

## Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

April 12, 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.

#### **'The Dragon' partially reopening after rock slide (Associated Press/Schelzig)**

As of Monday, motorcycle and sports car enthusiasts will once again have access to most of a stretch of road known as "The Dragon." But a rock slide that caused the segment of U.S. Route 129 to be shut down in March will still block access from the Tennessee side of the road that winds into North Carolina. That means merchants on the Tennessee side will have to wait until the \$2 million stabilization and cleanup is completed in July until they can once again reap the benefits from the swarms of motorcycles streaming through their area. Despite warm temperatures and blue skies over the weekend, a cluster of businesses on the Tennessee end of The Dragon saw only the occasional motorcyclist pass through, including two Blount County police officers and a reporter. "There would be thousands of motorcycles out there if it was open," said Dave Ramsey, owner of the 129 Motorcycle Pit Stop. Ramsey estimated that more than 90 percent of his business has been choked off because of the rock slide, and questioned why the state would go through the trouble of opening the stretch of road when there will be little benefit to the tourism industry in Tennessee.

<http://content.usatoday.net/dist/custom/gci/InsidePage.aspx?cld=tennessean&sParam=33254477.story>

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