

Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

February 10, 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.

[Contract Let To Clear US 441 Slide In Mountains \(Associated Press\)](#)

Cleanup of a rockslide in the Smokies can move ahead, now that an emergency contract has been awarded. The Tennessee Department of Transportation let the \$713,909 contract to Charles Blalock & Sons, Inc., on Monday. It calls for cleaning up the debris and allowing for the opening of the southbound lanes of the U.S. 441 Spur between Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg. The project is to be completed by March. 12. A portion of the mountainside gave way near Pigeon Forge on Jan. 25. TDOT Region One Director Steve Borden said the department understands the importance of the highway to tourists and residents and looks forward to reopening that section. Southbound traffic is bypassing the slide on a detour that reduces the northbound side to one lane in each direction.

<http://content.usatoday.net/dist/custom/gci/InsidePage.aspx?cld=tennessean&sParam=32756435.story>

[Rocky Road Cleanup \(Chattanooga Times Free-Press/Sohn\)](#)

U.S. 64 connecting Chattanooga and Cleveland to Copperhill, Tenn.; McCaysville, Ga., and North Carolina still is expected to be open by March 31 after being closed by a major rock slide on Nov. 10. Work has not begun yet on a second, smaller slide that occurred on Jan. 19, though it is expected to be cleared before the larger one, according to Tennessee Department of Transportation spokeswoman Jennifer Flynn. The contracted cost to clear the largest slide is \$2.1 million. The contracted cost to clear the smaller slide, which occurred 7 miles from the first slide, is \$759,000. On Monday, crews drilled the side of the slope above the major slide in preparation for a pre-split blast to bring down the remaining outcrop of unstable rock hanging above the road. By the numbers * 49 days until all work is done

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2010/feb/10/rocky-road-cleanup/>

[Wintry Weather Adding To Growing Memphis Street Menace: Potholes \(CA/Moore\)](#)

Potholes are breaking out all over the Mid-South, created by the recent merry-go-round of wet weather, freezing temperatures and warming trends. In recent weeks, complaints to the city of Memphis about damaged roads have gone up between 10 percent and 20 percent and by about 40 percent in unincorporated Shelby County... The city fixes 40,000 to 60,000 potholes annually at an estimated cost of \$400,000 from the \$6 million street maintenance budget. The city takes care of 6,000 lane miles (some streets have five or six lanes). The Tennessee Department of Transportation repaves state highways such as Poplar and Elvis Presley Boulevard, but the potholes are fixed by the city. With the additional calls for repairs, the city has eight to 10 crews out fixing the holes and most calls made before noon to the city's pothole hot line will get the hole filled that day, Knecht said.

<http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2010/feb/10/potholes-a-pain-to-roads-vehicles/>

[Emory River To Remain Closed Until May 15 \(Knoxville News-Sentinel\)](#)

The closure of the Emory River has been extended until May 15 because of the cleanup of the Kingston coal ash spill, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced today. The river has been closed for six miles beginning at its confluence with the Clinch River since Aug. 11. The river was supposed to re-open Feb. 15, but the EPA and the Tennessee Valley Authority have brought in large hydraulic dredge equipment to speed up the ash removal from the river. The EPA, TVA and the U.S. Coast Guard decided to keep the river closed for safety reasons, a notice from the EPA states. The first phase of the cleanup is aimed at removing 3 million cubic yards of coal ash from the Emory River. Phase II, which involves almost all the remaining ash, is scheduled to begin in the spring. A Dec. 22, 2008, spill at TVA's Kingston Fossil Plant dumped a total of 5.4 million cubic yards of coal ash from a raised retention pond.

<http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2010/feb/09/emory-river-remain-closed-may-15/>

[Second Spur Slide Not Expected To Effect Tourism \(The Seymour Herald\)](#) with Photo

Between 7 and 8 p.m. Monday night workers from the Park, TDOT, Blalock and Sons, and Pigeon Forge worked together to remove all the cones, barriers and signs that were installed last Friday to detour all the south-bound traffic toward Gatlinburg via the Huskey Grove Road overpass. Traffic flow is now expected to return to what it was before Friday's slide. With two slides occurring within a month, and the second slide now cleared...

<http://seymourherald.com/news/2010/feb/09/second-spur-slide-not-expected/>

###