



SR 268/N. Thompson Lane Widening Newsletter

September 25, 2026

End of September Update:

Happy Fall!

You'll begin to see more changes across the project footprint in the next couple of months, including vegetation clearing. Note that this clearing will only be done on state Right-of-Way (ROW). Clearing vegetation -- including trees -- is a general practice for grading and construction operations, but also to establish roadside clear zones and improve sight lines.

Expect bike lane and shoulder closures in the coming weeks.

I want to address some questions we've received here at TDOT about this project:

Q: How will I know when utility work is being done that may cause an outage (power, water, internet, etc)?

A: Utility companies are responsible for notifying property owners prior to any work that would cause disruption to homeowners or businesses.

Q: What do the different colors on the stakes mean?

A: Pink flags establish ROW limits of vegetation clearing and where a silt fence will be placed, and the silt fence will essentially mark the boundary for all construction work. Orange flags indicate the base of the haul road used for equipment.

Remember, the timing of construction activities is subject to change due to a variety of

committed to relaying any delays or changes to you as soon as possible.

Thank you!

-- Erin

Current Work:

- **Staking.**
- **Erosion control:** As a result of this work, you will likely see silt fencing, sediment tubes (used to reduce runoff), and other erosion control equipment being installed along the outside of the project. Installation of erosion slope drains is also occurring.
- **Grading for future widened roadway:** Grading is the process of reshaping land, which can include the raising or lowering of ground levels, adding or removing slopes, or leveling the ground surface.
- **Underground utility relocation:** Relocation of all utilities on this 4+ mile stretch will be a lengthy process.
- **Slope drain work.**

Upcoming Work:

- **Vegetation clearing:** Vegetation clearing is permitted to begin after October 1, 2026, and end by March 31, 2027. Crews will begin clearing and grubbing at the West Fork Stones River Bridge first. After that is complete, crews will work from the NW Broad Street side of the project footprint, moving toward Memorial Boulevard.
- **Closure of section of Stones River Greenway & the Thompson Lane Trailhead Canoe Ramp:** Crews will close these areas after October 1 for preliminary work on the West Fork Stones River bridge. Note that the parking lot will remain open. Alternate boater access points are as follows:
 - Manson Pike Boat Ramp: 1208 Searcy Street, Murfreesboro (2.8 miles/9-minute drive south)
 - West Fork Boat Ramp: 9012 Florence Road, Smyrna (6 miles/11-minute drive north)
 - Nice Mill Recreation Area Boat Ramp: Sulphur Springs Road, Murfreesboro (6.3 miles/12-minute drive north)

Traffic and Pedestrian Impacts:

- Expect bike lane and shoulder closures in the coming weeks.
- SR 268 (N. Thompson Lane) from NW Broad Street to Memorial Boulevard will be under construction for the duration of the project.
- Lane closures will be permitted from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (when school is in session) or 4:00 p.m. (school not in session).

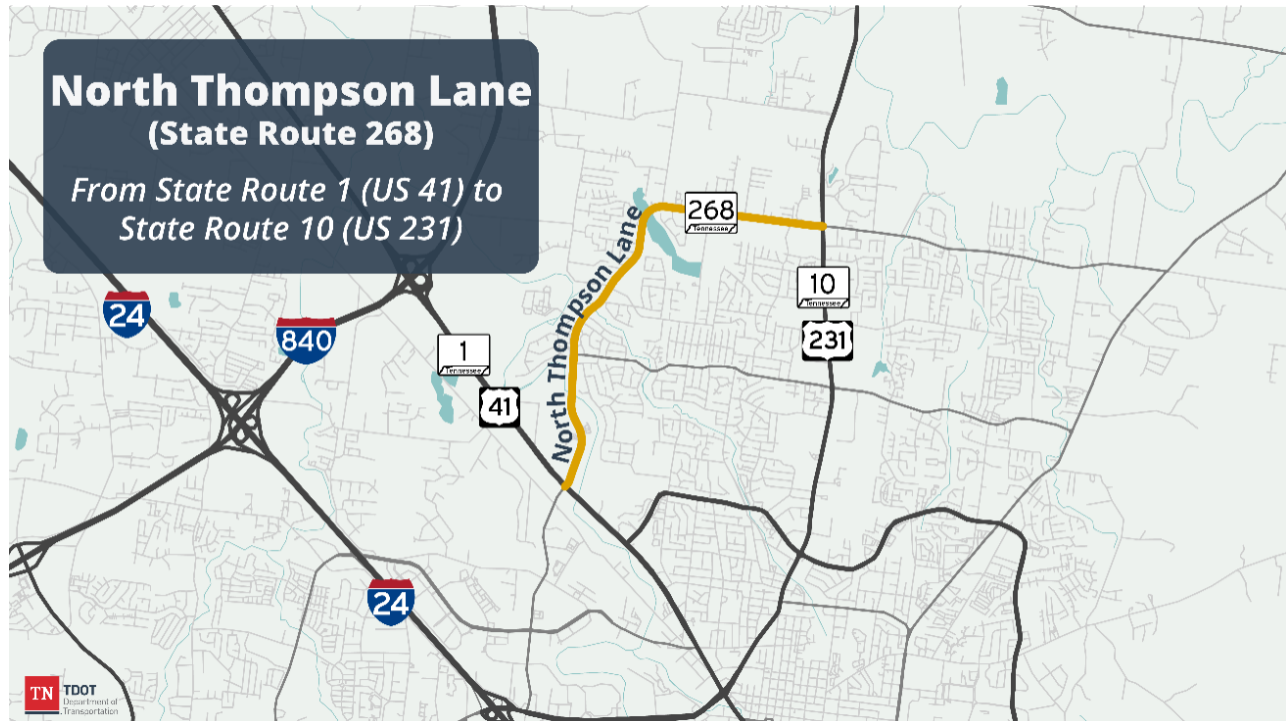
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Project Description and Overview:

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The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), will construct widening improvements to approximately 4.3 miles of North Thompson Lane (State Route 268) from NW Broad Street (State Route 1) to Memorial Boulevard (State Route 10).

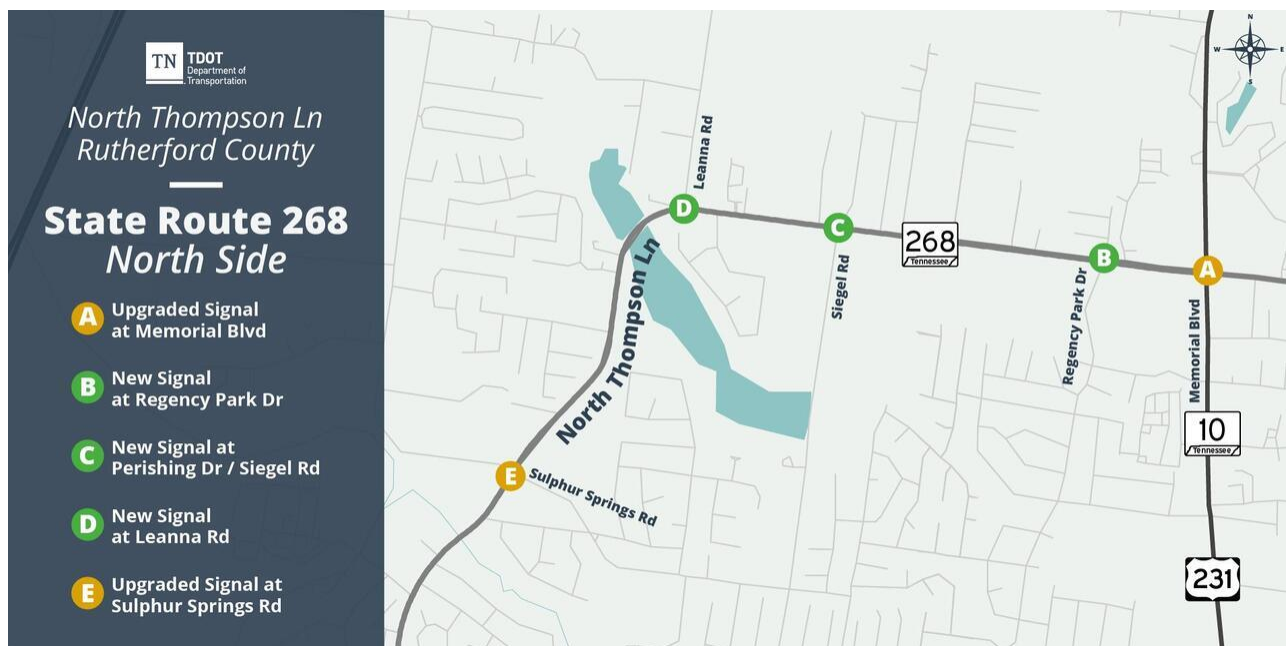
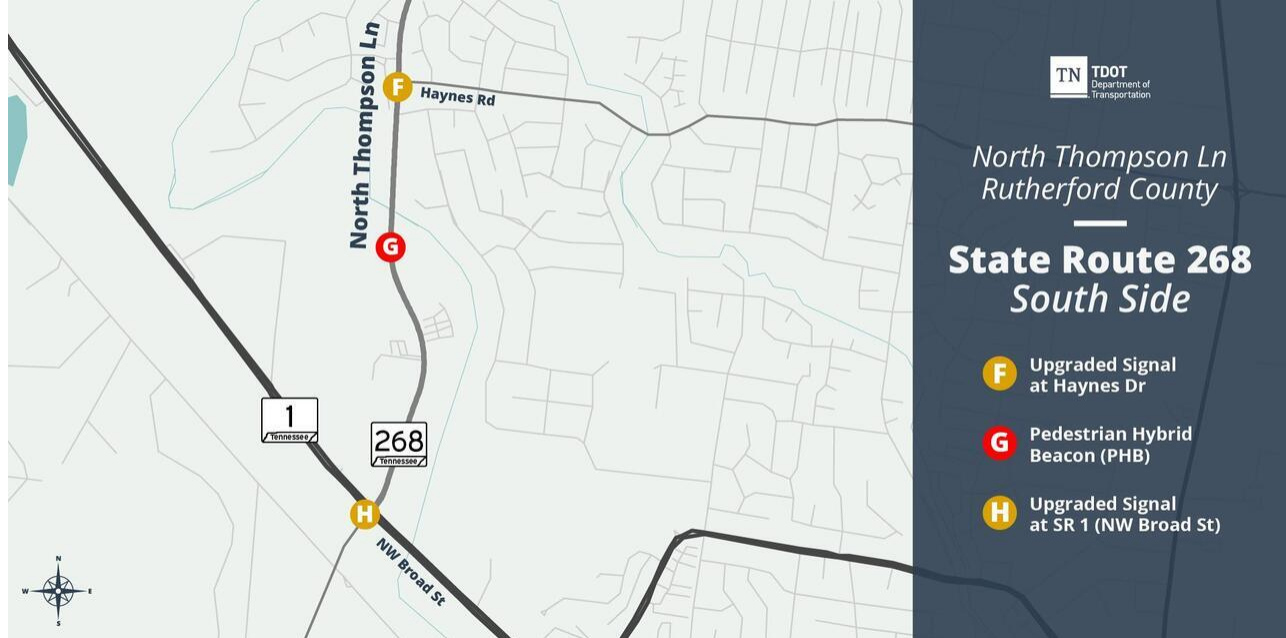
Improvements include widening to four travel lanes with a center turn lane throughout the project footprint, curb and gutter, replacement of the West Fork Stones River Bridge, and traffic signal additions. Sidewalks will also be provided on both sides of N. Thompson Lane, as well as a shared use path from near the bridge over the West Fork Stones River to near Memorial Boulevard.



Improvements also include three additional signals and four upgraded signals that will be interconnected into the existing fiber optic network to provide for future coordinated arterial signal system.

It is important to note that upon project completion, pedestrian crossing near the entrance of Erma Siegel Elementary will take place at the new signalized intersection at Regency Park Drive.

Installation of a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB) near the West Fork Stones River bridge will provide a safer crossing for Stones River Greenway users.



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