

Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

September 2, 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.

Road-sign visibility to improve (Tennessean/Sanchez)

New federal rules triggered by aging baby boomers' eyesight Tennessee motorists who squint to decipher hard-to-read road signs will get relief in the coming years because of new federal rules. Road safety concerns and aging baby boomers with driver's licenses prompted the U.S. Department of Transportation to order the replacement of all road and highway signs nationwide with a fluorescent, reflective material that is more visible, especially at night. States and their municipalities must replace any signs that do not meet the new standards by 2015 and 2018, depending on the sign type. "The more we do to reduce the need for drivers to wonder where they are — by making signs easier to read — is key to making roadways safe," said Doug Hecox, spokesman for the federal transportation agency. Tennessee and many Nashville-area municipalities have already begun installing the newer signs, but thousands of the older, dimmer versions remain.

<http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080902/NEWS01/809020336>

City gets streets grant (Chattanooga Times Free-Press/Benton)

A state enhancement grant will pay for continuing repairs to South Pittsburg's concrete streets and sidewalks, some of which are 100 years old. City Manager T.J. Landers said the city last week was awarded a \$320,000 Tennessee Department of Transportation grant for the third phase of improvement work that has gone on for several years. The city is responsible for \$80,000 in matching funds. "With all of the large trees and everything that we've got, they're pretty, they're nice, but their roots get under the sidewalk and buck up the sidewalks," Mr. Landers said. Decades of traffic, erosion and tree growth have damaged seams in streets built between 1906 and 1920, he said. About 3,000 feet of sidewalks will be repaired. The first two phases, which improved Third and Fourth streets, were funded with identical enhancement grants, but Mr. Landers said material costs will limit what can be done in the next phase.

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2008/sep/02/south-pittsburg-city-gets-streets-grant/?local>

I-24 beautification project needs neighborhood support (Tennessean/Patterson)

Councilman Mike Jameson is meeting with neighborhood associations to gauge support for an interstate beautification project. Jameson and Councilman Erik Cole met with officials at the Tennessee Department of Transportation a year and a half ago to discuss the possibility of landscaping the intersections of Interstate 24 with James Robertson Parkway, Woodland Street and Shelby Avenue. Ragan-Smith Associates was hired to create a landscape plan, and then TDOT said it was up to Jameson to raise the \$97,000 to implement it. The plan is for neighbors to buy the trees, and the Davidson County Sheriff's Office will plant them. The tree planting is planned for one intersection in November, with the other two to follow in the spring.

<http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080902/NEWS0202/809020346/1009/NEWS>

- Opinion -

Progress at Outlaw Field (Clarksville Leaf Chronicle)

Congratulations to Outlaw Field, the local airport, which is jointly owned by city and county government. In August, the Tennessee Department of Transportation, Aeronautics Commission and the Department of Economic and Community Development issued the Front Door Award to the airport. This award recognizes the airport's efforts at a good appearance. That was not the only positive news for the airport in August. After opening a new 10-unit hangar, the airport received commitments to rent nine of them. State and federal money covered 90 percent of the hangar's construction, with the city and county splitting the remainder of the tab. The units rent for \$225 a month. That, of course, means more revenue for the airport. A hangar and living space also will be erected for Vanderbilt's local LifeFlight operation.

<http://www.theleafchronicle.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080902/OPINION01/809020314>

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