

Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

February 19, 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.

[Rail Projects In Fayette, Montgomery, Stewart Counties Get Boost In Fed Grants \(AP\)](#)

Tennessee is getting a total of \$55.3 million in federal grants for two rail projects. The Tennessee Department of Transportation said the funds, under the federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery program, will pay for railroad improvements in Fayette, Stewart and Montgomery counties. Most of the money — \$52.5 million — will go for construction of an intermodal freight transfer facility in Fayette County, near Memphis. The project is part of the Crescent Corridor — a 2,500-mile rail route operated by Norfolk Southern Corporation that extends from New Jersey to Memphis and New Orleans. There is also \$2.8 million to rehabilitate short freight lines in northwestern Middle Tennessee and to construct a new switching terminal near Memphis.

<http://www.whnt.com/news/sns-ap-tn--railgrants.0.4097672.story>

[TDOT Obligates All Of Stimulus Funds \(Associated Press\)](#)

The Tennessee Department of Transportation says the state is one of the first states to obligate 100 percent of stimulus money for highway infrastructure. Officials said Wednesday that the department's use of more than \$572 million in highway infrastructure investment funds comes two weeks ahead of the March 1 deadline required under the federal law. States that fail to meet the deadline lose any unobligated funds. Tennessee is using its funds on more than 412 projects. The state has completed work on 136 projects and has paid out more than \$223 million in funds.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100219/NEWS0201/2190353/1009/NEWS>

[Knoxville Awarded Grant To Lure Low-Cost Airline Service To DC \(WVLT-TV Knoxville\)](#)

Knoxville's airport may soon offer a less expensive option for travelers headed to the nation's capital. On Thursday the Department of Transportation awarded the Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority a \$500,000 grant to help lure a lost-fare airline into opening a route between McGhee Tyson Airport and one of the three major airports in the Washington DC-Baltimore area. The MCAA was one of 84 airport authorities that applied for the Small Community Air Service Development Grant last year. Only 19 of them received it. "The Small Community Air Service Development Grant Program is highly Competitive, with many worthy communities submitting proposals," said Kirk Huddleston, Chairman of the Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority Board of Commissioners in a news release. "Without the support of our leaders in Washington, the State of Tennessee, our regional leaders and partners, this grant award would not have been possible."

<http://www.volunteertv.com/news/headlines/84761327.html>

[\\$500k Federal Grant To McGhee-Tyson To Help Land Mystery Airline \(WBIR-TV Knox\)](#)

With one home in Knoxville and another in Nairobi, Kenya, Evans Kariuki knows the East Tennessee to Washington D.C. route. He does the 28 hour trip at least four times a year. "Normally, we do Knoxville-D.C. D.C.-Amsterdam, Amsterdam-Nairobi," he said. Thursday, he was pleased at news the federal government announced McGhee-Tyson Airport is the recipient of a \$500,000 grant to help lure a low-fare carrier to offer service from here to Baltimore. "Any opportunity to get to D.C. more frequently, and more opportunities to get there, I think that's a very good idea," he said. With Oak Ridge's business ties to the capitol the airport says Knoxville could use another airline offering the service. While United Airlines and US Airways already fly to Washington Dulles and Reagan International.

<http://www.wbir.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=113609&provider=rss>

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