MEDIA RELEASE

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Mayor Jacobs: Construction Begins on New Entrance for Cove

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.— Knox County construction crews are currently building a new entrance and exit to the Cove at Concord Park.

The current gateways, located at S. Northshore Drive, will remain open until the new ones, which will reside about 300 feet east, open. Crews are expected to finish the project in late November. The work will also include a new turn lane for motorists traveling west bound, so that traffic can more easily and efficiently flow down S. Northshore Drive.

Previously, anyone turning into the popular park would typically back up traffic. Additionally, the crews will build a taper on the side of the road for those folks traveling eastbound in case they, too, need to get around traffic.

“This is really going to be a win-win for everyone because the community loves this park and it’s always good when we can do things to make public assets better,” Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs said. “We’ve always focused on safety and this is one more example. Visitors come from across the county and even the region to enjoy the Cove and this will make access easier and safer.”

Jim Snowden, senior director of the Engineering and Public Works Department, agreed. “Right now, when you’re pulling out and you look left, there’s a lot of vegetation that blocks the sight distance,” Snowden said. “The new entrance will maximize the sight distance and allow a driver to see better.”

In addition to the roadwork, which in being done inhouse, construction crews also will pave the Cove’s overflow parking lot.

Knox County Commissioner John Schoonmaker, who represents the 5th District, which includes the Cove, thanked the Engineering and Public Works Department.

“I have worked with the neighborhoods along Northshore Drive on safety improvement ideas, including a 2019 shoulder improvement between the Concord Road round-about and the fishing pier,” Schoonmaker said. “Our Engineering Dept. did an excellent job and completed it on time and under budget and I expect they’ll do the same with this project. Changing the entrance will add a much-needed safety lane for turning vehicles.”

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