

Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

September 5, 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.

State grant to help spruce up I-65 exit at Long Hollow Pike (Tennessean/Yankova)

Goodlettsville has received a state grant of just under \$44,000 to help pay for landscaping at the Long Hollow Pike exit of Interstate 65. The city straddles the Davidson-Sumner county line. The interchange, Exit 97, is in Davidson County and serves as a gateway to the community. Lawmakers from both counties worked together to secure the funds. The Tennessee Roadscapes initiative, begun in 2006, is a partnership between community groups and the Tennessee Department of Transportation to improve roadside landscaping. In a statement announcing the grant, Gov. Phil Bredesen said well-planned landscape programs boost local economies and improve the quality of life for residents. For more information, visit tennessee.gov/tdot/roadscapes

<http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080905/NEWS01/809050407/1001/NEWS>

Residents express support for proposed toll bridge (Times Free-Press/Wilson)

A group of about 150 gathered at Soddy-Daisy High School on Thursday evening indicated support for a project that would include a toll bridge connecting Soddy-Daisy and Harrison, but several attendees had questions. Kenneth Morgan, a resident of Soddy-Daisy, asked what would happen if people do not agree to pay a toll. "What's the reality and time frame of getting a bridge in this area?" he asked. Ed Cole, the Tennessee Department of Transportation's chief of environment and planning, said the project is not in any long-term plan, and without a toll, it may never be built. The Hamilton County bridge, which officials estimate costing \$239 million to \$354 million, is one of several projects TDOT is considering for a pilot toll road project. Under state law, the department is tasked with developing one bridge project and one road project that would be funded through tolling. <http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2008/sep/05/soddy-daisy-residents-express-support-proposed-tol/?local>

Toll Bridge Talk (WRCB)

Thursday night, residents voiced their concerns about a toll bridge that could be built in Soddy Daisy. The bridge would be the first in the state and would add about sixteen miles of road plus a bridge over the Tennessee River. The bridge would connect northern Hamilton County to I-75. It wasn't until last year that the legislature decided to allow T-DOT to study the possibilities of building toll roads in Tennessee. The cost of the bridge has been a concern for many. Officials say it would cost between 100 and 250 million dollars to build. However, if it was a toll bridge, the price drivers pay to use it could be self-sustaining.

<http://www.wrcbtv.com/global/story.asp?s=8956071&ClientType=Printable>

- Opinion -

Editorial: Region needs to invest in public transportation (City Paper)

For Nashville commuters, the sight of endless brake lights has become a part of everyday life. For Nashville residents, air quality warnings and regularly discernible clouds of smog hanging over the city is unfortunately commonplace. If you are a working person in the city, trying to get a Metro Transit Authority bus to your place of employment and return home in time to take care of family is a challenge. All of these facts of life in the Nashville area strongly suggest the region needs to invest heavily in public transportation. Soaring gas prices and the overarching need for a better quality of life also reinforce this notion. What is needed to answer the call for more and better public transit in the region is a strong regional approach. Taking a truly regional approach to solving problems, though, has never been strength of Middle Tennessee's elected leadership. <http://www.nashvillecitypaper.com/news.php?viewStory=62588>

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