

Chronology Of Events

12/4/03 VS Contacts Nicely

12/12/03 Nicely Responds To VS

9/8/04 Vs Contacts Nicely

9/9/04 Corum Responds To VS

9/9/04 Vs Responds To Corum

2/7/05 Commission Passes Resolution Requesting Help From TDOT

3/15/05 Johnson Press Release Detailing Shaw Ferry Improvements and Costs

3/20/05 VS Urges Commission Support

4/08/05 VS Request Direction From Johnson

4/11/05 Johnson Requests Commission Resolution For County 20% Match

5/2/05 Commission Passes Resolution To Provide 20% Match

1/30/06 Johnson Press Release No Mention Of Shaw Ferry

1/17/08 Community Meeting To Discuss Shaw Ferry

Mr. Nicely,

My name is Van Shaver. I met you in Loudon at "Bridge Day." It was also a day or two before your announcement about on the belt way so you may not even remember speaking to me. I am one of the commissioners in our county and in our district we have an enormous need to have some improvements to hwy. 11 between Lenoir City and Dixie Lee Junction. This is about a four mile section of two lane highway that was built in the twenties and has had very little improvement since then. The north end of Loudon County that the highway serves has been and continues to be the fastest growing area of the county primarily residential. Along this four mile corridor there are three extremely dangerous intersections Shaw Ferry and hwy. 11, Ford Road/Muddy Creek and hwy. 11 and Old Stage Road and hwy. 11. All of these secondary roads are arteries from many new and existing dense residential areas. All of these intersections have near weekly accidents ranging from minor to serious injuries. All of these intersections have had multiple fatal accidents over the years. We as citizens and elected officials have tried for many years to encourage TDOT to take actions to make much needed improvements to these dangerous intersections. Although TDOT has done several traffic counts and studies that proved the need for improvement the former director of TDOT refused to take any substantial action to improve the situations. The traffic volume of hwy. 11 and at all of these intersections has increased to unbelievable levels in just the past few years.

What we would like to see is turning lanes and signalization (red lights) at all of these intersections. As highway projects go this should not be that costly of a project especially when you consider the potential savings in reducing accidents at these sites. These improvements are not needed just for convenience but for the safety and welfare of the good people all over this area. I would like to ask you to give this matter a serious look to see what can be done. I would also ask that you give me some guidance as a county representative on what would be the best action I could take to help try to find a solution to this ever growing problem here in Loudon County. If there is any thing I can do to help get this project rolling I will be glad to assist.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Van Shaver

Loudon County Commission
12/4/03



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

SUITE 700, JAMES K. POLK BUILDING
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0349
(615) 741-2848

GERALD F. NICELY
COMMISSIONER

PHIL BREDESEN
GOVERNOR

December 12, 2003

**The Honorable Van Shaver
Loudon County Commissioner
568 Ford Road
Lenoir City, TN 37772**

Dear Commissioner Shaver:

Thank you for your recent email concerning the need for improvements at several busy intersections on State Route 2 in Loudon County.

I have forwarded your request to our Regional Traffic Office in Knoxville. They will review any prior information that has been collected and perform a current study of these intersections. This study will be used in determining what measures of improvement may be required at each of these locations. When these studies are complete, Mr. Mark Best, Regional Traffic Engineer, will contact you with the results.

I appreciate your interest in the safety of our highways. Your comments and suggestions will be taken into consideration. Please contact Mr. Best at 865-594-2456 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald F. Nicely".

**Gerald F. Nicely
Commissioner**

GFN/FBC:sf

Cc: Mr. Mark Best, W/Attach.

Subj: **Highway 11**
Date: 9/8/2004 11:23:16 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: SarahLCcom
To: TDOT.Comments@state.tn.us, Patti.Slaton@state.tn.us
File: **nicelyletter90804.doc** (22016 bytes) DL Time (TCP/IP): < 1 minute

Mr. Nicely,

My name is Van Shaver, I am a commissioner in Loudon County. Back in December I wrote to you about very dangerous situation we are having with three intersections here in our county along a four mile stretch of Hwy. 11 between Lenoir City and Knox County. My concerns and questions were referred to Mark Best who responded in February basically stating that two of the intersections were not problems and although the third was a known dangerous intersection there was just no funding to correct the problem. Since February there has been three fairly serious accidents at Old Stage Road and hwy. 11. There has been nearly a dozen serious to very serious accidents at Ford Road/Muddy Creek and hwy. 11. There have been more than a dozen very serious accidents at Shaw Ferry and hwy. 11, one of which resulted in another fatality.

Surely there are some funds somewhere that could be diverted to address at least the worst of these intersections which is Shaw Ferry Road and hwy. 11 before anyone else has to die. I would implore you to take a personal look at our plight. Regardless of what past surveys have indicated, the traffic levels at all of these intersections have reached the breaking point and certainly are not going to get better. We are in desperate need. The lives of thousands of citizens are at stake on a daily basis. Please help us.

I am also attaching my original letter which contains more detail.

Van Shaver
Loudon County Commission

Subj: **Re: Highway 11**
Date: 9/9/2004 12:00:13 PM Eastern Standard Time
From: Fred.Corum@state.tn.us
To: SarahLCcom@aol.com
CC: TDOT.Comments@state.tn.us
Sent from the Internet (Details)

Dear County Commissioner Shaver:

Your e-mail was forwarded to the Region One TDOT Office in Knoxville. We appreciate your concern for the safety of the intersections in your community. We have a consultant studying the intersection of State Route 2 and Shaw Ferry Road. When the study is complete, the consultant will provide a cost estimate for improvements. As soon as this information is available, proper consideration will be given to the recommended improvements.

I appreciate your interest in the safety of our highways. Your comments and suggestions will be taken into consideration. Please contact the Regional Traffic Office at 865-594-2456 if you require additional information or assistance.

Yours truly,

Fred B. Corum
Regional Director
TDOT - Region One

jmh

Fred.Corum@state.tn.us 9/9/2004 12:00:13 PM

Subj: **Re: Highway 11**
Date: 9/9/2004 11:39:39 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: SarahLCcom
To: Fred.Corum@state.tn.us
CC: TDOT.Comments@state.tn.us

Mr. Corum

Thank you for your response. I sincerely hope a solution can be found. I don't know how the structure of your organization works but I could generate a great deal of citizen input pertaining to the dangers of our intersections if that would be helpful.

Thanks for your attention to our problem.

Van Shaver

Resolution 020705

**Resolution Urging TDOT To Appropriate Funding For Safety Improvements
At The Intersection Of Shaw Ferry Road And US Highway 11**

Whereas, the intersection of Shaw Ferry Road and US Highway 11 has been the scene of frequent accidents for several years, including two (2) recent fatalities; and

Whereas, this is a high traffic intersection in a growth area of the county; and

Whereas, the traffic count at this intersection is expected to increase rapidly; and

Whereas, TDOT has recently completed an engineering study of the intersection which concluded that improvements to the intersection would cost approximately \$725,000; and

Whereas, TDOT safety enhancement grants are limited to \$100,000 for each project; and

Whereas, financing the additional \$625,000 would place an undue burden on Loudon County and its taxpayers.

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved, by the Loudon County Commission meeting in regular session, assembled this 7th day of February, 2005, that TDOT includes these improvements in their budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Be It Further Resolved that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Loudon County's state legislators urging them with the request that they make this a matter of high priority and to seek any and all funding available for the expeditious completion of this project.

County Chairman

Attest:

County Clerk

County Mayor

House of Representatives
State of Tennessee



News Release

For Immediate Release

John Sanchez, 865-458-5634

Legislators Meet with TDOT Commissioner on County Road Projects

Nashville, TN (March 15, 2005) -- Representative Russell Johnson (R- Loudon) and Senator Randy McNally (R-Oak Ridge) met today with TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely along with Representative Dennis Ferguson (D-Kingston), County Mayor George Miller and County Commissioner Don Miller on several Loudon County road projects.

The delegation reviewed with Commissioner Nicely the county's transportation priority list. This list was compiled at the request of Rep. Johnson by the city and county governments and it establishes a priority among the county's various road improvement, signaling and new road construction needs. At the top of the list and at the forefront of the discussion was the completion of the widening of Hwy 321 from the end of the four lane near Hwy 95 to the Tennessee River, as well as the plan for new bridge across the Tennessee River just below Ft. Loudoun Dam and a request for a "flyover" of the Hwy 11/Hwy 321 intersection in Lenoir City. TDOT put \$1 million towards these projects last year and there is the possibility of federal funding for an additional \$6.5 million. In light of the potential federal funding TDOT, at County Mayor Miller's request, will halt further "at grade" design of an enhanced intersection at Hwy 11/321 and will instead focus a study on the need for a Hwy 321 overpass that will "flyover" the existing Hwy 11 intersection. Nicely stated that the entire project was subject to availability of federal funding as well.

Rep. Ferguson discussed with the Commissioner the timetable for the removal of the grass median on Hwy 321 through from the McGhee Blvd. intersection out towards Simpson Road. The median will be replaced by a continuous turn lane. The start date for construction on this project is at least fifteen months out.

Rep. Johnson and Mayor Miller discussed the need a traffic signal at Hwy 11 and Shaw Ferry Road. TDOT's estimate for a complete signal with turn lanes is \$720,000.

Commissioner Nicely indicated that this project was also dependent on available funding and the county's ability to match funds. Another dangerous Hwy 11 intersection discussed was at Simmons Road in Loudon as you start down the heading south into Loudon from Lenoir City. District TDOT Supervisor will be dispatched to evaluate both of these intersections and possible solutions.

Rep. Johnson and Sen. McNally were also able to obtain a commitment from Commissioner Nicely for further funding of the extension and widening of Irene Lane to Tellico Village Community Church.

Subj: **Shaw Ferry & 11**
Date: 3/20/2005 11:23:11 PM Eastern Standard Time
From: SarahLCcom
To: HollyAnn56017279@cs.com, blairt@loudoncounty.org, bboyd304@bellsouth.net, boydt@loudoncounty.org, bradshawl@loudoncounty.org, chambersa@loudoncounty.org, Kens300, SUPERHBD, TVdrMiller, rdfranke@msn.com, emaples@lcub1.com, dmeers@bellsouth.net, o5v@bechteljacobs.org, commish_jenkins@bellsouth.net, o5v@bjcllc.org, knight@loudoncountyyeda.org, phillips@loudoncountyyeda.org, p_phillips@bellsouth.net, jabston1@msn.com, CJSAYLOR7, rhodusm@hotmail.com, Kim.Hall@gentiva.com, mncbluford@netzero.net, Tracilynnkollock, Lcmay4@wmconnect.com, smallwoodsharon@hotmail.com, mc7788@bellsouth.net, charles.mayfield@state.tn.us, WGuardin, haroldedwh@charter.net, hincham@ntown.com, rghinton@charter.net, countyexecutive@loudoncounty.org, lbrewer@xtn.net, openshaw@xtn.net, kburcham@xtn.net, bgreene1@xtn.net, russ_newman@bellsouth.net, debhines@bellsouth.net, michael_reynolds@bellsouth.net, Lshckly91@wmconnect.com, hlsproul@charter.net, jsartin@charter.net

To all,

According to Russell Johnson, the cost of the planned improvements at Shaw Ferry & 11 will only require a 20% match from the county. This would mean that our part should only be about \$150,000.00. this may be the best deal we will ever get. I think the commission should take what ever steps necessary to secure this deal while it is available. While so many of the road projects we have discussed recently need improvement for the convenience of the driving public, the Shaw Ferry & 11 improvements are needed for safety. When traveling through this intersection from any direction you take your life into your own hands.

Angie, please add this to the agenda for discussion.

Van

Subj: **Shaw Ferry & 11**
Date: 4/8/2005 11:48:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: SarahLCcom
To: JOHNSONRUS

Russ,

What if any thing should or could the commission do to make sure the improvements at Shaw Ferry & 11 are nailed down. The 80%/20% deal. Last month we agreed to take what ever measures necessary to secure the project.

Keep me posted.

Van

Subj: **Re: Shaw Ferry & 11**
Date: 4/11/2005 1:57:22 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: JOHNSONRUS
To: SarahLCcom

A resolution of commitment to do the 20-30% match would help, although it is still subject to available state funding. - Russ

RESOLUTION 050205

**A RESOLUTION COMMITTING A 20% MATCH FROM
LOUDON COUNTY, TENNESSEE FOR IMPROVEMENTS
AT SHAW FERRY ROAD AND U.S. HIGHWAY 11**

WHEREAS, the Loudon County Commission passed a resolution on February 07, 2005 urging the Tennessee Department of Transportation to appropriate funding for safety improvements at the intersection of Shaw Ferry Road and US Highway 11; and

WHEREAS, as stated in that resolution, this is a high traffic intersection in a growth area of the county and is expected to increase rapidly; and

WHEREAS, the intersection of Shaw Ferry Road and US Highway 11 has been the scene of frequent accidents for several years, including two (2) recent fatalities; and

WHEREAS, Loudon County has applied for Safety Enhancement Grant funding for this area, but those grants are limited to \$100,000 per project; and; and

WHEREAS, a recent engineering study of the intersection estimated the cost of the project to be \$740,000; and

WHEREAS, financing the additional \$640,000 would place an undue burden on Loudon County and its taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, after meeting with TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely, it was understood that additional state funding will be appropriated for this project, upon commitment of a 20% match by Loudon County, Tennessee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Loudon County Commission, meeting in regular session, assembled this 2nd day of May, 2005 that Loudon County, Tennessee does hereby commit to 20% match funding for much need improvements at Shaw Ferry Road and US Highway 11.

County Chairman

Attest:

County Clerk

Subj:
Date: 1/30/2006 9:39:50 AM Eastern Standard Time
From: chambersa@loudoncounty.org
To: emaples@lcub1.com, haroldewh@charter.net, superhbd@aol.com, sarahlccom@aol.com, commish_jenkins@bellsouth.net, hlsproul@charter.net, tvdrmiller@aol.com, rdfranke@msn.com, phillips@loudoncountyyeda.org, dmeers@bellsouth.net, kens300@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

Below is a press release from Representative Russell Johnson.

Loudon County Delegation Meets with TDOT

Legislators Discuss 321 "Flyover" and other projects

Nashville The Loudon County legislative delegation consisting of Sen. Randy McNally (R-Oak Ridge), Rep. Dennis Ferguson (D-Midtown) and Rep. Russell Johnson (R-Loudon), along with County Mayor George Miller, Lenoir City Administrator Dale Hurst, EDA Director Pat Phillips and Chamber Director Teresa Ward-Keenan met with Assistant Commissioner Paul Degges and other state Department of Transportation officials Thursday to discuss the funding of various road projects in Loudon County.

The primary purpose of the meeting was to determine the status of the construction of the possible Hwy 321 "flyover" of US Hwy 11 in Lenoir City. Congressman John Duncan, Jr. and Senator Lamar Alexander announced last year a total of \$7.5 million in federal funding for the overpass and interchange. This "earmarked" funding requires a twenty percent match in funding from the state and/or local government and can only be drawn down 20% every year over a five-year period.

The local officials recounted for TDOT officials the history of their efforts in regards to this project. The delegation also emphasized to Degges the need for the state to match the funding and to place the project on the state's projects priority list. Asst. Com. Degges explained to the group that TDOT is currently conducting a statewide analysis of all projects that have received earmarked federal funding. The study, to be completed within six to eight weeks, will determine which projects receive priority. The Hwy 321 flyover project is located on a state route that is considered a strategic corridor and, if the twenty percent match can be met, this would be applied to offset a portion of the overall project cost. However, a flyover was not TDOT's "preferred option" for the intersection. Instead TDOT has recommended "at grade level" improvements, like adding an additional left turn lane from Hwy 11 northbound to Hwy 321 westbound leading towards I-75. All of these factors will be part of the analysis to see where the project is prioritized. The good news is that the federal funding cannot be shifted to other state projects if it is not used immediately.

The same analysis applies to the some \$200,000 in earmarked federal funding for lighting on the Congressman Duncan/Veterans Memorial Bridge in Loudon. The twenty percent match will have to come from the state and/or City of Loudon. As to other lighting issues, TDOT has agreed to enter into a contract with the City of Loudon for additional lighting at the Exit 72 interchange of I-75 in Loudon and TDOT stated they are merely waiting for the City to return the executed contract for that project.

Rep. Ferguson discussed the need for removal of the grass in the median along Hwy 321 from Simpson Road back towards Hwy 11 to allow for a continuous turn lane. The legislators and Dale Hurst presented a resolution from the Lenoir City Council requesting a new traffic light at the Hwy 321 intersection with the new hospital

Tuesday, January 22, 2008 America Online: SarahLCcom

entrance and Mayor Miller relayed the hospital's verbal commitment to pay up to \$200,000 for the cost of the traffic signal. TDOT officials will be meeting Monday with city officials in Lenoir City regarding these and other Hwy 321 issues.

The final topic of discussion was the almost \$500,000 in streetscape grants received by cities and the county as well as an overall need for long range planning with Hwy 321 and the eventual new bridges over the Tennessee River and Tellico Canal.

Angie Chambers
Executive Assistant to the Mayor
Loudon County Government
100 River Road #106
Loudon, TN 37774
(865) 458-4664

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