

## Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

April 15, 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.

#### **[TDOT Completes Nashville Bridge Project Two Months Early \(City Paper\)](#)**

A bridge replacement project on Chestnut Street in Nashville was completed more than two months early, the Tennessee Department of Transportation announced Wednesday. A portion of Chestnut Street, which has been closed since the project began in August 2009, is now open to traffic. The \$2 million project, which was funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, replaced the bridge that crosses over the CSX Railroad. The 80-year-old bridge was classified in "Poor" condition and was on the state's list of structurally deficient bridges. The bridge's sufficiency rating was 37.6 out of 100. "The Recovery Act allowed us to replace this aging bridge and create a safer roadway in a busy section of the city," said TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely. "We appreciate the contractor's efforts to finish early and minimize the impacts to those who live and work in the area."

<http://nashvillecitypaper.com/content/city-news/tdot-completes-nashville-bridge-project-two-months-early>

#### **[Bridge Project Finishes Before Sounds' Opening Day \(WKRN-TV Nashville\) With Video](#)**

Fans of the Nashville Sounds will have an easier drive to Greer Stadium for Opening Night this Friday, after TDOT completed a road construction project two months ahead of schedule. Reconstruction of the Chestnut Street bridge, which runs over CSX railroad tracks, started last August and wasn't supposed to be completed until June. BJ Doughty, spokesperson for TDOT, told News 2 the contractor on the project and TDOT engineers stepped up to get it done before the Sounds first game of the season. "While we couldn't promise it would be done before Opening Day", she said, "everybody had that goal in mind." The 80-year-old bridge had fallen into disrepair, and according to Doughty, scored only a 37 of a possible 100 on a safety scale. "It had substantial deteriorations. [The intersection] had some odd turning movements, and there were definitely some safety concerns," she said.

<http://www.wkrn.com/global/story.asp?s=12312595>

#### **[Bridge In Dandridge Open After 5 Months Of Work \(Associated Press\)](#)**

The State Route 92 bridge over the French Broad River in Dandridge has reopened after five months of improvements that cost \$1.4 million. The Tennessee Department of Transportation reopened the bridge Wednesday, a month ahead of schedule. Work began last November without traffic interruptions until March 1, when the bridge was closed.

<http://content.usatoday.net/dist/custom/gci/InsidePage.aspx?cld=tennessean&sParam=33275295.story>

#### **[Bridge Re-Opens Month Ahead Of Schedule \(Knoxville News-Sentinel\)](#)**

Work crews Wednesday morning re-opened the state Route 92 bridge over the French Broad River, a month ahead of schedule. The span was slated to be opened by May 15 as workers wrapped up a \$1,483,607 renovation effort that began in November. The bridge was closed March 1 as workers repaired metal stringers, performed deck repairs and applied a sealant on the bridge deck. By opening the bridge early, contractor Southern Constructors stands to collect a \$100,000 bonus.

<http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2010/apr/15/state-briefs-April-15/>

#### **[US 64 Reopening After January Rock Slide \(Associated Press\)](#)**

Traffic is again flowing on U.S. 64 in the Ocoee River Gorge, where a rock slide shut down the highway five months ago. The Tennessee Department of Transportation reopened the highway Wednesday. The route that carries traffic between Interstate 75 and the North Carolina state line was buried when part of Little Frog Mountain slid onto it on Nov. 10 and then a second slide occurred the same day nearby. TDOT says crews removed approximately 30,000 cubic yards of debris and drilled in 450 rock bolts.

<http://content.usatoday.net/dist/custom/gci/InsidePage.aspx?cld=tennessean&sParam=33273525.story>

### **[Highway 64 Reopens After Months Of Rock Slide Repair \(Times Free-Press/Cofer\) With Video](#)**

Two-hour detours now are a thing of the past for Polk County residents affected by rock slides that shut down U.S. Highway 64 through the Ocoee Gorge for more than five months. The highway reopened to excited drivers just after 11 a.m. Wednesday when Tennessee Department of Transportation workers removed barricades that kept the road closed since Nov. 10. The project, which included the cleanup of a Jan. 19 rock slide a few miles from the original site, came with a price tag of more than \$2.8 million and hundreds of hours of labor, TDOT spokeswoman Jennifer Flynn said. The first car drove through the newly reopened road at 11:19 a.m., just minutes after workers put the finishing touches on the freshly painted yellow and white lines. "I got up there and TDOT had it blocked off, but they said, 'Well, if you're crazy enough to do it, go on,'" said Jay Moultrie, of Cleveland, Tenn., with a laugh.

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2010/apr/15/highway-64-reopens-after-months-of-rock-slide/>

### **[Women On The Slide \(Chattanooga Times Free-Press/Foster\)](#)**

She already knew a problem existed. That's why Vanessa Bateman, TDOT geologist and civil engineer manager, was in Ocoee last November with a crew studying the way the slide plane jugged onto U.S. Highway 64. Then the rock started across the highway from Ocoee Dam No. 2, cracking and popping, Ms. Bateman said. "It sounded like a big car door slamming," she said. The mountainside collapsed across the highway. Two other slides followed, and it took more than five months to clear the blockage. Ms. Bateman was there for the whole process, leaving her home in Franklin, Tenn., at 3:45 a.m. several times a week to get there at the start of the work day. She was among a number of women Tennessee Department of Transportation crew members who helped stabilize the mountain and reopen U.S. 64.

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2010/apr/15/women-on-the-slide/>

### **[Bypass Work Will Restart This Month \(Times-Gazette\)](#)**

Tennessee Department of Transportation says work should resume on the Shelbyville bypass April 26 following the replacement of a grading subcontractor. B.J. Doughty of TDOT said the change should not have any impact on the bypass's planned completion date next year. Work stopped in early March when Thomas & Associates, a subcontractor for primary contractor Wright Paving Contractors Inc. of Fayetteville, went out of business. The subcontractor works for Wright Paving, not for TDOT. At the time in March, TDOT said Wright Paving would have a new subcontractor lined up within a week. But callers to the Times-Gazette reported that work had not yet resumed on the project. Doughty said Wright Paving assured the state on Monday that it would sign final paperwork with a new subcontractor on Tuesday, and the new subcontractor's schedule shows work resuming on April 26, with no impact on the completion date. Doughty said the name of the subcontractor would be available after papers were signed.

<http://www.t-g.com/story/1626274.html>

### **[Bridge Closing For Repairs \(Columbia Daily Herald\)](#)**

The Industrial Park Road bridge will be closed for three days as crews continue to work on its eventual replacement. The bridge will be closed Wednesday through Friday as construction crews pour concrete for the new expanse, said Tennessee Department of Transportation spokeswoman BJ Doughty. Doughty said the \$2.4-million project, which is being funded by the Federal Recovery Act, should be complete by September 2010. The state doesn't expect anymore extended closures, Doughty said.

[http://www.columbiadailyherald.com/articles/2010/04/15/top\\_stories/02industrial%20park%20road.txt](http://www.columbiadailyherald.com/articles/2010/04/15/top_stories/02industrial%20park%20road.txt)

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