

Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

January 22, 2010

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.

[Too Much Water Coming Out Of Old Hickory Lake? \(Tennessean\)](#)

Corps puts moratorium on new water withdrawals A study will be conducted on Old Hickory's water supplies since the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers suspects the amount of water withdrawals there is having negative impacts. The Corps has put a moratorium on approving increases to existing water supply withdrawals or new water withdrawals and has mailed notices to municipal and industrial water supply users on Old Hickory Lake, according to an announcement. "The Corps has reason to believe the amount of water that users on Old Hickory Lake are collectively withdrawing is higher than the amount of water that would naturally enter the lake as rainfall runoff," Benjamin Rohrbach, Chief of the Nashville District's Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch said in the emailed announcement. "Our concern is that we're relying upon water released from storage in upstream reservoir projects to maintain the pool level at Old Hickory because of heavy water supply withdrawals from this lake."

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100121/NEWS01/100121046/1001/NEWS/Too+much+water+coming+out+of+Old+Hickory+Lake?>

[Stimulus Fund Pay For Wildlife Refuge Levee Repair \(Associated Press\)](#)

The Tennessee Valley Authority will receive \$2 million in federal stimulus funding to repair an 11-mile levee along the Tennessee River near New Johnsonville. The repair will benefit the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge and the funds were granted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar said in a release from the wildlife agency on Thursday that rebuilding the levee will ensure continued winter sanctuary for migratory waterfowl. Refuge manager John Taylor said the dike was build around 1945 and its initial purpose was mosquito control. The levee, situated where the Duck River flows into the Tennessee, encloses about 5,000 acres and supports thousands of wintering waterfowl.

<http://content.usatoday.net/dist/custom/gci/InsidePage.aspx?cid=tennessean&sParam=32589553.story>

[Potholes Appearing In Bristol Roads \(TriCities.com\)](#)

"It's certainly been worse than it was during the last few winters," Crowder said. "But we've haven't been overwhelmed. And things like the pavement failure [on Euclid and Commonwealth] have been isolated incidents, fortunately." Crowder said that because the pavement damage at the Euclid and Commonwealth Avenue site was wider and deeper than most potholes, maintenance crews can't just fill it with asphalt – the usual remedy. Instead, Crowder said, road crews must take out the entire section and totally re-do the road with fresh asphalt.

http://www2.tricitie.com/tri/news/local/article/potholes_appearing_in_bristol_roads/39775/

[Historic Bridge To Close For Repairs \(The Daily Beacon\)](#)

Knoxville's Henley Street Bridge will close this year for roadwork and repairs. The purpose for closing is to rehabilitate the bridge, Randy Kenner, communications coordinator for the City of Knoxville mayor's office, said. Kenner and other city employees are unsure when the bridge will close this spring. "This project is contingent of the passage of funding for the second year of TDOT's (Tennessee Department of Transportation) Better Bridges Program," Julie Oaks, TDOT public information officer, said. The Better Bridges Program was approved in 2009 to repair or replace bridges that are classified as structurally deficient. According to the TDOT's Web site, 111 bridges were listed as structurally deficient and were included in the Better Bridges Program for the first year. The Better Bridges Program is a four-year project approved by the Tennessee General Assembly.

<http://dailybeacon.utk.edu/showarticle.php?articleid=56116>

[NC Officials To Attend Cocke County Public Meeting For Opinions On Canton Paper Mill Pollution Of Pigeon River \(WBIR\) With Video](#)

How much wastewater can a North Carolina paper mill dump in the Pigeon River that flows into Cocke County? East Tennesseans will have an opportunity to publicly answer that question at a meeting with North Carolina environmental officials at Cocke County High School on Monday, January 26. Registration for the meeting begins at 5 p.m. and presentations begin at 6 p.m. "This is the first time we have ever had a public meeting like this in Cocke County where we can give our input directly to the folks in North Carolina about the paper mill in Canton discharging wastewater upstream," said Cocke County Mayor Iliff McMahan Jr. "This is as important as any public meeting we have ever had in this county since I have been in office." Cocke County is hosting the meeting at the request of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). North Carolina officials **[have drafted a renewal for the permit](#)** that regulates how much wastewater the paper mill in Canton, NC, can discharge into the river that flows into Tennessee. <http://www.wbir.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=111309&catid=2>

[Oxendine Would Dip Into Water At Ga./Tenn. Border \(Chattanooga Times Free Press\) With Video](#)

Georgia gubernatorial candidate John Oxendine said if he's elected he'll meet with Tennessee's new governor to discuss ways Georgia could gain access to the Tennessee River. If negotiations fail, he vowed to take his request to the U.S. Supreme Court. [Said "the border is wrong"] <http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2010/jan/21/video-oxendine-would-dip-water-border/>

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