

Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

October 16, 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.

Metro will soon start makeover of Deaderick Street

Motorists, pedestrians and Nashville bus drivers have competed for space on Deaderick Street for more than 20 years. "You have to be real careful when crossing," said Stanley Dobson, who moved to Nashville six months ago and rides Metro Transit Authority buses every day. When the last of those buses rolls through the outdoor transfer station next week, the daily — and often chaotic — dance that has defined the three-block downtown corridor will end. The city's new transportation hub, the Music City Central depot on Charlotte Avenue, will open Oct. 26. The next day, Metro Public Works will begin tearing down the passenger shelters and ticket stations between Fourth and Fifth Avenues South to make way for a Deaderick Street makeover.

<http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081015/NEWS01/810150459/1006/NEWS01>

State patching Calderwood's cracks; TDOT plans more safety work on The Dragon (Maryville Times)

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. A TDOT Safety Audit Team looked at the road and came up with some safety measures.

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

Funding shortages hold up repairs to water, wastewater infrastructure

There is a growing gap between badly needed improvements to Tennessee's water and wastewater infrastructure and the funding to complete those projects, according to a recent study conducted by the Tennessee Infrastructure Alliance. Local municipalities, including Knox County, Loudon County and Sevier County are listed in the report as being among those in the greatest need of funding. In Roane County, for example, limited sewer capacity almost scuttled a \$5.4 million investment in a new trucking facility by Crete Carrier. After failing to reach an agreement to connect the facility to the overburdened Lenoir City Utilities Board sewer system, Crete is looking at the installation of an on-site sewer system. According to the Tennessee Advisory Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, the cost of 1,773 needed water system improvement projects increased by \$349 million between 2004 and 2005 to a total of \$3.3 billion.

<http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2008/oct/14/water-improvements-lacking/>

Pouring billions into aging U.S. infrastructure urged to help avoid recession (DMN)

Would spending billions putting engineers and construction crews to work rebuilding the nation's aging infrastructure keep America out of a recession? A group of leading governors,

transportation experts and House Democrats say it's worth trying, with Gov. Ed Rendell of Pennsylvania and others arguing Tuesday that the federal government should immediately spend billions on America's highways, bridges and rail systems. "We can't wait for this to be discussed next summer," Mr. Rendell said Tuesday. "Congress and the president-elect must undertake major investments in our infrastructure." Mr. Rendell and others on Tuesday called for a two-pronged approach to transportation: More spending now, with an eye toward adding jobs for construction workers, engineers and others, and a much more expensive plan that would involve completely rethinking the way America views transportation.

<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/texasouthwest/stories/101508dnnatbridges.112ae174c.html>

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