**TRAFFIC ALERT**

Interstate 40 in East Tennessee and Western North Carolina is reopened to one lane traffic in each direction. I-40 at the Tennessee and North Carolina State Line has been closed due to storm impacts from Hurricane Helene since September 2024.

Motorists should be alert of the following conditions through this area:

* This area remains a heavily active construction zone as permanent repairs continue. Motorists should be alert for workers and construction equipment entering and exiting the roadway in this work zone.
* Narrowed lane reductions are in place in both directions between Mile Marker 446 in Tennessee and Mile Marker 7 in North Carolina.
* **Traffic more than 8.5 feet in width is prohibited through this area.**
* Speed Limit of 40 MPH in Tennessee and 35 MPH in North Carolina are in place.
* There are areas with no shoulders and no emergency pull off locations through this work zone.
* There are sharp and winding curves through this area of the mountains.
* There are no services in this area. Motorists should ensure they have plenty of fuel and vehicle is in good mechanical condition traveling through this area.
* Motorists should expect potential long delays.
* Motorists should be prepared to stop and be alert for slowed or stopped traffic.
* Motorists should use extreme caution and avoid all distractions traveling through this area.
* **Tennessee Hands Free Law**: **TCA § 55-8-199** makes it illegal for a driver to:

(a) hold a cellphone or mobile device with any part of their body,

(b) write, send, or read any text-based communication,

(c) reach for a cellphone or mobile device in a manner that requires the driver to no longer be in a seated driving position or properly restrained by a seat belt,

(d) watch a video or movie on a cellphone or mobile device, and

(e) record or broadcast video on a cellphone or mobile device.

* I-40 “Thru Traffic” should continue to follow I-81 North to I-26 East or I-77 South to avoid potential major delays.