



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. is the company awarded the bid to install a brand new streetscape along Blount Avenue between the Norfolk South RR Underpass and Hawthorne Avenue.

Pending the submittal of cost estimates for a few outstanding details, they will be given a notice to proceed within the next week or two. We have had some discussion with affected neighbors in the area regarding construction sequencing and traffic detours, with agreement that we would monitor the situation to make sure that unnecessary disruptions could be corrected.

Once construction begins, if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions for improvements, please give Dave Hill a call at 215-3764.

Cityview

Work on a cost estimate and bid specifications to complete the side streets & riverwalk is nearly complete. Selection of a construction contractor to complete the public improvements will then be advertised through a public bid process in January 2010. Actual completion is expected to take 4 months, before the condos and the Blount Ave. construction are finished.

SW-UT Bridge

A draft RFQ is nearing completion to solicit interest from design, civil engineering, and environmental documentation services needed for preliminary design and engineering of the pedestrian / bicycle bridge connecting the South Waterfront to the University of TN. We hope to start the consultant selection process in late January or February 2010.

Announcements



We hope you, your family, and friends had a wonderful Christmas! We wish you a Happy New Year!

SW Advisory Board Meeting

The South Waterfront Advisory Board will reconvene January 28, 2010 at 5:30 PM in the KCDC training room. All Advisory Board Meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend.

Sometimes meeting times and places change. Please continue to check the South Waterfront Website for updates.

A GENERAL COMMENT

We have received several comments regarding the future of the South Waterfront in the past few months, with many expressing concern that City administrative support has diminished, or that resources for the South Waterfront are being cut. Please be advised that Mayor Haslam continues to strongly support the Vision Plan, and the implementation strategy to make the plan happen. Like it or not, the economy has hit hard in many areas, and the South Waterfront has not been immune to the development slowdown. Our respect for taxpayer dollars mandates that we spend public improvement funds in partnership with private development projects; if not, we will not have the property tax revenues to pay the debt for new streets or parks. Please continue to support the Vision Plan. Your patience is appreciated. In the meantime, we continue to move forward working on pre-development design and permitting to reduce delay time when private redevelopment interest in the South Waterfront starts back up.

Thanks,
Dave Hill

EAST WATERFRONT PROJECT UPDATES

River Park & Roads Design

Park and Street Design work will be completed and ready for construction bids by the end of this year. Final right-of-way purchases will continue, with more property needed near the proposed Roundabout.

An archaeological study and historic structures inventory will be started once City Council approval is secured, hopefully in January 2010, and will take 6 months for completion. Once the City agrees to perform the work, we expect the TVA / US Army Corps of Engineers permits to be issued for this project.

We also remain hopeful that the Southshore Properties project will reemerge as the economy continues to recover.

KCDC staff is preparing a Request for Proposals to demolish recently acquired structures on the park site, and to remove several metal obstructions in the water near the shoreline. We will also address a limited level of property clean-up and ensure that unauthorized access into the properties is prevented.

BROWNFIELD UPDATE

The environmental engineering firm, S&ME (local office), was selected to perform petroleum and hazardous substances assessments using the South Waterfront's \$400,000 EPA grant. We expect to complete the detailed scope of work and contract in time for January 2010 City Council authorization, with the work to start soon thereafter.

We will announce the start of the project in the near future, including an initial public meeting to explain the project and process that will be followed.