

## Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

February 22, 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.

#### **[Federal Grants To Benefit TN Rail Projects \(Associated Press\)](#)**

Tennessee is getting a total of \$55.3 million in federal grants for two rail projects. The Tennessee Department of Transportation said the funds from 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.tennessean.com/article/20100221/NEWS0201/2210358/1001/NEWS/Federal+grants+to+benefit+TN+rail+projects>

#### **[Maynardville Highway Sinkhole To Be Repaired Today \(Knoxville News-Sentinel\)](#)**

The southbound lane of Maynardville Highway remains closed in the Halls community because of a large sinkhole that developed Friday afternoon at mile marker 15.8. Tennessee Department of Transportation crews patched the 3-foot-deep hole Friday night, but freezing temperatures did not allow the concrete to dry and solidify, said Yvette Martinez, TDOT spokeswoman. Crews are expected to dig up the filler today, refill it and cover it with asphalt after a geologist examines it, Martinez said.

<http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2010/feb/21/maynardville-highway-sinkhole-be-repaired-today/>

#### **[Sinkhole Disrupts Traffic North Of Knoxville \(Associated Press\)](#)**

A sinkhole has disrupted traffic on State Route 33 north of Knoxville. Tennessee Department of Transportation crews closed one lane of the road, known as Maynardville Highway, Friday afternoon. After repairs, the lane is expected to reopen Saturday afternoon. The sinkhole, in the southbound lane, measured 2 1/2 feet wide, 3 feet long and 3 feet deep. Crews moved traffic into the turn lane to keep vehicles moving southbound into Halls. TDOT said in a news release that geologists will examine the sinkhole Monday.

<http://www.wate.com/global/story.asp?s=12015445>

### -Across the State Line-

#### **[Burlington Northern Buys 32 Acres In Birmingham \(Birmingham Business Journal\) AL](#)**

A [Berkshire Hathaway](#)-owned railroad has purchased a former pet food manufacturing facility in Birmingham and is sizing up the facility for future expansion. [Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway](#) purchased the nearly 32-acre Mars Petcare facility on 16th Street North, adjacent to its Birmingham intermodal facility, for \$3 million. Plans for the nearly 157,000-square-foot facility are not finalized, a company spokesman said, but the purchase came about from an increase of requests from businesses looking for opportunity to be rail served. "The idea is for us to better serve our existing and potential customers," said spokesman Joe Faust. [BNSF](#) operates an intermodal facility off Finley Boulevard, between Interstate 65 and Highway 78. According to the company, Birmingham is the starting point for its 32,000-mile network into the Western U.S.

<http://birmingham.bizjournals.com/birmingham/stories/2010/02/22/story3.html?b=1266814800^2909241>

**[N.C. Railroad Co. Study To Assess Commuter-Rail Demand \(Triangle Business Journal\) NC](#)**

The [North Carolina Railroad Co.](#) plans to conduct a commuter rail ridership and market study for the 140 miles of the NCRR rail corridor that runs from Goldsboro to Greensboro. The study, which will take six to nine months to complete, will be a follow-up to a commuter rail cost study completed by NCRR in 2008. That study found that it would be logistically possible to operate commuter rail service on the same tracks that carry [Norfolk Southern](#) (NYSE: NSC) freight trains and [Amtrak](#) passenger trains. But the price tag for 29-stop line running through seven counties is projected to be \$1 billion, which would pay for the stations, track upgrades and other infrastructure needed to make the project work.

<http://triangle.bizjournals.com/triangle/stories/2009/03/16/daily65.html>

###