is happening.
Landscaping upkeep – have you considered “adopt-a-block” for dead heading and weeding?

Bran

Would like to see building regulations regarding materials (ex. Masonry/brick requirements in historic areas). Perhaps require buildings built up to the sidewalk. And incentives for turning parking lots into garage/building combos.
Bike racks on residential streets
More trash cans especially between Hill Ave. and Clinch Ave. – at least one on every block?
Let’s leave the south lawn of the WFP as is.

Karen

I would love to have some advice on how to attract Comcast in coverage downtown. The Holston down to Church and on to State Street have no coverage.

Meghan

Plans for increasing bike/foot traffic from downtown to World’s Fair/UT campus?
Could there be an architectural/art project that would transform the structure/under-belly of the freeway that now divides downtown and North Knoxville making it an interesting connection and gateway?

Cynthia

I think 2-hour parking is too short. Needs to be 4 hours, in my opinion, so folks can eat and shop.

No Name

Need to require new and rehabbed buildings downtown to have a certain percentage of ground floor retail/restaurant – at least in specific zones (ie. Gay Street).

Sidewalks and even Market Square are so dirty-event the 100 Block! They need a deep cleaning and regular maintenance.

Trolley routes – expand to include Old City & market free trolleys aggressively to tourists and downtown workers (commute from parking @ Civic Coliseum & lots under bridges in Old City, Magnolia, etc.

Based on turnout, seems like it may be time for more community input sessions – 9 county/vision style focused on downtown.

Troy

A need for residential parking (affordable) for renters who live downtown but work elsewhere. Whether it is City of Knoxville residential parking or lots (private) that offer affordable rates.

No Name

There is a lot of focus on retail development downtown. What is being done for businesses that aren't retail, such as artisans and studios, that add diversity to downtown?

Elizabeth

Free parking times in the 400 block should be re-evaluated perhaps 8 to 8 pm

Christine

For meetings involving residents, please start them after 6 pm.

It is very difficult to get back downtown if you work elsewhere by 5:30. Thanks.

Greg

Not enough time for public comment. Too much yak.

No Name

We didn't get to preservation and the potential for an empty block if Pryor Brown falls.

Make mixed use and street storefronts a priority in new construction, even if it takes city money to make it feasible in the short run.

Wayne

Bravo! Great to hold this kind of public event. I found it informative, well planned and well executed. Is this a regularly scheduled thing? I hope you do it annually. There is so much going on downtown and so many XXXXX developments that issues need to be revisited every year.