

Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

March 23, 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.

[Travel By Motorcoach Being Promoted In Tennessee \(Associated Press\)](#)

Gray Line of Tennessee has been chosen to showcase the graphics for a national campaign promoting travel by motorcoaches. The rolling billboard on a Gray Line bus displays the slogan "56 Fewer Cars Outside. Get Motorcoachified." Gray Line said in a news release its bus is the first motor coach in Tennessee and one of the first in the country to display the slogan. The promotion is sponsored by The Motorcoach Council Inc. Motorcoaches are a major part of the Tennessee tourism industry, carrying visitors to the Great Smoky Mountains area, Nashville, Graceland in Memphis and other spots.

<http://content.usatoday.net/dist/custom/gci/InsidePage.aspx?clid=tennessean&sParam=33097193.story>

[Stimulus Plan for Rail Line Shows System of Weak Links \(New York Times\)](#)

The drive from Orlando to Tampa takes only 90 minutes or so. Despite the short distance, the Obama administration awarded Florida \$1.25 billion in stimulus money to link the cities with a fast train to help kick off its efforts to bring high-speed rail service to the United States. The Florida train would indeed be high speed — as fast as 168 miles per hour. But because the trains would make five stops along the 84-mile route, the new service would shave only about half an hour off the trip. Time-pressed passengers may also find themselves frustrated at the end of their trip. Neither city is known for great public transportation, so travelers may discover that they have taken a fast train to a slow bus. Proponents of high-speed rail worry that the new line, which is scheduled to be up and running in 2015, might hurt rather than help their cause, if it comes to be seen as little more than an expensive way to whisk tourists from Orlando International Airport to Walt Disney World, which is slated to get its own stop. Even Representative John L. Mica, a Republican whose district in northeast Florida stops about 20 miles short of the proposed line, has questioned whether his state was the best choice to receive some of the \$8 billion that was set aside in the stimulus act for high-speed rail.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/23/us/23train.html?ref=todayspaper>

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