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Your Voice in the Village

## HOA/POA Highway Safety Committee Report on Lighting at Highways 72 and 444



To improve safety and visibility, Loudon County is installing new high mast lighting at the intersection of Highways 72 and 444. This is at the south end of Tellico Parkway near Sloan's and Food Lion. This project is funded through the Loudon County Economic Development Agency. The lighting will consist of six [6] lights 45 feet tall with an arm overhang of 15 feet. Completion date is late September early October 2019.

A future Loudon County project, at the north end of Tellico Parkway, will include lighting at the intersection of Highway 444/Tellico Parkway at the turn onto Highway 321 toward Maryville. This project is tentatively scheduled for 2020.

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## HOA/POA Highway Safety Committee TDOT Report by Ed Wilson, Chair

The monthly **TDOT Construction Progress Meeting** for the 321 Highway construction was held at the Lenoir City Municipal Building, Wednesday, Sep 18<sup>th</sup>. According to TDOT's website, the contractor's allowed time for completing construction has ended. Going forward, the contractor will be charged \$1,600.00 per calendar day until the 321 Highway construction is complete. Thanks to Rep. Lowell Russell and others, this project has the attention of the Highway Commissioner for Tennessee and also has the attention of AT&T area management. The Mayor of Lenoir City is holding regular meetings with TDOT officials, local political leaders, such as Rep Russell, and the contractor. AT&T has not been the holdup. Before the project was bid, AT&T and TDOT agreed that AT&T would have 255 days to complete their work after the contractor had completed the necessary preliminary work. The preliminary work included the installation of conduit and pull boxes. The TDOT contractor completed his preliminary work on April 22, 2019. The contractor knew of the 255 days to complete arrangement when he bid the

project. AT&T hopes to have its work completed as soon as possible, but their work will probably take the full 255 days after the contractor's necessary preliminary work is completed.

Unfortunately, when AT&T completes their work in several weeks, less favorable construction weather will hamper the job's progress. Also paving in the winter is problematic. The goal is to get the 321/11 intersection open fully by sometime in the spring. Final paving will take place sometime after that. The Highway Commissioner stated he expected the job will be completed mid-summer 2020

Please remember, that while most of us have been frustrated by the slow progress of the 321/11 intersection work, TDOT chose our immediate area to benefit from \$100,000,000.00 of investment in recent years. This includes the new bridge required over the Tennessee River, the 321 expansion, and paving Tellico Parkway. TDOT has also added turn lanes on 444, added a merge lane on 444 from 321, and are adding intersection lights at 72/444.

The Highway Safety Committee asks, that we focus on the positive efforts being done. In a few months, all the work will be completed, and everyone will have a safer, easier commute.

If you have any questions regarding the work of the HOA/POA Highway Safety Committee, please email: [HSCTV.org@gmail.com](mailto:HSCTV.org@gmail.com)