

Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

November 12, 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.

Grant funds Jasper water improvements (Chattanooga Times Free-Press/Benton)

The water treatment plant in Jasper is filled with equipment that looks like props from a 1960s-era science fiction movie — archaic knobs, dials and gauges — but few pieces with digital readouts. A \$500,000 grant will fund a list of improvements for the plant that's more than 20 years past due for an update, officials said. "We're going to be improving water treatment plant instrumentation, water quality monitoring, testing equipment, pumping and storage tank monitoring and control systems," said Sam Sharp, one of the treatment plant's operators in Jasper. The project also includes electrical and lighting upgrades and rehabilitation of the plant's clear well. Jasper gets 80 percent of its water from the Sequatchie River and the rest from a spring behind the treatment plant. <http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2008/nov/12/grant-funds-jasper-water-improvements/?local>

Salt prices put states in a pinch (Stateline)

Cold-weather states across the country will need hundreds of thousands of tons of salt to keep roads and highways safe this winter. But prices are running two and three times higher than last year, forcing some states and municipalities to make do with less. Road maintenance crews used a near-record 20.3 million tons of road salt last year because of heavier snowfall from the Northeast to the Midwest. State and local transportation authorities tapped into stockpiles that normally would have been available this winter, causing shortages that have bumped up demand — and prices — dramatically. Even with the higher prices, road salt sales in the first six months of 2008 already are up 20 percent from last year and are expected to set a new record this year, said Dick Hanneman, president of the Salt Institute, a trade group that represents suppliers. <http://www.stateline.org/live/details/story?contentId=355117>

County body authorizes Hill to sign grant paperwork (Dyersburg State Gazette)

The Dyer County Commission passed a resolution Monday night officially accepting the terms of a \$722,918 grant for new sidewalks and lighting around Veterans Square. The Tennessee Department of Transportation announced the grant in August. Monday's resolution authorized Dyer County Mayor Richard Hill to sign any documents needed to get the grant started. The Community Enhancement Grant will be used for sidewalks, curbs and gutters inside the perimeter of the courthouse square, drainage improvement, crosswalks, wheelchair ramps, landscaping and pedestrian lighting. <http://www.stategazette.com/story/print/1477164.html>

###