

Bike center pushed back

Project deadlines later than thought

By Dan Klepal
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The Courier-Journal

Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson's administration has an extra year to plan and design a \$1.8 million transit hub and bicycle center for downtown Louisville that is to be built with federal stimulus money.

The administration found out that bids don't have to be accepted on the project until next March, and it doesn't have to be finished for three years to meet federal requirements for transportation projects funded by the stimulus program.

Originally, the city was told that bids for projects had to be accepted within three months and the projects completed within two years.

The latest news led Abramson to write a letter Thursday asking cyclists, business leaders and members of the Louisville Metro Council for their ideas about a business plan for operations that will make the hub sustainable over the long haul.

"I need your input," Abramson's letter says. "Louisville must be smart, bold and forward-thinking on transportation investments. I look forward to hearing your constructive ideas."

The mayor is likely to hear more than that.

Significant opposition has cropped up since the hub was announced this month. And some Metro Council members question why Abramson announced the center before having some idea about how to maintain operations after the stimulus money runs out.

"He went out with a big press conference with no planning whatsoever," said councilman Kelly Downard, R-16th District. "I'm very happy about the delay, because now we'll be able to look at it and decide if it makes sense or not."

The administration would like the hub to be a place to catch a cab or bus, shower after a bike ride into downtown, store bikes or rent a car. Abramson has said businesses — such as coffee or bicycle shops — could be located there.

But even bicycle enthusiasts have weighed in with concern.

David Morse, a politically active cyclist, said in a recent e-mail to council members that the administration needs to do a cost-benefit analysis before moving ahead with the project.

And Barry Zalph, executive director of Bicycling for Louisville, wrote on his blog that he has been urging metro government without success to perform a market study for this type of project.

"Even if money falls from heaven to build a state-of-the-art bicycle center downtown, it will cost money to run it," Zalph wrote on his blog. "A bicycle retailer or repair shop, a cafe, a bike-rental business, a tourist information kiosk, and any other supportive businesses will need enough customers to keep their doors open."

"No sane business owner would start a business, or lease space in a cycle center, without a business plan."

Public Works Director Ted Pullen said yesterday that the transit hub — along with other stimulus projects such as walking paths around E.P. "Tom" Sawyer and Seneca parks — were chosen by the administration to be built using stimulus money. There was no public input on the decision, he said, because there was no time to weigh projects against one another before the stimulus pro-

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Metro

U of L wants Phoenix Place land

Deal ensures housing for medical campus

By Sheldon S. Shafer
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The University of Louisville Foundation is obtaining the land where the sprawling Phoenix Place apartments east of downtown are located, as long-range insurance that it will have housing primarily for medical students.

The 25-year-old, 268-unit com-

plex in Phoenix Hill is near University Hospital and also U of L's rapidly growing Health Sciences Center campus.

It's a complicated transaction, not yet closed, that also involves the city, the Phoenix Place owner and developer, an investor partnership led by McCormack-Baron of St. Louis and Roger Bright of Louisville, and the Brown Noltemeyer Co., a major Louisville developer.

Having Phoenix Place "will create a neighborhood atmosphere for our students, faculty and staff" to live in, said Kathleen Smith, chief of staff for both the university and

its foundation.

Phoenix Place cost about \$24 million to develop in the mid-1980s, including some bonds and tax breaks. Of that total, the city put up about \$8 million — mainly federal grant money and water company dividends.

Steve Stogel, now a consultant for the ownership group and an original partner in Phoenix Place, said the private investors stand to recover only a fraction of their investment. He said about 100 investors originally put up about

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By Joanne Meshew, The C-J



Photos by Aaron Borton, Special to The Courier-Journal

Joseph Phelps, pastor of Highland Baptist Church, carried a cross draped with strips of cloth of various colors on the sidewalk of Broadway during the annual "The Way of the Cross: A Walk for Justice."

'Way of Cross' walk marks suffering of Jesus, others

Good Friday event focuses on justice

By Peter Smith
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The Courier-Journal

As she has on Good Friday almost every year of her life, Presentation Academy freshman Fiona Grant joined about 100 other people marching through downtown Louisville behind a large wooden cross.

The annual event — "The Way of the Cross: A Walk for Justice" — follows the traditional devotional model of the 14 "stations of the cross," marking the sufferings of Jesus on the day of his crucifixion.

The event, sponsored by various churches and other faith-based organizations, fo-

cuses on how people are suffering today from poverty, illness, inequality and other ills. "It's a highlight of Holy Week for us," Fiona said. "I just wish more young people would come."

The walk began with stops at the Romano Mazzoli and Gene Snyder federal buildings, went through the central business district and concluded at Founders Square at Fifth and Liberty streets.

Fiona was part of a group that read a prayer at 4th Street Live, citing the contrast between "a place known for fun, laughter and perhaps a bit of extravagance and excess" and the needs of people paying high rates on short-term "pay-day loans or the elderly having to choose whether to spend

See **CROSS**, B5, col. 3



David Knloch held the wooden cross during a reading about contemporary crucifixion.

WAY OF THE CROSS

For more photos of the walk, visit www.courier-journal.com

Man linked to rash of burglaries

Escapee committed suicide near C-J

By Jessie Halladay
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Harrison

A man who killed himself last month in a Courier-Journal parking lot was linked to dozens of break-ins in western Louisville.

Louisville Metro Police said Jeremy Burton, 18, was part of a burglary ring that hit at least 82 homes, dating as far back as August, said Detective Kenny Nauert.

And investigators in several other Louisville divisions and Shively are looking into the possibility that other break-ins may be linked to either Burton or the peo-

ple with whom he allegedly worked.

Nauert said the break-ins typically occurred during the day when people are generally at work or school. He said usually

the group would steal a car, then send someone to the front door of the home to knock to see if anyone was there.

If the house was empty, Nauert said, the burglars would kick in a door or force open a window, go in and steal flat-screen televisions and other electronic devices.

Two other people have been linked to the crimes and charged with several break-ins.

Anthony Harrison, 18, faces several counts of burglary, as does a 17-year-old girl, whose name has

not been released because she is a juvenile.

Burton shot himself March 6 after trying to hide under a sport utility vehicle in a newspaper parking lot at Sixth Street and Broadway as members of a federal fugitive task force were trying to arrest him.

He had escaped from Metro Corrections the night before the shooting by switching wristbands with another inmate who was to be discharged. Burton had been arrested March 4 on charges of receiving stolen property, reckless driving and failure to maintain proper insurance and was being held on a \$10,000 bond.

Nauert said more charges are likely in these cases.

Reporter Jessie Halladay can be reached at (502) 582-4081.

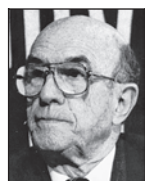
Educator Albright dies at age 96

Served as president of NKU, Morehead

By Emily Udell
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The former president of Northern Kentucky University, who for years was a driving force in higher education in the commonwealth, died early yesterday at age 96.

A.D. Albright had a long career that included heading the Kentucky Council for Higher Education, serving in senior-level administrative positions at the University of Kentucky, and emerging from retirement to become president of Morehead State University.



A.D. Albright was "a major ambassador for higher education."

"The state lost a major ambassador for higher education," said Dick Wilson, a former education reporter at The Courier-Journal, who met Albright when he was a student at the University of Kentucky. "He was considered the grand old man of public higher education in Kentucky."

Albright led NKU from 1976 to

See **ALBRIGHT**, B5, col. 1

BLOG BYTES

Children waving branches this past Palm Sunday didn't know it, but they were taking part in a growing trend: the use of environmentally friendly palms. The use of Eco-Palms, now four years in the making, represents a national effort to encourage Latin American farmers to use less-damaging methods of harvesting palms, while paying them a higher rate than if they worked through intermediary traders.

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