

As $22.25 Million Chapman Highway Safety Project Breaks Ground, Knoxville Car Accident Lawyer Points to Broader Road Safety Gaps in Knox County

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KNOXVILLE, TN - September 24, 2026 -
Design work has officially begun on a $22.25 million safety overhaul of Chapman Highway in South Knoxville, a corridor that has recorded three fatal crashes in the past four years, most of them involving pedestrians. Knoxville Car Accident Lawyer, which represents individuals injured in vehicle collisions throughout Knox County, says the project reflects a long-overdue investment in a road that carries roughly 26,000 vehicles a day with little separation between drivers, cyclists, and people on foot.

The project, covering the stretch of Chapman Highway between Blount Avenue and Woodlawn Pike, is funded through a $17.8 million federal Safe Streets and Roads for All grant combined with a $4.45 million city match. The planned improvements include a shared bike and pedestrian pathway physically separated from vehicle traffic, landscaped medians, and upgraded intersections along the roughly three-quarter-mile corridor. City officials have said the goal is to reduce the kind of high-speed, high-conflict conditions that have made the highway one of South Knoxville's more dangerous stretches of road.

"A road carrying 26,000 vehicles a day with no real separation between cars and pedestrians is going to keep

producing the same kinds of crashes until something structural changes," said a spokesperson for Knoxville Car Accident Lawyer. "This project is a real step, but it's also a reminder that a lot of Knoxville's busiest corridors were built decades ago for a very different amount of traffic than they're carrying now."

Chapman Highway is not an isolated example. Knoxville has funded several similar corridor projects in recent years, including a $2.3 million multimodal upgrade to Kingston Pike in West Knoxville and a $1.2 million sidewalk and bike lane project on Liberty Street, both aimed at reducing conflict points between vehicles and more vulnerable road users. Advocacy groups including Bike Walk Knoxville have pointed to the broader pattern behind these projects, arguing that many of the city's state-maintained corridors were engineered primarily to move vehicle traffic quickly, a design priority that can conflict with how pedestrians and cyclists actually need to use the same roads.

According to Knoxville Car Accident Lawyer's own review of local crash data, nearly 2,800 people are injured in car crashes each year in Knox County, a figure that includes collisions on major corridors like Chapman Highway as well as neighborhood streets and intersections across the area. The firm notes that infrastructure improvements, while meaningful, generally take years to plan, fund, and construct, meaning many drivers and pedestrians will continue to navigate higher-risk corridors in the interim.

For anyone injured in a crash before these safety improvements are complete, timing matters. Tennessee law generally gives injured individuals one year from the date of a crash to file a personal injury lawsuit, a shorter window than many other states allow. Evidence tied to a specific location, including skid marks, traffic camera footage, and witness recollection, can also become harder to obtain the longer a claim goes unaddressed.

"Corridor redesigns take years to plan and fund, which means the underlying risk on a road like Chapman Highway doesn't disappear the moment a project is announced," the spokesperson added. "Anyone injured on one of these roads while the work is still underway should know that Tennessee's filing deadline is shorter than people often assume."

Knoxville Car Accident Lawyer connects injured individuals throughout Knox County with attorneys handling car accident, pedestrian accident, and other motor vehicle injury claims. More information is available at knoxvillecaraccidentlawyer.com/knoxville/pedestrian-accident-lawyer.

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Knoxville Car Accident Lawyer

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