

Haslam conceived the idea to renovate the area commonly known as The Strip when he was Knoxville's City Mayor. He was on hand for the celebration Thursday and he commended Mayor Madeline Rogers for pursuing the work that he officially began in 2007.

"I would like to thank and commend Mayor Rogers for continuing what we began and for seeing this thing through," Haslam 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



Photo: Jeffery Lee

*The City of Knoxville celebrates the completion of the Cumberland Avenue Construction Project with a ribbon cutting. Dignitaries at the ceremony included: Councilman Daniel Brown; Director of Redevelopment Anne Wallace; Deputy to the Mayor Bill Lyons; Governor Bill Haslam; Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogers; Councilman Nick Purdie; and Vice Mayor Duane Grimes.*

until you start to change things. People don't complain if you leave things the way they are. But that all change when you start to change things. It would've been easy for Mayor Rogers to abandon this 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. It 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

four former mayors. "When I was hired, I was told that they wanted someone who would wake up every morning and think about 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

By Mike Steely  
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Only Councilman Marshall Star opposed raising

strong advocates for neighborhoods, served on the West Hills Neighborhood



# Movies on Market Square voting is now open

Knox County Public Library's Movies on Market Square is gearing up for its 14th season of film

The winning lineup will be announced on August 20. Knoxville T&A Employees Credit Union has returned as