

Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

November 18, 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.

High risk from rocks (Chattanooga Times Free-Press/Crisp)

Thirty-five locations in Tennessee are ripe for a rock slide -- including three in Hamilton County, according to a Tennessee Department of Transportation report. But funding and the motivation to shore up the problems appear to be low. The fragile Ocoee Gorge mountainside that collapsed and closed a scenic two-lane road in Polk County was on a high-risk list of problem slopes for at least five years, and 10 other spots along the gorge also are on the list. "Based on the history, that was an area that had been reported to us (as having repeated rock slides) over the years," said Len Oliver, a civil engineering manager and coordinator of the statewide effort to map potential rock slides. "But it's not that we can predict these slides will occur." In Hamilton County, three mountainsides are inspected and tracked regularly for potential slides and are considered as the most susceptible for future slides. Two are on Lookout Mountain -- Cummings Highway and Scenic Highway -- and another is along a busy stretch of Signal Mountain Boulevard heading up Signal Mountain.

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2009/nov/18/high-risk-from-rocks/>

Rockslide cleanup still 2 months away (Cleveland Daily Banner)

A Jan. 15, 2010, target date has been set for completion of a \$2.1 million cleanup of the massive stone from the roadway and river along U.S. Highway 64 last week. Officials originally estimated a four-week cleanup for the rockslide which shut down east-west travel. The dangerous mountain rehabilitation contract was awarded to Charles Blalock and Sons of Sevierville. According to Gerald Nicely, Tennessee Department of Transportation commissioner, the area will be sealed off from all unauthorized personnel, since the mountain continues to be unstable. TDOT area supervisor said rock along Highway 64 continues to fall. He reported three incidents Monday prior to a press conference announcing the cleanup contract award. Original estimates were approximately 14,000 cubic tons of material which has to be removed. Officials reported Monday the estimate is more like 30,000 cubic tons which will have to be blasted and hauled away.

State approves \$5 million loan for city's water harvesting project (Crossville Chronicle)

Crossville will receive \$5 million to harvest raw water from Lake Tansi and construct a water line to transfer the water into Meadow Park Lake and to the Meadow Park Water Treatment Plant serving the city of Crossville. This project will be funded with a 20-year, \$3 million loan with an interest rate of 2.83 percent and \$2 million in principal forgiveness that will not have to be repaid.

http://www.crossville-chronicle.com/local/local_story_320164206.html

U.S. 64 West Through Ocoee Gorge Closed For At Least 8 Weeks (Cherokee Scout) Great Photos!

It will take a little longer than the initial Tennessee Department of Transportation estimate of three weeks to remove the 30,000 cubic yards of rock and debris that came crashing down on U.S. 64 West in the Ocoee Gorge on November 10. Officials say the road may not open until just after the first of the year at the earliest.

<http://cherokeescout.com/articles/2009/11/17/news/doc4b031fe9280ef374408117.txt>

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