



KNOXVILLE SOUTH WATERFRONT Monthly Newsletter

Website Information:

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www.cityofknoxville.org/southwaterfront

WEST WATERFRONT PROJECT UPDATES

Blount Avenue Reconstruction

Southern Constructors, Inc. was given a Notice to Proceed with installation of a brand new streetscape along Blount Avenue between the Norfolk South RR Underpass and Hawthorne Avenue.

A significant change to the design is the street lighting system. New street light to be installed will have LED fixtures, which are up to 65% more efficient than metal halide lights more commonly used throughout the City. The new street lights have been reviewed to ensure that they will operate at safe illumination levels.

Once construction begins in earnest, there will be detours. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions for improvements, please give Dave Hill a call at 215-3764.

Cityview

Merit Construction will soon start the work to complete the Cityview side streets and Riverwalk at a price of \$679,000, with completion within 125 days of Notice to Proceed. Revised plans for the project were recently approved by the City's Engineering Department, and the use of energy efficient LED lighting should be approved by KUB in the very near future. Construction work should start this month.

Due to the uncertain status of the Mercy Health hospital site, the SW Department has asked the TN Dept. of Transportation to redirect \$640,000 in Enhancement Grant funds from the Shoals Promenade project to extend the segment of Cityview Riverwalk about to start construction all the way to the USA ReadyMix (Rinker) property line. An update on this will be provided next month.

Public Meeting Announcement

South Waterfront Brownfield Assessment Project: Introductory Public Meeting

Tuesday, April 6th, 2010
6:30 PM

South Knoxville Baptist Church
522 Sevier Avenue, Knoxville

In past newsletters, information has been provided regarding the award of a \$400,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct an area-wide analysis of sites that may have environmental hazards that could impede reuse and redevelopment. Once the area-wide analysis is completed, a limited number of property owners will be approached to allow in-depth site studies to develop remediation plans, and to determine if additional grant funding may be available for site clean-up.

Now that S&ME, Inc., the environmental firm selected for the project, is now under contract, we are ready to start the work. The April 6th meeting has been scheduled to introduce the project to anyone who is interested, discuss how decisions will be made along the way, and to allow attendees to ask questions and provide comments.

SW-UT PEDESTRIAN / BICYCLE BRIDGE

The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for design, engineering, and environmental permitting of the pedestrian / bicycle bridge connecting the South Waterfront to the University of TN was released on March 5th. Interested consulting firms/teams must submit their qualifications by the deadline of April 1st. A \$666,900 federal grant will be used to fund the project design (which includes a 20% local match).

An Evaluation Committee has been formed to review the submittals and to score them based on specific criteria (the RFQ and Evaluation Criteria are available on the SW website). By April 16th, up to 3 firms will be invited to submit Draft Design Proposals, which will again be scored by the Evaluation Committee. A final selection recommendation will be made to Mayor Haslam no later than May 28th. The project scope of work and contract is slated to be finished by July of this year.

EAST WATERFRONT PROJECT UPDATES

River Park & Roads Design

Park and Street Design construction documentation is 100% complete and has been delivered to the City. Final right-of-way purchases will continue, with more property needed near the proposed Roundabout.

An archaeological study and historic structures inventory has been delayed, but will be started once final review of a Programmatic Agreement (PA) is completed by TVA and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). City Council approval is required to approve the PA before the inventory can be started, hopefully sometime this spring. The inventory will take 6 months for completion. Once the City approves the PA, we expect the federal permits to be issued for this project.

We also remain hopeful that the Southshore Properties project will reemerge as the economy continues to recover. Until the private development project is confirmed, we will not bid the streets or park construction work.

River Park & Roads Demolition

Demolition bids were recently opened to remove existing structures owned by KCDC and the City on the park site, to remove several metal obstructions in the water near the shoreline, to conduct a limited level of property clean-up, and prevent unauthorized access into the properties is prevented.

The low bid for the demolition was Total Demolition, a Knoxville company, in the amount of \$77,010. The KCDC Board will be asked to approve the demolition contract at its next meeting.