

Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

April 27, 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.

[Sinkhole Opens Up Under US 64 In Wayne County \(Associated Press\)](#)

A sinkhole has opened up in U.S. 64 in Wayne County, causing officials to close a stretch of the road. The Tennessee Department of Transportation said the sinkhole's appearance followed heavy weekend rain. First, a landslide was discovered Sunday morning, but as crews began building a temporary travel lane, a large sinkhole was uncovered. Geologists were at the site Monday and contract crews were ready to begin repairs. TDOT said 64 between state Rt. 114 and the Hardin County line will remain closed until temporary repairs are made. That section of U.S. 64 is being widened and the contractor doing that work will make the repairs.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100426/NEWS01/100426032/1001/NEWS/Sinkhole+opens+up+under+U+S+64+in+Wayne+County>

[Landslide, Sinkhole Close U.S. 64 East Of Savannah, Tenn. \(C. Appeal/Locker\)](#)

A landslide and sinkhole, apparently caused by the weekend's heavy rains, have closed part of U.S. 64 between Savannah and Waynesboro about 140 miles east of Memphis. U.S. 64 is the main east-west route along the southern border of the state, connecting Memphis to Chattanooga. The closed portion is between Tenn. 114 and the Hardin County line. The Tennessee Department of Transportation says eastbound motorists from Hardin County will be detoured onto Tenn. 128, then to Tenn. 114, which rejoins U.S. 64 west of Waynesboro. Portable message boards and detour signs are in place to direct motorists around the closure. The landslide, discovered early Sunday, caused a 50-foot section of the eastbound lane of U.S. 64 to collapse. As crews began constructing a temporary travel lane on the westbound side of the roadway Sunday afternoon, a large sinkhole was uncovered. TDOT geotechnical personnel are on site to determine the stability of the earth in the vicinity of the slide and sinkhole.

<http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2010/apr/26/landslide-sinkhole-close-us-64-east-savannah-tenne/>

[Tennessee Construction Contracts Surge \(Nashville Business Journal\)](#)

After several months of declines, contracts for future construction in Tennessee jumped up — way up — in March, according to data released today by New York-based McGraw-Hill Construction. Contracts for each of three building categories — nonresidential, residential and nonbuilding — were up compared to March 2009, with a total of \$1.3 billion in contracts being awarded across the state last month. That's essentially twice the \$510.6 million awarded last March. Nonresidential construction — for commercial, industrial, educational buildings, etc. — had the greatest jump, to \$766.7 million worth of contracts, compared to \$162.8 million in the year-ago period. Residential contracts increased from \$238.6 million to \$386.4 million, and nonbuilding construction — which includes infrastructure projects like roads, bridges, airports and utility systems — increased from \$109.2 million to \$142 million. For the quarter, the value of contracts awarded in Tennessee is up 49 percent, with \$2.3 billion worth of contracts issued, up from \$1.5 billion in the year-ago quarter.

<http://nashville.bizjournals.com/nashville/stories/2010/04/26/daily4.html?surround=fn>

[Back In Business Following Rockslide \(Knoxville News-Sentinel/Letsinger\)](#)

Six-month I-40 closure tough on bottom line For Bella's Country Kitchen Restaurant off Interstate 40, it's been a long six months. Owner Gary Nichols said sales have been down by one-third almost every week since a devastating rockslide Oct. 25 that completely stopped traffic on the interstate between Tennessee and North Carolina. "We had a really good summer, and then in October the rockslide hit and the bottom fell out," Nichols said Monday. His Cocke County business was one of many affected by the slide at mile marker 2.6 in North Carolina. The forced rerouting of major commercial traffic meant few cars passed through the Newport area during the closure. "It's been rough," said Nichols. "December, January, February - we barely made it. If it hadn't been for the support of our locals, we would have been in trouble." The return of I-40 travelers couldn't make Nichols any happier - and it comes two days ahead of schedule. The North Carolina Department of Transportation originally planned to wait until today to welcome cars and tractor-trailers back on to I-40. <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2010/apr/26/back-in-business-following-rockslide-six-month-i/>

[Traffic Flow Means Cash Flow After I-40 Rock Slide Reopening \(WVLT-TV Knoxville\)](#)

If you are heading to and from North Carolina, you don't have to put up with anymore long detours or country routes anymore. Six months after a rocks slide shut down Interstate 40 near the state line, three of the four lanes of traffic have been restored. The half year of no traffic meant no customers for several businesses in Cocke County. But now that the traffic is flowing, so is the cash. "A lot of people were lost," said Tiffany Frazier, who works at a deli off I40. "I was giving a lot of people directions, we sold quite a few maps as you could imagine." "It's the best news I've ever heard," said a passing Cocke County man. "I live right around here and I am getting tired of giving directions." "If it hadn't been for the locals keeping us afloat, it would have been very bad for us," said Fraizer. Now, things are slowly getting back to some normalcy. <http://www.volunteertv.com/news/headlines/92158099.html>

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