

BRIDGE AS CATALYST, COMMUNITY & CONNECTIVITY

Overview

The South Waterfront Redevelopment and Vision Plan calls for a mixture of development and multi-modal connections to facilitate the South Waterfront as an active place for people to live, work, and play. The bridge was identified as a key investment through the extensive community driven process to support greater connectivity.

The South Knoxville Waterfront Redevelopment Area has seen transformative change through significant public and private investment in recent years, with more on the horizon. Bringing to life this key element of the South Waterfront Vision Plan will encourage private investment that continues this pattern of positive growth. This is an opportunity to redevelop waterfront industrial property while providing sustainable and economic development linkage between the South Waterfront, University of Tennessee, downtown Knoxville, and the expanding greenway system and complete street/ multi-modal network.

Funding Strategy

Since 2006 the South Waterfront Redevelopment District has continued to grow with over \$61M in public improvements leveraging over \$400M in private dollars. As investments and interest trend down river, the City, The University of Tennessee and Knox County all see tremendous benefit in exploring new infrastructure funding opportunities that could help realize this bicycle and pedestrian connection.

The City of Knoxville is submitting for the US Department of Transportation RAISE Grant — Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity. Funds for the FY 2023 RAISE grant program will be awarded on a competitive basis, per statute, for surface transportation infrastructure projects that will improve safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, mobility and community connectivity, economic competitiveness and opportunity including tourism, state of good repair, partnership and collaboration,

and innovation As funding sources are identified and obtained, leadership at the University of Tennessee, the City of Knoxville, and Knox County are all committed to this opportunity to meaningfully connect UT and downtown with South Knoxville.

Current Cost Projections

Design and Construction Estimate = \$55-70M

Federal RAISE grant request (Application February 2023) = up to \$25M

Local Partner Match = \$10-14M

State of Tennessee Funding = TBD

Timelines

Substantial work has been accomplished since 2009 on the bridge location, initial structural plans, various approvals from state, federal, and environmental agencies, and an initial infrastructure needs analysis. Efforts are currently ongoing on design and agency approvals. As funding sources and partnerships are established, and design progresses, further timelines will be established.

