The section of SR 1 – US 11 that runs between mileposts 21.56 and 26.56 dates back to 1916, when it was constructed as a country road with a crushed stone base. The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) re-graded the road in 1941 and added 2 inches of crushed stone topped with road oil.

TDOT built the current road’s structure in 1948, adding 4 inches of additional stone base, then topping it with a 4-inch asphalt base and 1.5-inch riding surface. The pavement received a 1-inch leveling course topped with a 0.75-inch asphalt overlay in 1964; a 1.25-inch asphalt overlay in 1980; and a 0.4-inch leveling course and 1.25-inch asphalt overlay in 1995.

SR 1 – US 11 was part of the main trucking route through Tennessee until Interstate 81 opened in 1974. It has carried 4.73 million equivalent single axle loads (ESALs) since 1963, and its average daily traffic in 2007 was 5,435 vehicles.