

# CHATTANOOGA RIVERFRONT PARKWAY TRANSPORTATION URBAN DESIGN PLAN

Transportation Planning, Urban Design



Existing Condition, 2000



Under Construction, 2004



Finished Project, 2005



Riverfront Park, 2005

## Client:

Rivervalley Partners

## Location:

Chattanooga, Tennessee

Riverfront Parkway, along the Tennessee River in and near downtown Chattanooga, was built as a four-lane freeway in the 1960's. The intended users -- heavy industrial shippers along the river -- never materialized. On the other hand, the City's riverfront tourism and cultural areas have flourished beyond any previous expectation. The Tennessee Aquarium, a vibrant entertainment area surrounding the Aquarium, a restored riverfront park, a spectacular river walk and a growing Arts Center now occupy the riverfront. The Riverfront Parkway, in its previous form, was detrimental to all of these riverfront activities.

In concert with the Chattanooga Regional Planning and Design Studio, Glatting Jackson developed a design for the reclamation of the Riverfront Parkway from a freeway to a valued urban street. Specific measures include the conversion from a freeway to an urban street cross section, removal of freeway hardware (guard rails, median barriers), addition of sidewalks, further buffering of the river walk from the Riverfront Parkway, reduction from four lanes to two lanes for an extended section of the Parkway, and five new signalized intersections.

In 2005, five years after Glatting Jackson's involvement, the Riverfront Parkway was rebuilt to match the vision embodied in the concept design. Today, the Parkway provides a front door that connects Downtown to the City's most valuable asset- the Tennessee River. Along the Parkway are a number of public amenities made possible by important public/private partnerships. Among these public/private endeavors are the Arts Center creating a front door with a grand staircase to the rebuilt Parkway, the Parkway becoming an important and celebrated piece of the rebuilt Ross Landing Park, and the Parkway becoming an important boulevard address for high-value properties (apartments, offices) in the vicinity of the University.