

**ISSUE GROUP
MEETING #1 REPORT**

**KNOXVILLE
PARKWAY
CONTEXT SENSITIVE
SOLUTIONS**

**BICYCLE, PEDESTRIAN, AND
GREENWAYS ISSUE GROUP**



October 18, 2004

**Cedar Bluff Holiday Inn Select
Knoxville, TN**

Bob Kennedy, Facilitator

Bob Kennedy opened the meeting by introducing himself and then asking presenters and issue group members to introduce themselves. David Utley , Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinator, Tennessee Department of Transportation narrated a PowerPoint presentation titled *TDOT, Knoxville Parkway CSS, Bike Ped Presentation for Context Sensitive Solutions* which highlighted possible bicycle and pedestrian facilities and possible funding sources that may be appropriate to the parkway corridor. Karen Nolt, Knox County Parks and Recreation Greenways Coordinator narrated a PowerPoint presentation titled *Greenways-Past, Present and Future* highlighting greenways and how they can be incorporated into the parkway corridor.

Following the presentations the group began discussing the critical issues relevant to providing bicycle, pedestrian and greenway amenities within the parkway corridor.

CRITICAL ISSUES

- Project construction funds can be used creatively in such a way that bicycle, pedestrian and greenway facilities can be incorporated into the corridor design so that they are not merely add-on costs. There is a “wide open” opportunity to include the subject facilities from the beginning of the process to achieve a complete integration of these features.
- Members of the group discussed the fact that the term “parkway” as opposed to “beltway” creates the expectation that features such as landscaping, bicycle facilities, and pedestrian facilities will be incorporated in the design to create a park-like setting. Not only bicycle and pedestrian facilities could be included but also horse trails and mountain bike trails.
- Institutional barriers to innovative thinking need to be reduced. To achieve the full integration of design ideas, all involved agencies and organizations need to be open to new ideas.
- An effective level of cooperation and coordination needs to be achieved between TDOT, regional, county, and local governmental organizations as well as private interest groups to achieve the desired integration of amenities.
- It was felt that there was a need to blur the distinction between recreational and transportation uses as applied to bicycle, pedestrian, and equestrian features so that the facility becomes a destination.
- In addition to bicycle, pedestrian and greenway facilities, it was stated that aesthetics also be the focus of this issue group and that landscaping be added to the group’s responsibilities.
- The possibility of initiating legislative action to receive a “scenic route” designation was discussed. Issue group members were interested in finding out the design limitations that might be imposed by a “scenic” designation. More information needs to be provided concerning this subject during the next issue group meeting
- There may be an opportunity for using the “wildflower program” in conjunction with the landscape aspects of the project.
- This project presents an opportunity to link the scenic aspects of the corridor with recreation.

COORDINATION OPPORTUNITIES

It was suggested that there was a need to secure planning money to complete a comprehensive corridor plan prior to beginning design. Members of the issue group identified various plans, agencies, and organizations with which to coordinate during the design phase of the parkway:

1. Beaver Creek Green Infrastructure Plan
2. Tennessee Greenways and Trails Plan
3. County-Wide Greenway Plan
4. Bull Run Creek Watershed Association and affiliated organizations
5. Clinch River Recreation and Trails
6. East Tennessee Draft Horse Association
7. Knoxville TPO Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan
8. Knoxville Regional Transportation Alternative Plan

IDENTIFIED NEEDS

1. There is a need to consider the permeability of the road as a barrier. Not only are bicycle and pedestrian facilities needed within the corridor but also there is a need to maintain the continuity and connectivity of existing and proposed facilities that may cross the parkway corridor.
2. Parkway design should incorporate trailheads and parking, as the parkway becomes a destination for recreation as well as a transportation corridor.
3. There are several transportation “hubs” where the corridor intersects mass transit routes and existing roadways that are potential locations for trailheads and parking.
4. Appropriate signing is needed at trailheads providing interpretations and historic context.
5. There is a need to separate incompatible recreational uses. This can be accomplished by placing them on opposite sides of the parkway.

ATTENDEES

5 people attended the meeting. The names and organizations of the people who attended the meeting are presented as follows.

Issue Group	Organization
Steve Fritts	Resource Team - TN Technology Corr. Development Authority
Karen Nolt	Resource Team - Knox County Greenway and Park Coordinator
Ed Cole	TDOT Chief of Environmental and Planning
David Utley	TDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator
Bob Kennedy	Palmer Engineering