

July 12, 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.

**[Troubled Waters \(Times Free Press/Sohn\)](#)**

Tennessee has about 10,000 miles of streams that are impaired with pollution ranging from PCBs to E. coli to siltation, up from 9,414 in 2008. More than 1,900 miles of those troubled streams are in Southeast Tennessee, according to a list compiled by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. Every county in the region is affected, but the city of Athens, with two major local streams listed, is taking action on its own to do something about it. "Civilization has always developed by creeks for transportation, drinking water and fertile farmland -- and we messed them up," said Athens Public Works Director Shawn Lindsey. "Now, just from the economic standpoint, we have drinking water that costs more to treat because of pollution in the water," he said. "And we have to be able to put our treated sewage back in the creeks, but if there already is too much pollution in the water, the state cuts off any sewer expansion plans. And if we can't expand our sewer systems, we can't have jobs. And without jobs, we can't grow."

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2010/jul/11/troubled-waters/>

**[Business Booming After 'The Dragon' Re-Opens In Blount County \(WATE\)](#)**

Part of Highway 129 in Blount County commonly known as "The Dragon" reopened to the public Friday ahead of schedule. It had closed due to a rockslide nearly three months ago. Saturday was the first full day The Dragon was back open and local business owners who rely on traffic from the popular road were glad to see so many people back in the area. The stretch of switchbacks is a popular destination for both motorcyclists and driving enthusiasts. "It's the curves," said Joey Norris, who rode his motorcycle from Georgia to The Dragon. "Just the thrill of being able to go around them. You enjoy the ride." "The curves, these pretty days, the mountains. We like to come to the mountains," explained Danny Robinson, another motorcyclist from Georgia, about why he comes to The Dragon.

<http://www.wate.com/global/story.asp?s=12786056>

**[Tennessee Flood Victims Can Get Extra Help \(Tennessean\)](#)**

Insured victims of the spring floods may be eligible for up to \$30,000 in extra flood insurance benefits from the National Flood Insurance Program. Help is available for costs to rebuild, elevate, demolish or relocate structures that were damaged by the April 30-May 5 floods, and to cover expenditures associated with meeting local building codes and standards. The special provision is called Increased Cost of Compliance and is open to eligible properties insured under the Standard Flood Insurance Policy. The home or business structure must meet certain criteria, including substantial damage or repetitive loss, as determined by a local official.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100710/NEWS01/7100320/1001/NEWS/Tennessee+flood+victims+can+get+extra+help>

**[Federal Money Trickling Down To Area Roads \(Times Free Press/Hightower\)](#)**

More than \$1.6 million in federal stimulus money will go to repave five roads in Chattanooga just as the City Council cut money for paving from the city budget. "It's a blessing," said Councilwoman Pam Ladd, chairwoman of the Public Works Committee. "Instead of being out in the cold with no ability to do major projects, it's a blessing." Highways Inc., a Cookeville, Tenn.-based company, was awarded the contract, said Eddie Tate, the city's pavement supervisor. The company will repave five roads within the city, starting with Barton Avenue and continuing with Hickory Valley Road, Dayton Boulevard, Airport Road and Shepherd Road, city records show. Work started this week on Barton Avenue in North Chattanooga, with crews mapping out drainage lines and updating handicap ramps on sidewalks, Mr. Tate said.

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2010/jul/10/federal-money-trickling-down-to-area-roads/>

**[TVA: Intense Flooding In Knoxville Wouldn't Be As Bad As Nashville \(WATE\)](#)**

Forty-five counties were affected by Tennessee flooding in May with damage estimates up to \$2 billion. Is East Tennessee in danger of similar flooding? TVA Manager of River Scheduling Chuck Bach explained the utility's system, which updates every five seconds and monitors water levels. Using dams, TVA can hold back water or let it out in case East Tennessee has a lot of rain. If that's in the forecast, Bach said, "We would bring in more people, staff this. Then we would try to take actions to move water out in front of it as best we can." TVA would also start a three-step alert plan which includes a call center where staffers answer questions. TVA will send messages to 6 News to report to the public and communication including notices from the Emergency Management Agency.

<http://www.wate.com/global/story.asp?s=12782104>

**[Metro Flood Buyout Program Sees Strong Response \(WKRN\)](#)**

Almost 200 property owners in Davidson County have responded to Metro Nashville's Hazard Mitigation Home Buyout program and most have said they're interested. Created in response to last month's flood, the program aims to reduce the losses in the event of a future flood. Letters were mailed last month to the owners of the 305 properties, informing them of their eligibility for the program. Angel Hartley has lived on Miami Avenue in the Pennington Bend area since 1998 and received a letter. She, however, told News 2 she is not planning on taking the buyout program.

<http://www.wkrn.com/global/story.asp?s=12782285>

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