

ETDD Newsletter

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ETDD HOLDS ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The East Tennessee Development District Board of Directors held its 54th Annual Board Meeting and Luncheon on March 10, 2020 at Rothchild Conference Center in Knoxville. Approximately 125 members and guests were in attendance. ETDD was honored to have Colonel Ronald Selvidge with the Tennessee Air National Guard, present at the meeting. Colonel Selvidge was able to provide insightful comments regarding the operational importance of the 134th Air Refueling Wing within our national security system. At the meeting the Annual Budget, Work Program and Local Assessments for 2020-2021 were approved. Executive Director Terrence J. Bobrowski presented the 2019-2020 Annual Report to the Region. During his remarks, Director Bobrowski paid tribute to the long-standing support that ETDD has received from its member local governments: "I would like to thank our member local governments for their support of this organization, not just this year but for our entire fifty four year history. We have a wonderful legacy of support here at the development district and I certainly hope that strong level of support continues for many years to come." One of the highlights of the meeting was the election of new officers for ETDD. The following slate of officers and Executive Committee members for the coming year (beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021) were elected at the meeting:

Officers

Chair:	Roland (Trey) Dykes, III, Mayor of Newport
Vice-Chair:	Mark Potts, Jefferson County Mayor
Secretary:	Joe Brooks, Claiborne County Mayor
Treasurer:	Jeff Tibbals, Scott County Mayor

Executive Committee Members

Anderson County:	Terry Frank, Anderson County Mayor
Blount County:	Tom Taylor, Mayor of Maryville
Campbell County:	E.L. Morton, Campbell County Mayor
Cocke County:	Crystal Ottinger, Cocke County Mayor
Grainger County:	Mike Byrd, Grainger County Mayor
Hamblen County:	Bill Brittain, Hamblen County Mayor
Knox County:	Glenn Jacobs, Knox County Mayor
Loudon County:	Rollen (Buddy) Bradshaw, Loudon County Mayor
Monroe County:	Mitch Ingram, Monroe County Mayor
Morgan County:	Brian Langley, Morgan County Executive
Roane County:	Ron Woody, Roane County Executive
Sevier County:	Larry Waters, Sevier County Mayor
Union County:	Jason Bailey, Union County Mayor
State Representative:	Kent Calfee, 32 nd District
State Senator:	Richard Briggs, 7 th District
Member at Large:	Evelyn Gill, Knox County Commissioner



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ETDD staff assisted the City of Loudon with a disaster grant that will allow for the upgrade of a water force main under the Tennessee River to the Blair Bend Industrial Park. The project amount is for \$3.2 million with a grant of \$2.5 million.

ETDD is assisting the City of Friendsville with the administration of an EDA grant that will allow the City to place additional wastewater lines along the 321 corridor to assist in the recruitment of future industrial and commercial investment. The project is valued at \$440,885.00.

ETDD is assisting the Sevier County Electric System with the installation of an alternate electrical feed to the Douglas Lake water intake center. The project will provide electric service redundancy for the intake center in the case of a natural or manmade disaster. Total project cost is \$800,000 with an EDA grant of \$400,000.

ETDD staff is assisting the following communities with economic development projects that will provide employment and investment opportunities in the future.

Campbell County Workforce Development; Grant amount - \$84,925.00. These funds are being used for the acquisition of welding equipment to be housed at the Campbell County High School welding laboratory.

Claiborne County Industrial Development Board: Grant amount - \$89,775.00. Funds to be used for a due diligence study that includes resistivity and rail feasibility study for the Russell Industrial property.

Eastbridge Business Park Knox County; Grant amount - \$500,000.00. Funds to be used for the construction of a centrally located pump station and the installation of approximately 4,500 lf of sewer line.

Eagle Bend Manufacturing Clinton; Grant amount - \$365,000.00. Funds to be used for wastewater collection improvements.

Jefferson City Industrial Development Board: Grant amount - \$500,000. Funds will be used to grade 25 acres at the Jefferson City Industrial Complex and improve road access to the Hunt property.

Niles Ferry Industrial Park Monroe County; Grant amount - \$500,000.00 for site grading.

PINI (TACIR) SURVEY

ETDD staff recently completed the collection of data that details the infrastructure needs from all 16 counties, 56 cities, 25 school systems, and 94 utility districts. All new and existing TDOT and bridge projects within the ETDD region have been updated as well. We thank all the participants for their help in supplying this information to ETDD staff. Infrastructure projects for the purpose of this survey included any needed public improvement need over \$50,000 in these categories: transportation, utilities, education (facilities), health, safety, welfare, culture, economic development, and various public facilities. The data has been entered and has gone through a detailed quality control process. TACIR will publish a lengthy summary that details infrastructure needs for all of Tennessee. The report is presented to the Governor and state legislators for use as a planning tool and a funding decision-making tool. You may view the report at the following link:

<https://www.tn.gov/tacir/infrastructure.html>

GRANT INFORMATION

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

ETDD staff assisted the following communities with preparing applications that were due February 28, 2020:

1. Anderson County – Water line extension
2. Norris – Wastewater system improvements
3. New Tazewell – Fire ladder truck
4. Hamblen County – Fire engine
5. Jefferson City – Wastewater system improvements
6. White Pine – Water line extension
7. Loudon County – Water system improvements
8. City of Loudon – Fire engine
9. Parrottsville – Fire brush truck
10. Oakdale – Ambulances
11. Roane County – Ambulances
12. Union County – Fire engine

The total amount of CDBG grant funds requested was \$4,996,427.90 with a total match of \$1,612,785.90. The total dollar amount for the twelve requests was \$6,609,213.80.

The CDBG program remains the only viable public infrastructure grant program that is available to local communities. It is extremely important that we advocate for this program whenever we have discussions with federal legislators. The program has not been well supported at the

federal level and has consistently lost funding over the past several years. This translates into fewer and fewer grants at the local level.

ETDD staff is continuing to assist the following communities with the administration of their awarded CDBG projects:

1. Tazewell – Housing
2. Morgan County – Water line extension
3. Campbell County – Drive for 55 Dual Enrollment Program
4. Campbell County – Ambulances
5. Mossy Creek Foundation – Façade improvements
6. City of Sweetwater – Façade improvements
7. Madisonville – Fire hall
8. Harrogate – Wastewater improvements
9. Cocke County – Water line improvements
10. Claiborne County – Water line improvements
11. Caryville – Fire engine
12. New Market – Communication equipment
13. Jefferson County – Water line extension
14. Dandridge – Wastewater improvements
15. Rockwood – Wastewater improvements
16. Winfield – Fire truck
17. Rocky Top – Fire truck
18. Scott County – Ambulances
19. Monroe County – Ambulances
20. Campbell County – Ambulances
21. Sweetwater – Housing
22. City of Sevierville – Façade improvements

ETDD assisted the following communities with successfully closing out their CDBG projects:

1. Jefferson City – Wastewater I/I System
2. Roane County – Fire engine
3. Parrottsville – Fire Engine

Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)

ETDD staff assisted the following communities with the preparation and submission of their project applications which were due March 31, 2020:

1. Claiborne County School Board – Wastewater system improvements at Springdale School.
2. Claiborne County – Boat dock
3. Clearfork Utility – Water plant improvements
4. Plateau Utility – Water reservoir study
5. Industrial Board of Grainger County – Classroom buildout for TCAT training program

ETDD staff is continuing to assist the following communities with the administration of their awarded ARC projects:

1. Dandridge – Water tank
2. Union County – Sewage treatment plant improvements at Sharps Chapel School
3. Plateau Utilities – Water system improvements
4. Rockwood – Wastewater improvements project
5. Oneida TCAT – Equipment for diesel training classroom
6. Scott County – Reservoir water level study.
7. City of Loudon – Marina development
8. City of Sweetwater – Broadband
9. White Pine – Water connection with Morristown
10. Arthur-Shawnee Utility – Water Tank
11. Oneida TCAT Power – Education Classes

FEMA Grants

ETDD staff assisted the following communities with preparing and submitting FEMA Fire Fighter grant applications that were due March 13, 2020.

1. Mid-South Volunteer Fire Department – Equipment and fire truck
2. Caryville Volunteer Fire Department – SCBA
3. Seymour Volunteer Fire Department – Fire truck
4. Grainger County Rescue Department – Extrication gear

Over \$1.1 million of FEMA grant funds were requested.

The State of Tennessee recently made available a funding program that will allow communities to apply for a state grant to match federal grants. Applicants may also apply for stand-alone grants with the emphasis on personnel protection equipment for the fire fighters. A total of \$500,000 has been set aside to help volunteer fire departments. ETDD staff was asked to help the following volunteer fire departments with the preparation of their application that was due March 27.

1. Rocky Top Volunteer Fire Department – SCBA fill station
2. Winfield Volunteer Fire Department – Turnout gear
3. Mid-South Volunteer Fire Department – Turnout gear
4. New Market Volunteer Fire Department – Match CDBG grant
5. Parrottsville Volunteer Fire Department – Turnout gear

6. South Scott Volunteer Fire Department – Turnout gear

Local Parks and Recreation Fund

Based upon the latest information, recreation grants from TDEC will soon become available. The programs operate on a two year cycle with the 2020 being the year for such applications. The state has not yet announced the application period for this year.

Local Parks and Recreation Fund (LPRF)

The LPRF program provides state funding for the purchase of land for parks, natural areas, greenways and the purchase of land for recreational facilities. Funds also may be used for trail development and capital projects in parks, natural areas and greenways. Recreation Educational Services administers the LPRF grants. These grants are a 50% match. For the 2018 LPRF Grant Application Cycle, the grant application minimum request is \$25,000 (\$50,000 total project) and the grant application maximum request is \$500,000 (\$1,000,000 total project).

Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a federal funded, state administered grant program. The RTP provides grant funding for land acquisition for trails, trail maintenance, trail construction, trail rehabilitation and for trail head support facilities. These funds are distributed in the form of an 80% grant with a 20% match. Local, state and federal land managing agencies are eligible to apply as well as state chartered, non-profit organizations with IRS 501 (c) (3) status that have a written agreement for trail management with an agency. All grant projects MUST be on publicly owned land. For the 2018 RTP Grant Application Cycle, the grant application minimum request is \$20,000 (\$25,000 total project) and the grant application maximum request is \$200,000 (\$250,000 total project).

Transportation

ETDD staff is assisting Oneida Special School District and Scott County School District on the VW settlement grant administration in support of acquiring new, energy efficient school buses.

Reminder!

If you want to apply for economic and community development federal grants: YOU MUST REGISTER WITH SAMS.GOV and GRANTS.GOV

If you want to apply fire grants: YOU MUST REGISTER WITH SAMS.GOV and FEMA GOV

If you want to apply for police grants: YOU MUST REGISTER WITH SAMS.GOV; GRANTS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND GRANTS.GOV

ETDD staff is available to consult with communities and agencies that wish to register for grant opportunities. Please give us a call!

Miscellaneous

ETDD staff is assisting City of Rocky Top with the implementation of an infrastructure grant that will allow the City to provide utility planning.

SOLID WASTE

Annual Progress Reports (APRs)

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation issued a blanket extension covering all counties until April 30, 2020 for Annual Progress Report submissions. 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. Additionally, all report forms along with the Regional Solid Waste Board chairperson and County Mayor sign-offs must be completed by the new deadline. Any region requiring more time to complete the APR will still qualify for an additional 30-day extension beyond the new April 30 deadline.

If your solid waste region needs assistance with preparation and submission of the FY19 APR, please contact Tim Hendrick at 865-273-6003.

Hamblen County Convenience Center Improvements

Hamblen County received Convenience Center, Education and Outreach, and Used Oil Grants from TDEC to make improvements to the convenience center located at the landfill. New fencing and a new gate were installed, as well as construction of a newly paved area with new concrete pads for recycling collection containers to be added over time. Additionally, the used oil collection site was significantly expanded to allow for increases in the type and volume of materials collected. Education and Outreach Grant funds were also used to send every household in the county materials to explain the changes as well as to purchase new signage in both English and Spanish for the convenience center. Congratulations to Hamblen County on

these important improvements made to their public solid waste facility!

District-wide Needs Assessment

The Solid Waste Management Act of 1991 requires all Development Districts to coordinate, conduct, and maintain an assessment of the solid waste needs for each municipal solid waste planning region in the state. T.C.A. § 68-211-811 also requires that the assessment include demographic and economic information as well as a thorough evaluation of each region's solid waste system. ETDD staff is working diligently on the 2020 District-wide Needs Assessment, having already contacted many communities to discuss the waste/recycling services available to their residents. All 16 counties and 56 municipalities of ETDD should expect to be contacted by ETDD staff with questions regarding your solid waste systems. ***Your cooperation and timely response to any questionnaires is greatly appreciated.***

Draft sections of the District-wide Needs Assessment are available for review on the solid waste page of the ETDD website. New sections will be uploaded to the site as they are completed. Please review the information pertinent to your community and contact Tim Hendrick at 865-273-6003 or at thendrick@etdd.org with any comments or suggested edits.

HOUSING

ETDD received another allocation from the Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA) for the Emergency Repair Program in July 2019, and welcomes new projects from our service provider partners. This allocation is used to address repairs for houses across the 16-county region. The program provides grants for home repairs in households where the applicant is at least 60 years of age or disabled, and who meets ownership and income requirements. ETDD works with local non-profits and organizations who coordinate construction activities and qualify the homeowners. These service providers are an integral part of the Emergency Repair Program's activities in our 16-county region, and ETDD is seeking more partners to complete projects in several counties, including Monroe and Union counties. THDA has recently removed the match requirement for repair projects. ETDD maintains a list of local housing partners and assistance programs that can be accessed through the Housing page of our website, or by contacting us directly with specific needs.

All Emergency Repair Program Service Providers are now required by THDA to submit within pay request packets,

detailed itemized inspection invoices where applicable. For more information please contact ETDD or Maree Emberton at MEmberton@thda.org.

Due to new protocols to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, THDA and partners have decided to reschedule the in-person Consolidated Plan Public Hearings as virtual public hearings on April 7, 8, and 9, 2020. These three new public hearings will be available to all Tennesseans via webinar and telephone. Each two-hour meeting will start with a presentation on the Consolidated Plan, and then the line will be open for public comments. Hearings will be held in the Central Time Zone.

The Public Hearings will be offered via WebEx and telephone on the dates and times below. Call in details will be posted to <https://thda.org/research-planning/consolidated-planning> and <https://thda.org/about-thda/public-notice-and-comment>.

Tuesday, April 7, 2020
11am-1pm Central Time Zone

Wednesday, April 8, 2020
3-5pm Central Time Zone

Thursday, April 9, 2020
9-11am Central Time Zone

The public comment period is currently underway through April 20. The full notice, draft and summary, feedback link, public hearing presentation, updates, and other materials are or will soon be available at <https://thda.org/research-planning/consolidated-planning>. Please send any questions and translation requests to Research@THDA.org.

The State of Tennessee Consolidated Plan describes the state's housing and community development activities for low-and moderate-income households, as well as multi-year goals, based on an assessment of housing and community development needs, examination of housing and economic market conditions, and analysis of available resources. The Consolidated Plan is submitted to HUD every 5 years and covers the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2025. This document also serves as the first-year Action Plan, outlining the one-year goals and strategies for projects to receive funding in 2020.

Consolidated Planning Programs:

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)
- Housing Trust Fund (HTF)
- Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)
- Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)

View the executive summary and draft, or leave a comment through April 20 at:

<https://thda.org/about-thda/public-notice-and-comment>.

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 Jonathan Moseley at (865) 273-6003.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is a program through the National Park Service (NPS) that recognizes historically significant places and resources. NRHP listing provides many benefits, including access to preservation grants and tax incentives, and limited protection from federally-funded or licensed endeavors. Grant applications from the state will open December 1 and be due to the Tennessee Historical Commission through the smart simple grant application system by January 31. These are 60/40 matching grants that can be used for building restoration, architectural surveys and historic preservation training opportunities. ETDD can assist in the identification of competitive preservation projects that may be eligible for these types of grants and can also provide grant writing services to communities in our region. Certified Local Government (CLG) entities receive 15 extra points on grant applications. Of the federal funds for these grants, 10% must go towards existing CLGs. Any current Historic Zoning Commissions (HZG) should consider applying to become a CLG for preservation partnership with the Tennessee Historical Commission (THC).

Historic Preservation Grant Applications were submitted to the Tennessee Historical Commission on behalf of the Graham-Kivett Historic home and the Monroe County Courthouse. Both locations applied for much needed funds for repair work in order to protect their historic facades. The Tennessee Historical Commission will announce all grant recipients in the fall.

RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION (RPO)

The RPO meetings planned for April 2020 have been postponed due to the Coronavirus health concerns. These meetings will be rescheduled at a later date.

One on one local officials meetings have been conducted with the county mayors, municipal mayors and road superintendents in eight of the fourteen RPO counties. Meetings in the other counties have been postponed at this time. The purpose of the meetings are to discuss 1. RPO information, 2. Status of TDOT projects and 3. Transportation issues in the county or city. A summary of each counties meetings is sent to TDOT along with a request that TDOT respond to questions or concerns raised by each official.

The Tennessee Department of Transportation, in partnership with Rural Planning Organizations and Local Governments, is in the final phases of completing the Rural Regional Transportation Plans, RRTP, for both the East Tennessee South Rural Planning Organization and the East Tennessee North Rural Planning Organization. The plan will identify current and future transportation needs in each of the RPOs. The RRP will identify roadway segments with traffic congestion issues, safety issues and other deficiencies. The plan will be beneficial to local governments by identifying needed transportation improvements in the community and providing a basis for future discussions regarding project prioritization and project implementation (engineering, right-of-way acquisition and construction). The plans will be presented at the next RPO meeting for review and adoption.

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

Mobile Food Sellers

Mobile food sellers have become very popular in the past few years. These activities are beneficial because they provide business opportunities and conveniently offer a variety of prepared foods to consumers. A question that communities must address is to what degree such businesses should be regulated through zoning to best promote the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

For regulatory purposes, mobile food sellers fall into one of three categories – mobile food units, mobile food vendors, or mobile ice cream vehicles. Mobile food units are motorized vehicles or trailers that are easily driven or towed

to a site where prepared foods can be sold. The second category, mobile food vendors, are carts or similar apparatus such as hot dog, hamburger, snow cone, and taco stands. The third category, mobile ice cream vendors, is a motorized vehicle that normally travels on residential and other streets of a community to sell ice cream and similar products.

When considering the regulation of mobile food sellers, a community must consider potential negative impacts. For mobile food units and vendors, a site plan that is drawn to scale showing existing roads, parking, traffic aisles, and buildings, and walkways, along with the proposed location of the food unit or vendor, should be required. This will allow the planning commission to determine whether a proposed food unit or vendor is safely located. This should be required whether a mobile food unit or vendor is proposed for vacant property or property with existing businesses. Generally, mobile food units and vendors should not be allowed to locate on public road rights-of-ways. Mobile ice cream vendors would not require a site plan since they continuously travel local streets. A site plan would only be necessary if they operate from a set location. To expedite the approval process, some jurisdictions allow their zoning officials to review and approve site plans where no physical improvements are proposed.

When preparing an ordinance to regulate mobile food sellers, it is recommended that the planning staff and/or staff attorney be consulted. Also, it may be helpful to review some of the numerous examples on the internet of how other cities and counties have addressed mobile food sellers.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

GIS staff prepared over 90 maps and illustrations for projects in district communities during the last quarter. Over 30 maps were created for 12 CDBG grants this year. These included project area maps, minority concentration maps, service area maps, and target area survey maps. In addition, 36 maps and illustrations were created for CDBG environmental reviews in seven communities (airport radius maps, topographic maps, and flood illustrations using FIRMettes). Staff continued work on county state aid road maps, showing current state aid roads for Campbell and Roane counties and new city base maps for each town within those counties. Also related to transportation, staff created three drafts of a map for a Campbell County Community Transportation Planning grant.

GIS projects for Planning Advisory Service contracts this quarter included proposed rezoning and/or annexation illustrations for several communities (Kingston, Rutledge, Blaine, Oneida, and Rockford). Zoning maps were updated per signed ordinance for Jefferson City and Pittman Center. New Tazewell's zoning map was also updated with several ordinances to bring it up to date. Similarly, GIS staff is working to complete a major update of the Madisonville zoning map, incorporating changes since 2011. A major planning project this quarter was creation of a new zoning map for Sweetwater. The town had not updated the map since it was created by the Local Planning Office in 2011, so the update involved adding annexations to the corporate limits and making many zoning changes. The map should be adopted by the city in April.

In other projects, GIS staff expanded and finalized an adventure tourism district map for Claiborne County, and created a regional location map for a Campbell County industrial park.

AREAWIDE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION **SBA 504 NEWS**

Small business continue to benefit from historically low interest rates with the SBA 504 loan program. As of March 2020, the 504 loan rates are 3.325% for the 25 year note and 3.270% for the 20 year note. For fiscal year 2020, beginning October 1, 2019 through February 28, 2020 there have been \$2,551,811,000 SBA 504 loans approved nationally representing an increase of 29.6% in loan volume as compared to the same period in 2019. Areawide Development Corporation has processed one new loan request that has been approved by SBA totaling \$1,609,000. ADC is aggressively seeking opportunities to assist small business with the 504 loan in our market.

In response to COVID-19 as well as the tornadoes experienced in middle Tennessee, Tennessee has received declarations from SBA for both of these disasters. As a result, small business across the state of Tennessee are eligible to apply for SBA Economic Injury Disaster loans (EIDL). The U.S. Small Business Administration is providing low-interest loans of up to \$2 million with terms up to 30 years to businesses of all sizes through the EIDL program. For more information and to apply online please visit the SBA's secure website sba.gov/disaster.

This newsletter was funded in part through grants from the State of Tennessee, the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Economic Development Administration, and other federal, state, and local sources. Materials from the ETDD Newsletter may be freely reprinted with proper crediting of the source.

Calendar of Events

March 2020

- 2-3 TCSA County Government Day, Nashville Doubletree Hotel
- 3-4 TDDA Annual Conference, Nashville Renaissance Hotel
- 10 ETDD & ETHRA Annual Business Meetings, Rothchild's Conference Center, Knoxville
- 15-18 NADO Washington Policy Conference, Arlington, VA (cancelled)
- 31 ARC grant application deadline
- 31 Rural Development Conference, Murfreesboro (cancelled)

April 2020

- 10 Good Friday, ETDD offices closed
- 14 ETDD Executive Committee & ETHRA Policy Council, ETHRA Offices (cancelled)
- 15 ATVG Winter Meeting, Tunica, MS (cancelled)
- 16 TDDA monthly meeting, Nashville, TN (conference call)

May 2020

- 12 ETDD Executive Committee & ETHRA Policy Council Meetings, ETHRA Offices
- 19-21 TCSA Legislative Conference, Gatlinburg
- 21 TDDA monthly meeting, Nashville, TN
- 27 Memorial Day holiday, ETDD offices closed

June 2020

- 9 ETDD Executive Committee & ETHRA Policy Council Meetings, ETHRA Offices
- 18 TDDA monthly meeting, Nashville, TN