

**June 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.

**[Federal Assistance For Floods Tops \\$200m In Tennessee \(City Paper\)](#)**

More than \$200 million in federal funds has now been allocated to flood victims in the 45 Tennessee counties that were declared disaster areas after the May 1-2 floods. In the six weeks after the state's historic flood, nearly 62,000 people have registered for financial assistance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Of the \$200 million, \$117.8 million has gone to housing assistance, with \$17.7 million going toward other needs, including personal property lost or damaged during the storms. Meanwhile, the U.S. Small Business Administration has approved \$65.1 million in low-interest disaster loans for flood victims in Tennessee. Individuals have until July 6 to apply for federal assistance.

<http://nashvillecitypaper.com/content/city-news/federal-assistance-floods-tops-200m-tennessee>

**[Flood Buyouts In Williamson County Will Take Months At Best \(Tennessean\)](#)**

Voluntary buyouts for property heavily damaged by the May floods are not likely to happen until several months from now and are not guaranteed, according to an announcement from the Williamson County Emergency Management Agency. "There's been a lot of misleading information and rumors about buyout programs since the May storms, and property owners need to explore all their options, and any buyout program is only one possibility and will be well down the road, if it happens at all," Emergency Management Director Mike Thompson said. The announcement outlined facts about buyout programs: • FEMA does not buy houses. It is a state/local program with 75 percent FEMA funding possible. • Individuals will not apply to FEMA or the state but to their city or county that may sponsor the application. • Compensation must be fair market value before the disaster, as determined by a licensed appraiser. • Buyouts are voluntary.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100615/WILLIAMSON01/6150306/Flood+buyouts+in+Williamson+County+will+take+months+at+best>

**[Relief Workers Sought \(Columbia Daily Herald\)](#)**

Jobs to assist in cleanup and restoration efforts following last month's historic flooding are available to Maury County residents through a federal grant. Starting today, the Tennessee Career Center in Columbia will be accepting applications for those temporary positions, which could range from helping provide food, clothing and shelter to flood victims to cleaning up storm-damaged properties, said Jan McKeel, executive director for the South Central Tennessee Workforce Alliance. Through the more than \$4 million grant, these jobs are also available to residents in Giles, Hickman, Lawrence, Lewis, Marshall, Perry and Wayne counties. There will be a variety of spots available, from office workers to work crew laborers and supervisors. McKeel said county and city officials as well as non-profit organizations that are helping in the flood relief effort — such as the American Red Cross — would determine the number of jobs available.

[http://www.columbiadailyherald.com/articles/2010/06/14/top\\_stories/01jobs.txt](http://www.columbiadailyherald.com/articles/2010/06/14/top_stories/01jobs.txt)

**[River To 'Lock Up' \(Chattanooga Times Free-Press/Flessner\)](#)**

Chattanooga's river transportation artery will be blocked for nearly four weeks, starting next month, while crews assess and repair the aging Chickamauga Lock. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will remove the water from 360-foot-long lock starting July 20 to inspect the condition of the 70-year-old structure. The planned 27-day closing of the lock is one of three such closings this year at East Tennessee locks, part of the corps' maintenance of the navigation channel for the 652-mile-long Tennessee River. "Barge operators try to plan their schedules around these lock closings which, fortunately for most locks, come only every five years or so," said Clive Jones, executive director for the Tennessee River Valley Association, a trade group for river users based in Athens, Ala. "In most instances, customers are able to plan ahead and get their shipments early to avoid any disruptions." But the Chickamauga Lock is having to be drained and inspected at least once every three years because of ongoing problems with "concrete growth" at the lock caused by the reaction of the stone in the cement with the surrounding river water, officials said Monday.

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2010/jun/15/river-to-lock-up/>