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CUMBERLAND AVENUE CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE TOPIC OF APRIL 2 PUBLIC MEETING

POSTED MARCH 26, 2015

With construction of the City of Knoxville's Cumberland Avenue Corridor Project getting underway, utility-related construction will begin on April 6. A public meeting next week will provide an overview of the entire Cumberland Avenue Corridor construction schedule during the next two years.

The public meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 2, at the University of Tennessee Visitors Center, 2712 Neyland Drive. City staff will be there, along with representatives from the contractors, KUB and engineering consultants Vaughn & Melton, to discuss the construction timeline and traffic control plans.

The Cumberland Avenue Corridor Project is a City of Knoxville initiative to redesign Cumberland Avenue from Alcoa Highway east to 17th street, changing the existing four-lane street to a three-lane cross section with a raised median and left-turn lanes at intersections. Sidewalks will be widened and landscaped to create a more attractive, pedestrian-friendly corridor. Throughout the project, road closures and construction updates will be available on a new website, CumberlandConnect.com, along with the Cumberland Connection blog (cumberlandconnections.blogspot.com/) and a Facebook page at facebook.com/CumberlandConnect. Construction will proceed in two phases, with Phase I to be completed by the end of 2015 and Phase II scheduled for completion in August 2017. See the detailed timeline for Phase I below.

One lane of traffic in each direction will be maintained during construction, with the exception of a single weekend closure at the railroad crossing and a six-week period when eastbound traffic will be blocked between University Commons and West Volunteer Boulevard. Turns onto side streets will be blocked on a rolling basis, and mid-block left turns will not be possible on blocks under construction.

To avoid delays, drivers are encouraged to use alternative routes. "We know this construction will be disruptive to traffic and local businesses and residents," said Anne Wallace, Project Manager for the City of Knoxville's Office of Redevelopment. "We promise to work diligently throughout the process to provide updated information, answer questions and mitigate the effects as much as possible. The result will be a Cumberland Avenue Corridor that looks better and works better for everybody."

Signed detours will direct through traffic around the corridor during construction.

Specific detours for local traffic will change as construction moves from west to east, but in general:

- For access to the UT campus and other areas south of Cumberland Avenue, the best route will be to take Neyland Drive to Joe Johnson Drive and proceed east from there;
- For access to the Fort Sanders neighborhood, including Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center and East Tennessee Children's Hospital, the best route will be Alcoa Highway north to I-40 and the 17th Street exit.



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Full details on the DISH Orange & White Game on April 25 are now set. Share with your friends to spread the word to #FillNeyland!

FREE ADMISSION & FREE PARKING
Gates Open at Neyland: 12:30 p.m.
Fan Day: 1:30-2:30 p.m.
DISH O&W Game: 4 p.m. (live on SEC Network Alt. Channel/Vol Network- IMG)

Free Parking for Game Day!

The University of Tennessee will be providing **free shuttle service and free parking** from the UT Ag Campus beginning at 1pm on April 25, 2015.

Fans are encouraged to use **Neyland Drive** for game day travel.

The **Cumberland Avenue Merchants** will be open for business and ready for fans to visit both before and after the game.



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DESTINATION IMAGINATION
GLOBAL FINALS 2015

PRESENTED BY
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ABOUT

Save the Date: May 20-23, 2015

Global Finals is the world's largest celebration of creativity. Each May, more than 8,000 of the world's most innovative minds compete in teams to showcase their Challenge solutions, celebrate creativity and have fun.

Our Purpose

Inspire and equip students to become the next generation of innovators and leaders

GRADUATION SIGN UP

17,000+ ATTENDEES
8,000+ STUDENTS
17 COUNTRIES
1,468 TEAMS
544 VOLUNTEERS

May 15, 2015

Destination Imagination to Bring Nearly 17,000 People to UT Campus Next Week

KNOXVILLE—Destination Imagination's Global Finals Expo—considered the world's largest celebration of creativity and innovation—will bring a record-setting 16,700 participants to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, next week.

Destination Imagination will take place May 20-23. This is the 15th consecutive year that UT has hosted the competition.

Robert Gibbs, executive director of UT Conferences and Non-Credit Programs, said Destination Imagination has a huge impact on the campus—not only in the monumental effort it takes to house and feed participants and accommodate competitions, but also in the financial benefits and international exposure reaped from the event.

Destination Imagination participants will be housed in 32 locations, including 11 UT residence halls. Events will take place in buildings across campus, including the Carolyn P. Brown Memorial University Center, the Clarence Brown Theatre, the Natalie L. Haslam Music Center, the Humanities and Social Sciences Building, Alumni Memorial Building and Thompson-Boling Arena.

"What better situation than to have nearly 17,000 youth and mentors and chaperones on our campus, on their own dime, experiencing what we have to offer," Gibbs said. "The exposure we get from that is incredible."

Eighty percent of the 1,400 Destination Imagination teams come from 48 U.S. states, including Texas, California, New York, Colorado, Michigan and Tennessee. International participants from 18 countries make up the remaining 20 percent, with China as the leader, closely followed by Canada, Turkey, Qatar, South Korea and Mexico.

This year, Disney is Destination Imagination's top sponsor. The event is also heavily supported by NASA, and Apollo 11 Commander Buzz Aldrin will participate in opening night ceremonies.

Over the years, Destination Imagination has involved more than 1.5 million young people and adults. This year, about 100,000 young people competed in tournaments in 30 countries to earn a spot at the Global Finals.

Among those making the trek to Knoxville is Turner Hubbard, 9, a third-grader at Sun City Elementary School in Bossier City, Louisiana.

Hubbard was one of the 14 third-, fourth- and fifth-graders from his school to participate in the Louisiana state Destination Imagination contest, where his technical team claimed the gold medal and the right to advance to the Global Finals. Like the other competitors, Hubbard and his team will keep their project a secret until the day of the competition.

Destination Imagination students will compete in one of six challenges. While Hubbard's team will be involved in the technical challenge, others will compete in fine arts, scientific, improvisational, structural or service-learning categories.

The Global Finals Innovation Expo will give participants the chance to peruse hands-on exhibits from NASA, the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, National Geographic, Oracle Academy and other innovative companies. Plus they will have the opportunity to participate in more than 100 skills workshops ranging from 3-D printing to Broadway dance to computer science.

For Hubbard, though, the chance to come visit UT and Knoxville is especially exciting. His grandparents, Mark and Lou Kerr, previously lived in Knoxville and have filled Hubbard's childhood with stories of Knoxville, UT and the Tennessee Volunteers.

"I am a huge UT fan, so he had grown up hearing about UT from me," Lou Kerr said, adding that her grandson and his parents will try to eke out time to sightsee a bit while they are here.

"My grandson has never really visited mountains before," explained Kerr, "so he's excited about that."

For more information about Destination Imagination, visit <http://globalfinals.org>.



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KNOXVILLE AREA TRANSIT

News Release

KAT to Offer Fare-Free Boardings along Cumberland Avenue Tuesday, May 26, 2015

"Cumberland Avenue is open for business, and KAT is the best way to get to it and through it." This is the message that the City of Knoxville and KAT want to send with the new Cumberland Connect Free Fare Zone program, to begin June 1.

Anyone catching a bus along Cumberland – From Gay Street to West Volunteer – can board fare-free starting June 1st. All stops in the zone are designated with a bright round sign, indicating a fare-free boarding location.



"This is great for the many people who work in the UT and downtown areas," says Dawn Distler, Director of Transit. "Instead of worrying about any construction-related congestion, they can just relax, check e-mails or plan the day, and enjoy the ride on the way to work, then get a free ride home. It's also great for anyone coming to businesses along Cumberland. KAT can get you there and back easily and inexpensively."

The promotion is intended to attract more people to transit, and thus relieve congestion through Cumberland, as well as provide easy access to businesses along the corridor during the City's ongoing construction and redesign project.

"The Free Fare Zone will help people get to and from Cumberland Avenue during the construction, it will support the merchants there, and it will help reduce traffic," Mayor Madeline Rogero said. "It's also a reminder that public transit is a great resource for our city."

The Cumberland Free Fare Zone will be in effect during the length of the construction project. For more information, visit www.cumberlandconnect.com

For more information on this news release, contact Belinda Brill at (865) 215-7828.





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Cumberland Avenue scavenger hunt prize winners announced

JUNE 1, 2015 6:00 p.m.

And the winner is.... Melanie Hogan of Knoxville!

Anne Wallace, the City's project manager for the Cumberland Avenue reconstruction project, announced the winners of the weekend Cumberland Avenue scavenger hunt on WATE Channel 6 on Monday evening. Fans of Garth Brooks who were attending the concerts at Thompson-Boling Arena were encouraged to visit www.cumberlandconnect.com for clues, find large cutouts of Garth at various merchants before or after the concerts, and then submit selfies for a drawing of prizes.

Congrats to Melanie, who won a one-night stay and breakfast at the Hilton Garden Inn!

Other winners included Pat Alling (a \$50 McDonald's gift card); Tom DuBois (a \$30 gift certificate from Goal Post Tavern); and Micaiah Smoker (a \$25 Visa gift card and goody bag from UT Federal Credit Union).

Please remember: While Cumberland Avenue is being upgraded and improved, businesses along Cumberland Avenue remain accessible. So please continue to patronize your favorite eateries, night spots, specialty stores and convenience stations! These long-term upgrades are expected to improve traffic flow and rejuvenate a vibrant district, making Cumberland Avenue safer, better-functioning, more attractive and more pedestrian-friendly.





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CUMBERLAND AVENUE LANES TO CLOSE AS NEXT STEP IN RECONSTRUCTION STARTS JUNE 9

POSTED June 4, 2015

For six weeks beginning Tuesday, June 9, all eastbound lanes of Cumberland Avenue between University Commons and West Volunteer Boulevard will be closed – the next step in a \$17 million reconstruction.

During this period, one westbound lane of traffic will remain open (except for one complete weekend closure to rebuild the railroad crossing). There will be no westbound left turns onto Cumberland from West Volunteer Boulevard.

Crews will be installing a new 42-inch storm sewer pipe approximately 12 feet below the roadway, which will trigger the lane closures.

The Phase I reconstruction of the section of Cumberland Avenue from Alcoa Highway to West Volunteer Boulevard will continue through late fall 2015, though two-way traffic will resume before the University of Tennessee resumes classes in August. (Throughout most of Phase I, contractors are keeping one lane open in each direction.)

Throughout the project, road closures and construction updates will be available on CumberlandConnect.com, along with the Cumberland Connection blog (cumberlandconnections.blogspot.com) and a Facebook page at facebook.com/CumberlandConnect.

"We know with this next phase closing two-way traffic, through mid-summer, it will take a little additional time for eastbound motorists to navigate the Cumberland Avenue Corridor," said Anne Wallace, Project Manager for the City of Knoxville's Office of Redevelopment.

Motorists wishing to access Cumberland Avenue from the south can do so by taking Neyland Drive to Joe Johnson Drive to Volunteer Boulevard. Those wishing to reach Cumberland Avenue from the north or coming off Interstate 40/75 can do so by taking 17th Street onto Cumberland or Fort Sanders side streets.

Meanwhile, motorists who aren't shopping or dining or trying to reach a Cumberland Avenue business can avoid the construction zone altogether by taking either Neyland Drive or 17th Street to or from I-40/75.

"Merchants remain accessible, so we encourage shoppers and diners to please continue to patronize them," Wallace said. "In fact, the Free Fare KAT bus is a great way to visit. Routes 10, 11 and 17 are all free from Gay Street to Cumberland.

"Once this reconstruction is completed, the result will be a Cumberland Avenue Corridor that looks better and works better for everybody."

Free public parking on weekends and after 6 p.m. weekdays is available in the Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center lot at 19th Street and White Avenue and in the UT Federal Credit Union lot at 22nd Street and White Avenue.

Once Phase I work is completed, full traffic access will be restored from 22nd Street west.

Phase II work, moving eastward from 22nd Street to 17th Street, is scheduled to begin by Dec. 1, 2015. The full project is scheduled for completion by Aug. 31, 2017.

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FEWER ONE-WAY STREETS IN CUMBERLAND AVENUE CORRIDOR SOON WILL GIVE MOTORISTS MORE OPTIONS

POSTED June 12, 2015

Starting Monday, motorists will be seeing more orange barrels around the Cumberland Avenue Corridor. But for those eager for a quicker commute through the City's reconstruction zone, these barrels signal an improvement that's coming soon.

Crews with the City's contractor, Southern Constructors, will be reworking the traffic flow on streets feeding into the eastern end of Cumberland Avenue. Four streets will be converted from one-way to two-way traffic – 18th, 19th, Mountcastle and 21st Street – between Lake and White avenues. (There is already two-way traffic on 20th Street.)

Orange barrels will go up over the next two weeks as a safety measure to allow drivers to become accustomed to the new traffic patterns while lanes are restriped and other steps are taken to assure a safe change-over from one-way to two-way traffic.

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Orange barrels will go up over the next two weeks as a safety measure to allow drivers to become accustomed to the new traffic patterns while lanes are restriped and other steps are taken to assure a safe change-over from one-way to two-way traffic.

"Changing the traffic pattern will make it easier for motorists to get to a particular business," said Anne Wallace, Project Manager for the City of Knoxville's Office of Redevelopment. "Merchants in the corridor are accessible, and eliminating these one-way streets gives drivers new options to more quickly reach their destinations.

"The two-way streets will remain in place even after the reconstruction is finished. In fact, the new traffic pattern was planned for in the reconstruction. Once this two-year project is completed, the result will be a Cumberland Avenue Corridor that is safer, looks better and works better for everybody."

The Cumberland Avenue Corridor Project is a \$17 million City of Knoxville initiative to redesign Cumberland Avenue from Alcoa Highway east to 17th Street, changing the existing four-lane street to a three-lane cross section with a raised median and left-turn lanes at intersections. Sidewalks will be widened and landscaped, and utility lines relocated, to create a more attractive, pedestrian-friendly corridor.

Construction is proceeding in two phases, with Phase I (from Alcoa Highway to 22nd Street) to be completed by the end of 2015, and Phase II (from 22nd Street to just east of 17th Street) to follow, with completion in August 2017.

- The upcoming changes in the traffic flow on the eastern end of Cumberland Avenue coincide with work already underway for the Phase II utility reconstruction. Currently, Cumberland Avenue has one lane



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SECTION OF CUMBERLAND AVENUE, UNIVERSITY COMMONS WAY TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE

POSTED June 22, 2015



"The rebuilding of the at-grade railroad crossing is a milestone in the Phase I work, as it required significant coordination with multiple stakeholders," said Project Manager Anne Wallace.

"We know it'll be a challenging weekend for merchants and motorists, but we ask for patience as these strategic upgrades are put in place. The end result will be better traffic flow and a rejuvenated Cumberland Avenue Corridor."

The work is part of the City of Knoxville's \$17 million initiative to redesign Cumberland Avenue from Alcoa Highway east to 17th Street, changing the existing four-lane street to a three-lane cross section with a raised median and left-turn lanes at intersections. Sidewalks will be widened and landscaped, and utility lines relocated, to create a more attractive, safer, pedestrian-friendly corridor.

Construction is proceeding in two phases, with Phase I (from Alcoa Highway to 22nd Street) to be completed by the end of 2015, and Phase II (from 22nd Street to just east of 17th Street) scheduled for completion in August 2017.

Next week's work comes during a period of construction in which all eastbound lanes of Cumberland Avenue are currently closed between University Commons and West Volunteer Boulevard. One westbound lane is open. This closure is scheduled to be completed by Aug. 1, allowing for the installation of a new 42-inch stormwater line approximately 12 feet below the roadway. After the closure, there will be one lane of traffic in each direction – eastbound and westbound – through the completion of Phase I work.

Two major street closures are scheduled next week as milestones are met and work progresses on the City of Knoxville's Cumberland Avenue Corridor Project:

- The entrance to the University Commons shopping center from Cumberland Avenue will be closed Monday, June 22, through Thursday, June 25, while construction crews connect stormwater quality devices with the Cumberland Avenue stormwater line. University Commons will remain accessible from Joe Johnson Drive, via Neyland Drive.
- From 10 a.m. Friday, June 26, through noon Monday, June 29, all lanes of Cumberland Avenue, in both directions, will be closed between 22nd Street and the ramps east of Alcoa Highway. Crews will be installing a stormwater line and rebuilding the railroad crossing in that section of Cumberland Avenue.



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Streets in this area will be converting to two way traffic as part of the City of Knoxville's Cumberland Avenue Corridor Project.

It is anticipated the work will take approximately 2 weeks to complete.

During this time, on-street parking will not be allowed in the areas posted with "Temporary No Parking" signs.

Vehicles In Violation Will Be Towed



Your patience and cooperation during this construction is appreciated.

**ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
865-215-6100**

TOWING TO BEGIN ON CUMBERLAND AVENUE SIDE STREETS

POSTED June 22, 2015

Crews last Monday began reworking the traffic flow on streets feeding into the eastern end of Cumberland Avenue. Cars parked illegally on these side streets will be towed, starting Tuesday, June 23.

Four streets are being converted from one-way to two-way traffic – 18th, 19th south of Cumberland, Mountcastle and 21st Street – between Lake and White avenues. (There is already two-way traffic on 20th Street and on 19th Street north of Cumberland.) The change in traffic flow will make it easier for motorists to get to a particular business by giving drivers new options to more quickly reach their destinations.

Towings on the Cumberland Avenue side streets will continue through July 6, when two-way traffic flow begins.

Some motorists have been parking their vehicles behind the orange barrels being used as a safety measure to allow drivers to become accustomed to the new traffic patterns.

Starting Tuesday, milling and restriping of these streets will begin, and vehicles parked illegally in the new traffic lanes on 18th, 19th, 21st and Mountcastle streets will be towed to the City's Vehicle Impoundment Lot on Vice Mayor Jack Sharp Road in East Knoxville. The phone number for the lot is 865-215-6215.



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TWO-BLOCK SECTION OF CUMBERLAND AVENUE TO COMPLETELY CLOSE FRIDAY THROUGH MIDDAY MONDAY

POSTED June 24, 2015 9:56 a.m.

Starting Friday morning, all lanes of Cumberland Avenue, in both directions, will be closed between 22nd Street and the ramps east of Alcoa Highway. Crews will be continuing to install a new 42-inch stormwater line 12 feet below Cumberland Avenue and rebuilding the at-grade railroad crossing in that section of Cumberland.

The closure of the two-block section of Cumberland Avenue will start at 10 a.m. Friday, June 26, and will continue through noon Monday, June 29.

The work will close University Commons Way at Cumberland Avenue. Shoppers or diners wishing to access the University Commons retail complex may do so via Joe Johnson Drive and Neyland Drive.

The road closure is part of the City of Knoxville's \$17 million initiative to redesign Cumberland Avenue from Alcoa Highway east to 17th Street, changing the existing four-lane street to a three-lane cross section with a raised median and left-turn lanes at intersections. Sidewalks will be widened and landscaped, and utility lines relocated, to create a more attractive, safer, pedestrian-friendly corridor.

Construction is proceeding in two phases, with Phase I (from Alcoa Highway to 22nd Street) to be completed by the end of 2015, and Phase II (from 22nd Street to just east of 17th Street) scheduled for completion in August 2017.

The complete closure that starts Friday is part of a summer construction phase in which all eastbound lanes of Cumberland Avenue already are closed between University Commons and West Volunteer Boulevard. One westbound lane currently is open.

After this weekend's full closure for the stormwater line installation and railroad crossing rebuild, one westbound lane on Cumberland Avenue will reopen at noon Monday.

The closure of the eastbound lanes and the stormwater line installation is scheduled to be completed by Aug. 1. At that point, there will be one lane of traffic in each direction – eastbound and westbound – through the end of the year as Phase I work is completed.

Businesses and other destinations in the Cumberland Avenue Corridor remain accessible, and the best way to reach them is to follow the City's recommended detour routes:

- From the south, take Neyland Drive to Joe Johnson Drive to Volunteer Boulevard.
- Those wishing to reach Cumberland Avenue from the north or coming off Interstate 40/75 can do so via 17th Street.
- To most quickly access Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center and East Tennessee Children's Hospital, take 17th Street to Clinch Avenue.

In addition, Cumberland Avenue Corridor visitors can ride KAT buses for free. Routes 10, 11 and 17 are all free from Gay Street to Cumberland, and bus riders can board along Cumberland Avenue fare-free.

Also, free public parking on weekends and after 6 p.m. weekdays is available in the Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center lot at 19th Street and White Avenue and in the UT Federal Credit Union lot at 22nd Street and White Avenue.



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'MAJOR MILESTONE' ON CUMBERLAND AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION: EASTBOUND LANE TO REOPEN SATURDAY, AUG. 1

POSTED July 31, 2015 2:00 p.m.

An eastbound lane will open Saturday, Aug. 1, on Cumberland Avenue between Alcoa Highway and 22nd Street – marking a “major milestone” in the City of Knoxville’s \$17 million reconstruction of Cumberland.

The Phase I work – upgrading aging utilities, improving traffic flow and adding Streetscape amenities on the western section of Cumberland Avenue – remains on schedule for completion by the end of 2015.

“This represents a big step forward for all Cumberland Avenue stakeholders,” said Anne Wallace, the City’s project manager and incoming Deputy Director of the Office of Redevelopment.

“Reopening traffic in both directions, prior to the University of Tennessee starting fall classes and the beginning of UT football, is a major milestone in Phase I. The project remains on schedule.”

Over the past two months, both eastbound lanes of Cumberland Avenue have been closed in a two-block section between University Commons Way and West Volunteer Boulevard, while one of the two westbound lanes through this section of Cumberland has usually been open.

However, work on two weekends required a complete shutdown of that two-block section of Cumberland. Installation of a 42-inch stormwater line 12 feet below the road and a rebuilding of the at-grade railroad crossing were among the tough tasks that crews had to tackle.

On Saturday, Aug. 1, one lane of traffic will be open in each direction – eastbound and westbound – through the end of the year as Phase I work is completed.

Remaining Phase I work includes new sidewalks on the north side of Cumberland; new lighting; improvements to the access to Metron Center Way and a new signal pole; improvements to the Tyson Park entrance; and a resurfacing of Cumberland.

Once the resurfacing is finished and the road restriped, motorists will notice a new dedicated turn lane from westbound Cumberland onto northbound Alcoa Highway, made possible by the reconfiguration of space during the reconstruction. Wallace believes this will help alleviate much of the traffic congestion on Cumberland around Metron Center Way and University Commons Way during peak traffic periods.

The City’s initiative to redesign a nine-block stretch of Cumberland Avenue will modernize aging utility infrastructure and change the existing four-lane street to a three-lane cross section with a raised median and left-turn lanes at intersections. Sidewalks will be widened and landscaped, and utility lines relocated, to create a more attractive, safer, pedestrian-friendly corridor.

Once the Phase I work is completed, the project will move into Phase II – the reconstruction of Cumberland Avenue from 22nd Street to just east of 17th Street, scheduled for completion in August 2017.

In fact, KUB crews have already started doing some of the utility work, with a lane of Cumberland closed between 19th and 22nd streets, in advance of the City’s Phase II reconstruction.

Next week, starting Monday morning, Aug. 3, a Southern Constructors contract crew will be closing 21st Street at its intersection with Cumberland to install a new sewer main. There will be two-way traffic on Cumberland, and both entrances to the Mellow Mushroom and both entrances to the Starbucks will remain open.

A new traffic plan that took effect earlier this month – converting four side streets from one-way to two-way traffic between Lake and White avenues – will give motorists more options for finding destinations on Cumberland while avoiding the Phase II work.

Businesses in the Cumberland Avenue Corridor will remain accessible. For drivers wishing to avoid the construction zone, their best option is to follow the City’s recommended detour routes:

- From Kingston Pike and northbound and southbound Alcoa Highway, take Neyland Drive to Joe Johnson Drive to Volunteer Boulevard.
- Those wishing to reach Cumberland Avenue from the north or coming off Interstate 40/75 can do so via 17th Street.



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CUMBERLAND AVENUE MERCHANTS TO HOST FIRST- EVER BRICK BY BRICK PRE- GAME BLOCK PARTY ON THE STRIP

Rain or shine we will be here to celebrate **FOOTBALL TIME IN TENNESSEE!**

[Click here for map of parking options near Cumberland Avenue.](#)

FOOD • FAMILY • FUN • FRIENDS • FOOTBALL

BRICK-BY-BRICK

PREGAME ON THE STRIP

SATURDAY • SEPTEMBER 5 • 2-4PM

BLOCK PARTY FOR CUMBERLAND AVENUE

sponsored by



COME AND JOIN US DURING THE FIRST GAME OF THE SEASON AS WE CELEBRATE FOOTBALL TIME IN TENNESSEE WITH OUR HISTORY-MAKING PREGAME ON THE STRIP!

If your orange blood is boiling and you just can't wait for the Vols' first home football game on Sept. 12, the Cumberland Avenue Merchants Association has a cure – a first-ever pre-game closed-street block party before the Saturday, Sept. 5 season opener in Nashville.

In fact, merchants are anticipating a big weekend of back-to-back fun on Cumberland Avenue on Sept. 5-6. On Sunday, Sept. 6, the next day after the restart of University of Tennessee football, hit the Strip for the final Boomsday, the nation's largest Labor Day Weekend fireworks show. Cumberland Avenue is a perfect spot to eat and start your Boomsday experience, merchants say.

A section of Cumberland Avenue will be closed between 18th Street and North 19th Street for the Brick by Brick Pre-Game on the Strip block party from 2-4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 5.

Imagine 300 feet of booths, where the most diehard head-to-toe orange-and-white-clad UT fans can graze the food vendors, compete in games, get souvenir giveaways, purchase merchandise and take in the music provided by Merle 96.7 FM.

The event is alcohol-free and family-friendly.

After the pre-game festivities, UT fans are encouraged to gravitate toward their favorite Cumberland Avenue Corridor restaurants. Many merchants along the Strip are offering special menus, big-screen viewings and promotions in conjunction with the UT-Bowling Green game in Nashville. Kickoff is 4 p.m.

"We welcome Big Orange fans back to the Strip with a fun, family-friendly pre-game block party," said Copper Cellar General Manager Jonah Riggs, one of the event organizers. "There will be a lot of fun options – games, food, live music, unique merchandise for sale, and giveaways of souvenirs and collectibles to fans.

"There certainly will be a lot of Vol enthusiasm. We hope our diehard fans will have a great time, then stay and watch the game at their favorite Cumberland Avenue restaurants."

The City of Knoxville – which is reconstructing a nine-block stretch of Cumberland Avenue – is offering logistical support to the Cumberland Avenue Merchants Association for the pre-game event.

The City's \$17 million investment in the street makeover will modernize aging utility infrastructure and improve traffic flow by changing the existing four-lane street to a three-lane cross section with a raised median and left-turn lanes at intersections. Sidewalks will be widened and landscaped, and utility lines relocated, to create a more attractive, safer, pedestrian-friendly corridor.

"We know the lane closures during the reconstruction present challenges, but the popular and unique businesses in the Cumberland Avenue Corridor have been and will be accessible," said Anne Wallace, the City's Cumberland Avenue project manager. "We hope visitors to

the Brick by Brick Pre-Game on the Strip event will realize that and continue to patronize these businesses.

"This block party also is a fun opportunity for people who love Cumberland to take note of what it looks like now, and compare that to the completed project in 2017."

Helen Morton with University Liquors is one the stakeholders who's eagerly anticipating Brick by Brick Pre-Game on the Strip. Earlier this week, she was part of a CAMA crew that spruced up Cumberland Avenue – tying up more than 100 huge orange and white bows to celebrate the return of Vol football.

"This block party is historic, and it'll be a lot of fun," Morton said. "It's the first official street closing on Cumberland. What could be better than family, friends, food and football? I'm thrilled to be able to help out.

"We invite fans to come have a good time, and afterward, to stick around, patronize their favorite businesses, watch the game and enjoy a great meal."

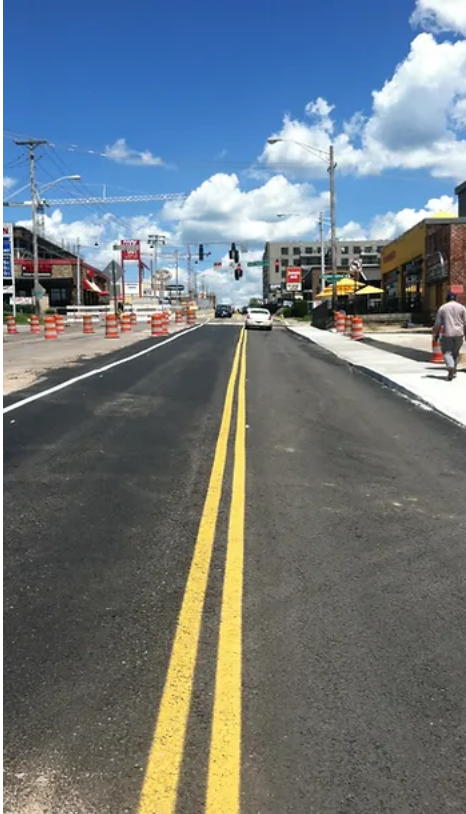
For more information about the block party or the Cumberland Avenue reconstruction project, or to check out this week's special offers from merchants, visit www.cumberlandconnect.com.

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'MAJOR MILESTONE' NEW PAVEMENT ON CUMBERLAND

POSTED November 5, 2015 8:00 p.m.

CUMBERLAND AVENUE LANES TO REOPEN LATER THIS WEEK

Starting at 6 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10, Southern Constructors and Rogers Group will begin the final paving for Phase I of the Cumberland Avenue reconstruction project.

The paving, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily through Friday, Nov. 13, will require temporary lane closures and traffic shifts while workers mill and overlay asphalt. One lane will be open in each direction.

But the good news is that, beginning Friday night, five lanes of Cumberland Avenue between 22nd Street and the southbound Alcoa Highway ramps will be open.

For the first time since the project launched last April, there will be two eastbound and two westbound lanes open on the western end of Cumberland Avenue. There also will be a center turn lane, and the reconstruction project has created a dedicated lane for westbound motorists wishing to access northbound Alcoa Highway – improvements aimed at reducing traffic backups.

"This is a real turning point in the project," said Anne Wallace, the City's Deputy Redevelopment Director and the project manager for the Cumberland Avenue reconstruction.

"The lane closures have been inconvenient for the businesses and for motorists, and we've appreciated everyone's patience. We've worked with our partners to communicate the steps in the process and to make accommodations when possible, and the project has remained on schedule."

The City of Knoxville's reconstruction of a nine-block stretch of Cumberland Avenue is a \$17 million investment that will modernize aging utility infrastructure, improve traffic flow and improve the aesthetics of the corridor.

As the Phase I work nears completion in the coming weeks, the project will move into Phase II – the reconstruction of Cumberland Avenue from 22nd Street to just east of 17th Street, scheduled for completion in August 2017.

Phase II calls for changing the existing four-lane street to a three-lane cross section with a raised median and left-turn lanes at intersections.

All along Cumberland Avenue, sidewalks will be widened and landscaped, and utility lines relocated, to create a more attractive, safer, pedestrian-friendly corridor.

Meanwhile, anticipate two other closures in the Cumberland Avenue corridor:

- Through Wednesday evening, workers are continuing with a sewer main installation near Cumberland Avenue and North 21st Street. The installation has closed the northbound lane of 21st Street between Cumberland and White Avenue.
- From 1 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20, through 9 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22, White Avenue will be closed between 20th and 21st streets. Johnson & Galyon Construction will be dismantling one of the two tower cranes used in the construction of a new East Tennessee Children's Hospital building.



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TWO BLOCKS OF CUMBERLAND AVE. TO BE CLOSED DEC. 28-JAN. 5

POSTED December 25, 2015

Two blocks of Cumberland Avenue between 17th and 19th streets will be closed for eight days beginning Monday, Dec. 28, to allow for the installation of an underground electrical line.

The closure is scheduled to begin at 6 a.m. on Dec. 28 and continue until 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016. Vehicle traffic will be detoured to Clinch Avenue between 17th and 19th streets. Pedestrian access to businesses along Cumberland Avenue will be maintained throughout.

The electrical line will carry power from a Knoxville Utilities Board substation at Dale Avenue to the Cumberland Avenue area and beyond. It will allow the removal of overhead power lines along Cumberland Avenue, part of the City's overall \$17 million reconstruction of the corridor.

The Cumberland Avenue project, scheduled to be completed in August 2017, will change the existing four-lane street on the eastern end of the corridor to a three-lane cross section with a raised median and left-turn lanes at intersections between 22nd Street and 17th Street.

Phase I work on the western end of Cumberland, between the Alcoa Highway ramps and 22nd Street, is coming to an end – on time and on budget. Phase II is under way.





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TWO-BLOCK SECTION OF CUMBERLAND AVENUE TO REOPEN FOUR DAYS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

POSTED December 31, 2015

By 5 p.m. today, a temporarily closed two-block section of Cumberland Avenue between 17th and 19th streets will reopen.

Since Tuesday, crews have been installing an underground electrical line beneath the four lanes of Cumberland Avenue. The line is 12 feet below the road, and burying the line allows for the removal of overhead power lines along Cumberland Avenue.

The project had been scheduled to be completed by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016. But the earlier-than-anticipated street reopening means that it will be easier for New Year's Eve patrons of Cumberland Avenue restaurants to access parking.

"Cumberland Avenue has remained open for business from Day 1, since the two-year Cumberland reconstruction project started back in April," said Anne Wallace, the City's Deputy Director of Redevelopment.

"What better way to ring in the new year than by patronizing a favorite Cumberland restaurant tonight? Or enjoy the game-day festivities and special menu items on New Year's Day, with the Vols playing in the Outback Bowl. Go Big Orange!"

Crews will be paving the section of Cumberland Avenue between 17th and 19th streets next Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 4-5, but traffic will be temporarily shifted with no long-term lane closures.

The relocation and upgrade of electric infrastructure is part of the City's overall \$17 million reconstruction of the corridor.

Phase I work on the western end of Cumberland, between the Alcoa Highway ramps and 22nd Street, is completed – on time and under budget. Improving traffic flow was a key objective of the Phase I work. Synchronized traffic flow at Metron Center Way and a dedicated turn lane onto northbound Alcoa Highway have lessened decades-long issues with congestion.

Phase II work is underway in the section of Cumberland Avenue between 22nd and 17th streets. Scheduled to be completed in August 2017, the reconstruction will change the existing four-lane street on the eastern end of the corridor to a three-lane cross section with a raised median and left-turn lanes at intersections between 22nd Street and 17th Street.

In both the Phase I and Phase II work, Cumberland Avenue sidewalks are being widened, and utility infrastructure relocated and upgraded, to create a more attractive, safer, pedestrian-friendly corridor.

Meanwhile, motorists next week should anticipate new street closures associated with the Phase II work:

- From 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 3, two lanes in the 1500 block of Cumberland Avenue – between Volunteer Boulevard and Philip Fulmer Way – will be closed while KUB installs new sewer system infrastructure. One eastbound and one westbound lane will remain open.
- From 6 a.m. Monday, Jan. 4, until 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, a section of South 18th Street between Cumberland and the alley north of Lake Avenue will be closed to allow crews to install an electrical duct bank.
- From Monday, Jan. 4, through Wednesday, Jan. 6, sections of North 18th and 19th streets, from Cumberland to the alley, will be closed to accommodate work upgrading the sewer system.



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RIBBON CUTTING TO CELEBRATE COMPLETION OF PHASE I, CUMBERLAND AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION

POSTED December 31, 2015

What: Ribbon-cutting to celebrate the completion of Phase I of the reconstruction of Cumberland Avenue

When: 4 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2016

Where: Grassy area just north of the Three Rivers Rambler depot, 2560 University Commons Way; parking available in the lot south of the depot

Who: Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero, 1st District City Councilman Nick Pavlis and other Council members, Cumberland Avenue Merchants Association members, City of Knoxville Office of Redevelopment staff, Engineering Department staff, representatives of Knoxville Utilities Board, and representatives of Vaughn & Melton Consulting Engineers and Southern Constructors, Inc.

Phase I of the reconstruction of Cumberland Avenue, between the Alcoa Highway ramps and 22nd Street, has ended – on time and under budget. Improving traffic flow was a key objective of the Phase I work. Synchronized traffic flow at Metron Center Way and a dedicated turn lane onto northbound Alcoa Highway have lessened decades-long issues with congestion.

Phase II work is underway in the section of Cumberland Avenue between 22nd and 17th streets. Scheduled to be completed in August 2017, the reconstruction will change the existing four-lane street on the eastern end of the corridor to a three-lane cross section with a raised median and left-turn lanes at intersections.

In both the Phase I and Phase II work, Cumberland Avenue sidewalks are being widened, and utility infrastructure relocated and upgraded, to create a more attractive, safer, pedestrian-friendly corridor.

Anyone needing a disability accommodation to attend the Jan. 6 ribbon-cutting should contact the City's ADA Coordinator, Stephanie Cook, at scCook@knoxvilletn.gov or 865-215-2034. For an English interpreter, contact Kim Scarborough at kscarborough@knoxvilletn.gov or 865-215-2029.