



September 27, 2012

MEDIA ADVISORY

Jefferson Street's Newest Landmark to Be Unveiled

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – In conjunction with events commemorating homecoming at Tennessee State University, federal state and local officials will gather on Friday, September 28, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. CST to celebrate the grand opening of the Gateway to Heritage Plaza. The project is a joint effort by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Tennessee Department of Transportation, Tennessee State University, the Jefferson Street United Merchant Partnership, Metro Public Works and the Metropolitan Housing and Development Agency. The project includes streetscape and intersection improvements along Jefferson Street and the creation of a plaza along Jefferson Street beneath the I-40 overpass which features art and displays commemorating neighborhood history and culture. In addition to music from the Pearl-Cohn High School band, the event will feature food and product displays from Jefferson Street merchants, as well as the unveiling of a mural by Nashville artists James Threalkill and Michael McBride.

WHO: Nashville Mayor Karl Dean
U.S. Representative Jim Cooper
Metro Councilmember Edith Langster, District 21
Metro At-Large Councilmember Jerry Maynard
TDOT Assistant Commissioner Toks Omishakin
Ed Jennings, HUD regional director
Phil Ryan, executive director, MDHA
Sharon Hurt, Jefferson Street United Merchant Partnership
Tennessee State University officials
Pearl-Cohn High School Band

WHAT: Dedication of Gateway to Heritage Plaza

WHEN: 3:00 p.m. (media are asked to arrive by 2:45 p.m.)

WHERE: Gateway to Heritage Plaza, along Jefferson Street beneath the I-40 overpass (*adjacent to property at 2430 Jefferson Street*). Parking available along Jefferson Street adjacent to the plaza (at police discretion), overflow parking at Harper's or Jefferson Street Missionary Baptist Church.

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The Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency administers a variety of urban and community development projects, works to increase the availability of affordable housing, and leads and supports revitalization efforts in downtown and neighborhoods throughout the city.