



Continuing the Dialogue

One year ago, Gov. Haslam and I visited 15 cities across the state. Our goal was to hear firsthand about the **transportation needs facing communities** and open a dialogue about solutions. We gained valuable knowledge along the way, and were able to share information about projects already under development at TDOT.

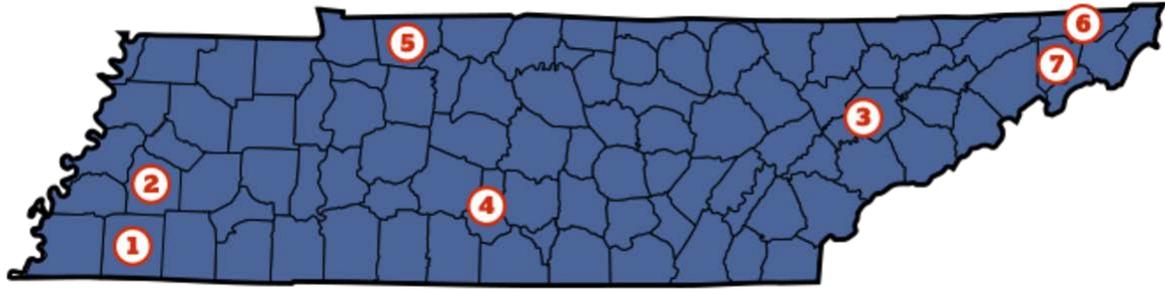
We want that dialogue to continue. We want to keep you informed about what's going on at TDOT – whether it's about projects in your area, how we prioritize the state's needs, or how we manage our transportation dollars. We thought a periodic email would be a great way to keep the lines of communication open.



Right now, TDOT is preparing for the start of the new fiscal year and the financial opportunity to move many projects forward. The new federal transportation funding bill (FAST Act) includes a roughly two percent increase over last year's funding. The legislation also provides us with a one-time chance to tap into **\$147 million** in unspent earmarked funds. The Tennessee General Assembly also passed legislation to repay **\$100 million** in highway funds that were diverted to the state's general fund several years ago.

These increases will give us a larger building program in the upcoming fiscal year – an estimated **\$965 million** in FY 2017, compared to \$660 million in FY 2016. In our three year transportation program, which was released in the spring, we committed to \$2 billion in infrastructure investments for **79 project phases** in **42 counties**, as well as **15 statewide programs**.

The following projects will be funded with the \$100 million transfer from the state's general fund, and will all be under contract before the end of 2016:



Project List

1. **Fayette County, I-40** Interchange modification at SR 196 (Hickory Withe Road)
2. **Haywood County, SR 19** Construction of the Brownsville Bypass from west of Windrow Road to SR 76 south of Brownsville
3. **Knox County, SR 62 (Western Avenue)** Widening from Texas Avenue to Major Avenue
4. **Marshall County, SR 50** Widening from US 431 (SR 106/Franklin Pike) to US 31A (Verona Ave.)
5. **Montgomery County, US 79/SR 13** Widening from Cracker Barrel Drive to International Boulevard, serving Hankook Tire
6. **Sullivan County, I-81** Construction of truck climbing lane at mile marker 60
7. **Washington County, I-26** Interchange modification at US 321 (SR 67), including the additional of an auxiliary lane and widening of I-26 East

While we are excited to see these important projects and many others move forward, TDOT still has a multi-billion dollar backlog of unfunded highway and bridge projects. These projects will improve safety, ease congestion, support Tennessee's economic growth, and maintain our infrastructure. And they're needed now, not 20 or 30 years in the future.

We are currently searching for solutions that will give us the ability to take care of Tennessee's transportation needs **while also staying debt free**. It's going to take collaboration, compromise, and determination. I look forward to engaging all of you in the effort.

If you need more information about TDOT's three year transportation program or our identified project needs, here are a couple of resources at your fingertips:



John Schroer, TDOT Commissioner