

**Agenda Item:** I.D.

**DATE:** July 23, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Presentation of the University of Tennessee Cherokee Farm Master Plan

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:** Approval

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The University of Tennessee Cherokee Farm Master Plan will be presented to the Commission by Mr. Alvin Payne from the University of Tennessee at the July 23, 2009 Summer Quarterly Meeting. The Master Plan focuses on infrastructure and site development.

Cherokee Farm is a 200 acre site directly across the Tennessee River from the UT Knoxville campus. It is envisioned as a research campus that will bring together public and private partners in areas such as materials science, supercomputing and biomedical research. The development concept is approximately 1.65 million square feet of research labs and offices contained within 15 buildings. The site design arrays the buildings in quadrangles with views westward towards the Tennessee River. The General Assembly appropriated \$32 million in 2007-08 for infrastructure improvements at the site. The first building will be the Joint Institute for Advanced Materials (JIAM), funded by \$20 million in federal funds as well as \$10 million in state appropriations from 2006-07.

Cherokee Farm includes a large archeological zone that will be preserved and incorporated into the site design. Connections for pedestrians, bicyclists and vehicles are provided and are designed around the archeological zone and the site's natural topography and vegetation. The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) is developing plans to change Alcoa Highway, which runs along the eastern edge of Cherokee Farm, to a controlled access corridor. Designers are working with TDOT to develop suitable interchanges that will serve the site.

The University of Tennessee Cherokee Farm Master Plan has been thoroughly reviewed and THEC staff recommends it for approval.