

Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

February 11, 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.

[Weather Causing Pothole Problems, Delaying Patching Process \(WPLN-Radio\)](#)

Tennessee highways and surface streets are pocked with an unusually high number of potholes. Transportation officials blame the extreme cold spell at the first of the year and recent snow events. The state's Department of Transportation doesn't have a running count of the interstate potholes, but a spokesperson says it's unusual to have so many this early in the winter. And that complicates the patching process, because hot asphalt can't really be used until mid-March when the temperatures are more consistently warm. Until then, road crews have to use a less permanent cold-mix, which an official calls a "band-aid." While the roads won't be fully repaired until spring, Aaron Lane at Bass Tire is working overtime replacing blown tires and truing bent wheels. "Bad for the customer. Good for business. But I hate it." Drivers whose cars are damaged by interstate potholes can ask that the state foot the bill. However, of the 250 claims submitted last year, only 21 were paid.

<http://wpln.org/?p=14816>

[More Of Emory River Closed For TVA Ash Cleanup \(Associated Press\)](#)

An expanded area of the Emory River has been closed until at least May 15 for dredging operations that are part of cleaning up the Tennessee Valley Authority's coal ash spill at Kingston. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and TVA said in a statement that extending the area from mile marker zero to mile marker 6 is for safety reasons while large hydraulic equipment is brought in and operated. No river traffic will be allowed in the area. The river was first closed to the 1.5 mile marker in August and had been previously extended to mile marker 4. EPA region spokeswoman Davina Marraccini told the Chattanooga Times Free Press that 2.2 million cubic yards of coal ash have been removed from the river. That's about 70 percent of the ash that spilled into the water in December 2008.

<http://content.usatoday.net/dist/custom/gci/InsidePage.aspx?cld=tennessean&sParam=32767551.story>

[Mass Transit Is Viable Option \(Tennessean\)](#)

A mass public transit line from Gallatin to Nashville is a likely candidate to be included in the Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's 2035 Regional Transportation Plan. The Nashville MPO funded two studies recently, one of which concentrated on the possibility of a northeast corridor that would stretch to Gallatin. "They designed and funded and conducted those studies so they could get more information on the possibilities of the Nashville-to-Gallatin corridor, so it could be included in their upcoming 2035 regional transportation plan," said Bridget Jones, executive director of Cumberland Region Tomorrow, a 10-county collaborative organization looking out for the interests of regional growth in Middle Tennessee.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100210/GALLATIN01/100210023/2138/Mass+transit+is+viable+option>

[Congress Considers Additional Funding for Water \(WaterWorld.com\)](#)

The Senate was expected to consider a bill early in 2010 that would add \$1 billion each for the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs). The House of Representatives narrowly passed the \$39 billion bill "Jobs for Main Street Act" (H.R. 2847), in December. The vote was 217-212. The SRF provisions would waive the requirement that states provide matching funds for eligible water infrastructure projects. The bill directs states to use at least half of their funding share for loan forgiveness and 20% for "green infrastructure" projects. States would prioritize projects that could begin construction within 12 months. Funds not committed within 8 months of the bill's enactment would revert to the federal government.

<http://www.waterworld.com/index/display/article-display/4049007689/articles/waterworld/volume-26/issue-2/departments/washington-update/congress-considers.html>

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