

TDOT to begin bridge work on 444

On Aug 17, TDOT will begin repair work on Ski Cove and Clear Creek bridges. This work will necessitate one lane traffic until completion of the project. The work is currently scheduled to be completed by Apr 30, 2021.

The work will consist of removing part of the concrete bridge deck by hydro demolition and replacing with epoxy concrete. The bridge will be completely painted and the painting contractor will be required to keep paint and sand blasting materials out of the lake. Additionally, the expansion joints will be repaired and the approaches will be repaved allowing a smoother transition from the road to the bridge.

One lane traffic will be controlled by a temporary stoplight system. This system will begin to be installed on Aug 7. During the first phase of construction, the travel lane will be 12 ft wide.

TDOT has a team that routinely inspects all state highway bridges. During their last inspection here, it was noted that both bridge decks were failing. The concrete has failed to a point where reinforcing steel has been exposed. Once the reinforcing steel is exposed it will rust and deterioration will accelerate.

Tellico Parkway bridges were constructed by TVA about 40 years ago. As with the rest of Tellico Parkway, TVA did not do the best construction job. Now the bridges must be repaired.



Deteriorated concrete deck Ski Cove Bridge

Work will begin on both bridges simultaneously. One lane on each bridge will be completed, then traffic will be shifted and the other lane will be completed.

Boat traffic should not be affected, except the vertical clearance will be reduced some while the painting is taking place.

I know this will be terribly inconvenient for all of us. Please remember that we are lucky to live in a state that is proactive in bridge maintenance. Also TDOT funds their highway without borrowing money. For questions or comments, please contact your Highway Safety Committee at hsctv.org@gmail.com.

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