

Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

September 30, 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.

[Senate Passes Stopgap Bill To Avert Gov't Shutdown \(Salon.Com Associated Press\)](#)

The Senate has passed a spending bill to prevent keep the government running after a midnight deadline -- and to raise Congress' own budget by 6 percent. The 62-38 vote sends the short-term funding bill to President Barack Obama, who's virtually certain to sign it by day's end. But the measure passed over strong protests from a handful of Republicans such as Tom Coburn of Oklahoma, who blasted his colleagues for attaching the stopgap bill to a measure increasing their office budgets. **The legislation also would patch over problems in the struggling postal service and pay for soon-to-expire highway programs for an additional month.** The stopgap measure is needed because Congress has failed to complete work on the 11 remaining spending bills for agency budgets.

http://www.salon.com/wires/ap/2009/09/30/D9B1SVG00_us_congress_spending/

[Tennessee To Lose \\$190 Million In Federal Funds For Roads \(Tennessean/Theobald\)](#)

Nashville, 3 other metro areas will be hardest hit Tennessee will lose about \$190 million in federal highway spending authority because Congress hasn't passed a new version of a law that OKs funding for most highway, bridge and mass transit projects across the country. Paul Degges, chief engineer with the Tennessee Department of Transportation, said the loss of spending authority would force delays in road projects across the state. "You are going to have to totally reprioritize things," Degges said. The state receives about \$800 million in federal highway funds each year. That was augmented this year by an additional \$500 million in funds through the economic stimulus legislation passed in February. The previous multi-year transportation authorization bill expires today. It included a requirement that states would lose some already-authorized funds if the money hasn't been committed to specific contracts.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20090930/NEWS01/909300412/Tennessee+to+lose++190+million+in+federal+funds+for+roads>

[At Long Last, Bypass Work Begins \(Times-Gazette\)](#)

The blue "stimulus" signs are up on U.S. 41-A South, signaling that work is now ongoing on the long-awaited construction of State Route 437 (Shelbyville bypass). Completion is estimated by July 31, 2011, according to B.J. Doughty, community relations officer for the Tennessee Department of Transportation. The Shelbyville bypass is one of 119 road projects in 64 counties throughout the state that has been funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Wright Paving Contractors Inc. of Fayetteville was awarded the bid for construction of the bypass in June with a low bid of \$14,283,873. The new state route will wrap around the city's northeastern quadrant from U.S. 231 north of Shelbyville to U.S. 41-A east of town, and will include intersections at Fairfield Pike, Horse Mountain Road, Philippi Road, Earl Smith Road, Mullins Chapel Road, Fay Creek Road, Fowler Lane, Highway 64 (Wartrace Pike) and 41-A South.

<http://www.t-g.com/story/1574253.html>

[Terminal Renovations Begin At Nashville Airport \(City Paper\)](#)

Frequent fliers are likely accustomed to the dust and noise outside Nashville International Airport, but now they can expect to see more of the same inside the facility. The airport this week has launched Phase II of its terminal renovation project, the first interior renovation in the 22-year history of BNA's existing terminal. Most noticeable among planned upgrades will be the renovation of airline gate hold rooms and additional bathrooms in the terminal. Construction to hold rooms on Concourse C began earlier this week, Metro Nashville Airport Authority said in a release. Phase II construction, slated to continue through early 2011, will also include enlarging the ticket lobby, renovating the baggage claim area and replacing flooring, wall coverings and heating and air units.

<http://nashvillecitypaper.com/content/city-news/terminal-renovations-begin-nashville-airport>

-Across the State Line-

###