

June 8, 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.

[Deadline Nears To Apply For Jobless Benefits Related To Flood \(Tennessean/Upchurch\)](#)

People in 15 Tennessee counties can still seek funds Residents of 15 counties have until Wednesday to apply for special jobless benefits related to the May storms and flooding. This program is for people who don't qualify for regular state unemployment, such as self-employed workers, sole proprietors, business partners and farmers. Weekly benefits range from \$114 to \$275 for up to 26 weeks. The eligible counties are Chester, Clay, DeKalb, Hardin, Jackson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Lewis, Macon, Robertson, Smith, Stewart, Trousdale, Wayne and Wilson. Time has already run out for the first 27 counties declared disaster areas by FEMA: Benton, Carroll, Cheatham, Crockett, Davidson, Decatur, Dickson, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Hardeman, Haywood, Henderson, Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Madison, Maury, McNairy, Montgomery, Obion, Perry, Rutherford, Shelby, Sumner, Tipton and Williamson. Monday was the deadline for those counties.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100608/NEWS01/6080316/1001/NEWS/Deadline+nears+to+apply+for+jobless+benefits+related+to+flood>

[South Knox Businesses Gearing Up For Possible Henley Bridge Closure \(Wbir-Tv\)](#)

Moving almost 39,000 cars every day across the Tennessee River, the Henley Bridge is expecting some big changes in the next 12 years. More traffic is one of those changes and one of the reasons CarMart opened up a location just blocks away on the south side of the river. "That's like our main through-way," Whitney Haynes, the Office Manager at CarMart said. "That's part of the main reason why we bought this place. He looked up and the traffic and as you can see, it's heavy." By 2022, the Tennessee Department of Transportation expects Henley traffic to increase 36 percent. In order to safely handle all those extra wheels, they'll have to make repairs and add another lane. "Not only is it going to affect the traffic but it's going to affect how I get to work," Haynes said. As part of the 2011 budget that is working its way toward Governor Bredesen office and possible approval, there is \$30 million for the Henley Bridge.

<http://www.wbir.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=123619&catid=2>

[State Seeks Comments On Pollution \(Columbia Daily Herald\)](#)

A draft report released last week by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation lists more than 160 miles of the Duck River watershed as violating water quality standards, but those waterways haven't been reassessed since 2008. According to the TDEC's schedule, those impaired creeks and streams are scheduled to be monitored again this fall, and any changes would be reflected in the next list, which comes out in 2012. "We do things in cycles," said Greg Denton, environmental manager with TDEC. "We're on a watershed cycle that has every watershed reassessed intensively no less often than every five years." Denton said, however, that TDEC is accepting comments from the public about all impaired waterways until June 15, even those that haven't been reassessed— including the Duck River and its tributaries — since TDEC's last bi-annual list was last released in 2008. "We don't ignore those watersheds. If new information comes to our attention we will reassess those streams," Denton said.

http://www.columbiadailyherald.com/articles/2010/06/07/top_stories/01stream.txt

[Water Pumping Begins On Rockslide In Blount County \(Seymour Herald\)](#)

Water pumping operations have started at the rockslide area on U.S. 129/SR-115 in Blount County. Emergency contractor Pacific Blasting and Demolition Ltd is using water to saturate and lubricate an unstable rock mass that started shifting this week. The procedure is used to safely cause the rock mass to slip and break away from the mountainside and fall. Since the unstable rock began to move last Wednesday, it has shifted more than 4 feet down the mountainside. Several truck loads of rock have broken away from the mass and have fallen in the past 48 hours.

<http://seymourherald.com/news/2010/jun/07/water-pumping-begins-on-rocksl/>

[Plugging The Water Gaps \(Times Free Press\)](#)

The \$1.6 million project showcased new technologies and many of the manual techniques used to install the original pipes up Lookout and other area mountains. The work was only a small portion of more than \$100 million in water system upgrades under way across Tennessee this year for new filter plants, water lines and treatment equipment among nearly 200 water utilities that serve Tennessee. But it's still just a drop in the bucket compared with the investment needed to meet projected population growth and stricter federal water regulations, according to an analysis of America's infrastructure needs by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2010/jun/07/plugging-the-water-gaps/>

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