

Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

November 2, 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.

[State Approves Millions In Water, Sewer Loans \(Times Free-Press\)](http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2009/nov/02/state-approves-millions-water-sewer-loans/)

Several million dollars in water and sewer upgrades are coming to Southeast Tennessee, thanks to the approval this week of nearly \$37 million in loans by the Tennessee Local Development Authority. Athens, Tenn., received more than \$4 million to expand its sewer lines to areas off of Interstate 75's exit 52, city manager Mitchell Moore said. By providing sewer lines to currently unserved areas, the city hopes to encourage industrial and commercial development, he said. The loan — with 40 percent of the principal automatically deducted from the payback — was a good deal for the city and made the sewer expansions possible, he said. "We've been looking at trying to get sewer to this area for a number of years," he said. In Cleveland, Tenn., the development authority approved more than \$1.3 million to extend sewer lines to the Westside Drive area and off APD 40 (U.S. 64 bypass) near Interstate 75, according to Tom Wheeler, general manager of Cleveland Utilities.

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2009/nov/02/state-approves-millions-water-sewer-loans/>

[Corridor K Gets New Push \(Chattanooga Times Free-Press\)](http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2009/nov/02/corridor-k-gets-new-push/)

Corridor K, the 1960s-era highway proposed to connect Chattanooga and Asheville, N.C., also could bring growth to Polk County and keep its residents connected to the rest of the region, local supporters say "We are one rock slide away from being isolated," said Keith Dilbeck, a Ducktown resident who represents U.S. Highway 64 commuters on a countywide team examining the Corridor K proposal. A Citizens Resource Team met last week with the Tennessee Department of Transportation, the U.S. Forest Service, consultants and others as part of a project to work out goals and objectives for the proposed highway through or around the Ocoee River Gorge. A map with potential routes looks like strings of spaghetti, but it's still a work in progress, TDOT officials said. Polk County is bisected by the Cherokee National Forest, creating two distinct communities.

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2009/nov/02/corridor-k-gets-new-push/>

[Barker Pleased With Step Forward On I-69 \(State Gazette\)](http://www.stategazette.com/story/1583575.html)

State Rep. Judy Barker said that TDOT's "letting" process represents a big step forward for construction of Interstate 69 in Northwest Tennessee. "Progress is being made toward making I-69 a reality, which will be a major boost to our local economy," said Rep. Barker, who serves on the House Transportation Committee and Rural Roads Subcommittee. "Congressman John Tanner, state officials, local leaders and those in the business community should all be commended for the partnership that has gone into the start of this project, which is crucial to Northwest Tennessee's long-term economic goals." The Tennessee Department of Transportation has begun the "letting" process, opening bids from contractors and identifying the lowest bid for each state project, including the portion of I-69. Construction engineers then review the low bids for accuracy and compliance with departmental guidelines. If no problems are found, contracts are then awarded, work orders are issued and pre-construction meetings are set. Barker represents Tennessee's 77th House district in Dyer, Lake and Obion counties. She serves on the House Transportation Committee, the Rural Roads Subcommittee, the Education Committee and the K-12 Subcommittee.

<http://www.stategazette.com/story/1583575.html>

[TN Helps Drivers With I-40 Rock Slide Detours \(Associated Press\)](#)

Tennessee transportation and safety officials are working to help drivers safely negotiate detours around a rock slide just inside North Carolina on Interstate 40. The transportation and safety departments have stepped up information distribution and traffic enforcement, with cleanup and stabilization at the slide site expected to take several months. The official detour involves Interstates 81, 26 and 240. That path takes traffic through the Tri-Cities in Tennessee and Asheville in North Carolina. Commercial traffic must follow the detour because of load limits on a bridge along a closer route. Noncommercial vehicles also may use Highway 25/70 between Newport, Tenn., and Asheville. The Oct. 25 slide brought down huge boulders onto I-40 about 2.5 miles east of the Tennessee-North Carolina line.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20091101/NEWS09/911010375/1001/NEWS>

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