

## Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

November 7, 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.*

#### **Tennessee moves up to No. 2 spot as best for business (Nashville Biz Journal)**

Tennessee is the nation's second best state for business, according to Site Selection, a leading economic development industry magazine. The state moves up from No. 6 in the annual rankings. North Carolina took the top spot. "We've worked hard to create a business friendly climate in Tennessee, and this new ranking tells me our investments are yielding tangible results," Gov. Phil Bredesen says in a statement touting the buzz-generating ranking, Tennessee's best ever. "We will continue to focus on job creation efforts that help businesses grow and create high skilled, high paying jobs for Tennesseans." The rankings are determined by a state's success in expanding and attracting business facility activity, and by several criteria important to corporate site selectors, including workforce, transportation infrastructure and ease of doing business with regulators and government officials.

<http://nashville.bizjournals.com/nashville/stories/2008/11/03/daily26.html?surround=lf&brthrs=1>

#### **Tennessee ranks No. 2 for business location (Memphis Business Journal)**

Economic development publication Site Selection magazine announced Thursday that the publication ranked Tennessee the second best business location in the U.S. The second place ranking marks a four-spot jump from last year's ranking when the magazine picked Tennessee sixth. The annual business climate rankings are determined 50 percent by the state's economic performance in Conway Data's New Plant Database, which tracks new and expanded business facility activity, and 50 percent by a survey of corporate site selectors across the country. The survey focused on factors including lack of red tape and ease of permitting and regulatory procedures, financial assistance, government officials' cooperation, transportation infrastructure and existing work force.

<http://memphis.bizjournals.com/memphis/stories/2008/11/03/daily30.html?surround=lf&brthrs=1>

#### **State announces 55 grants worth more than \$23 million (Oak Ridger)**

One to Lake City, one to Oliver Springs Gov. Phil Bredesen and Economic and Community Development Commissioner Matthew Kisber recently approved more than \$23 million in Community Development Block Grants to assist with infrastructure improvements in Tennessee. Oliver Springs received a \$500,000 grant for its water system, and Lake City received a \$500,000 grant for its wastewater system. "Community Development Block Grants are fundamental to the growth of communities across Tennessee, and I'm very pleased that our state can be a partner in this vital financial assistance program," Bredesen said in a state news release. "The projects funded by these grants result in necessary improvements that bolster growth and development at the most fundamental level." <http://www.oakridger.com/news/x1720641906/State-announces-55-grants-worth-more-than-23-million>

### **Utility awarded \$500,000 grant (Commercial Appeal/Silence)**

Tipton County has been awarded a \$500,000 state grant for water system improvements, according to an announcement this week by Gov. Phil Bredesen's office. The award is a portion of \$23 million in community development block grants issued to municipalities across the state. Tipton's Poplar Grove Utility District applied for the grant to fund the construction of a million-gallon ground storage tank at its Atoka site, officials said. The tank will help meet the demand of a steadily growing population. Dozens of cities and counties across Tennessee received grants for improvement to water and sewer lines or housing developments.

<http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2008/nov/07/in-brief-11-07/>

### **840 work resumes after fourth death draws scrutiny (Tennessean/Sanchez)**

Three deaths in less than a year on a big Nashville-area highway project made state officials uneasy enough to fine the contractor twice. But construction continued. It wasn't until a tractor ran over and killed sod-layer Dionicio Pacheco this week that officials told the company to halt work on State Route 840 near Fairview until it could prove the project it oversees could operate safely. Three days and a 200-page safety plan later, Highways Inc., a Cookeville-based company with an office in Brentwood, was told Thursday it could resume work on one of three missing segments of the highway that will link Dickson, Franklin, Murfreesboro and Lebanon. Four fatalities and one serious injury occurred between October 2007 and Pacheco's death Monday. Paul Degges, chief engineer for TDOT, said the project was not suspended after previous incidents because Highways Inc. appeared to be taking the necessary steps to improve safety measures and to prevent more accidents.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20081107/NEWS09/811070411>

### **Toll funds may not be enough to pay for bridge (Times Free-Press/Wilson)**

A proposed highway project that would include a toll bridge linking Soddy-Daisy and Harrison may need more than just toll funds to operate, officials said at a Thursday night meeting in Harrison. The current road funding source, Tennessee's fuel tax, may have to go toward improving existing roads that would be part of the project, said Ed Cole, the Tennessee Department of Transportation's chief of environment and planning. John Sullivan, a Harrison resident, asked what effect the project might have on roads such as state Highway 58. "We're going to be putting a lot of traffic on our existing roads," Mr. Sullivan said. Mr. Cole said there has not yet been an analysis of just how much traffic the project would add. But, he noted, there will be no toll on existing roads, only on the new bridge. Mr. Sullivan was one of about 25 people who gathered at Snow Hill Elementary School to comment on the toll bridge project.

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2008/nov/07/tennessee-toll-funds-may-not-be-enough-pay-bridge/?local>

###