

Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

October 15, 2008

A daily roundup of recent 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 patching Calderwood's cracks (Maryville Daily Times)

TDOT plans more safety work on The Dragon Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) started filling cracks on a section of Calderwood Highway Monday and unveiled other plans to make the Dragon section of the highway safer for motorcycles. Tommy "Bud" Slaton, regional maintenance supervisor for TDOT, said that once the cracks are filled, the crack sealer will be allowed to cure. Workers will then resurface the affected pavement to smooth the road surface. TDOT has received a grant through the Governor's Highway Safety Program to make the Dragon portion of Calderwood Highway safer. The Dragon has 318 curves running 11.1 miles from the Tab Cat Creek bridge in Tennessee to Deal's Gap in North Carolina. It is a world-renown destination for motorcycle riders.

<http://www.thedailytimes.com/article/20081015/NEWS/310159977>

Airport Authority Reviews Funding For Realignment (Greeneville Sun)

The Greeneville-Greene County Airport Authority held a budget workshop meeting Monday to determine the availability of funds for the runway realignment project at the Greeneville-Greene County Municipal Airport. Airport Authority members compared the airport's preliminary budget figures with an airport budget prepared by the Greeneville recorder's office. Authority Chairman Janet Malone said near the meeting's end that she will adjust the Airport Authority's budget figures so they can be finalized at a second budget workshop. The Airport Authority has not been operating under an annual budget. It does review monthly financial statements provided by the recorder's office of Greeneville, the airport's fiscal agent. According to the preliminary budgets reviewed Monday, the airport is projecting expenses totaling an estimated \$45,843 more than the expenses projected by the city government.

Homeowners, Airport Battle Over Road Extension (WTVF)

It's a controversial road that no one wants on their property. The Tennessee Department of Transportation is deciding the path of the proposed Harding Place extension. The battle over where it will go pits homeowners against Nashville International Airport. But some residents are raising questions about who stands to gain from the road. "There are 10 cows here, three horses and a donkey," said Louan Brown, who lives near the airport. Her home and 40-acre farm are surrounded by airport property. Her dad bought it nearly 50 years ago. "For the first 12 years of my father's death, I walked those fences and sobbed and cried and sobbed and cried. I loved him more than life, and I love these cows and the farm," she said. But her property is in the path of a proposed road. The long-debated Harding Place extension is designed to ease traffic around the airport as it expands.

<http://www.newschannel5.com/global/story.asp?s=9173141&ClientType=Printable>

Monroe museum legacy (Knoxville News-Sentinel)

...Hall is best remembered for years-long efforts to win two controversial projects - the Cherohala Skyway to traverse the mountains between Tellico Plains and Robbinsville, N.C., and the Tellico Dam. Both incurred the wrath of environmentalists, but Hall says both produced long-term economic benefits. The idea of a wagon train through the rugged mountains on logging roads and primitive trails drew attention to the need for a roadway during a Kiwanis Club meeting in 1958...The 45-mile-long roadway was completed in 1996, and more than a million people a year now travel it. Hall was the liaison between the TVA and the public in the years-long battle to complete Tellico Dam, which became a reality in 1979. He was the only layman to conduct a hearing before a U.S. Senate committee on the issue. Now, more than 6,000 jobs are in firms that located along Tellico Lake, Hall said. "The dam is worth a lot more to us than the skyway," Hall said. "To Monroe County and East Tennessee, Tellico Dam is one of the best things we've had happen." <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2008/oct/13/monroe-museum-legacy/>

Jackson State's Economic Summit addresses issue of state, federal money (Jackson Sun)

Rural community officials throughout West Tennessee could find it difficult to acquire grants needed for city improvement projects this coming year. Grants from the federal government that are administered through the state could become fewer and harder to get as the nation's leaders attempt to keep the U.S. economy from falling into a recession. "The fact that we are in a difficult economy," said Guilford "Gil" Fletcher, "means you will have to fight harder for these grants."...Communities throughout West Tennessee rely on numerous grants to fund water and sewer projects, main street restoration and other projects, said Steve Bunnell, chief executive officer of Team Hardin County...Hardin County has received grants to repair downtown sidewalks and complete other infrastructure developments, Bunnell said.

###