

To print this page, select **File** then **Print** from your browser

URL: [http://www.knoxnews.com/kns/traffic/article/0,1406,KNS\\_358\\_4492158,00.html](http://www.knoxnews.com/kns/traffic/article/0,1406,KNS_358_4492158,00.html)

## Residents want parkway access

By **RACHEL KOVAC**, [kovacr@knews.com](mailto:kovacr@knews.com)  
February 24, 2006

Saving Spring Hill Saltpeter Cave, noise pollution, losing acreage and pushing for an interchange at Raccoon Valley Road were the highlighted concerns at a Thursday night meeting to review plans for the proposed Knoxville Regional Parkway.

Most of the people who attended the public workshop expressed frustration with the Tennessee Department of Transportation putting a road through their land but said if it's going to happen, then they want access to the roadway.

A group spearheaded by Anne Jaeger, a resident of Raccoon Valley Road, turned out in large numbers wearing stickers stating "Interchange Needed At Raccoon Valley Road."

Jaeger, who lives with her husband and child on 69 acres of property that will be divided by the proposed parkway, launched a grassroots petition drive in the Heiskel community last Thanksgiving to push for the interchange when she learned it had been dropped from plans. She gathered 150 petitions in the community effort, which did not involve paid signature seekers.

Jaeger and her brother, David Elam, own property in the area that could benefit from commercial development an interchange would bring.

She said if they are going to bring the parkway through the community and take away people's land, then she believes "something should come back to the people."

She and other supporters of the interchange met in January with state Reps. Harry Brooks, R-Knoxville, and Jim Hackworth, D-Clinton. Both elected officials indicated they would support Jaeger in her effort to get the interchange at Raccoon Valley Road added back onto the proposed parkway.

This was the last of a series of four workshops and the most heavily attended. About 320 people attended the public meeting Thursday night at Claxton Elementary School to review the nearly finalized plans for the regional parkway. Participants were able to study detailed maps of the planned 26.5-mile road linking Interstate 75 in Loudon and Anderson counties.

Comment sheets were available, and members of the Knoxville Regional Parkway Design Resource Team answered questions. The team will make its final recommendations March 29 to TDOT.

Leroy Kramer, who will lose his bottom hay field, is simply mad at TDOT. Taped to his blue shirt was a bumper sticker reading "TDOT: Total Destruction of Tennessee."

"They have absolutely no right to take my land," said Kramer, who has lived there for 15 years. "TDOT is totally out of control. They have no respect for anyone's private property. I call it stealing."

A few were indifferent, knowing the project probably will see the light of day and there's not much they can do to save their land. James Fowler said he would rather TDOT take all his property than build a four-lane highway a stone's throw from his home.

"If you've got a piece of property and they're going to go right through it, what are you going to do with a four-lane highway in your yard?" Fowler said.

Rachel Kovac may be reached at 865-342-6306.



Copyright 2006, KnoxNews. All Rights Reserved.

[Buy a link here](#)

### **Win a \$10,000 Scholarship**

Don't Miss the Mar. 30 10k College Scholarship Drawing - Register now!

### **Oprah & 60 Minutes agree**

Hoodia Diet Patch will help you lose weight naturally. Try 1 Week FREE

### **Lower Blood Pressure**

Lower Blood Pressure up to 36 Points with no drug side-effects!

### **Car Insurance: Save \$500**

We track down the best CAR insurance rates. Get your quotes in minutes

### **\$160,000 Loan for \$633/mo**

Compare up to 4 free quotes. Refinance and Save \$1000s - Bad Credit OK