

Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

December 15, 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.

[\\$30 Million Grants Awarded To Tennessee \(Sparta Expositor\)](#)

- Buffer Zone Protection Program (BZPP)-\$1.0 million to increase the preparedness capabilities of jurisdictions responsible for the safety and security of Tennessee's critical infrastructure.
- Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) - \$2.4 million to protect critical port infrastructure in Tennessee from terrorism threats that could cause major disruption to commerce.

<http://spartaexpositor.com/articles/2009/12/14/news/doc4b263983c9a37832598195.txt>

[Signal Repairs On Track For Completion \(Chattanooga Times Free-Press/Crisp\)](#)

Repairs to the collapsed road leading to Signal Mountain are on target for the original seven- to 10-day completion date, even after a construction worker lost control of an excavator this weekend and tumbled 30 or so feet down the mountainside. Bart Saucer, project engineer with Wright Brothers Construction, which is doing the repair work, said he thought the road could be ready for motorists by Monday of next week, if not earlier. The accident "set us back a little bit, but not much," Mr. Saucer said. "This type of work is pretty dangerous." The employee was not injured and has returned to work, said Jennifer Flynn, region spokeswoman for the Tennessee Department of Transportation. Mr. Saucer said about 8,000 tons of rock will be poured into the crater, left after heavy rains last Tuesday evening caused water to cascade off the mountain, slamming into the road and breaking it apart. After the hole is filled, TDOT workers will pave it, Ms. Flynn said.

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2009/dec/15/signal-repairs-track-completion/>

[Leaders Applaud Slide Response \(Chattanooga Times Free-Press/Hardy\)](#)

Despite having a piece of a major roadway fall away, Signal Mountain leaders say there is a silver lining. Town leaders lauded county and state agencies for their prompt response to the early Wednesday morning rock slide that left a portion of Signal Mountain Boulevard missing. "You hate to see these things," Town Manager Honna Rogers said, "but it gives you the opportunity to see how well a county and different agencies can work together." Members of the Town Council and the audience applauded the work of crews throughout the ordeal. "This is one case where you guys just really jumped on the gun," Mayor Bill Lusk said. Tennessee Department of Transportation officials attended the meeting and proposed completely closing the road overnight to expedite repairs. Currently, traffic is reduced to one lane in the area of the slide. "I think that's an excellent proposal," Mr. Lusk said.

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2009/dec/15/leaders-applaud-slide-response/>

[TVA Plan For Dams Worries Residents \(Knoxville News-Sentinel/Barker\)](#)

Agency will hold meeting to hear from Tellico Village homeowners Raising the height of Tellico Dam has raised concerns about flooding among residents of Tellico Village, the upscale lakefront development in Loudon County. But Tennessee Valley Authority officials said the project would prepare Tellico and three other dams for a catastrophic, worst-case scenario that is unlikely to happen. Over the next few weeks, TVA will complete a \$6 million project that will temporarily raise the height of Tellico, Watts Bar, Fort Loudoun and Cherokee dams until construction begins to permanently raise the structures. TVA officials will meet with Tellico Village residents at 7 p.m. tonight at the Tellico Community Church Fellowship Hall to discuss the project. Ron Schuster of the Tellico Village Homeowners Association said lakefront property owners are worried that TVA is preparing to raise water levels. "If they raise the water 20 feet, my boathouse would be under water," Schuster said.

<http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2009/dec/15/tva-plan-for-dams-worries-residents/>

[Rock Slide Closes Scenic Highway \(Chattanooga Times Free Press\) With Video](#)

As workers continued to dig out loose rock beneath Signal Mountain Boulevard on Saturday, another Hamilton County mountainside began giving way and fell to the road along Lookout Mountain's Scenic Highway. Three times in about the last month, rocks and earth gave way and closed major traffic arteries in the area. The first slide, on Nov. 10 along U.S. Highway 64 in Polk County, will take two months to clear, officials said.

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2009/dec/13/rock-slide-closes-scenic-highway/?local>

-Across the State Line-

[Highway Planning Suffers With Loss Of Federal Money \(Timesdaily.Com\) Alabama](#)

Instead of planning highway improvement projects years in advance, the Alabama Department of Transportation is virtually working on a day-by-day schedule because of the lack of a new federal highway bill. That and the loss of \$176 million in unobligated federal highway money has left many projects in a state of limbo, said DOT spokesman Tony Harris. "We can't make any long-range plans," Harris said. "It almost takes our five-year plan and renders it - I don't want to say meaningless - but it almost does."

<http://www.timesdaily.com/article/20091214/ARTICLES/912145009/1011/NEWS?Title=Highway-planning-suffers-with-loss-of-federal-money>

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