

Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

December 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.

[Message Boards Popping Up Along Chatt. Highways, Interstates \(TFP/Hightower\)](#)

Drivers on interstates and highways in Chattanooga soon will see warning signs of upcoming traffic problems, giving them a chance to taking another route, officials say. "If there is a crash, say two or three miles up I-75, you'll know about it ahead of time, so you can plan an alternate route, even if you're on the interstate," Jennifer Flynn, spokeswoman for the Tennessee Department of Transportation, said Tuesday. "The signs are strategically placed; you will have an option." Sixteen message boards are being placed on Interstates 75 and 24, as well as on U.S. Highway 27 and State Route 153, Mrs. Flynn said. Four signs already have been placed along I-75 and Highway 153, she said. The \$21 million project stretches from Marion County to Bradley County and to North Georgia, she said. No signs are being placed in Alabama, records show. Along with the message boards, signs are being placed around the city to alert motorists on how to tune to a highway advisory radio station that warns of traffic problems, she said.

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2009/dec/30/message-boards-popping-up-along-chattanooga/>

[TDOT Preps Roads For Winter Weather \(WSMV-TV Nashville\)](#)

Work Crews Rush To Beat The Rain It's that time of year when the bridges and overpasses in our area turn that milky white color. Tennessee Department of Transportation maintenance crews poured a brine mixture on bridges and overpasses across the state, even though there is no snow in the forecast tonight. "We so often see our winter weather come in as rain first," said TDOT spokesperson B.J. Doughty, "When they get a sunny day like this they're going to take the opportunity" to put the brine down. TDOT said the brine will be effective even if it does rain. The new beet mixture TDOT announced it will use to keep roads free of ice won't be put down until the temperatures drop below 20 degrees.

<http://www.wsmv.com/news/22082638/detail.html>

[Winter Weather Coverage: TDOT's New Tools \(WREG-TV Memphis\)](#)

The Tennessee Department of Transportation is testing some new tools this season to deal with winter weather. In certain parts of the state they'll be using a new mixture that includes beet juice. The juice will be mixed with salt and brine to help the compound stick to the roads longer. "It will make the salt and salt brine more effective and will help reduce the amount of salt used by TDOT," says TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely. TDOT will also be testing a giant new snow-moving machine in Western Tennessee. It's a giant truck that tows a plow that's 25-feet-wide, and can clear two lanes at the same time. At TDOT's yard in Arlington, Steve Lemmon helps develop the game-plan when mother nature threatens to hit us with winter weather. "We're here to prevent accidents and serve the public," he says. Lemmon had his crews load several salt trucks Tuesday afternoon just in case they're needed overnight. His motto is simple, "If the snow hits, be ready."

<http://www.wreg.com/news/wreg-snow-preps-december,0,6764132.story?track=rss>

[Loss Of Funding Won't Halt Bypass Work \(Times-Gazette\)](#)

Future state road projects in Bedford County might be delayed after federal highway funds were rescinded, but work on the Shelbyville bypass will continue, a spokesperson with the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) said. A report published this past weekend by The Tennessean and The Associated Press claimed that about \$250 million earmarked for road work from the federal stimulus act passed earlier this year, also known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, had been rescinded. That money was how Tennessee was able to fund the long-awaited bypass around northeastern Shelbyville. However, TDOT spokesperson B.J. Doughty told the Times-Gazette on Monday that the report was in error -- instead, it is the regular federal appropriation that each state receives, not the stimulus funding, that was impacted. "That money has already been spent," Doughty said of the stimulus money. "The Shelbyville bypass will go on as planned."

<http://www.t-g.com/story/1598228.html>

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