

for the celebration Thursday and he commended Mayor Madeline Rogers for continuing the work that he officially began in 2007.

"It's a pleasure to thank and commend Mayor Rogers for continuing what we began and for seeing this thing through," Maslam said. "During my 14 years of public service as a mayor and governor, I've learned one thing:

"That's that hard stuff is hard and that you don't meet much resistance

the City of Knoxville and the University of Tennessee. Other Cumberland Avenue project participants included: *Signatories at the ceremony included: Councilman Daniel Brown; Director of Redevelopment Amer Wallace; Deputy to the Mayor Bill Lyons; Governor Bill Haslam; Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogers; Councilman Nick Perlin; and Vice Mayor Shane Grimes.*

until you start to change things. People don't complain you leave things the way they are. But that all changes when you start to change things. It would've been easy for Mayor Rogers to abandon the project, but she didn't."

Rogers went ahead with the project and the Cumberland Avenue Streetscape

Project began in April of 2015 and its purpose was to make the street safer and more pedestrian-friendly. It was also intended to establish a more efficient connection to the downtown area.

"I first came here to be a professor at [the University of Tennessee] 40 years ago, and that was my first

experience with Cumberland Avenue," said Bill Lyons, Deputy to the Mayor and Chief Policy Officer. "Cumberland's not been working for a long time.

"It wasn't working as a connection to downtown, not working for businesses and not working as a front door for UT. We wanted to make this an area to come

to and not an area to go through. Redding Cumberland would set the stage for the next half-century or more. I will set the stage for UT's campus beautification, starting with this, its front door."

Cumberland Avenue has been narrowed to three lanes and now features left-turn lanes at the

Cumberland Avenue.

"What I didn't know was just how many times that I would wake up in the middle of the night and think about it. I want to thank my husband and my family for sticking with me through this. This is truly a great day."

Rogers called the project "a total and complete team effort" and she noted that it couldn't have happened without the area's property and business owners.

Pay raise for future council members passes

Movies on Market Square voting is now open