

Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

February 03, 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.

[West Tenn. Highway Closed For 2 Years \(Associated Press\)](#)

A state route in West Tennessee is closed to all but local traffic for more than two years while seven bridges are replaced. The Tennessee Department of Transportation closed Rt. 436 in Carroll County on Tuesday so work could begin. Officials said closing the highway will allow the work to be done faster and more safely. The 9.8-mile stretch is between McKenzie and U.S. 70-A. Dement Construction was awarded a \$6,679,000 contract to replace the bridges. The project is scheduled to be completed by June 2012. TDOT says people who live along Rt. 436 or have land there will have access to their property during construction. Detours have been marked.

<http://content.usatoday.net/dist/custom/gci/InsidePage.aspx?cld=tennessean&sParam=32694497.story>

[Crews Working To Clean Up Overnight Rockslide In Blount County \(WATE-TV Knoxville\)](#)

Officials are working to clean up a rockslide in Blount County. The Blount County Sheriff's Department says it was first alerted to the rockslide on State Highway 73 around 2:20 a.m. Wednesday. Dispatchers say the rockslide is near the entrance to the Tremont campground. Fortunately, no one was injured during the incident. Blount County officials contacted the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Services to assist in the clean up. They say park services is currently working to clean up the fallen boulders. TDOT has also been notified and is currently figuring out its response plan. Dispatchers say at least one lane of traffic is currently blocked. No word on when it will be cleaned up.

<http://www.wate.com/global/story.asp?s=11924313>

[Ocoee River Gorge Put On Endangered List \(Knoxville News-Sentinel/Simmons\)](#)

Proposal would run highway through area A proposed highway project through the Ocoee River gorge has placed that area on an environmental organization's top 10 list of the most endangered places in the South. The Southern Environmental Law Center's report says that the four-lane route being considered through the mountains in Polk County would damage wildlife habitat and bring traffic and polluted runoff to the river and surrounding Cherokee National Forest. Under the proposal, the alternative route would divert commercial traffic off of U.S. Highway 64 - a narrow, winding road through the Ocoee River gorge in Polk County that currently is closed near Ocoee Dam No. 2 because of a Nov. 10 rockslide. The new highway is meant to reduce the number of vehicle wrecks and toxic spills in the Ocoee River gorge. Proponents say the new road is needed because the existing highway is dangerous and inadequate to meet the needs of truck traffic. Opponents say the project's \$1 billion price tag and environmental repercussions make it a bad idea.

<http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2010/feb/01/ocoee-river-gorge-put-on-endangered-list/>

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