

## Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

February 15, 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.

#### [Salt Shortage Forcing Kingsport To Ration Application If Needed \(Times-News\)](#)

Like most localities around the Southeast, recent snow activity has placed a dent in the salt level for Kingsport's public works department, causing the city to alter its salt-spreading routes until more supplies arrive. City of Kingsport Government and Community Relations Director Tim Whaley says 175 tons of salt are all that is left after road crews dumped higher than normal amounts following a series of snow events that blanketed the Model City since December. "We are hopeful another 150 tons will be delivered sometime (this week), with a total of 550 tons to be delivered over the next few days. We have orders in for additional tonnage beyond that, but it will take a while to receive," said Whaley. "Salt providers are doing everything they can and are working very hard to make timely deliveries. A major problem is that there is so much water flowing in the river system, TVA is unable to allow barges carrying salt to utilize the lock system. There are five barges backed up below Knoxville on Fort Loudoun Lake on the Tennessee River; another four barges are backed up below Chattanooga."

<http://www.timesnews.net/article.php?id=9020600>

#### [Road Costs Pile Up With Snow \(Jackson Sun\)](#)

City street maintenance costs estimated at \$100K after 3 record snowfalls Three record snowfalls in Jackson have cost the city an estimated \$100,000 in road maintenance costs, adding additional stress to an already tight city budget. Jackson received a record 6 inches of snow on Jan. 30, exceeding the previous record of 5.2 inches set in 1966, according to the National Weather Service in Memphis Web site. The city received a record 3 inches of snowfall on Feb. 8, surpassing that month's previous record of 2.9 inches set in 1971. January's record-setting winter weather cost the city \$61,400 in cleanup fees, said Jackson Mayor Jerry Gist. Those costs include \$16,100 for equipment and equipment maintenance, \$13,900 in employee overtime and \$31,400 in salt. February costs had yet to be totaled as of Thursday. January cleanup costs are 400 percent more than what the city usually allots for yearly snow removal. The additional costs mean the city will have less money to use for future fiscal year ventures.

<http://www.jacksonsun.com/article/20100214/BUSINESS/2140311/Road-costs-pile-up-with-snow>

#### [Nashville Mayor Dean Turns Eye To Mass Transit \(Tennessean\)](#)

"The money is scary," Dean said. "But when you think of the region — and the Denver project is a big region like Middle Tennessee — as connecting Gallatin, Hendersonville, Clarksville, Murfreesboro, Franklin, Wilson County ... it's going to be an extremely expensive thing and it's going to take years to accomplish."

Dean cautioned against delaying a massive transportation overhaul any longer.

"I think transportation is so important, long-term, for the quality of life and economic viability of this region, that we have to do it," Dean said.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100215/NEWS0202/2150346/2066/NEWS03>

**[Vanderbilt Plays Lead Role In New Transit Initiative \(Vanderbilt News\)](#)**

A new nonprofit corporation has been created to promote public transportation in Middle Tennessee, with Vanderbilt as the primary sponsor. Vanderbilt has committed \$100,000 per year for the next three years to help fund the Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee. "Mass transit is already an important part of the daily commute of many of Vanderbilt's more than 23,000 employees," said Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos. "This is an investment by Vanderbilt into the Nashville community and the convenience and comfort of everyone who teaches, researches, heals, studies and works at our campus every day. Vanderbilt is proud to be a leader in pursuing an expanded mass transit system in the interests of the environment, the economy and future generations."

<http://sitemason.vanderbilt.edu/news/campusnews/2010/02/15/vanderbilt-plays-lead-role-in-new-transit-initiative.107054>

**[Dandridge Bridge To Close For Repairs \(Knox News Sentinel\)](#)**

Work crews on March 1 will close the State Route 92 bridge over the French Broad River for at least six weeks for repair work. The \$1,483,607 project began in November with Southern Contractors Inc., workers spot-painting structural steel under the bridge so as not to inhibit traffic. But on March 1 the bridge will be closed as repairs on steel stringers, removal of the asphalt surface, repairs on the concrete deck and applying a new bridge deck sealant are performed. During the closure, traffic will be detoured to U.S. Highway 25/70 and U.S. Highway 411/State Route 35 back to SR 95.

<http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2010/feb/12/dandridge-bridge-close-repairs/>

**[Mother Nature Busts State's Snow Budget \(Knox News Sentinel\)](#)**

A cold Mother Nature is wreaking havoc on the state's snow and ice removal budget. "As of last week, we already were \$2 million over budget for the state," Yvette Martinez, Tennessee Department of Transportation Region One spokeswoman, said today. According to TDOT, officials budgeted \$12 million for ice and snow removal for the winter of 2009-10.

<http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2010/feb/15/mother-nature-busts-states-snow-budget/>

**[City To Seek State Funds For Railroad Spur \(Shelbyville Times Gazette\)](#)**

The council approved a resolution to apply for a grant from Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (ECD) for funding for a part of the costs of the construction of a rail spur line to the former Quintec building on Railroad Avenue. The state legislature has appropriated funds for the Fast Track Infrastructure Development Program administered by ECD.

<http://www.t-g.com/story/1610426.html>

**[Athens Sewer Project Receives Loan Increase \(TheChattanooga.com\)](#)**

The Tennessee Local Development Authority (TLDA) has approved a \$650,000 increase in a loan to the city of Athens to extend sewer service to a planned industrial park. With the increase, which was approved Thursday, Athens will be receiving a total loan amount of \$4,740,395.

[http://www.chattanooga.com/articles/article\\_168748.asp](http://www.chattanooga.com/articles/article_168748.asp)

**-Across the State Line-**

**[Light Rail, Proposed Solution To Road Problems \(WAFF48\) Alabama](#)**

With BRAC needs staring us in the face every day, Doug Gooch, a builder and concerned citizen, believes light rail is the way to go. After spending 20 years in Orlando, he said he doesn't want to see the same thing happen to Huntsville. "You live by turnpike or by toll road," Gooch said, referring to Orlando. He says we have the ability to reuse railroad beds that were constructed back in 1941 and we don't have right of way issues.

<http://www.waff.com/Global/story.asp?S=11966686>

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