



METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

Metropolitan Historical Commission
Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission
Sunnyside in Sevier Park
3000 Granny White Pike
Nashville, Tennessee 37204
Telephone: (615) 862-7970

To: Metropolitan Council
From: Metropolitan Historical Commission, Staff
Date: October 14, 2020
Re: BL2020-464

An ordinance to amend the Geographic Information Systems Street and Alley Centerline Layer for the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, by changing the name of 10th Circle N from Rosa L Parks Blvd to Dr Martin L King Jr Blvd to “Rev Kelly M Smith Way” (Proposal Number 2020M-005SR-001). *Exhibit attached at end of report.

The subject road, 10th Circle North, was constructed as part of The Capitol Hill Redevelopment Project, an urban renewal project that replaced the rectangular street grid around Capitol Hill and the Tennessee State Capitol with the curvilinear James Robertson Parkway. To accomplish this, in 1957 the City of Nashville closed several streets and alleys, including 10th Avenue North between Charlotte Avenue and Pearl Street, and built 10th Circle North.¹ The redesigned street network between the L&N railroad loop and James Robertson Parkway reduced the number of streets and created large parcels of land intended to attract new commercial development, such as motels, apartments, and office buildings.²

Initially called “10th Avenue Circle,” the route for 10th Circle North appears on the *Subdivision Plat of The Capitol Hill Redevelopment Project* recorded in November 1957 (Figure 1).³ It is unclear when the name of the road was changed from 10th Avenue Circle to 10th Circle North,

¹ Several ordinances closed alleys and streets as part of the larger redevelopment project. Ordinance #57-185, approved April 2, 1957, specifically addressed the street grid on the far west side of Capitol Hill. It authorized the closure of 10th Avenue North, from Charlotte Avenue to Pearl Street; 9th Avenue North, in the vicinity of Jo Johnston; Shankland, in the vicinity of 10th Ave N; Pearl, from 10th Ave N to L&N railroad; Gay, from 9th Ave N to L&N railroad; Jo Johnston, from 8th Ave N to L&N railroad; and alleys, including an unnumbered alley east of the L&N Railroad, between 9th and 10th Avenues North, for the Capitol Hill Redevelopment Project. Council Minute Book 32, page 380.

² According to the *Revised Subdivision Plat* recorded in 1959, Lot J contained 187,149 sq. ft, Lot K contained 75,087 sq. ft, and Lot L contained 142,541 sq. ft.

³ *Subdivision Plat of The Capitol Hill Redevelopment Project*, recorded November 21, 1957, Plat Book 2663, pages 35 (shown) and 36.

as it is known today. However, with the recording of the *Revised Subdivision Plat of the Capitol Hill Redevelopment Project* in March 1959, it was known as 10th Circle North (Figure 2).⁴

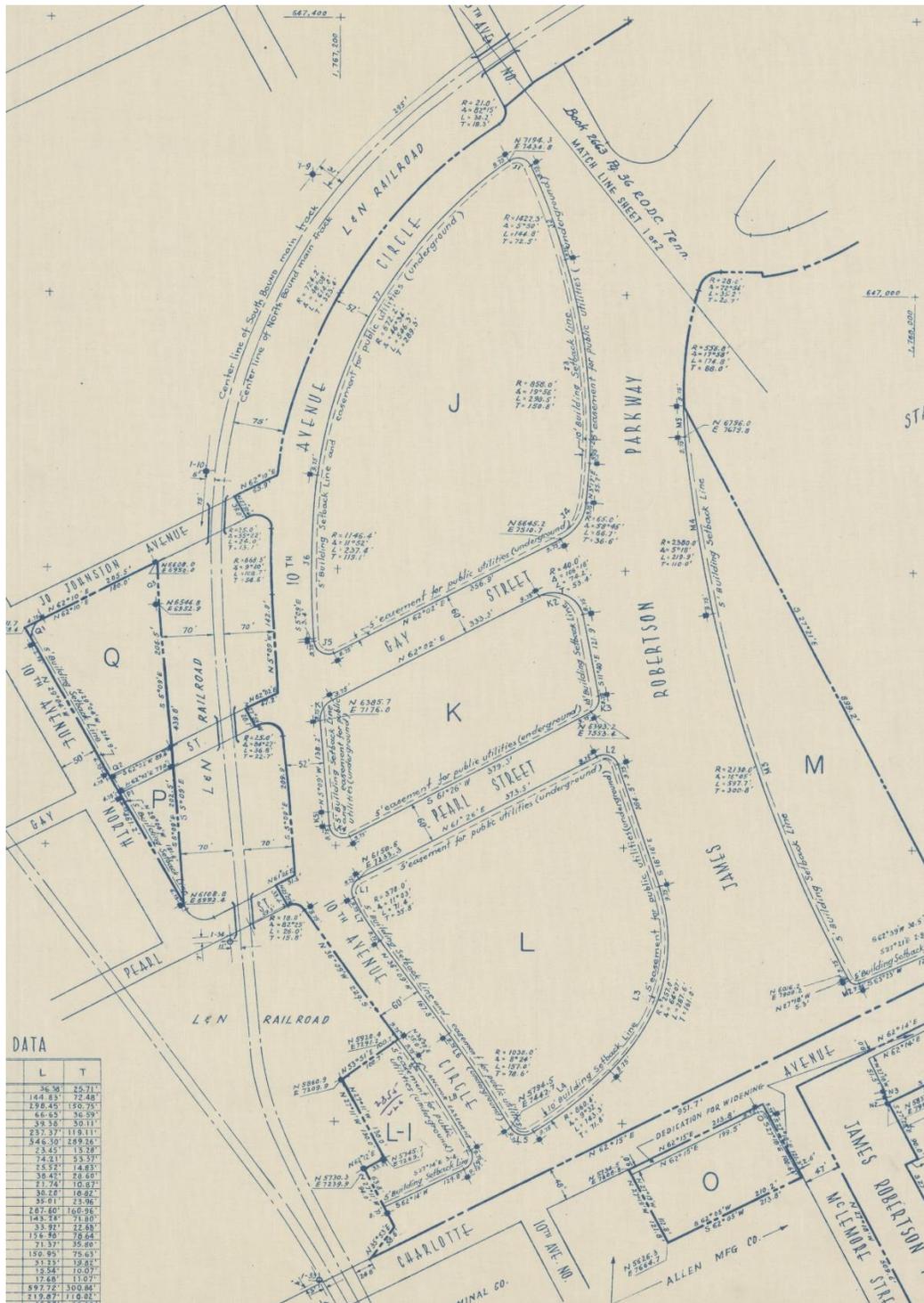


Figure 1: Subdivision Plat of The Capitol Hill Redevelopment Project, November 21, 1957.
Source: Metropolitan Planning Department.

⁴ *Revised Subdivision Plat of The Capitol Hill Redevelopment Project*, recorded March 19, 1959, Plat Book 2663, pages 120 (shown) and 121.

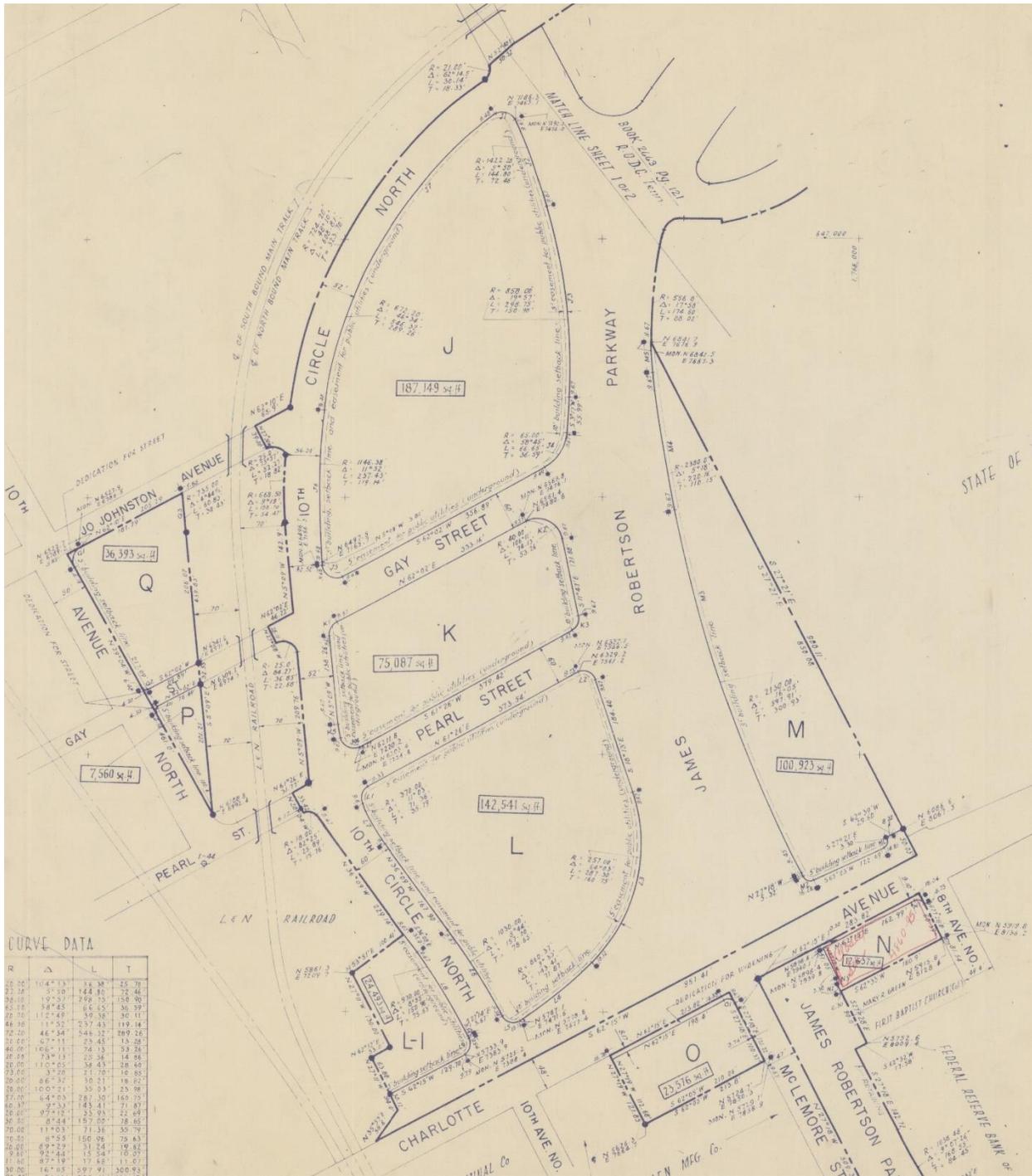


Figure 2: Revised Subdivision Plat of The Capitol Hill Redevelopment Project, March 19, 1959.
 Source: Metropolitan Planning Department.

Several of the new and realigned streets associated with the Capitol Hill Redevelopment Project opened before construction of the new parkway was complete. According to the *Nashville Tennessean*, the new road, “10th Avenue Circle,” was open by October 6, 1957.⁵ The

⁵ “It’s a Dream! – For \$12,000,000,” *Nashville Tennessean*, Sunday, October 6, 1957, 2.

accompanying image showed automobiles turning onto and out from the completed road (Figure 3). James Robertson Parkway opened to traffic on December 11, 1957 (Figure 4).⁶

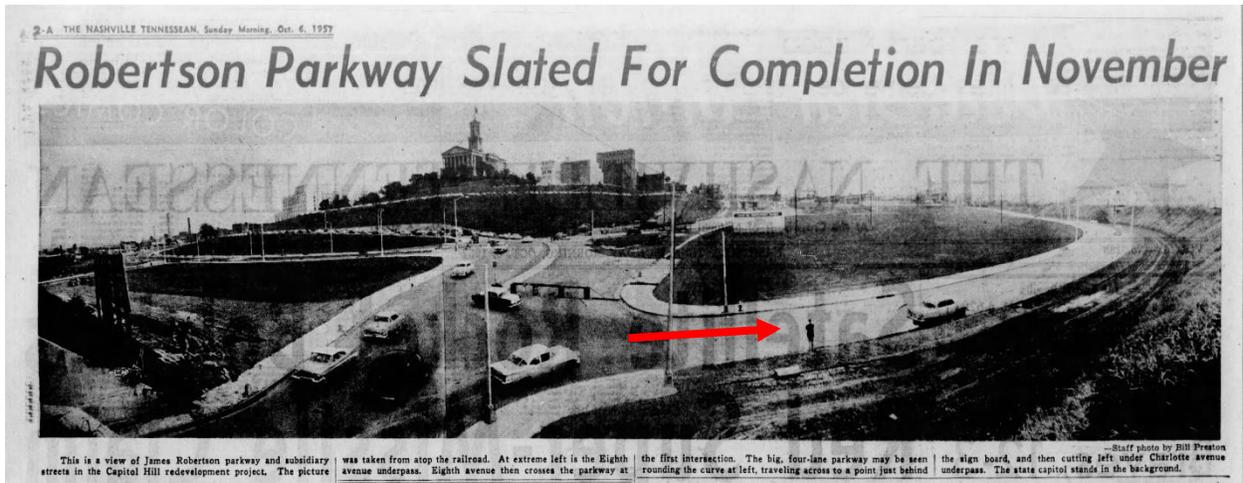


Figure 3: "Robertson Parkway Slated for Completion in November," *Nashville Tennessean*, October 6, 1957. Arrow points to newly constructed 10th Avenue Circle (aka 10th Circle North). Source: Newspapers.com.



Figure 4: "Another Link in City's Progress," *Nashville Banner*, December 14, 1957. Arrow points to intersection of 10th Avenue Circle and Charlotte Avenue. Source: Newspapers.com.

⁶ "Another Link in City's Progress," *Nashville Banner*, Saturday, December 14, 1957, 3.

Comparison of Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps from 1951 and 1957 helps to illustrate the changes to the street network as well as the amount of demolition required by this portion of the Capitol Hill Redevelopment Project.

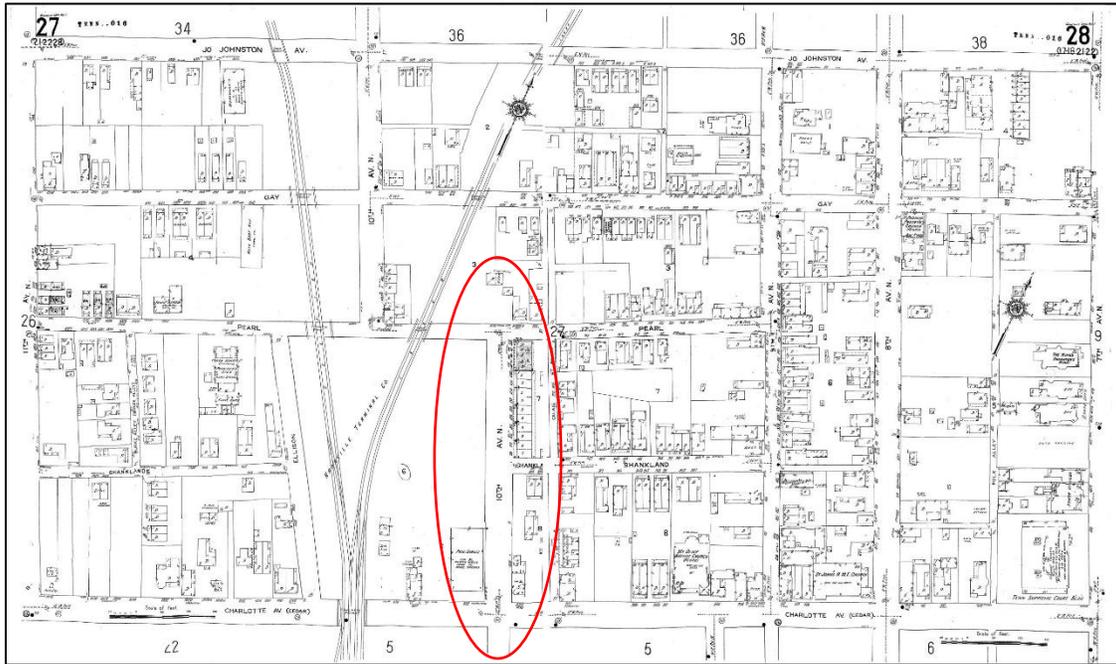


Figure 5: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1951. Sheets 27 and 28 combined. 10th Avenue North circled.
Source: Metropolitan Historical Commission.

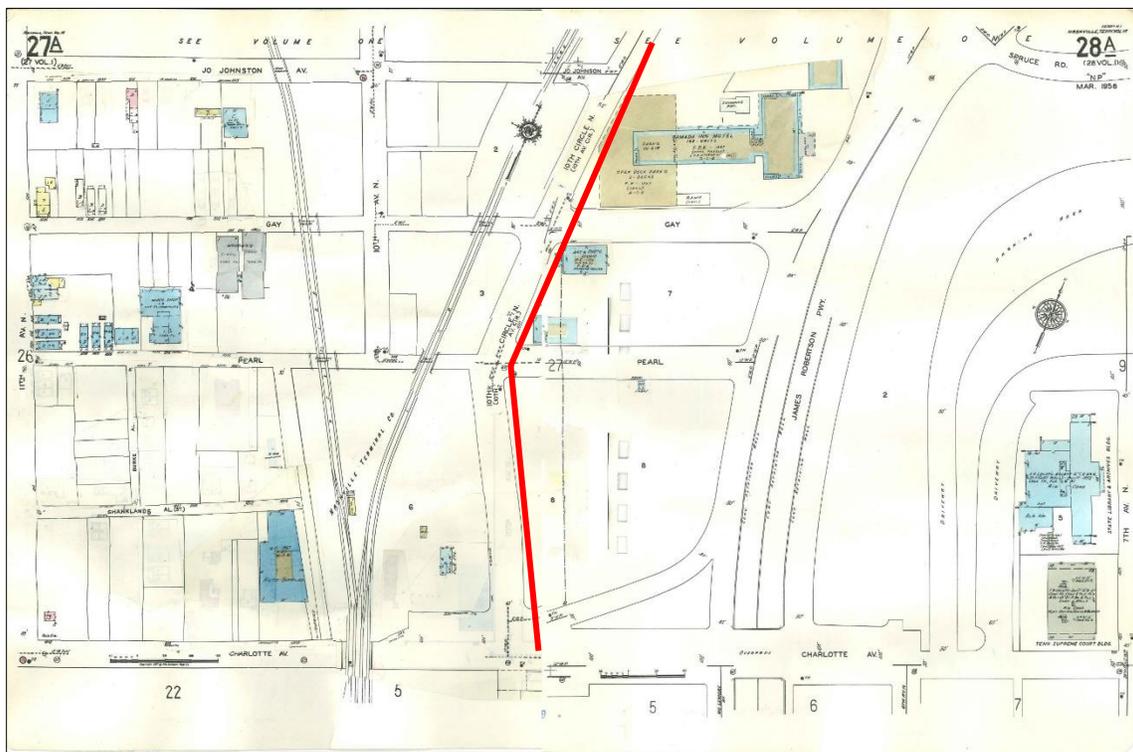


Figure 6: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1957. Sheets 27A and 28A combined. Source: Metropolitan Historical Commission.

Exhibit: BL2020-464

