

## Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

October 28, 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.*

#### **Governor backs \$3.2M for water, waste, recycling, community work (News-Sentinel)**

Governor Phil Bredesen announced today the recommendation of seven Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grants totaling almost \$3.2 million to assist with infrastructure improvements in rural East Tennessee. "These grants are crucial components of economic growth in Tennessee's 50 Appalachian counties, and we appreciate the ARC's investment in our communities," Bredesen said in a press release. The grants: -- Etowah Water Treatment Plant renovation: \$405,640. The project also includes another \$405,640 in local money and will help retain 188 jobs at ThyssenKrupp Waupaca and assist other industries at North Etowah Industrial Park. -- Fentress County recycling equipment: \$258,320. Also includes \$70,080 in local funds. <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2008/oct/27/governor-backs-32m-water-waste-recycling-community/>

#### **Industrial access road work for ethanol plant 2 years away (Weakley County News)**

If a \$170 million ethanol plant comes to Obion County, can a new industrial access road for it be far behind? Yes. As much as two years, according to the Tennessee Department of Transportation. Meanwhile, commerce associated with the plant will have to make do with what it has — a battered and beaten rural ribbon replete with potholes and hairpin curves. The new plant, Ethanol Grain Processors, is here and is up and going in its quest to produce 100 million gallons of ethanol a year. The plant occupies a 220-acre plot next to McDonald Road, which ties into Wolverine Road on one end and State Route 183 on the other. Wolverine Road leads to Troy; State Route 183 leads to Obion. <http://www.nwntoday.com/news.php?viewStory=18456>

#### **Panel to tackle highway funding (Leaf Chronicle)**

20-member group to research new sources of income Dwindling state and federal road-construction funds have become a Tennessee Department of Transportation issue with local ramifications, but they also might lead to local solutions. Tasked with researching new funding sources, TDOT has created the Transportation Funding Option Committee, a 20-person committee that will report its findings to the state Legislature in February. Its membership includes Clarksville Transit System Director Jimmy Smith. "I think the spirit of it is to try to fix our transportation system before it gets broken," Smith said. Remembering the adage about not fixing those things that are not broken, Smith added, "I guess it is broken — the financing end of it is broken." <http://www.theleafchronicle.com/article/20081028/NEWS01/810280337/1002/news01>

#### **TVA installs system to warn of rising waters (Bristol Herald-Courier)**

A new warning system is designed to make recreation near South Holston Dam a bit safer. The Tennessee Valley Authority is now using the system — which includes warning horns, strobe lights and signs — to alert fishermen and others before water is released. "We began installing these systems a couple of years ago at TVA's 29 hydroelectric generating sites. They're being phased in," utility spokesman Gil Francis said Monday. "Eventually we'll have them at all 29 facilities."

Signs have been in place for some time, but the other measures were recently activated, Francis said. A similar system is scheduled to be installed at Fort Patrick Henry Lake in the near future. Horns are mounted on the power generating station at the base of the dam and downstream near the weir dam near Osceola Island – a popular spot for fishing.

[http://www.tricity.com/tri/news/local/article/tva\\_installs\\_system\\_to\\_warn\\_of\\_rising\\_waters/15564/](http://www.tricity.com/tri/news/local/article/tva_installs_system_to_warn_of_rising_waters/15564/)

### **Can an infrastructure overhaul boost the economy? (MarketWatch.com)**

New Deal-esque program may aid nation's recovery, but times have changed. Don't look for Obama's plans to rebuild the infrastructure to have the same effect as the New Deal projects, historians and economists say. The Democratic candidate for president says revitalizing the nation's transportation network and waterways not only will improve the U.S. infrastructure, it could give a lift to the nation's sagging economy. Obama's plans for the nation's underbelly - now discussed as part of a new economic stimulus - conjure images of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal, which helped create such massive public works projects as the Tennessee Valley Authority or LaGuardia Airport in New York. But don't look for Obama's plans -- if they actually do see the light of day -- to have the same effect on the nation's economy, historians and economists say. For one, the Illinois senator would have to defeat rival Sen. John McCain on Nov. 4. Two, the nation isn't nearly as bad off as it was in the 1930s. And three, it's not as easy to undertake a massive rebuilding project these days. "In many cases, it takes months and sometimes years," said Paul Conkin, professor emeriti of history at Vanderbilt University and author of "The New Deal." "It would be a delayed project."

[http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/can-infrastructure-overhaul-boost-economy/story.aspx?guid=%7B71B6E035-8863-4FC6-8DDB-CDDC087FA38A%7D&dist=msr\\_1](http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/can-infrastructure-overhaul-boost-economy/story.aspx?guid=%7B71B6E035-8863-4FC6-8DDB-CDDC087FA38A%7D&dist=msr_1)

### **CTS director named to TDOT study committee (Clarksville Leaf Chronicle)**

Clarksville Transit System Director Jimmy Smith has been named to a 20-person Tennessee Department of Transportation study committee tasked with researching alternative funding sources for state road projects. The committee, due to report to the state legislature in February, will look at alternatives to the state gas tax, currently 21.4-cents-per-gallon, which funds road-construction projects. Revenue from that tax is down, as gas prices — though now in decline — forced drivers to change their habits. In addition, the federal government — on which TDOT heavily relies for funding — has removed more than \$230 million from TDOT projects in the last three years. Options on the table include tying the state gas tax to the rate of inflation, adding fees to things like driver's licenses and vehicle registrations, building toll roads and bridges and paying for projects with bonds.

<http://www.theleafchronicle.com/article/20081027/NEWS01/81027023#pluckcomments>

### **Lakeland Lake Owner Facing Fines from State (ABC24 Memphis)**

The owner of Garner Lake in Lakeland is in trouble with the State of Tennessee. Officials with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation say the Lake Management Association has not fixed the spillway on the dam. The state has fined the lake owner \$7500.00. There could be additional fines if the spillway isn't fixed. According to state records, officials have been trying to get the dam owner to fix the spillway since 2005. This fall, state workers say the owner took matters into his own hands and tried to fix the spillway without the proper approvals. It was considered "unauthorized and insufficient work" by TDEC inspectors. The spillway makes sure the lake level does not get too high.

[http://www.myeyewitnessnews.com/news/local/story.aspx?content\\_id=e9d2c04c-9bae-45d0-90ed-1639143bffb](http://www.myeyewitnessnews.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=e9d2c04c-9bae-45d0-90ed-1639143bffb)

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