

Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

August 6, 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.

Bredesen Optimistic State Will Maintain Bond Rating (WPLN-Radio Nashville)

Governor Phil Bredesen says the state will likely maintain – but not improve – its standing with the top three bond rating agencies. The Governor met with representatives of the three in New York City today. The rating impacts how much interest the state pays on borrowed money. Tennessee has the second highest rating possible. The agencies have previously been skeptical about Tennessee's reliance on sales tax rather than state income tax. But Bredesen says officials now admit Tennessee's tax structure is more stable in a weak economy. "When you look at sales tax, franchise and excise tax and some of the other things out there, they have questions about them because they're numerically-inclined people who do projections, and they want to know what we're expecting. But I think the skepticism about the tax structure that was there in the first year or two has just gone away now. They see that this works." The state lost its triple-A rating about a decade ago. Bredesen says the state has resolved many of the issues that led to the downgrade and hopes to see the rating reinstated in five to ten years.

<http://wpln.org/newstranscripts/?p=2703>

2 Properties Near Airport Approved For Purchase (Greeneville Sun)

Two parcels of land have been appraised and approved for purchase related to the runway realignment project at the Greeneville-Greene County Municipal Airport, according to discussion Monday by the Greeneville-Greene County Airport Authority. One of those parcels, which is along Whitehouse Road, belongs to Chris Johnson, who attended the meeting. "I want this to go through for the good of the community, but it does try on your nerves," Johnson said of the runway project. He said his property has been appraised two times, once in 2006 and again last month. Johnson's home is one of eight near the airport that will be purchased for the runway realignment project, according to Chairman Janet Malone.

<http://www.greenevillesun.com/story/296883>

Six county bridges rated 'deficient' (Shelbyville Times-Gazette)

A total of six bridges in Bedford County, five that are locally maintained and one maintained by the state, have been classified as "structurally deficient" by the Tennessee Department of Transportation. But according to the county's Highway Superintendent, there is only one bridge that would cause any concern. According to information released Friday by TDOT, locally maintained bridges that cross Mount Moriah Branch, Wilson Creek, Fall Creek, Branch, and Stokes Branch are on the structurally deficient list. The bridge crossing the Duck River on State Highway 130 South, which is maintained by the state, was also listed as deficient. The Highway 130 bridge was constructed in 1934, while bridges crossing Mount Moriah Branch, Wilson Creek and Branch were built in 1950. The Fall Creek and Stokes Branch bridges were erected in 1940.

<http://www.t-g.com/story/print/1450312.html>

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