

# *East Tennessee Development District*

*December 2018*

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*Happy Holidays  
May the Joys of the Season  
Lead the Way  
To a Bright and Prosperous  
New Year!*

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

ETDD staff is working with the following companies and communities on their economic development projects:

BMT, Jacksboro – Plant Expansion, 100 jobs; Investment = \$1,763,000; Grant amount = \$383,000

BMT, Jellico – New Plant, 48 jobs; Investment = \$1,903,200; Grant amount = \$161,328

Eagle Bend – Wastewater System, 127 jobs; Investment = \$107,000,000; Grant amount = \$365,000

Hope Industries – Plant Expansion, 32 jobs; Investment = 1,000,000; Grant amount = 75,000

England Furniture – Plant Expansion, 202 jobs; Investment = \$31,800,000; Grant amount = \$2,000,000

Petoskey Plastics – Ground Improvements, 78 Jobs; Investment = \$30,000,000; Grant amount = \$750,000

ETDD staff is also working on EDA Disaster grants at the time of publication.

Blount Partnership:

Proposal = \$750,000.00

Project = Extend the access road at the Partnership parkway 3,700 lf with water and sewer utilities also provided.

City of Friendsville

Proposal = \$432,500.00

Project = Install approximately 20,000 lf of 6 inch force main with pump station for wastewater.

City of Loudon

Proposal = \$1,000,000.00

Project = Install 1,047 lf of 24-inch wastewater pipe across Tennessee River.

Sevier County Electric

Proposal = \$800,000.00

Project = Alternative electrical feed to the water intake center.

## **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)**

The 2018-2021 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) report is in the public review phase and we are soliciting input from ETDD's 16 service counties and 56 municipalities. This report is a strategic three-year

plan that assesses current status and identifies resources and services that support regional economic and community stability and prosperity. This draft document is located on the ETDD webpage. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have comments on the CEDS.

## **PINI (TACIR)**

The Public Infrastructure Needs Inventory (PINI) is currently underway. ETDD is close to completing the infrastructure surveys pertaining to K-12 public schools. The general database surveys are also underway and staff will be emailing you soon. Contact ETDD if you're a local public official and you want to include information about a needed public infrastructure improvement in the PINI inventory. After all the surveys are collected, the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR) publishes a lengthy summary that details infrastructure needs for all of Tennessee. Each county now has their own summary sheet that details their estimated costs by type of infrastructure. The report is then presented to the state legislature as a planning tool and a funding decision making tool. You can view the past reports at [www.tn.gov/tacir/rsection/tacir-infrastructure](http://www.tn.gov/tacir/rsection/tacir-infrastructure). Contact Mollie Childress at [mechildress@etdd.org](mailto:mechildress@etdd.org) if you want to be surveyed.

## **GRANT INFORMATION**

### **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)**

ETDD staff is available to assist with the preparation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications for the 2019 funding cycle. The grant deadline is February 22, 2019. The CDBG program targets funding for projects in the following categories: 1. Wastewater (wastewater plants and collection lines). 2. Water (water plants and distribution lines) 3. Housing (owner occupied rehabilitation) and 4. Community Livability (emergency equipment, flood control, blight). Call Mitch Loomis at (865) 273-6003, if you need help on an application or to know if a project is eligible for CDBG funding.

ETDD staff is currently assisting the following communities with the administration of awarded CDBG projects:

1. Monroe County – Water line extension
2. New Tazewell – Housing
3. Rockwood – Housing
4. Campbell County – Fire equipment
5. Jefferson County – Water line extension
6. Morgan County – Water line extension

## Grants (Cont.) / Solid Waste

7. Roane County – Fire equipment
8. White Pine – Water line extension
9. Scott County – Ambulances
10. Hamblen County – Fire equipment
11. Campbell County – Drive for 55 Dual Enrollment Program
12. Mossy Creek Foundation – Façade improvements
13. City of Sweetwater – Façade improvements
14. Madisonville – Fire hall
15. Harrogate – Wastewater improvements
16. Cocke County – Water line improvements
17. Jefferson City – Sewer rehabilitation
18. Claiborne County – Water line improvements

### **Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)**

ETDD staff helped the following communities to submit an ARC pre-application that was due December 7<sup>th</sup>:

1. Union County – Waste to Energy grant for electrical three-phase project.
2. Campbell County – Broadband expansions
3. Clinton Utility – Water line upgrade to I-75 industrial park.
4. Claiborne County – Springdale School wastewater system
5. Tellico Area Services – Water system improvements
6. White Pine – Water system improvements at Exit 5 on Interstate 81
7. Arthur-Sewanee – Water storage in Claiborne County

ETDD staff is currently working with the following communities to administer their awarded ARC projects:

1. Morristown – Wastewater plant improvements
2. Claiborne County – Water line extension
3. Newport Utilities – Broadband expansions
4. City of Madisonville – Water tank
5. Dandridge – Water Tank
6. Union County – Sewage treatment plant improvements
7. Morgan County/Plateau Utilities – Water system improvements
8. Rockwood – Wastewater project
9. Oneida TCAT – Equipment for diesel classroom
10. Scott County – Reservoir water level study.

ETDD assisted the City of Sweetwater with the submission of an ARC full application for a \$105,000 broadband expansion project for their downtown area. If approved, ARC funding has been allocated to support \$52,500 of the project, with the City matching \$52,500 for installation and sustainability for the next five years.

### **FEMA Fire Fighters Grant Program**

The primary goal of the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) is to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service organizations. Three specific programs are available that provide funding for equipment such as fire trucks, SCBA, protective gear, firefighting tools, training and other resources needed to protect the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards. Fire Trucks can also be applied for under this grant.

### **Police Grants**

ETDD staff is assisting Campbell County Industrial Development Board on a Correctional Pathway Grant that will provide on-site training for incarcerated employees. It will provide an opportunity for them to have a job skill upon being released and the ability to pay back fines to the court system. The grant amount awarded was \$50,000.00.

### **Transportation**

ETDD is assisting the Oneida Special School District, Scott County Schools and Campbell County Schools with applying for School Bus Replacement Grants. This fleet replacement grant provides school districts and/or contracted fleet service businesses with funding to replace school buses with a new diesel, alternate fuel or all-electric school bus. The funding originates with TDEC and is derived from the recent Volkswagen settlement with the US EPA.

### **Miscellaneous**

ETDD staff is assisting several counties that received a grant from ETHRA for water stations at the schools, computers for learning center and upgrades to transportation vans for dental care. The counties are Morgan, Campbell, Union, Claiborne, and Scott.

## **SOLID WASTE**

### **Annual Progress Reports (APRs)**

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation staff sent out approval letters for FY17 APRs during the week of November 12. All solid waste regions across the state must achieve the 25% waste reduction and diversion goal established by the Solid Waste Management Act of 1991. Using the real-time comparison methodology, nine of the District's solid waste regions achieved reductions of 50% or more. Especially worthy of mention is Sevier



## *Solid Waste (Cont.) / Housing / Historic Preservation*

County with a 95% reduction for FY17. Congratulations to all the solid waste regions who achieved the 25% goal and to all the solid waste regions on their continued efforts at waste reduction and diversion!

The reporting system for the FY18 APRs will open up on January 1, 2019, and all data must be uploaded, approved, and signed by March 31, 2019. If your solid waste region needs assistance with preparation and submission of the FY18 APR, please contact Tim Hendrick at 865-273-6003.

### **Waste Reduction Grant Awards**

ETDD staff assisted several counties with preparation and submission of Waste Reduction Grant applications this past summer. With grant awards announced on November 15, Grainger, Scott, and Union Counties received a cumulative total of \$356,909.00 in grant funding for the purchases of equipment including: recycling trailers, a forklift, and dump hoppers for Grainger County; a roll off truck for Scott County; and recycling trailers, a compactor, and receiver boxes for Union County. Congratulations to these three counties on successful funding of their grant applications!

### **E-Scrap 2018 Conference**

ETDD staff attended the E-Scrap 2018 Conference held in New Orleans from October 9-11. This 16<sup>th</sup> annual conference focused on E-scrap collection issues, recycling market factors, and legislative and policy considerations. Electronics waste can be a burdensome part of any materials stream. If your solid waste region needs assistance resolving issues with electronics waste, please contact Tim Hendrick at 865-273-6003.

## **HOUSING**

The Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA) administers the federally-funded HOME program to promote the rehabilitation of single-family housing in Tennessee. No local match is required from applicants, and the program aims to help 10-12 low-income homeowners within the county or municipality awarded the grant. Grant applications are expected to become available in January, and will be due in **early March 2019**. ETDD's housing staff is available to provide more information and assist with the application process.

ETDD housing staff is available to discuss housing needs and community housing grant applications. We can also provide information on local and regional housing service providers, agencies and alternate programs that can assist

individuals in need of housing repair. For more information on these programs, contact Lindsay Crockett at (865) 273-6003.

## **HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Federal Preservation Grant applications are now being accepted by the Tennessee Historical Commission. Applications are due **January 31, 2019**, with contracts typically executed the following October. Funds are available due to provisions made in the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 which grants the Secretary of the Interior the authority to provide grants which promote a wide range of preservation initiatives. Grants are 60% of the project cost and require a 40% local match; they are administered on a reimbursable basis.

The federal grants can be used for a variety of preservation activities, and projects typically fall into one of two categories: Survey and Planning or Acquisition and Development. Survey projects which aim to document local historic resources is a priority for the State. These projects should identify and record historic districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant to Tennessee's history and built before 1965, with the intent to nominate resources to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) where possible. Development of design guidelines is also an eligible expense when planning for a local historic district. Planning projects can also encompass activities ranging from public education and outreach to local preservation studies. Pre-development planning, such as an architectural or engineering study as part of a planned historic building restoration, can also qualify for grants under this program. There are several instances where a phased, multi-year approach can allow grant funds to assist with the completion of a large project.

Acquisition and Development projects typically address historic restoration activities. Repairs and restoration activities must follow *the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, a document published by the National Park Service that offers guidance on technical preservation issues. The Tennessee Historical Commission must review and approve all proposed work under this category, and property owners are required to execute a preservation agreement or covenant that helps to ensure maintenance and limited public access. The term of the covenant is proportional to the grant amount. While all NRHP-listed buildings are eligible to receive these grants, projects sponsored by local government, public interest groups or non-profit organizations and/or for properties of public

use are generally considered more competitive than projects proposed for private residential or commercial property.

The Tennessee Historical Commission maintains a website with extensive information about state and federal historic preservation programs, along with the State's comprehensive historic preservation plan, *A Future for the Past: a Comprehensive Plan for Historic Preservation in Tennessee (2013-2018)*. This document can be very useful with preservation planning, accessing grant funds, or participating in state and federal preservation initiatives. Grant applicants are encouraged to consult with this document. The federal preservation grant page of the THC website also contains a FAQs document, which provides further details about how the priority for each grant application is determined. ETDD's preservation planner can assist with writing grant applications for historic and cultural heritage resources in our region. Please contact Lindsay Crockett at (865) 273-6003 for more details.

### **RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION (RPO)**

The East Tennessee South Rural Planning Organization, ETSRPO, Technical Committee and Executive Board met on September 18, 2018. The East Tennessee North Rural Planning Organization, ETNRPO, Technical Committee and Executive Board met on September 20, 2018. The primary focus of the meetings was to provide members information on the roles and responsibilities of the RPOs, TDOT's grant and funding programs, TDOT's state aid road and bridge grant programs and the status of major TDOT projects in the area. In addition, the Multimodal Access Grant applications were reviewed and ranked. The following Multimodal Access Grant applications were sent to TDOT headquarters to compete in the statewide competition: Sevierville, Newport, Rocky Top, Wartburg, New Tazewell, LaFollette and Harrogate.

A joint meeting of the ETSRPO Technical Committee and Executive Board is scheduled for December 13, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. A joint meeting of the ETNRPO Technical Committee and Executive Board is scheduled for December 13, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. Both meetings will be held at the TDOT Region 1 Headquarters Auditorium. The primary agenda item is prioritizing major proposed TDOT roadway projects in each RPO.

The Tennessee Department of Transportation has started a new process for requests for a new project / new start projects. This process will apply to projects not listed in the IMPROVE Act list of projects. The process is known as the Community Transportation Planning

Request (CTPR). ETDD staff has completed five CTPR for projects in Union, Roane, Morgan, Monroe and Claiborne counties. Please contact ETDD if you know of any state highway in your community that is experiencing traffic flow or safety issues.

The East Tennessee Development District website contains the most up-to-date information on the two RPO's. The web site includes the most up to date TDOT Project Status Reports that provide a description and status of all TDOT projects in each county within the RPO. The link to this website is <http://www.etdd.org/services/community-development/transportation/>.

### **PLANNING ADVISORY SERVICE**

#### **Small Cell Wireless Communication Facilities**

Wireless communication (cell) towers have generally been tall structures that have worked well to provide cellular phone service over large coverage areas. However, in recent years there has been a tremendous increase in the number of phones, tablets, and computers that rely on wireless service. This has resulted in the need for Wireless Service Providers (WSP) to upgrade facilities to accommodate consumer demand, especially for data usage. Therefore, all WSPs are actively working to upgrade service to 5G by establishing small cell systems in more densely populated residential and commercial areas, including small towns.

The small cell systems consist of small cell towers (often less than fifty feet in height), antennae, and associated facilities. These antennae and facilities are located close to each other in populated areas to maximize service and transmission of signals. They will be able to provide an enhanced capacity 5G service as it becomes available. Antennae can often be located on existing towers, buildings, poles, or other structures. Additional cellular towers may be needed if existing towers or other support structures are unavailable. Regardless of location, antennae require additional equipment to be mounted on or near the structures to support the antennae.

Cell towers have generally been regulated through zoning. Tall cell towers were often treated as principal uses of property (one per tract) and were subject to setback, fencing, screening, landscaping, lighting, and other requirements. Small cell systems will utilize additional antennae but not necessarily new towers because antennae and associated equipment can often be located on existing towers and other structures. Therefore, zoning regulations should address proposed

antennae, cell towers, and associated equipment. The most important role zoning can play with small cell facilities is to minimize their visual impact. This is especially important in residential and downtown areas. This can be achieved by requiring colocation, appropriate landscaping, minimum setbacks from property lines and buildings, and shrouds for antennae.

With the anticipated proliferation of small cell systems, most communities should consider adopting or updating their zoning regulations to minimize the negative impacts of these systems. Planning commission staff and staff attorneys can help with this process. There is also an abundance of information on the internet that can provide ideas and guidance.

### **GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS** **(GIS)**

Grants were in large part the focus of attention for GIS staff this quarter. CDBG environmental reviews required 59 maps, illustrations, and FEMA FIRMettes (edited to show the proposed project locations) for ten of our ETDD communities. The maps created included fire and explosive zone radius illustrations, project area maps, and topographic maps. For several of these grants, project area data was digitized for use in the maps. GIS staff also created a new base map for New Market and a map of transportation planning regions in the ETDD region for our RPO planner. FEMA FIRMettes edited to show project areas were generated for an ARC environmental review for Cocke County.

For the planning program, GIS staff created proposed rezoning illustrations for New Tazewell and Plainview. The Newport zoning map was brought up to date with several past rezonings for which we recently received signed ordinances. Upon completion, hardcopy and PDF maps were sent to the town and ETDD planner. GIS staff also researched and tested software related to an upcoming U.S. Census project.

### **AREAWIDE DEVELOPMENT** **CORPORATION** **SBA 504 News**

On November 9, 2018, the effective rates were published for the November 2018 funded debentures. The 25 year full term funding rate was 6.077%, the 20 year debenture full term funding rate was 6.046%, and the 10 year full term funding rate was 6.137%. For fiscal year 2019 which began October 1, 2018, ADC has one loan approved totaling \$512,000. Our current outstanding

portfolio consists of forty three loans totaling \$27.1 million. There are three approved loans currently under construction, three additional loans that are approved that will be funding in the next 90 days, and three applications that will be submitted to SBA pending loan committee/board approval within the next couple of weeks.

On November 2, 2018 SBA announced it was changing the job creation and retention requirements for the 504 Loan Program. A project must now create or retain one Job Opportunity per \$75,000 guaranteed by SBA or for projects eligible under "Other economic development objectives" a CDC's portfolio must reflect an average of one Job Opportunity for every \$75,000 guaranteed by SBA. If the project involves a small manufacturer, the project must create or retain one Job Opportunity per \$120,000. Prior to this announcement the job creation requirement was one Job Opportunity per \$65,000 and one per \$100,000 for manufacturing.

SBA announced at the NADCO Annual Meeting in October that the Standard Operating Procedures Manual known as SOP 5 10 5 which covers both the SBA 7a and 504 loan programs is being revised and will be released sometime in late January or early February 2019 and will be known as SOP 50 10 5. Dianna Seaborn, Director of the Office of Financial Assistance at the U.S. Small Business Administration, addressed the NADCO membership and said that they had taken many of the requests made by NADCO on behalf of the CDC industry, and incorporated them in to the upcoming SOP but did not elaborate as to what these changes are. The CDC industry is optimistic that the revised SOP will provide positive changes for the 504 loan program and its borrowers!

### **Agribusiness Loan Program**

The East Tennessee Development District, in cooperation with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, is now offering low cost loan funds to agribusinesses in the region. The purpose of the program is to stimulate farm and agribusiness income. The funds can be used to purchase machinery and equipment that is used to produce local farm products. Loan amounts cannot exceed \$25,000 and loan terms cannot exceed seven years in length. The approximate interest rate is 4% per year. Funds can be used to purchase or improve buildings and greenhouses, buy harvesting and processing equipment, trailers, coolers, grain storage, permanent fencing and irrigation equipment. Funds cannot be used to purchase tractors or trucks, or be used for general administrative expenses. Loans can typically be approved within one week of the submission of a complete application. For



more information please contact Terry Bobrowski at [tbobrowski@etdd.org](mailto:tbobrowski@etdd.org) or (865) 273-6003.

## PEOPLE AND PLACES

### Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) Summary

The 2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) allows invited participants to review and update selected statistical area boundaries for 2020 Census data tabulation following U.S. Census Bureau guidelines and criteria. The Census Bureau also will use the statistical areas defined for the 2020 Census to tabulate data for the annual American Community Survey (ACS) estimates and the Economic Census. Standard statistical geographies include: Census Tracts, Block Groups, Census Designated Places and Census County Divisions.

The 2020 Census PSAP is the only opportunity prior to the 2020 Census to review and update the selected statistical areas. The Census Bureau uses the statistical areas defined for the 2020 Census to tabulate data for the ACS throughout the decade. These data are frequently used to prepare grant applications to fund community and regional development, education, agriculture, energy, and environmental programs, as well as other needed community improvements and enhancements.

The next opportunity to review and delineate statistical areas is planned for the 2030 Census. The PSAP schedule is as follows:

**January 2019:** 2020 Census PSAP delineation phase begins. Participants have 120 calendar days to submit updates.

**January 2019:** 2020 Census PSAP webinar trainings begin.

**July 2019:** 2020 Census PSAP participants notified of delineation phase closeout.

**January 2020:** 2020 Census PSAP verification phase begins. Participants have 90 calendar days to review updates.

ETDD staff will assist rural counties that do not have GIS capabilities with the boundary review process. ETDD has indicated that assistance will be provided to Anderson, Campbell, Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Morgan, Scott and Union counties.

### New Elected Officials

ETDD welcomes several new Board members that were recently elected:

Omer Cox, Oliver Springs Mayor  
Tim Sharp, Rocky Top Mayor  
Dwight Osborn, Jellico Mayor  
Roland Dykes III, Newport Mayor  
Ben Waller, Bean Station Mayor  
Marvin D. Braden, Blaine Mayor  
Mitch Cain, Jefferson City Mayor  
Jeff Harris, City of Loudon Mayor  
Dewayne Birchfield, Greenback Mayor  
Jerry R. Huskey, Pittman Center Mayor

Congratulations and welcome to the ETDD Board of Directors!

### Bethel Church Listed on National Register

The East Tennessee Preservation Awards program recognizes outstanding individuals, organizations, and projects contributing to the protection of East Tennessee's heritage. One of the 2018 awards recognized the work of a few dedicated individuals who were instrumental in getting the 1908 Bethel United Methodist Church in Morristown being officially added to the National Register of Historic Places on March 28, 2018. The church is located at 703 N. Cumberland Street adjacent to the original site where the congregation was organized immediately following the Civil War. [Lindsay Crockett](#), Historic Preservation Planner for the East Tennessee Development District, authored the nomination. Bethel is the last structure standing associated with the former Morristown College (now demolished). Students often attended the church and the building was occasionally used for school ceremonies.

### Remembering Gordon Acuff

Mr. William Gordon Acuff, longtime Executive Director of the East Tennessee Human Resource Agency (ETHRA), passed away on November 5<sup>th</sup> at age 82. Mr. Acuff served ETHRA for 35 years and was responsible for its growth to a multi-purpose service agency with over 300 employees and an annual budget that exceeds \$35 million dollars. Mr. Acuff was a graduate of Carson Newman University and earned a Master's degree at the University of Tennessee. Literally hundreds of thousands of people have been touched by the programs that ETHRA provided during his tenure and his legacy will be felt for many years to come. Rest in Peace Mr. Acuff - ETDD acknowledges a life well lived and a job well done.



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# Calendar of Events

## December 2018

- 4 Opportunity Zone meeting, Knoxville Chamber of Commerce
- 6 ETDD & ETHRA Legislative Breakfast
- 11 ETDD Executive Committee & ETHRA Policy Council Meetings, ETHRA Offices
- 13 SRPO/NRPO Technical Committee and Board Meeting, Region 1 TDOT Office
- 19 Areawide Development Corporation Board of Directors meeting, Kodak, TN
- 20 TDDA monthly meeting, Nashville
- 24-25 Christmas Holidays, ETDD offices closed

## January 2019

- 1 New Year's Day Holiday, ETDD Offices closed
- 8 ETDD Executive Committee & ETHRA Policy Council Meeting, ETHRA Offices
- 15 ET Fire Chiefs meeting, Roane State CC, Knoxville
- 17 TDDA monthly meeting, Nashville
- 21 Martin Luther King holiday, ETDD offices closed

## February 2019

- 12 ETDD Executive Committee & ETHRA Policy Council Meetings, ETHRA Offices
- 18 President's Day Holiday, ETDD offices closed
- 21 TDDA monthly meeting, Nashville
- 22 CDBG grant application deadline

## March 2019

- 4-5 TDDA Annual Conference, Renaissance Hotel, Nashville
- 4-5 TCSA County Government Day on Hill, Nashville
- 12 ETDD & ETHRA Annual Board Meeting, Rothchilds, Knoxville
- 17-20 DDAA and NADO Washington Policy Conference, Washington, DC
- 20-21 Rural Development Conference, Murfreesboro
- 21 TDDA monthly meeting, Nashville