

MAYOR BILL HASLAM



INTRODUCTION

To the Citizens of Knoxville:

I am pleased to announce the completion and release of the Knoxville South Waterfront Vision Plan. In the last two years, my administration has worked very hard to set the stage for revitalization of the South Waterfront. The Vision Plan provides an outstanding foundation for long-term improvements to a key area of our city.

First and foremost, to those of you who attended public workshops and provided comments during the planning process, please accept my sincere thanks. Meetings held for public review of the Vision Plan were incredibly well attended, and your input was invaluable. Also, I very much appreciate the dedication of the South Waterfront Oversight Committee, whose guidance and review of the plan was critical. Finally, I think we should all thank the City Council members who took the time to attend the public meetings and voice their support for this very important project. The result has been very encouraging. We now have a plan that is well supported due to a process that has been transparent and open.

Now comes the next step: Implementation. We need to remember that the Vision Plan describes a 20-year strategy for revitalization, and we have to be both aggressive and patient. Not everything will be built exactly as shown in the plan, so we have to be flexible, but the basic framework is very important. I have said all along that the South Waterfront Plan must be realistic and affordable. To that end, we will follow right behind the Vision Plan with an Action Plan. The Action Plan will tell us what we need to do next and how to pay for it.

I believe we now have a realistic plan that marries high quality development expectations with public improvements such as open spaces, a riverwalk, and upgraded streets. Imagine what we can do – by implementing the plan, we will be able to stroll along the river, go kayaking, take the family out for dinner and entertainment, or live and work right across from the downtown! Over time, the South Waterfront will be a regional asset for all to enjoy. The next five years will set the tone – please join me and stay involved to make sure the Vision Plan becomes a reality.