

Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

March 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.

[Tennessee Chosen for Land Use Study \(News Channel 9 Chattanooga\)](#)

Tennessee has been selected by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) to participate in the Policy Academy on *Shaping a New Approach to Transportation and Land Use Planning*. The state will develop a Corridor Management Agreement in one of the state's urban areas that will later be applied to other transportation corridors across the state. The goal is to create a system that helps local planning agencies learn how to make land use decisions that better coordinate with transportation decisions made at the local and state level. Colorado, Maryland, Washington and West Virginia have also been selected to participate in the program.

<http://www.newschannel9.com/news/state-989695-land-transportation.html>

[Tennessee May Overhaul How It Spends Money With Private Sector \(Nashville Business Journal\)](#)

Companies that do business with the state of Tennessee should brace for a potential overhaul next year of the way the state spends its money. Legislation pending in the General Assembly would consolidate and modify the state's procurement and contract processes to make them easier to navigate and to save the state money. Critics, however, worry that the plan is too ambitious and susceptible to political abuses. The change would affect the way the state spends upwards of \$25 billion a year, according to Comptroller of the Treasury Justin Wilson. That money goes to vendors for services across the state ranging from road construction to pharmacy benefits.

<http://nashville.bizjournals.com/nashville/stories/2010/03/22/story1.html?b=1269230400^3063641>

[Pedestrian Bridge Over Fort Loudoun Lake Being Bid \(Knoxville News Sentinel\)](#)

The city of Knoxville is hoping to spur economic development with a new pedestrian and bicycle bridge that will span Fort Loudoun Lake from the South Waterfront to the University of Tennessee campus. Engineering firms are being invited to submit their qualifications to work on the project by April 1. Users could access it from about Clancy Avenue on the south side of the water or from the upper-level pedestrian walkway between Thompson-Boling Arena and Pratt Pavilion on campus. No definite date for construction has been set, said Dave Hill, senior director for the South Waterfront Development Department. Hill said 22 firms, including six or seven civil engineering firms, have expressed interest so far.

<http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2010/mar/18/pedestrian-bridge-fort-loudoun-lake-bid/>

[A Fix For The Stormwater Fee? \(Chattanooga Times Free Press\)](#)

The 2010 rate for the city's stormwater run-off fee for non-residential property that the City Council adopted on first reading Tuesday -- \$6.15 per basis unit -- would probably meet the anecdotal definition of a fair compromise: neither side is happy. It's too low to meet city hall's list of projected needs to revamp and significantly improve the city's stormwater run-off program and earn compliance with Clean Water Act standards. And it's more than 20 percent above the \$5 maximum that City Council's blue ribbon study committee recommended last month as a solution to controversy over the fee. Still, the reduced rate, if adopted on a final reading, would amount to significant relief from the current base rate of \$9.60, which resulted in new stormwater run-off bills that reach into the tens of thousands of dollars for a number of area businesses and non-profit institutions. By state and regional comparisons found by the blue ribbon committee, however, even the new lower fee would still be the single highest rate in Tennessee and in surrounding southern states, and far above Tennessee's average stormwater fees.

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2010/mar/18/t2-a-fix-for-the-stormwater-fee/>

[Dragon Closed To State Line; Work Begins On Little River Road Rockslide \(TheDailyTimes.Com\)](http://www.thedailytimes.com/article/20100319/NEWS/100319960)

The Tennessee Department of Transportation has closed the "The Dragon," U.S. 129 from the site of a rockslide two miles south of the Chilhowee Dam all the way to the North Carolina state line. Due to the complexity and severity of the rockslide that occurred on U.S. 129/SR-115 on Sunday morning, law enforcement and emergency crews will have very limited emergency access to the Dragon. TDOT is continuing to assess the situation and is in the process of completing a stabilization plan. Efforts to complete an emergency contract are in the final stages but there is not a timeline for repairs to begin at this time, according to TDOT Public Information Officer Yvette Martinez. Meanwhile, motorists can take temporary detours around the rockslide area.

<http://www.thedailytimes.com/article/20100319/NEWS/100319960>

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