

UPDATE ON THE TVA CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

The HOA Liaison Committee has recently been in contact with the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) regarding the progress of construction on the new bridges. As you know, Bridge 1 over the railroad tracks has been completed and work is continuing on Bridge 2 (Watts Bar) and Bridge 3 (channel between Tellico and Fort Loudon Lakes).

There have been delays in the Bridge 2 schedule because of unexpected voids in the bedrock under the river. While preconstruction geological surveys, such as test drilling and seismic analysis, identified the type of rock and its structure it is not always possible to detect they type of voids or weak zones before actual construction. The result is that the foundations for the bridge piers must be set deeper than originally anticipated. More blasting will be necessary within the next few months.

The progress on Bridge 3 is more or less on schedule, notwithstanding weather delays. The foundations for the two piers in the channel are nearly complete and within the next couple of months we should see the forms for those piers being installed above the waterline. The steel beams for the bridge are now being stockpiled and the end beams will be set in the “near future” on each side of the channel.

One final note on the bridge project, I know many residents have been wondering about the safety of putting a bridge pier near the boat channel below the Fort Loudon Dam. TDOT assures us that those piers are designed to withstand a direct impact from the largest barge trains that operate on that part of the river so there is no danger to the bridge.

On a related topic, TDOT told us earlier this year that the power to the street lights on the Fort Loudon Dam Bridge and along Hwy 321 near the bridge was turned off for the safety of the crews working on the new bridges. We asked them again to reconsider restoration of the power especially now that we will all be driving during the longer night time hours. TDOT said they are aware of the concern and are considering several alternatives. The Liaison Committee will stay in contact with TDOT on this.

If you have questions regarding the bridge construction project just send them to your HOA at hoatv.org@gmail.com

The Liaison Committee can then get an answer to your question from TDOT. The Liaison committee has found TDOT easy to work with and TDOT has provided prompt replies.

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From your HOA Liaison Committee