Park(ing) Day

September 12, 2017

Blythe Bailey - Administrator, Chattanooga Department of Transportation

Park(ing) Day is this Friday, September 15. It is the 10th year of Chattanooga's version of this national effort to bring awareness to Chattanoogans that our streets can also be great places to be. Park(ing) Day, established in 2005 in San Francisco, is an annual worldwide event where artists, designers and citizens transform metered parking spots into temporary public parks. This week, Chattanoogans will enjoy dozens of parklets in temporarily converted parking spaces along MLK Boulevard between Georgia Avenue and the railroad trestle.

Park(ing) Day 2016 (Credit: River City Company)

The central east-west spine of our City, MLK has long been a neighborhood commercial center for surrounding neighborhoods. Recently, it has become home to hundreds, probably now, thousands of UTC students. Bars and restaurants have opened, joining the Bessie Smith Cultural Center in making the boulevard a great destination. CDOT has worked to improve the pedestrian realm of the corridor, adding crosswalks, repairing curb ramps, and creating welcoming connections to surrounding streets. All of these improvements mean a safer, more

vibrant street and City. The street is safer and more welcoming for all people, balancing the cars and buses that travel the corridor with the Chattanoogans who live there and the many people who visit, shop, dine, and walk along the street. We have long known MLK can be a great place from events like the Bessie Smith Strut to the ongoing Levitt AMP Chattanooga Music Series. Park(ing) Day helps us see the street is a great, safe place all the time.

Park(ing) Day 2016 (Credit: River City Company)

Find out how you can transform your street through CDOT's Transforming Public Places program and by hosting special events or neighborhood block parties in the streets at our website. Stay tuned for more information about our Block & Roll Neighborhood Block Party program. Whether at Park(ing) Day, the many special events hosted this fall, or in your neighborhood parklet, see you on the street!

Park(ing) Day 2016 (Credit: [River City Company](#))