

July 16, 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.

**[Solar Way Opens To Future \(Leaf Chronicle\)](#)**

Road leading to Hemlock site to be 'pathway to a solar world' With a three-count and snip of oversized scissors, a pathway to the future opened. A sunny summer day was a fitting backdrop for Thursday's opening of Solar Way, a two-mile, four-lane road to the Hemlock Semiconductor LLC site from Guthrie Highway... Tennessee Department of Transportation Commissioner Gerald Nicely told the crowd that the \$8.5 million project was completed ahead of schedule. "It took four months to design, and it was built in 12 months, which is about six months ahead of what a project like this would normally take," he said. Nicely said the project also included a bridge over Spring Creek and improvements to Jim Johnson Road. Russo said contractors and construction traffic will use Solar Way but will turn to Jim Johnson Road to access a parking lot and entry on the east side of the site.

<http://www.theleafchronicle.com/article/20100716/NEWS01/7160327/1002/Solar-Way-opens-to-future>

**[Effectiveness Of Cable Barriers Examined \(WREG-TV Memphis\)](#)**

But WREG On Your Side Investigators are exposing surprising detail about the limits of what these barriers can do. The Tennessee Department of Transportation started installing cable barriers along highways back in 2005 after getting glowing reports about their effectiveness in other states. In fact, some claim the barriers are up to 90% effective at stopping cars. It's why you may be surprised at what we've learned about the state's \$19million investment. The barriers stand guard along more than 81 miles of Mid-South highway. They're TDOT's latest attempt at saving lives. "Over 60% of our fatalities leave the lane, lane departure-type, run off the road being, cross median being the most severe we experience," explained Steve Hall, TDOT's Assistant Chief Engineer of Operations.

<http://www.wreg.com/news/wreg-cable-barriers-questioned-story,0,5667646.story?track=rss>

**[Alexander Calls for Questions of Corps \(WPLN-Radio Nashville\)](#)**

Tennessee Senator Lamar Alexander is asking the public to submit questions for a hearing into how the Army Corps of Engineers responded to May's historic flooding. The hearing will give a first opportunity for the Corps of Engineers to present its report detailing how dams were managed during the flood and how releases were communicated to the public. Many flood victims – including officials with Gaylord Opryland – have been critical of the Corps for not giving more warning of how high the Cumberland River would swell because of releases from upstream dams. For those who have questions of their own, Senator Alexander says they can post on his Facebook page before next Thursday's hearing. "I'll ask some of those questions and I'll submit others to the witnesses for their answers."

<http://wpln.org/?p=19289>

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