

## Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

November 10, 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.*

#### **District 22 Receives 3/4 Million Dollar Grant (Bradley News Weekly)**

Rep. Eric Watson announces a \$720,000 grant to assist with water lines infrastructure improvements in Polk County and the Town of Decatur. "I'm very pleased that Decatur and Polk County will receive these much needed funds," Rep. Watson said "These funds will bolster growth and development at the local level." The funds were allocated under a procedure authorized by the Tennessee General Assembly. The grants were approved by the ECD Loan and Grant Committee following an application by each county. The Town of Decatur will receive \$220,000 and Polk County will receive \$500,000. <http://www.bradleyweekly.com/page11903730.aspx>



#### **Six states pledge to work on I-81's future (WLSL Roanok)**

The Commonwealth of Virginia and five other Interstate 81 Regional Commerce Corridor states have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to establish a seamless freight and passenger network along I-81 and its extensions from Tennessee to New York. Working together, the states will ensure a coordinated direction for public investment in both rail and highway infrastructure. Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and New York have agreed to work together in planning and federal advocacy efforts for improvements to the I-81 corridor, including a seamless approach to I-81 corridor freight study efforts. The effort's overall goal is to ensure the economic vitality of the corridor while improving public safety in the face of increasing truck traffic. [http://www.wsls.com/sls/news/state\\_regional/article/six\\_states\\_pledge\\_to\\_work\\_on\\_i\\_81s\\_future/20787/](http://www.wsls.com/sls/news/state_regional/article/six_states_pledge_to_work_on_i_81s_future/20787/)

#### **Tennessee, other states agree on I-81 updates (Associated Press)**

Tennessee, Virginia and four other states have agreed to cooperate in planning for rail and highway improvements along the Interstate 81 corridor. The Virginia Department of Transportation announced Friday that Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, Maryland, Pennsylvania and New York signed a memorandum of understanding to work together. The goal is to establish a seamless freight and passenger network along I-81 and its extensions. All six states are members of the Interstate 81 Regional Commerce Corridor. The agreement calls for the states to share and coordinate I-81 freight truck and rail study planning. They also will consider a joint work plan to identify long-term funding needs. <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2008/nov/07/tennessee-other-states-agree-i-81-updates/>

#### **Marion County launches transit system (Chattanooga Times-Free Press)**

Marion County's new route-based rural transit system is easy, convenient and even "Donald Trump can ride if he's got a dollar," said Susan Simcox, driver of one of the new buses. The

Southeast Tennessee Human Resources Agency office on Monday launched two daily bus routes looping through Jasper and South Pittsburg with more than 20 stops, said Jan Webb, SETHRA county manager. It costs \$1 a ride and there's no extra charge for transfers at Wal-Mart in Kimball, Ms. Webb said. People can flag down a bus when they spot one, too.

<http://www.tradingmarkets.com/.site/news/Stock%20News/2007134/>

### **'It's all pipes!' (Nashville City Paper)**

There are millions of dollars in stormwater projects and infrastructure upgrades facing Metro and Mayor **Karl Dean** has promised to address the issue, but it won't be any time soon, Rex hears. Water and sewer rate increases, along with a new stormwater fee, are coming down the pike, but Dean and his administration won't bring anything forward until next year, possibly as late as the budget presentation in May according to sources close to the administration.

<http://www.nashvillecitypaper.com/news.php?viewStory=64032>

### **Kentucky: Train ride may spur look at line serving Louisville, Fort Knox (Louisville Courier-Journal)**

Louisville's light-rail movement faded about four years ago, but traditional train service may be getting a fresh look. Elected officials from Jefferson, Hardin and Meade counties are among 100 passengers who plan to take a leisurely three-hour, round-trip train ride between Louisville and Cecilia, Ky., just west of Elizabethtown, tomorrow. In Tennessee, officials launched a commuter rail system between Nashville and Lebanon in 2006. Federal and state funds covered construction of the \$42 million, 31-mile line, which costs \$4.8 million a year to operate, said Paul Ballard, CEO of Nashville's Metropolitan Transit Authority. The rail line is publicly owned and runs parallel to Interstate 40 east of Nashville, Ballard said. "It was a great location because there are a lot of people traveling." The commuter service operates weekday mornings and afternoons, Ballard said. This fall, the trains have averaged about 1,000 one-way travelers -- or 500 people going round trip -- a day.

<http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20081107/NEWS01/811070454/1008/NEWS01>

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