

KNOXVILLE/KNOX COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION CITY OF KNOXVILLE CLOSURE OF PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY

► **FILE #:** 12-A-18-SC

AGENDA ITEM #: 8

AGENDA DATE: 2/14/2019

► **APPLICANT:** UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

TAX ID NUMBER: 108 C J 013
JURISDICTION: Council District 1
SECTOR PLAN: Central City
GROWTH POLICY PLAN: Urban Growth Area (Inside City Limits)
ZONING: O-2 (Civic and Institutional)

[View map on KGIS](#)

► **RIGHT-OF-WAY TO BE CLOSED:** Volunteer Blvd

► **LOCATION:** Between Intersection of UT Dr. and Todd Helton Dr. and W. Cumberland Ave.

IS STREET:

(1) IN USE?: Yes

(2) IMPROVED (paved)?: Yes

► **APPLICANT'S REASON FOR CLOSURE:**

The request is consistent with other ROW closures approved by MPC within the core of the campus. The street is within the defined institutional zone as outlined on the campus master plan. As with the ROW closure of the other section of Volunteer Blvd., the campus plans to develop an extensive streetscape project, by improving the road, sidewalks, lighting, seating, and initiate landscape enhancements. The improvements should be similar to the improvements already implemented along Volunteer Blvd. By transferring the remaining section of this street it provides an opportunity to expedite the project to ensure we can standardize the design guidelines. The street shall continue to be a major road through campus, which shall also serve the public and mass transit.

DEPARTMENT-UTILITY REPORTS:

City Engineering opposes the closure until an agreement can be established between the City of Knoxville and UT.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

► **RECOMMEND** postponement until the the February 14, 2019 MPC meeting, per applicants request.

Postponement of this application will provide time for the City of Knoxville and University of Tennessee to negotiate and execute an agreement to address issues concerning this proposed closure.

COMMENTS:

On November 27th, a meeting was held with staff from MPC, UT, and City of Knoxville to discuss issues and concerns such as permanent public access easement in perpetuity, loss of 187 parking spaces, and potential infrastructure and intersection improvements. At the conclusion of the meeting, consensus was reached to postpone the request, in order to provide sufficient time for an agreement to be reached between the City of Knoxville and UT.

If approved, this item will be forwarded to Knoxville City Council for action on 1/15/2019 and 1/29/2019. If denied, MPC's action is final, unless the action to deny is appealed to Knoxville City Council. The date of the appeal hearing will depend on when the appeal application is filed. Appellants have 15 days to appeal an MPC decision in the City.