



KNOXVILLE SOUTH WATERFRONT Monthly Newsletter

Website Information:

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www.cityofknoxville.org/southwaterfront

PRESS RELEASE

*Issued by the City of Knoxville
September 29, 2011*

The City of Knoxville announced today that the University of Tennessee has agreed with the continued development of the proposed pedestrian/bicycle bridge that would connect Knoxville's South Waterfront with the UT campus.

UT's decision came after staff members, who worked with the City of Knoxville's design consultants on the project for several months, determined that the conceptual design has the potential to benefit both the city and the University. That has led to the university's endorsement of the city's efforts to continue to review and refine the design.

The proposed landing for the bridge on the north (university) side of the Tennessee River is located between Thompson Boling Arena and Pratt Pavilion, and is intended to connect to an upper level exterior walkway – enabling students to walk or bike from the bridge into campus.

The City of Knoxville plans to unveil the preliminary design for the bridge and its landings during an open house on October 10, followed by a presentation at a City Council workshop on October 13. If the consensus is to move forward, the formal environmental review and permitting process could begin.

"I know the city still has a long way to go before the final decision is completed and any funding or construction decisions are made," said UT Chancellor Jimmy Cheek. "However, we feel comfortable that the project works from the university's standpoint."

The proposed bridge is part of the city's South Waterfront Vision Plan, a guide for long-term development of the south bank of the Tennessee River, a large segment of which is directly across from the UT campus.

"We're grateful to the University of Tennessee for its support of this project," said Knoxville Mayor Daniel Brown. "We value our relationship with UT and we're always pleased to work with the university on efforts like this one that could have some wonderful benefits for the city and the school."

SW-UT PEDESTRIAN / BICYCLE BRIDGE

Conceptual Design Phase

October 2011 marks the first opportunity for public review of the recommended design for the bridge. Please note the meeting announcements below, and the press release to the left. Anyone interested in this project is encouraged to attend the meetings.

Public Meeting Announcements

SW-UT PEDESTRIAN / BICYCLE BRIDGE

Two meetings open to the public have been scheduled for review of the Conceptual Design for the Pedestrian / Bicycle Bridge connecting the South Waterfront to the University of Tennessee:

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

Monday, October 10, 2011

6:00 – 8:00 PM

Cityview Condominiums Club Room

445 W. Blount Avenue

Knoxville, TN

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Thursday, October 13, 2011

5:00 PM

Small Assembly Room

City County Building

400 Main Street

Knoxville, TN

The recommended Conceptual Design for the bridge and landings, along with other information, will be presented. A Draft Design Program is available for review on the City's South Waterfront website shown at the bottom of this page, or by clicking on the following link:

http://www.cityofknoxville.org/southwaterfront/draft_pedbicyclebridge.pdf

We hope to see you at the meetings!!

PROJECT UPDATE

Waterfront Drive / Suttree Landing Park

On June 24th, the Knox County Rail Authority approved the sale of the rail spur located on the future Suttree Landing Park property by the Knoxville & Holston River Railroad to KCD (acting on behalf of the City). The spur runs parallel to the river, and will serve as the base for the section of Riverwalk that will cross through the park. This is the last piece of land needed to accommodate construction of the park.

Also, as part of the TVA / US Corps of Engineers permit for the park, a historic structures inventory report for the entire South Waterfront area was recently completed. The inventory is in draft form and has been submitted to several state and federal agencies for review. In the near future, the inventory will be made available for public review, and will be submitted to the City of Knoxville Historic Zoning Commission for review. The report will also be posted on the South Waterfront website once the agency reviews are complete.

SW-UT BRIDGE Working Group Meeting

The Bridge Working Group will meet to review the bridge design on October 10, 2011, at 2:00 PM in the Small Assembly Room, City County Building. The meeting is open to the public.

