

## Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

November 18, 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.*

#### **SmartFIX40 ahead of schedule, halfway to deadline (WBIR-TV Knoxville)**

The project that has closed down the interstate in downtown Knoxville is at the halfway point. Destruction began at midnight, May 1, with heavy equipment ripping down bridges and jack hammers breaking up roadways. Reconstruction is now ahead of schedule, with about seven more months to go. "The weather has cooperated. That was one of the big variables in the job, you know, you can't control the weather, and it has been dry," said Chad Woodroof, project manager for SmartFIX40. "We haven't had to go around the clock 7 days a week like we thought we might have to." On average, 250 workers are on the site each day. Halfway through, all the sub-surface work is finished, including underground utilities.

<http://www.wbir.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=69340&catid=2>

#### **New design replaces toppled I-65 sign (Tennessean/Vaughan)**

Old Hickory structure also showed signs of stress Replacement of the downed West Cool Springs Boulevard exit sign on Interstate 65 began last night. The repair project comes after the massive sign tumbled and fell across three of the interstate's five lanes July 7 around 11:30 a.m. There were minor collisions associated with the sign failure, but no one was injured. The original sign is referred to as a cantilever structure, according B.J. Doughty, a spokeswoman for the Tennessee Department of Transportation. Cantilever structures are 'L' shaped with a pole or arm bolted down to the shoulder of the interstate with a connecting sign that hangs over the roadway. The new structure is expected to be a sturdier structure with two connecting arms. One pole will be planted in the shoulder. The other pole connected to the sign will be attached to the median. <http://www.tennessean.com/article/20081118/COUNTY090101/811180302/1352/COUNTY>

#### **State Senator Wants Regional Water Authority (WPLN-Radio Nashville)**

State Senator Bill Ketron wants to create a regional water authority for the area around the Duck River to deal with drought issues. Over the weekend, Ketron spoke at a sustainability conference at Lipscomb University in Nashville. The Duck River runs diagonally through Middle Tennessee south of Davidson County, providing water for towns such as Shelbyville, Centerville and Columbia. Senator Ketron says two summers ago, some of the cities in his district ran out of water. The Murfreesboro Republican says the crisis brought to a head by that year's drought indicates the need for better planning. "It's about, number one, survival and taking care of the growth of the future of our population. Without water, we don't grow. Without water, we don't survive. If you can't flush and drink, it's that serious." <http://wpln.org/newstranscripts/?p=3811>

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