

Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

March 16, 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.

[Senator Wants State To Keep Highway Money \(WSMV-TV Nashville\)](#)

Proposal Would Allow Tennessee To Opt Out Of Federal Highway Fund With Congressional Approval: One state lawmaker wants Tennessee to opt out of the Federal Highway Trust Fund if Congress will authorize it. Right now, drivers pay 18.4 cents in taxes on every gallon of gas they buy. That money goes into the federal Highway Trust Fund to pay for highway projects around the country. Tennessee is what's called a "donor state." For every dollar of gas taxes Tennessee puts into the fund, it only gets 92 cents back for highway projects. The remaining money funds projects in other states. State Sen. Tim Burchett, a Republican from Knoxville, says he is tired of Tennessee giving money to other states to fund highway projects. Burchett is hoping Congress will allow states to opt out of the fund and keep all of the taxes raised. That is would bring an estimated \$67 million a year more in gas taxes.

<http://www.wsmv.com/politics/22849329/detail.html>

[Bell Road To Close For Dam Work \(City Paper\)](#)

The section of Bell Road that crosses J. Percy Priest Dam will close daily from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 22-26, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced Monday. The road closure is part of an ongoing project improve water quality in the Stones River. While the roadway is closed, a crane will be positioned on the dam to remove a bulkhead and replace some 36-inch pipe. New pipe will allow water to be released through a minimum flow valve which will add oxygen as it falls back into the river. Falling water releases hydrogen sulfide, a naturally occurring byproduct of decaying algae, that can cause taste and odor problems. The project will benefit the aquatic species below the dam and will provide for a continuous flow of water in the river. It is scheduled to be completed by spring 2010.

<http://nashvillecitypaper.com/content/city-news/bell-road-close-dam-work>

[Percy Priest Dam Work To Close Bell Road \(WSMV-TV Nashville\)](#)

Work on a local dam may cause some headaches for drivers. The Army Corps of Engineers needs to replace a pipe at Nashville's Percy Priest Dam in order to add oxygen to water as it falls into Stones River. The goal is to improve water quality. In order to do the work, Bell Road across the dam will be closed daily from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. next Monday through Friday.

<http://www.wsmv.com/traffic/22849008/detail.html>

###