

For Immediate Release
April 6, 2004

Community Resource Team Begins Work on Knoxville Beltway
Context Sensitive Solution process begins with first meeting

Knoxville, Tennessee - Members of the Knoxville Beltway Resource Team, which is made up of local citizens, met Monday along with Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) officials and engineering consultants to begin the process of team building and setting goals for the group. This group, which has named itself the Regional Parkway Design Resource Team, is the integral part of the Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) process; they will make recommendations about the design and implementation of SR 475, the Knoxville Beltway, also known as the "Orange Route."

"For the first time in the history of this major Knoxville project a group of citizens, state and local officials came together to begin to seek a common goal," explained Ed Cole, Chief of Environment & Planning. "This process gives the community ownership, a direct voice in planning and design of the beltway."

"I'm optimistic that this process will make a better road, something the whole community will be proud of," said Carolyn Greenwood, representing the Karns Community. "It represents a change in the way TDOT does business."

TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely announced November 10, 2003, the department was committed to using CSS in designing SR 475, the Knoxville Beltway. "CSS is an approach that involves all stakeholders to develop a transportation facility that fits its physical setting, and preserves scenic, aesthetic, historical and environmental resources, while maintaining safety and mobility," said Nicely. "It is a process that is based heavily on input from the public, the people who pay for the project and who will use it."

The Regional Parkway Design Resource Team announced at their meeting on Monday a web site www.knoxvillebeltway.com, and a hotline number, 1.888.447.7475, that will provide detailed information and answer frequently asked questions.

The Regional Parkway Design Resource Team, whose members' names are listed below, will meet again Wednesday, April 28th, at 8:30am at the Cedar Bluff Holiday Inn Select in West Knoxville. Discussions at future meetings will include traffic studies, interchange designs, detailed maps, and environmental information.

Members of the Regional Parkway Design Resource Team:

Roy Arthur, Beaver Creek Task Force Association
John Benditz, Tennessee Institute of Transportation Engineering
Edgar Faust, Hardin Valley Community
Greg Fay, East Tennessee Economic Development Authority
Steve Fritts, Tennessee Technological Corridor
Carolyn Greenwood, Karns Community

Brian Jenks, Anderson County Government
Bill McMaster, Heiskell Community
Chip Miller, Loudon County Government
Karn Nolt, Knox County Government
David Orr, Sierra Club
Mac Post, Powell Community
Robert Shaw, Citizens against the Beltway Orange Location
Wes Stowers, Knoxville Area Chamber
Darcy Sullivan, Urban Transportation Issues Committee
Roland, Terrell, Solway Community
Carl Tindell, Better Roads in North Knoxville
Sharon Todd, Claxton Community
Bruce Wuethrich, Knox County Government