

Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

March 25, 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.

[Rock Slide Pushes Corridor K Into Public Spotlight \(Times Free-Press/Higgins\)](#)

Even as the boulders are being cleared from U.S. Highway 64, the November 2009 rock slide and a new administrative process are pushing Corridor K into the public spotlight. First proposed in 1965 by the Appalachian Region Commission, Corridor K follows an eastern route from Interstate 75 at Exit 20 in Bradley County along U.S. 64 and U.S. 74 to near Asheville, N.C. Cost estimates to complete Corridor K in the Ocoee area range from \$300 million to \$1.3 billion, depending on the route. Gerald Nicely, state commissioner of transportation, said no decision has been made on Corridor K's route. "We can't — until the environmental process is completed — actually name a corridor," Mr. Nicely said last week at a news conference. "But I think we are close to narrowing it down to some realistic options, given the input we will be receiving." At the conference, he announced that the planned reopening of U.S. 64 had been pushed back from March 31 to April 16.

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2010/mar/25/rock-slide-pushes-corridor-k-public-spotlight/>

[Large Sinkhole Snarls Traffic On I-240 Near I-40 In East Memphis \(CA/Callahan\)](#)

Mari Cottrill saw something black appear on the highway. She swerved to avoid it, but had no luck. A few yards behind her, William Jarvis saw the same thing. He swerved too, but had the same bad luck. Thanks to a large sinkhole that materialized on Interstate 240 Wednesday afternoon in East Memphis, both cars -- as well as at least two others -- will be spending a few days with the mechanic. The sinkhole severely disrupted traffic on northbound I-240 just south of the exit ramp for eastbound I-40. The highway's two inner lanes were closed, and the incident caused massive traffic snarls on both the interstate and nearby surface streets. Luckily, no one was hurt, but Cottrill was still shaken an hour after her Saturn Ion smashed into the hole. At 5 p.m. Wednesday, the sinkhole measured at least 12 feet deep, 6.5 feet wide and 10 feet long. It was expected to grow larger throughout the night, Tennessee Department of Transportation officials said.

<http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2010/mar/24/sinkhole-mires-traffic-i-240-northbound-near-walnu/>

[Sinkhole Shuts Down Lanes On I-240, Delays Continue Into Thursday \(WPTY-TV\)](#)

Tennessee Department of Transportation maintenance personnel continue working to repair a large sinkhole on Interstate 240 just east of the Walnut Grove Interchange in Memphis. The sinkhole, which measures approximately 12-feet wide and eight-feet deep, is located in the two left lanes on I-240 eastbound near mile marker 13. The two right eastbound lanes are currently open but traffic is slow in the area. Around 3:00 p.m. the roadway pavement located over the two left lanes failed exposing the sinkhole which had formed around a leaking storm sewer junction box. Crews must now rebuild the storm sewer junction box which requires them to create a form of the structure and pour concrete into the form. The concrete will then take several hours to cure before crews are able to repair the roadbed, repave and restripe the traffic lanes and reopen them to traffic. I-240 will be reduced to two lanes near mile marker 13 until at least Thursday night, impacting both morning and evening rush hours.

<http://www.myeyewitnessnews.com/news/local/story/Sinkhole-Shuts-Down-Lanes-On-I-240-Delays/xg5WWFYVv0Szx7OThxfnGw.csp?rss=59>

[Vanderbilt Sponsors New Initiative To Improve Public Transport \(Insidevandy.Com\)](#)

A new partnership has been created to improve public transportation in Middle Tennessee with Vanderbilt University as the primary sponsor. By committing to donate \$100,000 a year for the next three years to the new non-profit corporation, the Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee; Vanderbilt hopes to help promote discussion about the benefits of public transport, and continue efforts to make public transportation within Nashville accessible and easy to use.

<http://www.insidevandy.com/drupal/node/13551>

[I-240 Sinkhole Problem Through Thursday Night \(WREG-TV Memphis\)](#)

Memphis poice are suggesting you avoid I-240 eastbound just past Walnut Grove until at least Thursday evening due to a massive sink hole. The sinkhole first appeared around 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, and caused eight accidents in the area according to the Memphis Police Department. TDOT crews shut down two lanes of traffic, causing major backups along I-240. The traffic slowdown started all the way back at Getwell. Rush hour proved to be extremely frustrating for drivers trying to get home. TDOT crews first responded to the area Wednesday morning after getting reports of a smaller problem. "When they got here, they thought it was a small sinkhole or pothole and they patched over it," says TDOT's Steve Lemmon.

<http://www.wreg.com/news/wreg-sinkhole-store,0,1777440.story?track=rss>

[Grants Sought To Resolve Pollution Of Water Wells \(Marshall County Tribune\)](#)

Federal grants totaling \$650,000 are sought by the Marshall County Board of Public Utilities to pay for the extension of water service to several homes southeast of Henry Horton State Park where drinking water wells are polluted. If the grants are awarded, a water pipeline would be built along Warner Road and Hopkins Bridge and Batten Road where up to 32 homes near Clay Hill and the Duck River would have the opportunity to tap into the county-owned water system, Bowden said.

<http://www.marshalltribune.com/story/1620421.html>

[Water Plant Wins Engineering Award \(Tennessean\)](#)

Murfreesboro Water and Sewer Department's \$40 million upgrade to the Stones River Water Treatment Plant has won it a prestigious engineering award. The American Council of Engineering Companies awarded the plant its grand award for engineering excellence in the statewide 2010 Engineering Excellence Awards competition. Designed by engineers Smith Seckman Reid Inc., the state-of-the-art facility can generate up to 20 million gallons of clean, potable drinking water each day, according to a press release from the city. The improvement project began in 2004, according to SSR, and took six years to complete primarily because improvements had to be made while the plant continued to operate.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/D4/20100324/NEWS01/3240315/Water+plant+wins+engineering+award>

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