

## Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

October 21, 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.

#### **Tenn. seeking funding to make rail upgrades (Knoxville News-Sentinel/Marcum)**

Tennessee is seeking \$81.2 million as part of a coalition of states applying for \$300 million in federal stimulus funds to make railroad upgrades linked to development of intermodal rail terminals, where trailers and containers are transferred between trucks and trains. Although the coalition's application for stimulus money is based on reducing truck traffic along Interstate 81, whose southern terminus is in Jefferson County, Tennessee would spend its entire share on an intermodal facility being built near Memphis, some 400 miles from I-81. Norfolk Southern's primary interest in Tennessee is long-haul traffic from Harrisburg, Pa., to Memphis and farther south to Birmingham, Ala., said Julie Oaks, Tennessee Department of Transportation spokeswoman. Also, work on the Memphis-area terminal is moving forward, whereas the railroad company has yet to make a firm decision on an East Tennessee intermodal site.

<http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2009/oct/21/tenn-seeking-funding-to-make-rail-upgrades/>

#### **Roaring Creek work brings fine for Rhea (Chattanooga Times Free-Press)**

Rhea County Executive Billy Ray Patton said Tuesday the county has paid a \$2,500 fine assessed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for violating the federal Clean Water Act while trying to control flooding on Roaring Creek in Graysville. And Mr. Patton said that while it's hard to be happy about being fined, it could have been worse. The fine could have been up to \$140,000, he said. And the dredging that drew the fine has protected Graysville's residents from floods, he said. "Had we not done the work we did, with all the rain we had in the latter part of September and October, we would have had devastating flooding," Mr. Patton said. The EPA said in a news release Tuesday it issued consent orders and fines to Rhea County and its contractor, East Tennessee Grading, for exceeding a grading permit meant to stabilize the creek. In 2003, Roaring Creek burst its banks and inundated Graysville twice. Many homes were damaged and a federal disaster was declared, according to Times Free Press archives.

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2009/oct/21/roaring-creek-work-brings-fine-for-rhea/>

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