

## Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

July 25, 2008

***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.*

### **Billions needed to shore up nation's bridges (USA Today)**

The fatal collapse of a bridge in Minneapolis a year ago jolted states into better inspections of the nation's 600,000 bridges, but they aren't coming up with the billions of dollars needed to ensure that all of them are sound. The plunge that killed 13 people when the span crumpled into the Mississippi River on Aug. 1 was "a wake-up call" to take care of aging bridges, says Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell. "We can't wait for another Minneapolis." Since the tragedy, Pennsylvania has approved \$350 million in bonds to repair 411 bridges. Road tolls will go up next year. It would cost \$9.4 billion a year for 20 years to eliminate all bridge deficiencies in the USA, according to the latest estimate, made in 2005, by the American Society of Civil Engineers. A USA TODAY review found that beefed-up inspections since the collapse led 16 states to close bridges, reduce weight limits or make immediate repairs. All states inspected bridges designed like the one that fell.

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-07-24-bridges\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-07-24-bridges_N.htm)

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