

June 30, 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.

[Fort Loudoun Bridge Construction Could Begin In 2011 \(News-Sentinel/Willett\)](#)

Lenoir City project to take about 3 years to complete Construction on a \$58 million new bridge over the Tennessee River near the Fort Loudoun Dam could begin as early as spring 2011, according to Tennessee Department of Transportation Commissioner Gerald Nicely. Local officials say the project will improve safety and traffic flow, as well as create a "more welcoming entrance" to Lenoir City. Nicely joined other state and local officials in Lenoir City last Friday to describe the project and offer a tentative schedule for construction. The project will go to bid in December, and once started, the bridge will take about three years to complete, he said. The new bridge has been a county-wide priority for at least 10 years, said Lenoir City Mayor Matt Brookshire. The new span will replace the current 50-year-old two-lane bridge running along the top of the Fort Loudon Dam with a new four-lane bridge a few hundred yards down river, he said. The Tennessee Valley Authority currently has responsibility for maintaining the bridge over the dam but will not be responsible for maintaining the new bridge, he said.

<http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2010/jun/30/bridge-construction-could-begin-in-2011/>

[Interstate 75 Ramp Opens In Ooltewah \(Chattanooga Times Free-Press\)](#)

A new ramp onto Interstate 75 opened Tuesday in Ooltewah. Drivers traveling west on Lee Highway now have their own ramp onto I-75, according to the Tennessee Department of Transportation. Traffic coming from Hunter and Mountain View roads will continue to use the current on-ramp, but there no longer will be a conflict with traffic getting onto the interstate from the other direction, TDOT said. In addition, as the project to widen I-75 and reconstruct the interchange at Ooltewah nears completion, the temporary ramp accessing I-75 South from Hilltop Drive has been closed.

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2010/jun/30/interstate-75-ramp-opens-in-ooltewah/>

[Mayor Dean Announces New Program To Aid Flood Victims \(Wkrn-Tv Nashville\)](#)

Nashville flood victims have a new program tonight that might help them. According to Mayor Karl Dean, the extra help is just a phone call away. "863-6523 is the number to call right now for appointments beginning July 7th," he said at a news conference Tuesday, announcing the "We Are Home" flood recovery program. It's for people whose aid comes up far short. The idea, hatched by the mayor's flood recovery group, is that federal emergency money, loans from FEMA and the SBA and the state's volunteer spirit only go so far for flood victims. Many are tens of thousands of dollars short after counting up their help against their losses. "We Are Home" is designed to cut down that gap. At least 2,000 property owners are expected to be helped by the new program. If eligible, flood victims can get outright grants, small interest loans, no interest loans or a combination of all three.

<http://www.wkrn.com/global/story.asp?s=12730385>

Opinion

[Sifting Reality From Illusion In The Politics Of Georgia's Water Crisis \(Atlanta Journal Constitution\)](#)

Georgia's ongoing water crisis defies an easy solution, or even an easy explanation.

So when you listen to candidates for governor discuss the issue, you're not hoping to hear a solution to a complex problem, because there aren't any. At best, you hope to hear evidence that the candidates have educated themselves on the issue and have thought it through intelligently.

http://blogs.ajc.com/jay-bookman-blog/2010/06/29/sifting-reality-from-illusion-in-the-politics-of-georgias-water-crisis/?cxntfid=blogs_jay_bookman_blog

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