

Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

March 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.

['Boro Opens 'Latest And Greatest' Water Plant \(The Murfreesboro Post\)](#)

Murfreesboro Water and Sewer Department (MWSD) completed a \$40 million upgrade at Stones River Water Treatment Plant (SRWTP) that put in place a state-of-the-art facility that can generate up to 20 million gallons of clean, potable drinking water each day. The improvement project began in 2004, according to SSR, but the project required another six years to complete primarily because improvements had to be made while the plant continued to operate. Construction of an entirely new treatment scheme while continuing operation of the existing treatment facility represented one of the greatest challenges, states the company's award application.

<http://www.murfreesboropost.com/boro-opens-latest-and-greatest-water-plant-cms-22482>

[Tennessee Commercial Construction Contracts Plummet \(Memphis Biz Journal\)](#)

Contracts for future construction in Tennessee again dipped in February, according to data released today by New York-based McGraw-Hill Construction. Overall construction was down 6 percent, but would have been far worse if not for a surge in infrastructure spending. According to McGraw-Hill, the value of contracts awarded in February was \$488.8 million, down 6 percent from the amount awarded a year earlier. That's also less than the \$491.5 million in contracts awarded in January, which was a 3 percent decrease compared to January 2009. Nonresidential construction — for commercial, industrial, educational buildings, etc. — took the biggest hit, falling 45 percent, to \$106.1 million worth of contracts in February. Residential construction fell 4 percent, to \$233.8 million. Nonbuilding construction — which includes infrastructure projects like roads, bridges, airports and utility systems — was up dramatically, rising 78 percent for a total of \$148.7 million in contracts, compared to \$83.5 million in February 2009.

<http://memphis.bizjournals.com/memphis/stories/2010/03/22/daily4.html?surround=lfm>

[CATS OFFICIALLY ABOUT TOWN \(Cookeville Times\)](#)

Sen. Tracy stated that he believes that the Cookeville Area Transit System (CATS) is a significant growth indicator for the area. "Right now, in this country, with the way economy is, we need to do everything we can to encourage jobs. This CATS system is very supportive of that. Oak Ridge did a study that shows every one dollar invested in public transportation translates into four to nine dollars in the local economy."

<http://www.ucdailynews.com/news/local/88741097.html>

[Season Of Rockslides: 7 Occur In Last 5 Months \(Knoxville News-Sentinel/Letsinger\)](#)

Road closures, lost business, cleanup cost counties TDOT veteran David Borden can't remember when East Tennessee has had so many rockslides in one season. Two occurred this week - one Thursday on Little River Road in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and one Sunday on U.S. Highway 129, aka the Dragon, just south of the Foothills Parkway junction. Others include a Jan. 25 slide along the "Spur," U.S. Highway 441 near Pigeon Forge at mile marker 21; one in Carter County near the Tennessee/North Carolina line on state Highway 19; and two - in January and in November - on U.S. Highway 64 in Polk County near the Ocoee 2 Dam. And don't forget the big one, which has had Interstate 40 shut down just inside the North Carolina state line since October.

<http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2010/mar/20/7-occur-in-last-5-months/>

[Opening Of Highway 64 Delayed Due To Weather \(Associated Press\)](#)

The state Department of Transportation says it is delaying the opening of section of U.S. Highway 64 that was closed by a November rock slide. TDOT said in a news release Friday that the highway from State Route 30 to just east of the Tennessee Valley Authority Ocoee 2 Dam was originally to be opened March 31. But recent weather caused the opening to be pushed back to April 16. The Knoxville News Sentinel reported the highway is used by river rafting companies to shuttle people to the Ocoee River.

<http://content.usatoday.net/dist/custom/gci/InsidePage.aspx?cid=tennessean&sParam=33070833.story>

[Rock Slide Cleanup To Take Longer \(Chattanooga Times Free-Press/Sohn, Higgins\)](#)

Swaying and bucking 15 stories up on a crane, Roger Haun stands on a platform, pounding a mechanical hammer into the rocky face of Little Frog Mountain. Every few minutes, boulders the size of chairs rumble down the slope, crashing to a stop where U.S. Highway 64 used to be. Contractors have been working 24 hours a day, seven days a week since March 8, trying to clear up the last of the rock slide that thundered onto the highway on Nov. 10. At the same time, they're also repairing the road and trying to make sure the mountain doesn't come tumbling down again. But they're going to work a little longer than expected. For the second time, the finish date of the cleanup and road reopening has been backed up. It was supposed to reopen March 31, but on Friday, Tennessee Department of Transportation Commissioner Gerald Nicely set the new date at April 16.

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2010/mar/20/rock-slide-cleanup-to-take-longer/>

[Reopening Delayed For Popular Polk County Highway Closed By Slide \(N-S\)](#)

A section of Little Frog Mountain on U.S. Highway 64 closed by a Nov. 15 rock slide will open by April 16, the Tennessee Department of Transportation announced today. The highway, from State Route 30 to just east of the Tennessee Valley Authority Ocoee 2 Dam, originally was to re-open by March 31, TDOT officials said in a statement. According to the press release, TDOT attributes the further delay in re-opening to extreme recent weather. "This has been a very wet and harsh winter," said TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely in a statement. "Crews cannot safely operate a crane in high winds or work along a slippery rock slope, so the contractor has not been able to accomplish as much work as anticipated." The highway is used by river rafting companies shuttling customers to put-in points on the Ocoee River.

<http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2010/mar/19/reopening-delayed-popular-polk-county-highway-clos/>

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