

# Finley bridge hearing prompts flooding questions

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The Tennessee Department of Transportation took questions from Finley residents at a public hearing Thursday about a proposed replacement bridge on State Route 104 at Crockett

Creek, but locals expressed more concern over flooding and drainage trouble.

Many residents were concerned that the new bridge would cause more water to drain into yards along the highway. Others were angry that the new construction wasn't aimed at

alleviating flooding and drainage problems.

TDOT public relations officer Pamela Marshall said the bridge must be replaced, regardless of the flooding and drainage issues. When the bridge was inspected in June 2004, it was found to be in poor condition,

structurally deficient and functionally obsolete. The new bridge will have two 12-foot lanes and eight-foot shoulders on each side.

"This is not going to address the drainage issue," Marshall said. "This project is to improve a bridge structure that needs to

be improved." Though the bridge will not solve the flooding problem, it will not make it any worse, she said.

TDOT civil engineering manager Jane Jones told the crowd, who met at Finley Elementary School, that the Army Corps of Engineers had considered sever-

al options for controlling flooding in the area.

"Solving the flooding problem isn't economically feasible," Jones said. "We will not go out and change the flood plain. We will go out and change out the

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## BRIDGE

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bridge."

Darrell Butler, who lives on Highway 104 in Finley, said State Rep. Phillip Pinion, D-Union City, told him that Butler would be able to address the flooding issue at the public hearing.

"Our water problems are a lot more severe than the bridge problem," Butler said. "We're confused because we're getting a bridge and nothing is being done about the water problem."

Others like Jackie Alexander, who also lives on Highway 104, were satisfied with the answers given by TDOT.

"I was concerned about the

water drainage because we flood so easily," Alexander said. "As far as what they showed me, it's going to be OK."

Jones said a detour around the bridge until construction is necessary to complete the project.

Construction is tentatively set to start in May 2007. The project planners had hoped to do the construction during schools' summer break, but failed to account for Dyer County's almost year-round school calendar. The project will overlap with the school session, Jones said.

Construction will cover an area 100 feet to the east and 100

feet to the west of the existing bridge.

During construction, drivers will have two options for detours: One for local traffic only on local roads (heavy trucks will not be allowed) will be about 4.5 miles in length; the other will be for heavy trucks and will be about 10 miles.

A portable prefabricated bridge will be installed to allow emergency vehicles passage over the creek.

Tom White, who lives on Ash Street in Finley, questioned whether the heavy trucks would stay off the local roads.

"You're not going to stop

trucks from detouring around the area," White said. "We're going to have 80,000-pound trucks going down Upper Finley Road."

A TDOT official explained that unfortunately, TDOT didn't have any means to enforce the detour.

*Those who were unable to attend the public hearing have 21 days to submit written comments which can be mailed to John H. Reinbold, General Counsel, Tennessee Department of Transportation, Suite 700, James K. Polk Building, 505 Deaderick St., Nashville, TN 37243-0332.*

# Cost spike *TDOT explains high price for Exit 69 lighting*

■ **Estimated** cost of the project has risen from \$110,000 to \$430,000. 32

By J.H. OSBORNE  
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BLOUNTVILLE — State transportation officials met with Sullivan County Mayor Richard Venable and County Attorney Dan Street last week to try and answer questions about skyrocketing cost estimates for a street lighting project, Venable said Wednesday.

Three representatives of the Tennessee Department of Transportation dropped by the courthouse unannounced, Venable said.

But their visit couldn't be called altogether unexpected.

The Sullivan County Commission

voted just days earlier to file a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to force TDOT to release any documents related to the project to add streetlights to the Interstate 81 Exit 69 interchange. That's where I-81 crosses Highway 394, which leads into the Blountville Historic District and beyond to Highway 11-E in Bristol near Bristol Motor Speedway.

When the County Commission first agreed — four years ago — to split the cost of the project with the state, the estimated price was \$110,000. Total.

Since then, however, the state has repeatedly come back to the county to ask for additional funding. The most recent cost estimate from TDOT on getting the job done was \$430,000.

Sullivan County commissioners, albeit reluctantly, agreed to send the extra dollars to Nashville in hopes of



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**The cost of lighting the Exit 69 interchange on I-81 has skyrocketed from \$110,000 four years ago to \$430,000 in the most recent estimate.**

getting the job started — and hoping its completion will spur economic development around the exit.

## 25 UTILITY DISTRICT Water Quality Report - 2005

**Is my drinking water safe?** Yes, our water meets all of EPA's health standards. We have conducted numerous tests for over 80 contaminants that may be in drinking water. As you'll see in the chart below, we only detected 9 of these contaminants. We found all of these contaminants at safe levels.

**What is the source of my water?** Your water, which is surface water, comes from the Cumberland River. Our goal is to protect our water from contaminants and we are working with the state to determine the vulnerability of our water source to *potential* contamination. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) report for the untreated water sources serving this water system. The SWAP report assesses the susceptibility of untreated water sources to *potential* contamination. To ensure safe drinking water, all public water systems treat and routinely test their water. Water sources have been rated as reasonably susceptible, moderately susceptible or slightly susceptible based on geologic factors and human activities in the vicinity of the water source. The 25 Utility District sources rated as reasonably susceptible to potential contamination.

An explanation of Tennessee's Source Water Assessment Program, the Source Water Assessment summaries, susceptibility scorings and the overall TDEC report to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) can be viewed online at [www.state.tn.us/environment/dwsw/dwswassess.php](http://www.state.tn.us/environment/dwsw/dwswassess.php) or you may contact the water system to obtain copies of specific assessments.

**Why are there contaminants in my water?** Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. Community water systems are required to disclose the detection of contaminants; however, bottled water companies are not required to comply with this regulation. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

**Este informe contiene informacion muy importante. Traduscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.**

**For more information about your drinking water, please call Jane Shoulders at 615-735-9895.**

**How can I get involved?** Our Water Board meets on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the district office, 122 Dixon Springs Hwy., Carthage, TN. Please feel free to participate in these meetings.

**Is our water system meeting other rules that govern our operations?** The state and EPA require us to test and report on our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We have met all of these requirements. Results of unregulated contaminant analysis are available upon request. We want you to know that we pay attention to all the rules.

**Other Information.** The Commissioners of 25 Utility District serve four-year terms. Vacancies on the Board of Commissioners are filled by the vote of the remaining commissioners in office. Decisions by the Board of Commissioners on customer complaints brought before the Board of Commissioners under the district's customer complaint policy may be reviewed by the Utility Management Review Board of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation pursuant to Section 7-82-702(7) of Tennessee Code Annotated.

**DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?** Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about their personal sanitation, food preparation, handling infants and pets, and drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

**Water System Security.** Following the events of September 2001, we realize that our customers are concerned about the security of their drinking water. We urge the public to report any suspicious activities at any utility facilities, including treatment plants, tanks, fire hydrants, pumping stations, etc. to 735-9895.

### WATER QUALITY DATA

#### What does this chart mean?

- **MCLG** - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, or the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **MCL** - Maximum Contaminant Level, or the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.
- **MRDL** - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or MRDL: the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants.
- **MRDLG** - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal: the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **AL** - Action Level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. Non-Detects (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.
- **Parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/l)** - explained as a relation to time and money as one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
- **Parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter** - explained as a relation to time and money as one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- **TT** - Treatment Technique or a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Date of Sample	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	No	0		2005		0	<2 positive samples	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity	No	.38		2005	NTU	n/a	TT	Soil runoff
Copper*	No	90th% = .24		07-03	ppm	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride	No	1.0 Avg.		2005	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead*	No	90th% = 5.8		07-03	ppb	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	No	5.4		05-05	ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; Used in water treatment
TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes)	No	53 - Avg.	44-58	2005	ppb	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAAS)	No	43 - Avg.	32-57	2005	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)*	No			2005	ppm	TT	TT	Naturally present in the environment
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Level Found	Range of Detections	Date of Sample	Unit Measurement	MRDLG	MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	No	1.4	1.4	2005	ppm	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes

During the most recent round of lead and copper testing, only 0 out of 10 households sampled contained concentrations exceeding the action level.

100% of our samples were below the turbidity limit.

\*We met the treatment technique requirements for Total Organic Carbon (TOC).

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER Monitoring Requirements not met for the Twenty-Five Utility District

Our water system violated a drinking water standard for the October to December 2005 compliance period. Even though this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct these situations.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During the October to December 2005 period, we were required to collect Trihalomethane samples. We did collect these samples. However, a mistake was made at the lab where the samples were sent and the samples were not analyzed properly. We were not able to collect additional samples during the quarter. Therefore, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

**What should I do?** There is nothing you need to do at this time.

**What happened? What is being done?** We are required to collect samples to be analyzed for Trihalomethanes levels each quarter or 3 month period of the year. We do not have results for the October to December quarter. We did take samples and do have results during each of the other three month periods as required. It should be noted that the yearly average based on the three quarterly samples that were taken for Trihalomethanes was within the EPA limits.

We have taken all samples required during 2006 and have returned to compliance.

Please share this information with all other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

For information, please contact Jane Shoulders at (615) 735-9895.

This notice is being provided by Twenty Five Utility District. State Water System ID# 0000718

## **I-40 eastbound to be closed through mountains**

Maintenance work on a tunnel will force the closure of eastbound Interstate 40 in North Carolina near the Tennessee border this weekend.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation will close the tunnel at mile marker 8 in Haywood County, N.C., at 10 p.m. Saturday. The tunnel is expected to be reopened at 10 p.m. Sunday.

The area affected by this closure is eastbound I-40 from exit 451 in Cocke County to exit 15 in North Carolina.

Motorists traveling on I-40 east will have to take a detour to Interstate 81 north to Interstate 26 and east to I-40.

# TDOT officials seek input on Pellissippi extension

By Darren Dunlap

of The Daily Time Staff

When residents attend public workshops on a proposed extension of the Pellissippi Parkway, they won't find maps with a proposed route drawn.

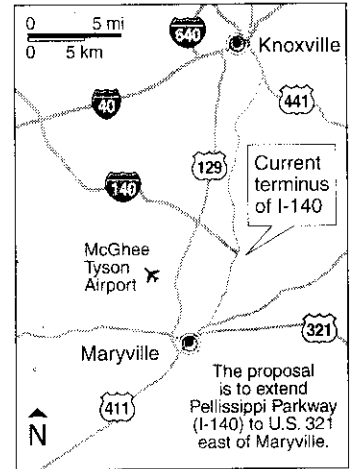
"We're starting out with a clean slate," said Travis Brickey, a Tennessee Department of Transportation spokesman.

TDOT is seeking input for the early stages

of an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed four-lane highway, which will be about 4.5 miles long.

The department is asking for input for defining the purpose and need for the project, identifying a corridor and determining the range of alternatives to be considered in the EIS and its environmental, social and economic issues.

(See Extension, Page 5A)



SOURCE: TDOT

The Daily Times

Friday, June 9, 2006

FROM PA

## Extension

An Environmental Impact Statement is what members of the Citizens Against the Pellissippi Parkway Extension said the project required all along. CAPPE filed suit against the Federal Highway Administration and TDOT in 2002, and a federal judge granted a preliminary injunction halting work on the project.

CAPPE charged federal and state highway officials had violated the National Environmental Policy Act in not doing the EIS. The injunction was lifted in 2004 and CAPPE's suit is pending.

"As far as the workshops, CAPPE will be participating, as we hope lots of people will," said Nina Gregg, of CAPPE.

The proposed extension would connect the Pellissippi Parkway terminus at Old Knoxville Highway (U.S. 33) to East Lamar Alexander Parkway (U.S. 321).

Federal Highway Administration

### If you go

TDOT will hold workshops on the proposed extension of Pellissippi Parkway noon to 2 p.m. Tuesday at Eagleton Elementary School, 708 Sam Houston School Road, Maryville, and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Heritage High School, 3741 E. Lamar Alexander Parkway, Maryville.

officials conducted a less stringent study, an Environmental Assessment, with a resulting finding of no significant impact. CAPPE argued the assessment was erroneous and inadequate.

In response to the injunction, the highway administration withdrew the analysis and sought a voluntary remand to reconsider its decision. A federal court denied the motion, but the federal agency appealed.

The U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, ruled in 2004 the agency was entitled to the voluntary remand. The suit was remanded with instructions to "vacate or modify the injunction so as to

allow the FHWA to comply with NEPA."

In September 2004, TDOT announced they would conduct an Environmental Impact Statement as the next phase of the project.

The state transportation department has a "very recent" aerial photograph of the area, said Brickey. Citizens taking part in public workshops will have the chance to mark on the maps and highlight areas of concern.

"We'd like for them to take a grease pencil and show us on a map things they're concerned about," said Brickey.

TDOT has been running classified ads showing a general location map with the workshop dates of noon to 2 p.m. Tuesday and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday.

The noon workshop will be held at Eagleton Elementary School, 708 Sam Houston School Road, Maryville. The 6 p.m. workshop will be held at Heritage High School, 3741 E. Lamar Alexander Parkway, Maryville.