

# 3) Builder eyeing Beckwith area

*Feasibility study underway near new interchange*

By **JASON COX**  
Staff Writer

A national builder is studying to see whether a office park and retail development at the Beckwith Road interchange is feasible on a nearly 500-acre tract just south of Interstate 40.

Lebanon Mayor Don Fox said the Opus Corporation has placed an option on the tract, just south of I-40, and is doing "due diligence" on the site, or seeing if the site will be financially viable.

"They're actually seeing how feasible a project of that size would be," Fox said Thursday. "They're looking at the large-cost parts of the development, and that's the road and sewer to the property."

Depending on the arrangement reached, it could be served by either Lebanon or Mt. Juliet sewer, Fox said.

"Right now, the county has no infrastructure there, so it's up to the two cities to work with them. A couple of logistical questions like sewer and roads need to be resolved," Fox said including the possible cost to either city to build a road to the property. "Do we let them run off Mt. Juliet sewer or do we run our own down there?"

Mt. Juliet City Planner Bobby Franklin explained the development phase Opus is currently undertaking.

"They're reducing their risk," Franklin said. "They're ... making sure it's profitable, it's zoned properly, and they can get the infrastructure out there."

Franklin noted his city has a contract with Nashville to dispose of sewage.

"It's a large tract, and it's right on the edge of both cities," Franklin said. "... The site is so big it could be served by both jurisdictions, if you ask me."

Representatives from Opus would not confirm the option, but it has offices all over the country. The company has built 218 million square feet on more than 2,200 projects and has more than 24 million square feet in planning or development.

"Opus is currently pursuing opportunities in the Nashville market for office, industrial and retail development," said Duane Wood, a vice president for Opus.

**Staff Writer Jason Cox can be reached at 444-3952 ext. 45 or by e-mail at [jason.cox@lebanondemocrat.com](mailto:jason.cox@lebanondemocrat.com).**



Fox



Franklin

# DeJarnette delay gives city chance to reconsider project

Road widening as drafted calls for five lanes, bike lane

By ERIN EDGEMON  
edgemon@dnj.com

Lance Jennings appreciates the Murfreesboro City Council's willingness to look at reconstructing DeJarnette Lane to three lanes instead of five.

Traffic on the street doesn't warrant the con-

struction of a five-lane roadway, he said.

Jennings said his family would lose out the most in the project no matter how wide the road behind their home on Anatole Court in the Anatole Subdivision becomes. The Jennings home sits on the corner of Anatole Court and Pitts Lane where additional right of way has to be acquired to construct right-turn lanes onto Pitts Lane.

"I am not against progress," Jennings said, but added he doesn't want it to be at the stake of his See PROJECT, page A4

## PROJECT

Continued from page 1

family's privacy.

Residents from the area packed Thursday's council meeting where the \$6.9 million road widening was debated and ultimately deferred for further study. They say there isn't enough traffic on the street to justify them losing the quality of life they enjoy.

Work on the roadway needs to begin in September in order for it to be completed by the end of 2008.

The City Council has to consider what is best for the city of Murfreesboro versus what is best for the residents who live off DeJarnette Lane, city officials said.

"We have to build roads that will serve our community 20 to 25 years down the road," said Vice Mayor Chris Bratcher.

The council wants to see illustrations on how the construction of a three-lane roadway would lessen the impact on residents of Anatole and Huntington subdivisions before making a decision on the project.

"Do we really feel like it is necessary to have a five-lane highway there?" Councilman Shane McFarland asked during Thursday night's meeting when the council debated the issue.

A resounding "no" was heard from residents in the audience.

Dana Richardson, Murfreesboro traffic director, said the street does need to be widened to five lanes based on current and projected traffic counts. DeJarnette acts as a connector from major arteries New Lascassas Highway and Memorial Boulevard and carries heavy volumes of traffic.

The street has a daily traffic count of 14,000 vehicles, according to the Tennessee Department of Transportation. Richardson said that number is conservatively projected to increase to 19,000 in 25 years.

Construction of the roadway was pushed up so the first phase from just west of Pitts Lane to Lascassas Highway would be completed by the time John Pittard Elementary School near Pitts Lane opens next summer.

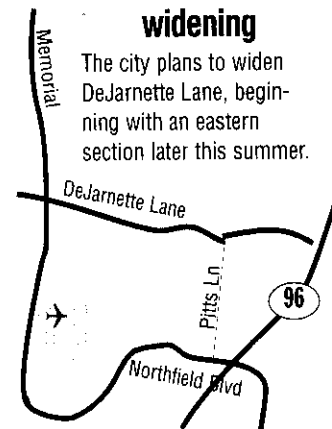
Murfreesboro Assistant City Manager Rob Lyons reminded council members of the tight schedule the city has to keep to ensure the roadway will be completed by the start of the next school year.

"We are already pushed on this," he said. "We would not make the opening of the school with a redesign."

A motion made by Councilman Doug Young to widen DeJarnette Lane to a five-lane road-

## DeJarnette widening

The city plans to widen DeJarnette Lane, beginning with an eastern section later this summer.



**Total estimated cost for the five-lane roadway:** \$6.9 million paid for by Tennessee Municipal League loans  
**Engineering:** \$465,000  
**Right-of-way acquisition:** \$250,000  
**Construction:** \$6.2 million  
**Cost of bike lanes:** \$600,000  
**When:** Phase 1 from just west of Pitts Lane to Lascassas Highway is scheduled to begin in September with the segment fronting John Pittard Elementary School, across the street from Oakland High School, to be completed July 2007 and the remainder around the end of September 2007. Phase 2 from Pitts Lane to Memorial Boulevard is slated for completion by the end of 2008.

way with no bike lanes, grass strips and sidewalks reduced in size failed Thursday. Removing these amenities would have reduced the impact on residents by 8 1/2 feet on each side of the roadway.

"I think we need to look at this long term," he said.

Councilman Ron Washington said to save taxpayers money the roadway only needs to be widened once, so the city needs to make sure it does it the right way the first time.

"It pains me to give up the bike lanes," Councilman David Edwards said. With the rising cost of gas prices, he said bike lanes will soon cease being an amenity.

Richardson came to the council Thursday with illustrations to show what impact the construction of a five-lane road with bikes and a five-lane road without bike lanes would have on residents' back yards.

Residents of Northwoods and Huntington subdivisions aren't expected to lose any of their back yards to the widening as long as it is reconstructed to a five-lane with no bike lanes or a three-lane roadway. The construction of a five-lane roadway without bike lanes would impact only two lots in the Anatole subdivision. Those residences, including the Jennings' residence, would lose 14 feet.

When asked about the widening of Haynes Drive, Richardson said the street only warrants widening to a three-lane roadway based on traffic counts.

-Erin Edgemon, 278-5161

# Road will open in time for school ceremonies

## Dedication ceremonies slated Sunday at Stewarts Creek schools

By **SCOTT BRODEN**  
sbroden@dnj.com

32  
Poplar Wood Road will re-open in time for Sunday's dedication ceremonies at Stewarts Creek schools, a spokesman said.

The road has been closed while Smyrna has worked to add a turn lane and other improvements to the complex entrance at Poplar Wood Road, Rutherford County Schools spokesman James Evans said.

Drivers can also reach the

new complex from Morton Lane. Stewarts Creek Elementary will hold its ribbon cutting ceremony at 2 p.m. Sunday, followed by a dedication ceremony in the gym. An open house with refreshments will follow until 3:30 p.m.

Neighboring Stewarts Creek Middle will hold its ribbon cutting beginning at 3:30 p.m. with a dedication to follow in the campus auditorium. An open

house with refreshments will run until 5 p.m.

The schools will open with an abbreviated registration day for students Aug. 10. The first full day of classes is Aug. 14.

Parents can call their zoned school to find out about early registration during business hours before the first day. The district's Web site, [www.rcs.k12.tn.us](http://www.rcs.k12.tn.us), lists phone numbers, addresses, school sup-

ply lists, school zones and bus stop information.

Parents registering students need to bring their children's birth certificates, Social Security cards, Tennessee health and immunization records and proof of residency, such as a current utility bill or lease agreement. Parents transferring to a new school are encouraged to bring the child's last report card.

- Scott Broden, 278-5158

321

## FOR THE RECORD

# Striping on I-24 in both directions continues today in county

The Tennessee Department of Transportation announced Thursday road and interstate construction through Aug. 9.

The information is provided to TDOT by the contractors.

Work in Rutherford County includes:

### • Region 3 Striping on Various State Routes and Interstates.

Today, 7 a.m.-7 p.m., the contractor will be striping I-24 (both directions) (LM 0.00 to 33.29) in Rutherford County. Striping on I-24 westbound will not begin until 9 a.m. Striping on I-24 eastbound will end at 3 p.m. (Interstate Road Mgmt.)

Construction in other Middle Tennessee areas includes:

• **I-65 at McEwen Drive-Williamson County.** Through Wednesday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., I-65 will be reduced to three lanes northbound and southbound from Cool Springs Boulevard to SR 96 in order for the contractor to perform shoulder work. There will be three lanes open at all times.

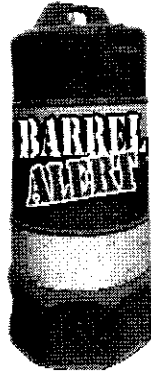
Today and Sunday, 7 a.m.-4 p.m., I-65 will be reduced to three lanes northbound and

southbound from Cool Springs Boulevard to SR 96 in order for the contractor to perform shoulder work. There will be three lanes open at all times.

Through Wednesday, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., the contractor will be blasting on I-65 northbound and southbound and Malloy Lane. Traffic will be paced in each direction during the blast using uniformed police officers. The paces should be 15 minutes or less in duration. (Rogers Group)

• **I-40 and Briley Parkway at Nashville International Highway Airport.** Through Wednesday (excluding Saturday and Sunday), between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., motorists should be alert for possible shoulder closures on I-40 eastbound and westbound between Spence Lane and Donelson Pike.

Through Wednesday (excluding Saturday and Sunday), between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., motorists should be alert for possible alternating one-lane closures on I-40 eastbound between Mill Creek and Donelson Pike for miscellaneous construction activities. Three lanes will remain



open at all times.

Through noon today, the contractor will be closing one lane of I-40 westbound between Donelson Pike and Mill Creek for paving operations. Two

lanes will remain open.

Through 9 a.m. today, the contractor will be closing two lanes of I-40 westbound between Mill Creek and the I-24/I-40 junction for milling and paving operations. One lane will remain open.

Today, between 5 a.m. and 3 p.m., the contractor will be closing one lane of Briley Parkway southbound between Elm Hill Pike and I-40 for storm sewer installation. One lane will remain open.

Today, between 6 a.m. and noon, the contractor will be closing two lanes of I-40 eastbound between Spence Lane and the airport exit to install new over-

head signs and grade ditches. One lane will remain open. Between noon and 3 p.m., two lanes will be open for the completion of the sign installation.

Today, between noon and 3 p.m., the contractor will be closing one lane of I-40 westbound between the airport entrance ramp and Briley Parkway to install new overhead signs. Two lanes will remain open.

Monday and Tuesday, between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., the contractor will be closing two lanes of I-40 westbound between Mill Creek and the I-24/I-40 junction for paving operations. One lane will remain open.

Monday and Tuesday, between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., the contractor will be closing one lane of I-24 westbound between Murfreesboro Road and the I-24/I-40 junction for bridge painting. One lane will remain open.

Wednesday and Thursday, between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., the contractor will be closing one lane of I-40 eastbound between the I-24/I-40 split and Spence Lane for bridge painting. One lane will remain open. (Dement Construction)

• **I-65 North Corridor (ITS).** Through Wednesday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., there will be periodic shoulder closures at various locations in Davidson County in order to install and perform maintenance on DMS equipment.

Monday through Wednesday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., the right shoulder of I-24 westbound at Blue Hole Road will be closed to restore guardrail. Four lanes will remain open.

Through Wednesday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., the right shoulder of I-65 northbound/I-40 just north of Clinton Street will be closed to replace a camera. Three lanes will remain open. (Mastec)

• **Nashville Smartway (Phase 2).** Through Wednesday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., there will be various shoulder closures in different locations in Davidson and Sumner counties.

Monday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., there will be one lane closed on I-440 westbound at the CSX Railroad Bridge to work on a pole. (Stansell Electric)

• **Briley Parkway from Elm Hill to Lebanon Road.** Monday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., there will be one

lane closed on Briley Parkway northbound to open the off ramp to Elm Hill Pike. One lane will remain open.

Tuesday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., there will be one lane closed on Briley Parkway northbound to open the off ramp to Elm Hill Pike. One lane will remain open.

Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., there will be flaggers present at the Lebanon Road ramp to Briley Parkway northbound in order to pour concrete. (Rogers Group)

• **Briley Parkway from Lebanon Road to Two Rivers.** Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Briley Parkway northbound and southbound will be reduced to one lane between Lebanon Road and Opry Mills exit for the installation of attenuators, barrier wall, and shifting traffic. One lane will remain open in each direction. (Lojac)

• **Bridge Repair on SR 155 over Airways Boulevard.** Briley Parkway is reduced to one lane in each direction at Airways Boulevard until Dec. 31 for bridge repairs. Detours are in place for Airways Boulevard. (General Constructors)