

June 7, 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.

[Mckellar-Sipes Awarded Federal Grant \(Tennessean\)](#)

A federal aeronautics grant in the amount of \$187,948 has been approved for McKellar-Sipes Regional Airport in Madison County, Gov. Phil Bredesen announced in a news release. "Local airports are vital to the economy and travel system of Tennessee," Bredesen said. "Investing in our airports helps them stay competitive and efficient at meeting the needs of businesses and travelers. I'm pleased to support this investment in McKellar-Sipes Regional Airport." Funds from this aeronautics grant will be used for land acquisition, according to the news release. The grants are made available through the Tennessee Department of Transportation's Aeronautics Division. "This division administers federal and state funding to assist in the location, design, construction and maintenance of Tennessee's diverse public aviation system," said TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely. "We are pleased to continue to support Tennessee's general aviation and commercial airports."

<http://www.jacksonsun.com/article/20100607/NEWS01/6070307/Briefly++Lane+to+host+TVA+board+meeting>

[Insurance Covers Sumner County School's Flooding \(Gannett\)](#)

Damage to Station Camp High School from last month's flooding will cost about \$215,000 in overall repairs and lost equipment, Sumner County school officials say. Insurance is expected to cover about \$190,000 of the damage after the school system pays a \$25,000 insurance deductible, said Maryanne Durski, finance director for Sumner County Schools. Station Camp High School was the only public school in the county with major flood damage, Durski said. Much of the school's athletic facilities suffered extensive damage during the May 2 flood, including the baseball and softball fields, a weight room, obstacle course, track and a practice football field. Floodwaters also came into the concession stand, ruining cooking equipment and a large stand-up freezer. Built in 2003, Station Camp High School has a student population of about 1,250. Repair work is expected to begin as soon as possible, Durski said.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100607/NEWS01/6070327/1001/NEWS/Insurance+covers+Sumner+County+school+s+flooding>

[Stormy Challenge For Water Quality \(Chattanooga Times Free Press\)](#)

With a wastewater collection model known as a combined sewer and stormwater system and a network of aging water and sewer pipes spread over diverse terrain, Chattanooga taxpayers and ratepayers may have to spend more than \$200 million over the next decade to upgrade stormwater services, sanitary sewers and water systems.

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2010/jun/06/stormy-challenge-for-water-quality/>

[Nashville-Area Businesses Battling Back After Flood \(Tennessean\)](#)

For most affected businesses, the recovery is proving to be a slow, arduous process, compounded by a lack of flood insurance and difficulty finding the money necessary to rebuild, even with the promise of federal disaster aid in the form of low-interest loans. But there are success stories among the rubble, and a theme that appears to be common among the battered businesses: They're determined to come back, with or without government help.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100606/BUSINESS01/6060325/Nashville-area-businesses-battling-back-after-flood>

[Rock Shifts As Workers Stabilize Slope On Us 129 In Smokies \(Associated Press\)](#)

A crew working to reopen U.S. 129 in the Smokies has suspended drilling after finding some rock moved. Workers had been drilling holes for explosives to trim unstable rock overhanging the road motorcyclists call "The Dragon." The Tennessee Department of Transportation said the rock could fall by itself. The contractor continues to drill rock bolts into a more stable section of the slope and hauled away 69 truckloads of debris on Tuesday. A rock slide on March 14 dumped a huge amount of debris onto the highway that runs between Tallassee, Tenn., and Tapoco, N.C. TDOT said the contractor has completed 70 percent of the project.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100606/NEWS01/6060340/1001/NEWS/Rock+shifts+as+workers+stabilize+slope+on+U.S.+129+in+Smokies>

[Nashville Flood Victims Agonize: Rebuild Or Leave? \(Tennessean/Brooks\)](#)

There are places in Nashville where it looks as if the flood happened last week, not last month. Up and down Moss Rose Road, the houses still bear the spray-painted X's left by rescue workers checking for bodies. Several have "Keep Out" warnings scrawled on their walls in a futile attempt to deter the looters who troll the block, snatching what they can. Some neighbors are working hard to rebuild. Others are simply walking away, boarding up the windows and hoping the bank, or the city or a house flipper, will take the mess off their hands. The flood damaged at least 9,000 Nashville homes. So far, only 1,806 homeowners have filed for post-flood rebuilding permits, according to Metro codes department records from May 2 to June 3. A month after the flood, most homeowners in Nashville have not even begun to rebuild. And what those homeowners decide to do in the coming months will determine whether their neighborhoods bounce back or start to fall apart.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100606/NEWS01/6060348/Nashville+flood+victims+agonize++Rebuild+or+leave?>

[ET Site Still Eyed For Intermodal Facility \(Knoxville News-Sentinel/Marcum\)](#)

Norfolk Southern railroad continues to keep an eye on New Market as a possible site for an intermodal facility as part of its Crescent Corridor, but has shifted its focus to other projects on the route. Rudy Husband, director of public relations for Norfolk Southern, would not elaborate on the status of the proposed New Market facility where shipping trailers are transferred between trucks and trains, except that it still is under consideration. He indicated Thursday that developments were about where they stood when the railroad released details of its proposal to the public about a year ago. "We do think the demand is there for an increased intermodal presence, but we haven't really moved beyond anything more specific than that at this point," Husband said. "Our focus as far as the Crescent Corridor right now is on our terminals in Memphis, Birmingham and Greencastle, Pa." The Crescent Corridor is a 2,500 mile rail network running through 13 states that Norfolk Southern plans to enhance with intermodal terminals and other improvements into a system linking the Gulf Coast to New England and with connections to the Port of Virginia and to the West Coast via Chicago.

<http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2010/jun/06/et-site-still-eyed-for-intermodal-facility/> .

[Nashville Flood Brings Record 4,416 Jobless Claims \(Tennessean/Johnson\)](#)

Fallout continues from 'the biggest disaster we've seen' A record 4,416 Tennesseans have filed claims to receive unemployment benefits connected to jobs lost after the Nashville flood in May, an indication of just how widespread the damage was and the number of industries affected. "Normally our disasters are tornadoes, so they're fairly isolated," said Marie Moss, assistant administrator of employment security with the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development. "This is definitely the biggest disaster we've seen." That number is expected to jump by an additional 1,743 when the Opryland hotel lays off the bulk of its employees in a week as the grand resort continues to make flood-related renovations and repairs. Many of the workers could be hired back when the Opryland hotel reopens Nov. 15, Gaylord officials said. The hotel chain intends to start staffing back up six to eight weeks before the doors reopen at the \$1 billion convention property, CEO and Chairman Colin Reed said this week.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100605/BUSINESS01/6050312/Nashville+flood+brings+record+4+416+jobless+claims>

[Thousands Of Tennesseans Get Disaster Help \(Associated Press\)](#)

Thousands of Tennesseans from 45 disaster-designated counties received millions of dollars in food and cash assistance last month. The Department of Human Services says programs provided food for more than 9,600 families who were not previously enrolled in the food stamp program. Nearly \$4.4 million in disaster benefits were distributed to these families. Additionally, more than 5,400 families already enrolled in the program received replacement benefits for food lost due to power outages or flood damage. DHS also administered a cash assistance program for eligible citizens who sustained flood damage to their homes. More than 12,500 families qualified for the \$250 and \$500 payments. Just under \$5 million in disaster cash benefits were issued.

<http://content.usatoday.net/dist/custom/gci/InsidePage.aspx?cld=tennessean&sParam=33704353.story>

[Potential Flood Plain Building Ban Worries Business Leaders \(Nashville Biz Journal\)](#)

Many developers and business owners are concerned about a Nashville councilman's efforts to curtail future development in the city's potentially flood-prone areas. About 14 percent, or more than 45,000 acres, of Davidson County is located in flood ways and flood plains, a figure that includes both developed and undeveloped land. By taking this land off the table for most new development, Councilman Darren Jernigan hopes to limit the damage of future floods. Jernigan said his primary objective is to prevent the construction of new homes, specifically, in these areas. But businesspeople and commercial real estate developers said the proposal goes too far. "You want to make sure there's no unintended consequences to anything we do," said Jimmy Granbery, CEO of H.G. Hill Realty, a leading retail developer in Nashville. "Let's study it and see what the alternatives are as best we can." Jernigan's ordinance would curtail new development in the flood way and 100-year flood plain, restricting uses to facilities such as utilities, open spaces, trails, parks, historic structures and water-dependent structures such as docks.

<http://nashville.bizjournals.com/nashville/stories/2010/06/07/story2.html>

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