

Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

April 20, 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.

[Work Zone Awareness Week Kicks Off Monday \(WSMV-TV Nashville\)](#)

Event Reminds Motorists Dangers Of Work Zones The weather is warming up in Tennessee, which means even more orange barrels will be popping up on the roadways Tennesseans will encounter hundreds of work zones throughout the summer and spring months in downtowns, along interstates and even in rural areas. That's why **Gov. Phil Bredesen** has declared April 19 – 23 Work Zone Awareness Week. With the proclamation, Tennessee joins states across the nation in reminding motorists that work zones are some of the most dangerous areas on the road, particularly for those who are easily distracted. "Distracted driving is a serious issue, especially in highway work zones where drivers may encounter sudden lane shifts or slower traffic," said Bredesen. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, drivers using cell phones are four times more likely to cause a crash than other drivers and are just as likely as drunken drivers to cause a crash. <http://www.wsmv.com/news/23192217/detail.html>

[TDOT Says Work Zones Require Drivers' Full Attention \(WKRN-TV Nashville\)](#)

Every year, construction workers in Tennessee lose their lives when people don't slow down, but the state wants to prevent future tragedies. **Governor Phil Bredesen** has declared this week "Work Zone Awareness Week," joining states across the country in an effort to get drivers to slow down in construction zones and pay attention. Tennessee Department of Transportation officials held a special event Monday night at Nashville's largest current work zone, Interstate 40 at White Bridge Road. According to TDOT, 13 people died in work zones accidents in 2009, including 19-year-old Jeffrey Thompson, II. He and another teen died while they were performing maintenance on a cable barrier along I-75 in Anderson County five months ago. A truck left the road, crossed the median and struck the teens. Jeffrey's father was working on the same project that day and saw the whole accident unfold. <http://www.wkrn.com/global/story.asp?s=12339045>

[Orange Glow Appeals To Safety Not UT Football \(City Paper\)](#)

If some of Nashville's landmarks seem to have an orange glow this week, it's not because the city has been taken over by Tennessee Vols fans. The city is trying to raise awareness of work zone safety. Metro's Historic Courthouse, Deaderick Street and the Bridgestone Arena tower are among city landmarks that will be turned to orange later through Friday for "National Work Zone Awareness Week." Metro Public Works is partnering with the Tennessee Department of Transportation to remind the public that work zones deserve their undivided attention in order to ensure workers remain safe from potential dangers of distracted driving. This year, Metro is taking part in the annual campaign because of the amount of construction work underway in downtown Nashville, including the new Music City Center and several major water line replacement projects on Lower Broadway and surrounding streets. <http://nashvillecitypaper.com/content/city-news/orange-glow-appeals-safety-not-ut-football>

[Start The Steamroller \(Chattanooga Times Free-Press/Hightower\)](#)

Paving season begins with boost from stimulus About \$1.6 million in federal stimulus money will be spent over the next three months on paving projects, Chattanooga officials said Monday. As road paving season begins, the federal money will pave about eight miles on four roads, said Eddie Tate, the city's pavement manager. "Most of those roads, it's been 20 years since something's been done to them," he said. "They're reaching the end of their service life." The roads include Hickory Valley Road, Shepherd Road, Barton Avenue and Dayton Boulevard, Mr. Tate said. A winter that was harsher than expected has led the city to work on a list of road repairs, officials said. Lee Norris, deputy administrator for the Department of Public Works, said the ice and snow from January and February left the department scrambling over the last few months.

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2010/apr/20/start-the-steamrolls/>

[Wharton Joins Group Pushing For More Infrastructure Spending \(CA/Sullivan\)](#)

Memphis Mayor A C Wharton has joined California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg in calling for more federal infrastructure investment. The co-chairmen of Building America's Future announced Wharton's participation on Monday, noting that Memphis received \$27.5 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act transportation spending last year. They also noted that 11.6 percent of the Memphis work force is in transportation, warehousing and utilities, the highest percentage among the nation's largest metropolitan areas. In a statement, Wharton said: "Given Memphis' unique location, transportation-dependent economy, and geological concerns, few things are more important to me than dealing with our infrastructure needs. "I want to make Memphis a true city of choice for all families and businesses, and that work begins by making sure that high-quality transportation, urban planning and sound environmental policy receive the attention and resources they require."

<http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2010/apr/19/memphis-mayor-c-wharton-joins-group-pushing-more-i/>

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