



Metro Codes

E—News For Neighborhoods

Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

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Photo courtesy Gary Layda

In this season of gratitude, we give special thanks for your friendship and your support

Best wishes for a joyous Thanksgiving holiday

MAYOR, STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS UNVEIL DESIGNS FOR NORTH NASHVILLE STREETScape IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Gateway to Heritage' master plan and schematic designs created by former Tennessee Titan Eddie George's landscape architecture firm

City and state leaders today unveiled the master plan and schematic designs for an extensive streetscape improvement project known as Gateway to Heritage that extends along the Interstate 40 corridor from 28th Avenue to Jefferson Street in North Nashville.

Mayor Karl Dean was joined at the event by TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely, Sen. Thelma Harper, Metro Councilman at Large Jerry Maynard, District 21 Councilwoman Edith Langster, Director of Metro Public Works Billy Lynch, Sharon Hurt, executive director of the Jefferson Street United Merchants Partnership (JUMP), and other community leaders.

“The Gateway to Heritage streetscape improvement project is the definition of community collaboration,” Dean said. “This collaboration is notable and exciting because that’s how communities are changed. Government can’t do it alone. And represented in this partnership are all the entities that make our city strong – our Metro and State governments, businesses, nonprofits and our educational institutions. This project is a direct investment in North Nashville – an investment that we hope will spur new economic development for this community and for our city as a whole.”



From left, Councilman Jerry Maynard, Sharon Hurt from JUMP, former TN Titan Eddie George, Representative Brenda Gilmore, Mayor Karl Dean, Senator Thelma Harper, and Council Lady Edith Langster.

Former Tennessee Titan Eddie George, whose landscape architecture firm EDGE was selected as the design consultant on the project, led the unveiling.

The master plan for Gateway to Heritage details new landscaping, directional signage and the development of a gathering place under the Jefferson Street I-40 underpass called Heritage Park.

“EDGE is excited to be a part of the ‘Gateway to Heritage’ and creating an environment that the community can be proud of,” George said. “We are committed to designing a successful place that will promote healthy lifestyles and is truly sustainable – economically, socially, and environmentally. We are confident that the proposed improvements will serve as a new

gateway to historic Jefferson Street and will act as a social and economic catalyst for the area.”

Phase I of the project will be funded by a \$608,000 federal grant administered by the Tennessee Department of Transportation with a required \$152,000 match from Metro. Metro Public Works applied for the grant in partnership with JUMP. Additional phases of the project will also be supported by federal grants, including funds awarded to Tennessee State University by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Recovery Act funds awarded to the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency.



HISTORIC JEFFERSON STREET ENTRANCE FROM I-40 EAST



HERITAGE PARK AT I-40 UNDERPASS

Artists rendering of proposed Gateway To Heritage Streetscape Design

Premises Identification

When Seconds Count, Can Emergency Responders Find Your Address

All buildings and structures within Davidson County are required to have approved address numbers posted and visible from the street, according to the Metro Property Standards Code.

Specifically, the Metropolitan Code of Laws requires:

- Residential numbers shall be a minimum of 3" in size.
- Residences may have their numbers attached to the mailbox, if the mailbox is next to the street.
- Multi-family and commercial numbers shall be a minimum of 6" in size.
- All numbers are to be posted on a contrasting background and be plainly 'visible and legible' from the street.

In addition to being required by code to follow these rules, there are other reasons why all citizens would want to follow this law.

First, having a clearly marked street address means protection in Case of Emergency. If you need 911 services, fire, law enforcement and EMS will be able to find you faster.

" A well marked and Identifiable addresses save important time in an emergency. When someone has a fire or medical emergency, getting to the location promptly and safely is critical," according to Deputy Chief Danny Yates. A visitor, child or an injured person may be unable to give clear directions. You must remember, seconds count in an emergency!

Second, you need to have the identification for utility services because telephone, Nashville Electric Service, and cable companies rely on an address to start a new service or respond to a maintenance problem.

And, finally, the United States Postal Service (as do the private delivery and parcel services) needs the address to be visible in order for you to get you mail, packages and other deliveries require an address. By having that address clearly shown will ensure prompt delivery.



It is important to check your address for obstruction by paint or shrubbery. Remember, if you can't see your address, neither can emergency responders!

In the event that someone is not available to alert the responding equipment, we are dependant on visible numbers and letters of addresses to arrive and begin the tasks that complete the life-saving mission of the Nashville Fire Department."
Deputy Chief Danny Yates
Fire/EMS Bureau

Alternative Locations for Premises Identification

Some communities have the premises numbers painted on the curb in front of the dwelling. Whether this is acceptable or not may depend upon the restrictive covenant, if one is active, for your community. However, numbers as described in the article must be plainly visible either on the dwelling or on the mailbox, even if the numbers are painted on the curb.

One more thing to consider. Most people only place the numbers on one side of the mail box, usually facing the direction of vehicle traffic. But, what if someone is approaching the home from the opposite direction? If you only have numbers on the mailbox, consider placing them on both sides of the box.

Metro's "No Butts" Campaign Declared a Success in Hillsboro Village

Officials urge other retail areas to focus on reducing cigarette litter

A month-long anti-litter initiative by Keep Nashville Beautiful and local merchants has resulted in a nearly 40 percent reduction in cigarette butts along sidewalks and pedestrian areas in Hillsboro Village.

The Metro Beautification & Environment Commission (MBEC) and the Hillsboro Village Merchants Association launched the "Please NO Butts in the Village" campaign in mid-September. Volunteers conducting the required follow up count last week found there was a 37.25 percent reduction in the number of cigarette butts.

"We are thrilled with the outcome so far, and hope this awareness campaign will continue to make people think before throwing their cigarette butts on the ground," MBEC Director Veronica Frazier said.

Keep America Beautiful (KAB) sponsors the annual Cigarette Litter Prevention Program (CLPP) to help communities reduce cigarette butts and improve their community environments. Using grant money from the program, MBEC (a KAB affiliate) provided posters for Hillsboro Village merchants to display in their windows, and limited supplies of pocket ashtrays to give to patrons.

In addition, six merchants – Fido, Pangaea, Bosco's, Belcourt Theatre, Sunset Grill and Pancake Pantry -- agreed to having a cigarette receptacle in front of their business and keeping it and their sidewalk areas clean.

"Information is a powerful tool in getting citizens to change their behavior. People may not even realize that cigarette butts are

considered litter. Discarded cigarettes are unsightly, difficult and costly to clean up, and harmful to the environment," Frazier said. According to KAB, cigarette butts are the most littered item in America. Lack of awareness, lack of ash receptacles, and the increase of outdoor smoking add to the visible impact of cigarette litter.

Cigarette butts don't disappear. About 95% of cigarette filters are composed of cellulose acetate, a form of plastic which does not quickly degrade and can persist in the environment.

Filters are harmful to waterways and wildlife. About 18% of litter, traveling primarily through storm water systems, ends up in local streams, rivers, and waterways. Nearly 80% of marine debris comes from land-based sources. Cigarette butt litter can also pose a hazard to animals and marine life when they mistake filters for food.

The economic impact of cigarette litter is often overlooked but can be significant, Frazier added. "Cigarette butt litter has to be cleaned up, which means residents and businesses – ultimately we taxpayers – pick up the tab" for additional maintenance activities, such as sidewalk and street sweeping, greenway and park maintenance and storm drain cleaning.

Business owners bear the expense of cigarette butt litter cleanup around entrances, exits, sidewalks, and parking lots.

Metro would like to partner with other retail areas to sponsor a 'NO Butts' campaign in their neighborhoods.

Landlord Registration Renewal Notices Go Out With Tax Bills

The Tennessee State legislature passed a bill requiring all owners of residential rental property to register their property. The Department of Codes & Building Safety's Property Standards division will manage the program. The bill went into effect July 1, 2007.

A notice to register is being sent to all registered owners of property in Davidson County. The program requires the owners to submit information about their rental units. The bill requires owners to provide:

- Their full contact information – Name, physical address with contact telephone number (No PO Box)
- The number of units per property (duplex/triplex, etc.)
- Name and contact information for their manager or registered agent who can act on their behalf

The state mandated a registration fee of \$10.00. This fee is to be paid by each landlord/residential property owner.

Each landlord or property owner is required to pay a single fee for all rental property owned in

the County. An owner who owns a single duplex or triplex would only have to pay \$10.00 for that property. If more than one property is owned, the fee is still only \$10.00 for that landlord/owner. The fee is paid annually. The registration fee is due by December 1st.

Owners of residential rental property should contact the Property Standards Office to register at 862-6590. The registration fee should be made out to "The Department of Codes and Building Safety".



Residential Landlord Registration

Effective July 1, 2007, Tennessee Code Annotated Title 66, Chapter 28-101 requires each landlord of one (1) or more dwelling units is to furnish contact information with the agency or department of local government that is responsible for enforcing building codes in the jurisdiction where the dwelling units are located.

The Department of Codes & Building Safety is the agency responsible for collecting all registration information. This contact information is only used in the event the Codes Department has to contact the owner to correct any Codes violation at their rental property. All landlords should contact the Codes Department as soon as possible to register. Owners can register using this form, or you may use the expanded form that can be found on our web sight at www.nashville.gov/codes. There is a \$10.00 fee required with each registration. Only one fee is required to register all of your residential rental properties.

The Codes Department has set up a web page that gives complete details about this new requirement as well as a link to the registration form. Owners of rental property or their agents should complete the form and mail it with the required \$10.00 registration fee to: Department of Codes & Building Safety For more information you may also call our office at
ATTN: Landlord Registration Program (615) 862-6590.
800 2nd Avenue, South
Nashville, TN 37210

MTA Partners with Google Transit



The Nashville MTA has formed a partnership with Google Transit, a public transit trip planning feature of Google Maps, which will make planning a trip on the city's bus system even easier.

Customers will now be able to quickly and simply:

- Customize their route;
- Get walking directions to the nearest transit stop;
- Access information on mobile phones;
- Use a business name instead of having to know a specific address;
- Get street views of locations; and
- Calculate the fare for their trip.

In addition, Google Maps supports 12 foreign languages so it is easy to find directions and information in many languages and also is compatible with screen readers for the visually impaired.

"This partnership helps our customers plan their trips with ease, and it is a great tool to build more awareness of public transit in our city and across the nation," MTA CEO Paul J. Ballard said.

Riders may plan their route by entering the date and time they would like to arrive at their destination or begin their trip. The trip planner will provide three options with the travel time and number of transfers. Google Maps provides walking directions to assist users in reaching their destination once they get off a bus and has street views to help passengers find the closest transit stop and become familiar with their destination before they get there.

"As part of Google's commitment to develop useful public-private partnerships, we are pleased to welcome the Nashville MTA to Google Transit," said Jessica Wei, Strategic Partner Development Manager at Google. "This partnership shows the Nashville MTA's commitment to innovating, serving their riders and attracting new riders."



**Fares & Passes
Online Sales**



Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is Music City's new public transportation service designed to move MTA bus riders along the city's busiest corridors with fewer stops, more frequent buses, and a greener attitude. Covering 12 miles, the new BRT began its Nashville journey on September 27, 2009.

What's different about the BRT?

Passengers will travel more quickly along one of the city's busiest corridors on new 60-foot articulated, fuel-efficient hybrid buses. Customers will experience a 10-minute shorter trip compared to the local Route 26 - Gallatin Road service. Here's how:

» Fewer Stops «

BRT buses stop every three-quarters of a mile. Customers will experience fewer stop locations along the way and less time spent waiting for others to board and exit the bus.

» More Green «

All of the MTA's hybrid, articulated and much larger buses are in use for BRT service. This provides more passenger room, more seating and a smaller impact on the environment. Beginning in spring 2010, Green Light Extenders will be placed on all BRT buses. This will enable traffic lights to stay green longer as BRT buses approach, moving passengers along Gallatin Road faster with fewer red light stops.

» Less Waiting «

Because BRT makes half as many stops as the local service, it arrives more frequently to each BRT location. In fact, no bus schedule is necessary for this service since buses arrive at regular intervals throughout the day — as often as every 15 minutes during peak times

It's a Brand New Way to Ride.

13th Annual Codes Charity Golf Tournament a Success

Codes Raises \$23,000 for Area Non-profits



Volunteer Jim Winchester visits with Easter Seals Camper Shamar Philips.

The 13th Annual Metro Codes Charity Golf Tournament, in October, at the Ted Rhodes Golf Course raised \$23,000 for local non-profits.

"We are very proud of the efforts of so many of the codes and building staff and our many friends who made this tournament such a great success over the years," Terry Cobb, Codes and Building Safety director said. "Through their unselfish work and giving so much of themselves to the effort, we have once again been able to help those who have great needs."

As in previous years, all proceeds will again go to the Metro Employees Combined Charities Campaign to benefit local non-profits. Easter Seals Camp, Miriam's promise and the Harris-Hillman School were chosen this year to receive the funds.

Cobb believes one man has made a tremendous contribution to the effort. Cobb said Tournament Director Jim Winchester, retired partner at Mid South Electrical and Mechanical, helps keep the tournament running because of his compassion and concern for others.

"Jim works year round to make sure we can meet the our goals for the tournament. He believes in helping people and we are so very grateful to have him lead the effort," Cobb said.

As a department, Codes and Building Safety will contribute more than \$34,000 to MECCC with funds from the tournament as well as contributions from staff members.

Department of Codes & Building Safety

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800 2nd Ave., South
Nashville, TN 37210
615-862-6590 / Fax 862-6593

Mayor - Karl F. Dean

Director - Terrence Cobb
Asst. Director - Bill Penn
Office Hours: Mon-Fri / 7:30-4:00



This years tournament volunteers included, from left Christine Gibson, Cindy Stewart, Kathy Hatch, Carla Langley-Smith, Margo Penick.



For information regarding accessibility, please contact Manley Biggers at (615) 862-6521 or fax (615) 862-6499.

He can also be reached at:



PASS IT ON!

Pass the word about our newsletter! We would be honored if you would share our newsletter with your colleagues and co-workers. If anyone would like to sign up to receive it themselves, they just need to send us their email, and we will be happy to "Pass It On" to them.

Terry Cobb and **Bill Penn** welcome your feedback on our e-newsletter. Please send your comments to [Bill Penn](mailto:Bill.Penn@nashville.gov), at bill.penn@nashville.gov
Assistant Director, Property Standards Div , 862-6590