



Parkway proposal poses problems for some homeowners

News

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While TDOT officials look forward to construction of a 27-mile Knoxville Parkway that will bypass Knoxville, all Jim Stafford can do is look back.

Roosters have made morning wake up calls on the Stafford's property off Hardin Valley Road for 211 years. Five generations have farmed the land since 1795.

"I go ahead and put up hay today just like its going to last forever," Jim Stafford said. "That's the only thing you can do."

The farm survived the Civil War. Civil engineers could be their downfall. The I-475 project would dissect the Stafford farm in two. Jim does not know if the state will buy all, part, or none of his property.

"You can function without an arm. You can function without half your property," he said. "You wouldn't like it though."

David West finds himself in a similar spot. West could lose some of his rental property due to exits being proposed near Clinton Highway. While others see problems, West sees progress.

"Somebody has to sacrifice if you're going to ride on the interstate to get out of traffic jams," West said.

West also owns a business near the proposed exit. He believes higher vehicle traffic will yield higher sales.

"Anytime you're close to an interstate next to an exit, you got one way to go and that's up on your property," he said. "It's got to get more valuable."

Stafford is not so sure, wondering how much development is too much development.

"It definitely would bring the price down for subdivisions because of the pollution and noise," he said.

Both agree a slice of East Tennessee is getting a whole new recipe. Both also realize not everyone is hungry for change.

"You do what you can do with what you got," Stafford said.

"I hate to see it take this," West said. "But if it does, it's the price you got to pay for improvement."



Some homeowners say the proposal will harm their property value.



Others say the TDOT plan promotes progress.



Construction will not start for three years.