



District Update

From Mayor Walter Maddox

It continues to be an exciting time in the City of Tuscaloosa, especially in our downtown and riverfront areas, which make up a large share of Council District 4. From the opening of the downtown police precinct to the new Embassy Suites, we have a great amount of momentum in our central city on several different fronts.

That being said, we are all acutely aware of the challenges and we are working to align resources to address them.

Below are a few updates on projects and initiatives:

ELECTION DATE CHANGE — The 2013 municipal election brought forth several issues that centered on residency requirements. The City has requested a change in state law that will move the election from August 2017 to March 2017. This will shorten the terms of the current mayor, council members and board of education members by six months.

By having the election in March, we believe that it will reduce the residency issues that surface when the election coincides with thousands of citizens moving from one property to another property. Currently, the legislation to move the election date is before the legislature.

GREATER DOWNTOWN PLAN — Due to declining revenues in the 2014 budget, last May I implemented a hiring freeze across City departments. As a result dozens of positions remained vacant across 17 departments including planning and developmental services. The vacancies in PDS required us to delay the plan. I just recently lifted the hiring freeze, and these positions will be filled which will allow the process to restart in the next several months.

CITY WIDE PAVING PROJECT — The Council will likely allocate between \$2 million to \$3 million dollars to paving across

the city (excluding the recovery zone). The budget is being finalized with bids being issued in May.

THE MCFARLAND/15TH STREET WIDENING PROJECT — This is an ALDOT lead project with the City providing a 20 percent match to improve roadway capacity at the intersection of McFarland Blvd and 15th Street. This project was identified as part of the Tuscaloosa Forward planning process and will contain improvements between 13th Street East and 15th Street East. Construction should begin soon and it will likely last a year for this roughly \$10 million dollar project.

CEDAR CREST ROAD — This is a \$2.2 million dollar project that was identified as part of the Tuscaloosa Forward planning process. It is under construction with an estimated opening in fall 2015. The road will work in conjunction with the McFarland/15th Street widening project.

DOWNTOWN/UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA CORRIDOR STUDY - The study has been completed and delivered to both the City and UA. The study provides three alternative street cross sections for the determination of the best cross section to adopt and begin the planning for future construction and funding. The likely cost of this project may range between \$20 to \$25 million, and currently there is no funding available.

Due to lack of space, I am unable to touch on all projects and initiatives; however, we are having a District Four Mayor's Night Out town hall meeting on Thursday, June 4 at City Hall in the Council Chambers on the second floor. The meeting will begin 5:15 p.m.

I want to close by expressing my appreciation to Councilor Matt Calderone. He is a diligent and enthusiastic public servant who is making a difference for District 4 and our City.

I look forward to seeing you soon!



Thursday, June 4
5:15 - 6:30 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers



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Make One Call to City Hall



Above, top down: Mayor and City Council plan long-term goals. Police Chief Steve Anderson cuts the ribbon on the new downtown police precinct, located inside the Municipal Court on 6th Avenue. New way finding signage is being installed in downtown Tuscaloosa.

