

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.

State Hopeful of Improving Bond Rating (WPLN-Radio Nashville)

Governor Phil Bredesen is in New York tomorrow, meeting with the major bond rating agencies. State Finance Commissioner Dave Goetz says they're hopeful fiscal responsibility will pay off in an improvement to the state's double-A-plus bond rating. "We've shown a willingness and ability to manage to our circumstances, which is exactly what the bond-rating agencies are looking for. They're looking for recurring balance and they're looking for planning and execution." Goetz says trimming jobs and budgets doesn't necessarily have a negative impact on bond rating and could act in the state's favor. He says another positive indicator is that the state has avoided tapping its 750-million dollar rainy day fund. As recently as 1999, Tennessee held a triple-A bond rating. <http://wpln.org/newstranscripts/?p=2665>

TDOT nixes toll for parkway (Knoxville News-Sentinel/Ferrar)

Official says citizen opposition reason for not continuing effort The state Department of Transportation has scrapped plans to make the proposed Knoxville Parkway a toll road because of significant local opposition, although other work toward construction of the road will continue. TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely announced plans to halt further study of tolls on the road in a letter to Knoxville Mayor Bill Haslam. Haslam also is chairman of the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization. The state Legislature approved two pilot toll projects for roads and bridges in Tennessee, and the TPO's executive board in February approved a resolution asking TDOT to "undertake the next level of study of the feasibility of this potential toll project." However, TDOT officials have said all along they would not proceed with the plan to charge a toll on the parkway without the backing of local citizens. <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2008/aug/05/tdot-nixes-toll-parkway/>

No tollway for Knoxville (WBIR-TV Knoxville)

The idea of a toll road in Knox County has been withdrawn as a possibility due to lack of public support. The Tennessee Department of Transportation looked into the feasibility of a toll road to fund the Knoxville Parkway project, formerly known as the Orange Route. TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely said in a letter that the idea of toll road financing for the parkway was highly dependant on public support for the project. Nicely specifically cited unanimous resolutions by the Knox County Commission and Anderson County Commission against a toll road, along with opposition at public meetings. The low level of public support coupled with the expense of the next level of analysis for a toll route prompted Nicely to call off the analysis of toll road funding for the Parkway project. <http://www.wbir.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=61682&catid=2>

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