

Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

September 28, 2009

A daily roundup of recent news stories and opinion pieces about Tennessee transportation, water and flood control infrastructure

For the full story, click the headline or use the link.

[States Rush to Avoid Losing \\$9 Billion in Highway Funds \(Wall Street Journal\)](#)

States are urging Congress and the White House to act fast to change a law that may soon deprive them of nearly \$9 billion in federal highway funds, the equivalent of roughly one-third of the amount in the economic-stimulus package. In a meeting Thursday, Vermont Gov. Jim Douglas, a Republican, pressed Vice President Joe Biden for help, saying the potential loss of road funds is "not inconsequential; it's a lot of money." Mr. Biden promised to pursue the matter, the result of a technicality in legislation passed several years ago. A fix would require congressional action by Oct. 1, the start of the 2010 fiscal year. Sen. Barbara Boxer, a California Democrat who is chairwoman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, is working on legislation that would restore the \$9 billion in road funds. That bill is wrapped up in a broader debate about transportation funding, however, and the prospects for quick passage are unclear. The \$9 billion in question has accrued over several years as states were required to set aside a small portion of their annual funding, a tactic Congress sometimes uses to create budgetary flexibility.

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125410081124645301.html#mod=todays_us_page_one(SUBSCRIPTION)

[CN caps off Tennessee yard reconstruction \(Progressive Railroading.com\)](#)

CN's \$100 million, multi-year project at the Memphis facility — the Class 1's second-largest classification yard — called for essentially building a new yard on top of an existing one built in the early 1900s, rebuilding old locomotive repair and car shops, and upgrading a locomotive fueling station. The yard now can handle more than 3,100 freight cars and more than 35 trains daily, and features 45 classification tracks and 12 receiving and departure tracks ranging in length from 5,000 to 10,000 feet.

<http://www.progressiverailroading.com/news/article.asp?id=21592>

An Unusual Look At Our River System

[Hardbergers Travel Miles In Boat Called Aimless \(Mysanantonio.Com\)](#)

Though we now have alternative sources of transportation, much freight traffic still moves on the rivers. We passed tugs pushing 36 barges at a time: six across and six deep — about the size of a city block. We passed barges all the way from Port Aransas to Chicago, all carrying the products that give our country such enormous economic strength...The Tennessee River was the most beautiful. The white limestone cliffs, the clear water, the 60-foot trees are beguiling. I can see why many sailors "swallow the anchor" and retire to the banks of the Tennessee River, spending the remainder of their days watching this gracious water make its way to the Mississippi. I was impressed enough with the Tennessee River to invite my sister, Jan Peranteau of San Antonio, to join us for five days of lazy cruising up and down the river just for the sheer beauty and exuberance of the landscape. This was the only time of the trip that we didn't try to go anywhere. We just enjoyed ourselves and justified the name of our boat, Aimless.

Editor's note: After Phil Hardberger ended his term as San Antonio mayor, the veteran sailor and his wife, Linda, set off on a trip through middle America, from Port Aransas to the shores of Lake Michigan, finding solitude and friends along the way as they traveled upriver in a boat named Aimless.

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/life/61983162.html>

-Across the State Line-

[Closure of US 62/US 641 Across KY Dam Thru Nov. 24 \(West Kentucky Star\)](#)

The closure that has been in place for 3 weeks was to allow preliminary road work required to tie in a new Tennessee River Bridge being constructed below ...

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