

## Tennessee Department of Transportation Rumbling

The most recent rumbling of state roads in **Sumner County** has been on **Gallatin Road** (a.k.a. Nashville Pike, and several others) between the cities of Hendersonville and Gallatin.

This road is a designated **Bike Route** with signs to that effect. In its narrowest sections the shoulder is 40-inches wide. In its widest sections it approaches 10 feet. The road is frequented by cyclists of all competency levels from adolescents on mountain bikes (often without helmets and riding opposite to the flow of traffic) to skilled road cyclists from local clubs.

In 2009 the road has received a combination of rumbling methods.



Until May 2009 the standard method was to score the road with 12" to 16" wide indentations approximately a foot inside the white stripe. The only breaks in the rumble were at road and drive-way entrances. The cyclist retained 24" to 30" of shoulder in the narrowest sections.

Almost all cyclists could maneuver the rumble. Debris on the shoulder was a far greater hazard than was the rumble.

In May 2009 TDOT changed methods for rumbling Gallatin Rd. They moved the pattern to the inside-roadway edge, providing the cyclist with 18" additional shoulder upon which to ride. (also note the first picture)

With many state roads having two to three foot shoulders, the old technique forced the cyclist off the shoulder and into the flow of motorized traffic.

The additional 18" would allow most cyclist to ride these narrower shoulders.





However, in the “good-intention but waste of money” column is these “Share the Road” signs. Five of them are visible from the location shown in the photo. Cyclists do not ride on Gallatin Road in this area. Because of very high traffic levels and vehicle speed, cyclists stay exclusively on the shoulder. Gallatin Rd is also extensively signed as a **Bike Route**.

These signs could be of significantly greater value if placed SR 109 and SR 25 on the north side of the city where cyclists are forced to ride in traffic due to absence of adequate shoulders.