

386 extension leaves no lights in between

Drive to Nashville now quicker

BY KATRINA CORNWELL
THE NEWS EXAMINER

The commute from Gallatin to Nashville just got a whole lot easier.

Seven miles of new highway on State 386 between Hendersonville and Gallatin opened to motorists at 3 p.m. Friday, and Sumner County residents are already putting the roadway to use.

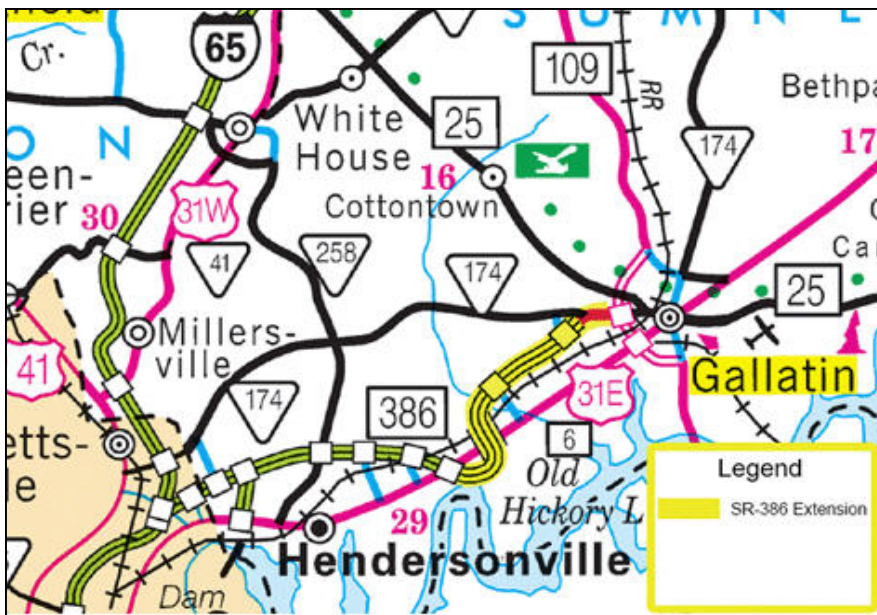
That stretch—from Long Hollow Pike to just east of Saundersville Road—gives people the option to travel between Gallatin and Nashville without a traffic signal to stop them.

“It’s going to cut back on my drive-time by 10 minutes or more,” said Jennifer Mann of Gallatin, who commuted 45 minutes each way to get to work and back home.

Emergency agencies that assisted in Wednesday’s fiery truck crash were honored during the highway’s opening ceremony, and first responders led the way as the road was opened to traffic.

“Wow, what an amazing day,” Hendersonville Mayor Scott foster said. “Two days ago, if you had said we’d be here, I wouldn’t have believed you. We’ll have trackers out on Nashville Pike tomorrow to make sure traffic is substantially reduced.”

The section of highway between Saundersville Road and Big Station Camp Boulevard was delayed



due to problems with movement in the bridge. But with the same contractor on both jobs, the state was able to open two segments of the highway simultaneously, officials said.

“The opening of these two segments of S.R. 386 will have a huge impact on Gallatin, and the thousands of people who commute to and from Nashville every day,” said Gerald Nicely, commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

State Representative Mike McDonald marveled at the progress of the county’s roadwork in recent years.

“I’m thrilled about this,” he said. “My dad used to drive from East Nashville to Bethpage on a gravel road. It used to take all day. Now, we’ll be able to get from Gallatin to Nashville in a matter of minutes. This will really open

Sumner County for economic development.”

Staff writers Jennifer Easton and Mary Rose Fox contributed to this report.