

Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

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A daily roundup of news stories and opinion pieces about Tennessee transportation, water and flood control infrastructure

For the full story, click on the link below the excerpt.

Officials break ground on road-widening project (Jackson Sun)

Tennessee Department of Transportation Commissioner Gerald Nicely joined state and local officials in Henderson County on Monday to break ground on a project to widen U.S. 412. The project is four miles long and stretches from the Madison County line to Crucifer Road in Henderson County, according to a press release. "U.S. 412 is a major east-west corridor across southern sections of West Tennessee," Nicely said in the release. "This project, along with other already completed sections of the route, will improve safety and capacity and increase access to the entire region." State Rep. Steve McDaniel, R-Parkers Crossroads, and state Sen. Roy Herron, D-Dresden, were instrumental in the development of this project, according to the Department of Transportation. They joined Nicely at the groundbreaking. "Improvements to this route have long been a priority of mine," McDaniel said. "We look forward to the completion of this U.S. 412 widening project and the economic opportunities it will provide this area."

<http://www.jacksonsun.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080722/NEWS01/807220313/1002>

U.S. highway trust fund veers toward crisis (Los Angeles Times)

Count it among the victims of rising gas prices. Billions of dollars in road projects are at risk. Soaring gasoline prices are hurting Uncle Sam in the wallet too. As motorists cut back on their driving and buy more fuel-efficient cars, the government is taking in less money from the federal gasoline tax. The result: The principal source of funding for highway projects will soon hit a big financial pothole. The federal highway trust fund could be in the red by \$3.2 billion or more next year. The fund, set to finance about \$40 billion in transportation projects next year, is increasingly strained. And the problem has taken on greater urgency as lawmakers face a backlog of projects to maintain the nation's aging interstate highway system and ease traffic congestion. "The situation has only been exacerbated by rising fuel prices, which are causing motorists to drive less and resulting in less revenue for transportation improvements," said David Bauer, senior vice president for government relations at the American Road and Transportation Builders Assn.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-highway21-2008jul21.0.512955.story>

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