

June 25, 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.

[Orange Route Axed, Tdot Official Says \(Knoxville News-Sentinel/Jacobs\)](#)

Announcement expected today on beltway, which was still in study phase The proposed Orange Route is dead. Tennessee Department of Transportation Commissioner Gerald Nicely today is expected to announce that a controversial beltway under consideration for nearly four decades will not be built. According to a TDOT official involved in the decision, but who was not allowed to speak publicly until after the announcement, a new traffic study has revealed the proposed Knoxville Regional Parkway would not divert as many vehicles as thought when the route was initially decided upon. "That essentially was the tipping point for us," the source said. "The project would not meet the stated purpose and need." The source was unable to provide specific numbers on what the new traffic study showed or why more recent figures conflicted with the prior study used in making the decision to build the Orange Route.

<http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2010/jun/25/orange-route-axed-tdot-official-says/>

[Corps Of Engineers Plans In-Depth Flood Report After All \(Tennessean/Theobald\)](#)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will conduct a more extensive investigation into the May 1-2 flooding in Tennessee, the Corps' Nashville district commander said Thursday. Lt. Col. Anthony Mitchell said the Corps is required to complete a "post-flood report" on such a large disaster. "The Corps always had the intention of doing the report," Mitchell said after meeting with 5th District Rep. Jim Cooper, D-Nashville, in Cooper's Washington office. Cooper had complained last week that the Corps was planning to issue an "after-action review" rather than the more in-depth post-flood report, which he described as "the gold standard." Such a report was done after the 1975 Nashville floods. The after-action review report is expected to be released next month. The post-flood report could take six months or more, Cooper said. Cooper said a source he declined to identify told him last week that the Corps' national office had decided not to complete a post-flood report because of cost and other priorities.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100625/NEWS02/6250327/Corps+of+Engineers+plans+in-depth+flood+report+after+all>

[Steel Bridge Road No Longer Named for the Bridge... \(TriCities.com\) with video](#)

It's Steel Bridge Road, which is off Blue Springs Road, in the Siam community of Carter County. The "Steel Bridge" name is now history, because it's gone. Literally. Thursday, crews worked to remove the almost-seventy year-old steel beams. More than a year of construction leaves the community with a brand new concrete bridge.

http://www2.tricity.com/tri/news/local/article/steel_bridge_road_no_longer_named_for_the_bridge_crossing_the_watauga_river/48066/

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