

July 27, 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.

[Construction Delays Could Lock Up River \(Chattanooga Times Free-Press/Flessner\)](#)

Engineers and inspectors descended into the emptied lock at the Chickamauga Dam on Monday to help assess how much longer the crumbling concrete chamber can act as a river passageway for most of East Tennessee. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is spending more than \$3.7 million this year to shore up the 70-year-old lock, which already has more extra supports and instruments than any river lock in the world. But with funding stalled for the half-finished replacement lock at the dam, repair costs and safety worries over the existing lock are growing. "There is a very real risk that, if we don't keep working on the new lock, we may be forced to permanently shut down the old lock before the new one is finished," said Cline Jones, executive director for the Tennessee River Valley Association, which represents the shipping industries that use the Tennessee River. "It's more likely than not that the condition of the lock would force its closure and that will be an economic disaster and job killer because it would cut off 318 miles of navigable waterways," he said.

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2010/jul/27/construction-delays-could-lock-river/>

[Tennessee Construction Contracts up 5% - Infrastructure Projects Down \(Nashville Business Journal\)](#)

The total value of construction contracts awarded in Tennessee ticked up in June, according to data released today by McGraw-Hill Construction. According to the New York-based research company, \$762.8 million worth of contracts were awarded in June, a 5 percent increase over the \$729.2 million awarded in June 2009. The biggest surge was seen in nonresidential construction — including commercial, manufacturing, educational projects, etc. — where the value of contracts increased 37 percent, to just under \$400 million. Residential construction, meanwhile, dropped 4 percent, to \$279.6 million worth of contracts. Nonbuilding construction — for infrastructure projects like roads, bridges and utilities — dropped a more dramatic 43 percent, to \$83.3 million worth of contracts.

<http://nashville.bizjournals.com/nashville/stories/2010/07/26/daily6.html?surround=fn>

Across the State Line

[Iowa Dam Break: Damage along Lake Delhi, Maquoketa River \(CNM News Network\) VIDEO](#)

Yesterday a dam break in Eastern Iowa did millions of dollars worth of damage. The dam at Lake Delhi breached, sending a flood of water into the Maquoketa River in Delhi, Iowa. A member of the Delhi Fire Department notes that over 15 inches of rain fell within 48 hours. This heavy rain had dire consequences. The rainfall overburdened an 83-year-old dam, which subsequently ruptured. The section was 125 X 60 and was the worst damage that one firefighter had ever seen. At least 6 homes were swept away with flood waters. The damage is devastating, and many in the town don't know what they are going to do. About 700 homes and cabins were evacuated as nearby towns heard of the incident.

<http://cnmnewsnetwork.com/124388/iowa-dam-break-damage-along-lake-delhi-maquoketa-river-video/>

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