

EAST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT 2021 Annual Report

Statement from the Chair



In 1965, the Tennessee General Assembly authorized the creation of development districts to encourage regional planning cooperation among local governments and the promotion of economic development. On September 20, 1966 the East Tennessee Development District (ETDD) was formally established. In order to fully embrace regional representation, ETDD's Board of Directors is made up of the municipal and county mayors from all of its member jurisdictions, two members of the General Assembly and other citizen members that are directly involved in the fields of economic or community development.

The East Tennessee Development District focuses on issues of regional importance – on matters that affect more than one city or county. In today's interlinked social and business environment, it is clear that purely local issues are few and far between – cities and counties must embrace a regional perspective on traditional governmental issues in order to maximize the impact of increasingly scarce public resources.

The East Tennessee Development District has been a strong advocate for a regional approach to economic and community development over the past 55 years. The District has been concerned with economic growth in a sustainable manner and places specific emphasis on providing staff support for planning commissions, rural transportation planning, public infrastructure planning, industrial development, small business financing, support for entrepreneurship, utilities planning, recreation and open space planning, historic preservation planning, housing planning and regional solid waste planning. ETDD's annual work plan is a reflection of the agency's overriding concern to provide adequate public infrastructure to accommodate quality growth and development, promote the creation of new jobs, foster the investment of new capital, protect our natural and cultural assets and continue to improve the quality of life for our growing population. New priorities, such as focusing additional resources on distressed rural areas, are constantly being reflected in ETDD's annual work plan.

The role of the East Tennessee Development District will remain important as we face the future. It is clear that local governments and development districts must be concerned about the more efficient and economical provision of public services. As state and federal funding sources become constricted, the responsibility for the financing of public services will become more focused at the local level. Also, the frequent tendency of federal and state governments to mandate programs that local governments must undertake without the commensurate provision of adequate financial resources must be curtailed. More decision making will be placed on local officials as traditional funding sources we have relied on in the past are gradually reduced, and in some cases, eliminated altogether. As an association of local governments, the East Tennessee Development District will continually deal with these issues in the coming years.

ETDD continues to be a vital partner in helping local governments plan for the future in a fast-paced, changing development environment. ETDD's main objective is to assist in setting regional and local priorities for the orderly physical and economic development of our 16 counties and 56 municipalities. By working together in partnership, we can continue the progress of the past 55 years and can look forward to successfully meeting the challenges of the 21st Century.

Roland Dykes, III, City of Newport Mayor
Board Chair

ETDD: AN ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

The East Tennessee Development District is a voluntary association of municipal and county governments in the 16-county region of East Tennessee surrounding Knoxville. Organized almost 55 years ago in September of 1966, the East Tennessee Development District provides a forum for local governments to solve common problems of economic development, community development and growth.

ETDD's Board of Directors is composed of each municipal and county mayor from the 16 counties and 56 municipalities. In addition, each County Mayor appoints a citizen designated as the "Development Representative" to serve on the Board of Directors. The Tennessee General Assembly is also represented on the Board of Directors, with one member of the State Senate and one member of the State House participating.

The Executive Committee, which represents the Board, is composed of at least one member from each county, one State Representative, one State Senator and two Members-At-Large. The Executive Committee typically meets monthly throughout the year. Annually, the Board of Directors establishes policies which the Executive Committee carries out through the monthly meetings. The District also holds an annual awards banquet to recognize and highlight projects that have special significance to the entire region.

BOARD ACTIVITIES

During the past year, the full Board met once this year at the Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon on March 10, 2020 held at Rothchild's where the Colonel Selvidge gave a great presentation about the Air National Guard, Air Refueling Wing 324.

The Executive Committee met eight times during the year. At the Board of Directors Annual Business Meeting, the preliminary budget and work program for 2019-2020 were approved, the new officers and executive committee members were elected, and the Annual Report was presented.

At the January meeting, the state and federal legislative agendas for 2020-2021 were presented and approved by the Executive Committee. The Annual Legislative Platform was immediately distributed to State and Federal legislators. An update on the status of the Planning Assistance Program was provided. The Executive Committee adopted the State of Tennessee's 457b and 401(k) plans to replace the current plan held at Mass Mutual. The CEDS document was also adopted at the January meeting along with grants updates. An RPO Overview and a Review of Highway projects was presented. The nominating committee was appointed to recommend a slate of officers at the annual meeting.

At the February meeting, the Nominating Committee recommended new officers for 2020-2021, an overview of the Census program was provided, and grant programs were discussed.

At the March meeting, the annual budget was discussed and the upcoming work plan for ETDD was presented. The status of various grant programs and grant applications was discussed.

At the May meeting, several upcoming grant opportunities were discussed. We also returned to the Offices from the lockdown following the CDC guidelines.

At the June meeting, Revolving loan Fund Policy Revisions were presented, discussed, and accepted the new policies for the loan fund.

At the July meeting, the subcommittees were appointed, the new chair took office, the conflict-of-interest policy was acknowledged and accepted by the members and the Revolving Loan Policy revisions approved.

At the September Executive Committee meeting, the 2020-2021 update to the Affirmative Action Plan was approved and an updated grants review was given.

At the October Executive Committee meeting, an appointment of the Executive Director search committee was made, grants overview made, salary retroactive increases approved, and a new and first RLF Covid loan was approved. Congressmen Chuck Fleishman commented on current activities in Washington D.C.

At the December meeting, the annual audit for the FY 2020 program year was presented and accepted by the Executive Committee and the second RLF Covid loan was approved.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2020-2021

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:

Terry Frank, Anderson County Mayor
Tom Taylor, Mayor of Maryville
E. L. Morton, Campbell County Mayor
Joe Brooks, Claiborne County Mayor
Crystal Ottinger, Cocke County Mayor
Mike Byrd, Grainger County Mayor
Mark Potts, Jefferson County Mayor
Bill Brittain, Hamblen County Mayor

Glenn Jacobs, Knox County Mayor
Rollen Bradshaw, Loudon County Mayor
Mitch Ingram, Monroe County Mayor
Brian Langley, Morgan County Executive
Ron Woody, Roane County Executive
Jeff Tibbals, Scott County Mayor
Larry Waters, Sevier County Mayor
Jason Bailey, Union County Mayor

Tennessee General Assembly:

Senator Richard Briggs
Representative Kent Calfee

Minority Member-At-Large:

Evelyn Gill

Anderson County

Mayor Terry Frank**
Mayor Scott Burton
Mayor Tim Sharp
Mayor Chris Mitchell
Mayor Warren Gooch
Mr. Andy Wallace***

Blount County

Mayor Ed Mitchell**
Mayor Odis C. Abbott
Mayor Andy Lawhorn
Mayor Tom Bickers
Mayor Tom Taylor
Mayor Carl Koella
Mayor Michael Talley
Mr. Bryan Daniels ***

Campbell County

Mayor E. L. Morton**
Mayor Bobby Stooksbury
Mayor June Forster
Mayor Dwight Osborn
Mayor Mike Stanfield
Mr. Johnny Vanover***

Claiborne County

Mayor Joe Brooks**
Mayor Neal Pucciarelli
Mayor Linda Fultz

Mayor Jerry Beeler

Mayor Bill Fannon
Ms. Anna Beth Walker***

Cocke County

Mayor Crystal Ottinger**
Mayor Roland (Trey) Dykes
Mayor DeWayne Daniel
Mr. Tommy Bible***

Grainger County

Mayor Mike Byrd**
Mayor Ben Waller
Mayor Marvin Braden
Mayor Fred Sykes
Mr. David Lietzke***

Hamblen County

Mayor Bill Brittain**
Mayor Gary Chesney
Mr. Marshall Ramsey***

Jefferson County

Mayor Mark Potts**
Mayor Donna Hernandez
Mayor George A. Gantte
Mayor Mitch Cain
Mayor Danny Whillock
Mayor Fred Taylor
Ms. Leann Sutton***

Knox County

Mayor Glenn Jacobs**
Mayor Ron Williams
Mayor Indya Kincannon
Ms. Jane Jolley***

Loudon County

Mayor Rollen Bradshaw**
Mayor Dewayne Birchfield
Mayor Tony Aikens
Mayor Jeff Harris
Mayor Damian Crawford
Mr. Jack Qualls***

Monroe County

Mayor Mitch Ingram**
Mayor Augusta Davis
Mayor Doyle Lowe
Mayor Marilyn Parker
Mayor Bob Lovingood
Mr. Stacy Chambers***

Morgan County

County Executive Brian Langley**
Mayor Buddy Miller
Mayor Karen Melton
Mayor Jonathan Dagley
Ms. Sharon Heidel***

Roane County

County Executive Ron Woody**
Mayor Wayne Best
Mayor Tim Neal
Mayor Omer Cox
Mayor Mike Miller
Ms. Pam May***

Scott County

Mayor Jeff Tibbals**
Mayor Dennis Jeffers
Mayor Jack Lay
Mayor Jerry Dodson
Mr. David Cross***

Sevier County

Mayor Larry Waters**
Mayor Mike Werner
Mayor David Wear
Mayor Jerry Huskey
Mayor Robbie Fox
Ms. Earlene Teaster***

Union County

Mayor Jason Bailey**
Mayor Jerry Lawson
Mayor Ty Blakely
Mayor Gary Chandler
Mr. Randy Turner***

** County Mayor

*** Development Representative

PLANNING AND RESEARCH

The East Tennessee Development District undertakes regional planning and research activities each year to assist the region and its governmental units in identifying needs to prepare for regional growth. ETDD's planning activities include utilities, solid waste, transportation, historic preservation, recreation, infrastructure needs survey, and the maintenance of statistical information. A very important component of ETDD's work program is the Planning Advisory Service. During 2020, ETDD provided professional planning staff services and GIS staff services to 36 local governments and local planning commissions. These services will continue to aid the 16-county region in its pursuit of economic growth and a high quality of life.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

In 2020, ETDD engaged in the annual update of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region. ETDD prepared the revision of the CEDS in order to comply with current regulations that were promulgated by the US Economic Development Administration. The annual update of the CEDS was accomplished by contacting elected officials, planning officials, utility districts, special purpose units of local government, economic development agencies and other agencies/persons that are involved with community or economic development activities within the region. In the fall of 2020, a CEDS committee was appointed by the ETDD Chair to review and comment on the revised CEDS document. The CEDS committee consisted of local elected officials, business leaders and workforce development officials. In November 2020, the CEDS Committee met and engaged in an inclusive planning process in order to provide input on the revised CEDS document. The CEDS committee discussed the composition of the CEDS and then recommended that the revised CEDS be submitted to the Executive Committee for approval. An extensive public review process was undertaken in order to allow the public an opportunity to comment on the revised CEDS. The CEDS document was transmitted to all sixteen county mayors, an announcement regarding the availability of the CEDS was published in Knoxville News-Sentinel and the CEDS was placed on ETDD's website. The CEDS was also transmitted to the State of Tennessee and the Appalachian Regional Commission for review. The CEDS review process was completed in early December and the final document was approved in December of 2020. The completed CEDS was subsequently submitted to the Economic Development Administration and future updates of the CEDS will take place on an annual basis through 2022.

PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS INVENTORY

In April of 1996, the Tennessee General Assembly adopted the Public Infrastructure Needs Inventory Act. This Act requires the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR), to compile and maintain an annual inventory of needed public infrastructure, contracting with the nine Development Districts to survey local officials. It was developed for use as a planning tool for state and local officials in assessing needs and developing priorities for funding local infrastructure. Work on the project began in November 1996 by collecting information from county mayors, municipal mayors, utility districts, industrial development organizations and school superintendents within the district. The initial Infrastructure Needs Inventory was completed in the spring of 1997. ETDD will complete the current annual iteration of the comprehensive survey, the largest undertaking in the state, in June of 2021. There were 1,723 projects updated in the survey this year, including school system wide needs.

On an annual basis, data from the statewide infrastructure needs inventory has been summarized and compiled into a report by TACIR. The February 2021 report estimates state-wide infrastructure needs at approximately \$54.8 billion dollars. Topping the list are transportation needs at \$29.6 billion, followed by School Renovations at \$14.2 billion.

On a local level, Anderson County's new or improved total infrastructure needs topped out at \$4,627 per capita compared with \$8,090 per capita statewide. Loudon County's estimated transportation needs per capita totals \$7,450 which is higher than the statewide estimated needs of \$4,281 per capita.

Individual reports for each of ETDD's sixteen counties can be accessed on our website at www.etdd.org.

PLANNING ADVISORY SERVICE

The Planning Advisory Service was established to assist cities and counties with growth and development concerns at the local and regional levels by providing technical advisory services to local governments. Planning services are offered under six (6) general program areas; comprehensive land use planning, strategic planning for special project areas and needs, land use tools, community and regional development services, training and continuing education, and geographic information systems (GIS) mapping services. Daily services generally involve a broad range of activities, but typically consist of site plan and subdivision plat review, advising local officials and the general public on a variety of community situations and issues, and staffing local planning commission meetings in an advisory role.

The Planning Advisory Service has a professional staff of three (3) full time planners and one (1) contract planner that are assigned specific communities. Each planner works with their assigned communities under the respective local planning program. There are a variety of specific planning services that are offered under the different program areas. The planner-to-community ratio is one (1) planner per nine (9) communities for the full-time planners and one (1) contract planner for seven (7) communities. There are also two (2) additional communities that are provided planning services as requested. One of the fundamental services valued by communities is the staff presence as an advisor at regular monthly planning commission meetings and other related boards. The Planning Advisory Service currently provides planning services on a contractual basis for thirty-three (33) different communities consisting of cities and counties in the East Tennessee Region. These communities are provided the full range of planning services on a full-time basis. As mentioned, there are two (2) other communities that are provided limited planning services on an as-needed basis.

This past year, the planners attended a total of five hundred and two (502) meetings that ranged from activities with planning commissioners, legislative bodies, boards of zoning appeals, historic commissions, local staff, investors/developers, regional planning organizations, and the general public. The activities associated with the total number of meetings included conducting one hundred and fifty-five (155) agenda and project reviews with city/county officials or developers, staffing two hundred and sixty-seven (267) planning commission meetings, sixty-eight (68) hearings with local Boards of Zoning Appeals, nine (9) meetings with the respective legislative bodies, and various meetings with other agencies and organizations throughout the year. The overarching goal of these types of services is to offer assistance for establishing working relationships with local cities and counties across East Tennessee that will reinforce local planning programs by providing a predictable and consistent approach to planning issues as the basis for decision-making.

During the past year, staff prepared and assisted with a variety of revisions to local land use tools. These included two (2) subdivision regulation amendments, forty-three (43) zoning text amendments, and three (3) amendments to municipal codes. Development review services included staff reviews of three hundred and forty-two (342) subdivision plats, and one hundred and sixty-seven (167) site plans. Additional activities included evaluating fifty-nine (59) rezoning requests and reviewing one hundred and eight (108) board of zoning appeals cases. There were also five (5) annexation studies that were initiated with associated resolutions, plan of services, and accompanying maps.

The Planning Advisory Service had scheduled free regional training for planning commissioners in the spring and fall of last year. This affords planning commission members the opportunity to gain the required continuing education hours that are required while minimizing the total number of training sessions. These training sessions were designed to provide two (2) separate two-hour training sessions in the spring and two separate two-hour training sessions in the fall. However, due to the pandemic, these in-person training sessions were cancelled. The

PLANNING AND RESEARCH

Currently, any in-person training is provided upon request from each individual planning commission by the respective planner. Staff has coordinated other training options by forwarding any available training opportunities via zoom meetings, webinars, or other distance training to interested planning commission members. Any future in-person regional training sessions will be considered as conditions may change. There were numerous individual training sessions provided to planning commission upon request that covered a range of planning topics.

In addition to the routine planning matters that are handled on a daily basis, several studies and planning projects have been completed by staff or are in the final stages of completion and will not be included for the upcoming program year starting on July 1st of this year. These studies and projects include: drafting design guidelines for the Jellico Historic Zoning Commission and assisting the city in receiving Certified Local Government Status (CLG), finalizing the Grainger County Land Use and Transportation Plan, assisted in the process of dissolving the Kingston Planning Region, assisting in the initiation of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan, assisting in amending the Coker County Subdivision Regulations, assisting in an updated Rockwood Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, assistance in drafting and adopting numerous short-term rental ordinances and policies, revisions and updates to the Rocky Top Land Use and Transportation Policy Plan, 2020-2030, assisting in amending the Claiborne County Subdivision Regulations, property evaluation for an expanded Clinton Historic Overlay District, assistance in implementation of the Rocky Top Downtown Master Plan, assisted in several street abandonment requests, and initiating the Scott County Land Use and Transportation Plan.

Anticipated studies and projects for this upcoming year include: incorporate revisions to the Kingston Subdivision Regulations, a second phase comprehensive review of the Anderson County Subdivision Regulations, incorporate zoning amendments into the Kingston and Huntsville Zoning Ordinances and update zoning maps, finalize the Rocky Top Land Use and Transportation Plan, 2020-2030, incorporate revisions to the Kingston Zoning Ordinance, update the Townsend Land Use and Transportation Policy Plan, 2010-2020, assist Jellico in qualifying for the Tennessee Downtown Program, evaluate and incorporate zoning amendments to the Blaine, Bean Station and Rutledge zoning ordinances, finalizing the Scott County Land Use and Transportation Plan, incorporate zoning amendments into the Clinton Zoning Ordinance and update zoning map, and finalizing the Campbell County Land Use and Transportation Plan.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The GIS (Geographic Information System) program supported the district in numerous grant and planning projects in 2020. During the last year GIS staff produced over 260 maps and illustrations for ETDD grant and community projects, such as CDBG grants and environmental reviews, ARC grants, transportation studies, and a variety of planning projects for the Planning Advisory Service.

Early in 2019 GIS staff supported CDBG grant applications for 12 communities (29 maps) that later resulted in creation of multiple maps and illustrations for CDBG environmental reviews (topographic maps, airport radius maps, flood maps). Other map highlights for grants include support for ARC grants and environmental reviews through service area maps, project area maps, topographic maps, flood maps, and radius maps; EDA grants through project area, topographic, and flood maps; and Local Parks and Recreation Fund grants through project location maps, topographic maps, preliminary site plans, and municipal- and county-level vicinity maps. Project area maps were also provided in support of applications for tourism grants, ARC INSPIRE grants, ARC Agribusiness grants, and several TDOT grants.

Transportation projects this year required creation of state aid road maps for Campbell and Roane Counties along with base maps for the communities in each. GIS staff also provided maps delineating future projects and use of funds along roadways in Grainger and Scott Counties in support of new county-wide transportation plans. Also in transportation projects, GIS staff has assisted in data collection and map creation for three corridor studies and three Bike-Pedestrian plans taking place in Scott, Monroe, Coker, Claiborne, and Campbell Counties through TDOT's Rural Planning Initiative Grant program.

Planning project highlights this year included brand new zoning maps for Madisonville and Sweetwater, updated zoning maps for Jefferson City, Pittman Center, New Tazewell, Plainview, Dandridge, Caryville, Maynardville, and Rocky Top, the addition of a newly adopted historic zone overlay to Jellico's zoning map, and the creation of six illustrations including a rivers, floodways, and flood zone map, a steep slope map, soil map, land use map, non-motorized transportation map, and a community facilities map for the City of Rocky Top's new master plan.

In 2020 special projects, GIS staff provided all of the mapping for an application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration seeking National Scenic Byway designation for the Cumberland Historic Byway – a 175 mile route stretching from the Cumberland Gap to Dale Hollow Lake. The application was

deemed a success, and with this new designation, along with the four others received this year, Tennessee now stands at 4th in the nation for holding the most nationally designated scenic routes.

TRANSPORTATION

The development of transportation systems within the region is of paramount importance to the East Tennessee Development District. Continued development of internal transportation systems is a critical component of the orderly economic and community development advancement of the region as a whole. ETDD is concerned with all forms of transportation, be it highway, rail, water, air, bus or van transportation. In November of 2005, the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) established twelve Rural Planning Organizations across the state. ETDD coordinates two RPOs. The North RPO consists of Anderson County, Campbell County, Claiborne County, Grainger County, Morgan County, Scott County, and Union County. The South RPO consists of Cocke County, Monroe County, Roane County, and portions of Blount, Jefferson, Loudon and Sevier Counties. The Technical Committee County, Morgan County, Scott County, and Union County. The South RPO consists of Cocke County, Monroe County, Roane County, and portions of Blount, Jefferson, Loudon and Sevier Counties. The Technical Committee and Executive Board of each RPO meet as needed to prioritize transportation grant applications, to discuss and prioritize needed roadway improvements in the region, to receive TDOT updates on ongoing projects, to discuss various TDOT grant and funding programs and to discuss future transportation needs of the region. During 2019 - 2020, ETDD will facilitate continued communication between TDOT and the RPOs, coordinate future Executive Board and Technical Committee meetings, participate in TDOT planning processes, and administer all activities for the RPO process. In addition, the Rural Regional Transportation Plan for each RPO should be completed this year.

During the past year, the District continued its involvement in the Knoxville Transportation Planning Organization (TPO). The Executive Director of ETDD is a member of the Technical Committee of the TPO, and the District appoints a local elected official to serve on the TPO Executive Board. In September of 2018, Mr. Ed Shouse was reappointed as the ETDD representative on the TPO Board of Directors and continues to serve in that capacity. The District also continued its involvement in the Lakeway Area Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (LAMTPO), which serves Morristown, Hamblen County and portions of Jefferson County and Cocke County. The Executive Director of ETDD is a member of the Technical Committee of the LAMTPO.

TDOT continues to fund the Transportation Alternatives Grant, the Multimodal Access Grant, the Community Transportation Planning Grant and other transportation related grant programs. ETDD staff is actively involved in these grant programs.

The IMPROVE Act will provide additional funding for needed state and local transportation projects. The ETDD staff and the two RPOs will work with TDOT to identify needed projects in the region and to prioritize projects advancing to the right-of-way and construction phases.

ETDD staff continued to participate with TDOT in Road Safety Audit Reviews (RSAR) on state and local roadways within the Region. The goal of the RSAR program is to reduce injuries and fatalities on our state and local roadways. Types of improvements include signage, pavement markings, rumble strips, guardrail, minor geometric improvements and others. ETDD staff is also conducting one on one meeting with local officials in the RPO regions. The purpose of the meetings is to discuss transportation needs in their individual communities.

UTILITIES

Providing utility services at an affordable cost continues to be a challenge for local governments and utility districts. Diminished federal/state funding, limited local resources, and more stringent environmental mandates all contribute to ever increasing costs of operation. The emphasis of ETDD's Utilities Planning Program is to promote efficient and effective utility services (drinking water treatment and distribution, wastewater collection and disposal, broadband service and natural gas service) throughout the 16-county region. Various internal programs aid in this effort. Perhaps the most important contribution that ETDD provides in this area is the preparation of grant applications for the funding of utility improvements.

PLANNING AND RESEARCH

During 2020, ETDD assisted the following communities with grant development, submission and administration that impacted water service or wastewater service: Anderson County, Clinton Utilities Board, Rocky Top, Claiborne County, Harrogate, Arthur-Shawnee Utility, Cocke County, Newport Utility, Jefferson County, Dandridge, Jefferson City, White Pine, City of Loudon, Tellico Area Services System, Morgan County, Plateau Utility and Rockwood.

SOLID WASTE

East Tennessee Development District contracts with the State of Tennessee to supply a solid waste planner for the region. The duties of the solid waste planner are to assist the 16 counties and 56 municipalities of the region with the preparation and submission of solid waste reports to the State, to provide technical assistance to all communities, and to assist with writing and administering grants.

In 2020/21, the ETDD solid waste planner assisted the following counties with the preparation and submission of their Annual Progress Reports (APR) to TDEC: Campbell, Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Loudon, Monroe, Morgan, Scott, and Union. The APR details each county's efforts and activities to divert 25% of their waste from a Class I landfill. The report preparation process also allows the staff planner an opportunity to meet with the solid waste board of each county to help determine ways to meet the 25% reduction goal in the most cost-efficient manner. ETDD staff also works closely with county solid waste boards to plan for future recycling opportunities and waste diversion efforts

During 2019/20, the ETDD solid waste planner assisted Campbell, Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Monroe, Morgan, Scott, and Union Counties with maintaining clear goals to achieve the directives of their Municipal Solid Waste Regional Plans in order to increase the quality of grant applications submitted and ensure that equipment/facilities requests align with regional plans. This task also involved assisting counties with updating regional plans as needed and outlining a plan of action to achieve the goals set forth in each region's plan, as well as planning for the preparation and submission of grant applications and with administration of grant activities as needed.

ETDD's solid waste planner also assists with the promulgation of rules and regulations for the local solid waste boards and the preparation of solid waste grant proposals. During 2020/21, the ETDD solid waste planner assisted Morgan County with finding sources of funding for landfill equipment and solid waste collection equipment.

REGIONAL COUNCIL OF FIRE CHIEFS

The East Tennessee Regional Council of Fire Chiefs (ETRCFC) was formed in 1982 to promote cooperation among the region's fire departments. The ETRCFC consists of the 16 counties of ETDD and any fire departments in immediately adjoining counties that wish to participate. In 2020, ETDD coordinated two meetings that were sponsored by the Roane State Community College and the Sevierville Fire Department. The officers of the ETRCFC during 2020 were Chair Mark Harvey, Battalion Chief Loudon FD,; Vice-Chair, Shane Rogers, Deputy Chief at Friendsville VFD, and Secretary/Treasurer, Terry Bobrowski, Executive Director of the East Tennessee Development District.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Over the past several years, ETDD has been very active in assisting local communities and volunteer fire departments with their grant proposals for funding under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Firefighters Grant Program. The Firefighters grant program has three (3) funding opportunities; 1: Firefighters Grant that deals with firefighting or EMS equipment; 2. Safer grant provides funding for the hiring and retention of firefighters. The program can also be used to recruit volunteer firefighters; 3. Fire Prevention that allows our communities to request funding for smoke detectors, school education supplies and training facilities. The FEMA program is very affordable with local match 10% for urban areas and 5% for rural areas. The FEMA Firefighters Program, SAFER program and Fire Prevention program are very important grant resources for local fire departments and has pumped millions

of dollars into the region over the past twenty years. ETDD worked with Caryville Volunteer Fire Department to secure a fire fighter grant for \$95,800.00 to provide extrication equipment. ETDD staff assisted the following four communities in making FEMA Fire Fighter applications. Caryville had two applications, Roane County, and Washburn. A total amount of \$1.1 million of funds were requested.

Other popular public safety grant programs include the Bullet Proof Vest program and the COPS program. These programs are available through the U.S. Department of Justice and provide funding to cities and counties for the hiring of new police officers and the purchase of bulletproof vests. ETDD staff submitted Bullet Proof Vest applications on behalf of Plainview, Anderson County, Bean Station, Clinton, and Harriman. Approximately 98 vests will be purchased by the police departments listed above with a grant total of \$53,032.00.

GRANTMANSHIP

Over the past year, ETDD has continued to provide grantsmanship expertise to communities seeking federal or state funding for a wide variety of projects. During the past program year, ETDD staff prepared and submitted applications to address needs within the areas of historic preservation, community infrastructure, industrial infrastructure, recreation, business development, solid waste management and essential community services. ETDD is widely recognized for its record of service delivery within the field of grantsmanship.

The Tennessee FastTrack Infrastructure Development Program (FIDP), State ED program and the State Site Program has continued to provide local communities with important options for financing improvements required by industrial expansions or new industrial locations. During the 2019 program year, the past year saw ETDD assist communities, industries and commercial establishments that created over 778 jobs with a private investment of over \$482,655,000.

ETDD staff is assisting the following communities with economic projects that will provide economic opportunities in the future. Claiborne County Industrial Development Board, City of Clinton, Jefferson City Industrial Development Board, Monroe County, Campbell County Industrial Development Board; Oak Ridge Industrial Development Board, Loudon County Economic Agency, Morristown Industrial Board, Development Corporation of Knox County, City of Clinton, City of New Tazewell, Monroe County Industrial Development, City of Loudon Utilities Board, Sevier County and the Blount County Partnership.

ETDD also continued to provide local communities with application and administration assistance for more traditional programs such as the Community Development Block Grant Program, Appalachian Regional Commission's Area Development Program, TDOT Industrial Access Road Program, TDOT Enhancement Program, TDOT Multi-Modal Program, Department of Justice COPS, SAFER and Bulletproof Vest Programs, Recycling Grant Programs, Economic Development Administration Grant Programs, USDA Rural Development Programs, Clean Energy Conservation Grant Program (TVA), and the FEMA Firefighters Grant Program.

Specific communities or agencies assisted during the 2020 program year with one or more of these programs include Community Development Block Grant – Anderson County, Norris, Rocky Top, Blount County, Campbell County, Caryville, Cocke County, Jefferson County, Jefferson City, Dandridge, White Pine, Hamblen County, City of Loudon, Monroe County, Madisonville, Morgan County, Rockwood, Scott County, Winfield and Union County. A total request for grant funds was \$13,146,995.00 million.

Broadband is another area that the State has put a lot of focus on in terms of providing either better broadband service or extending broadband into areas with no service. ETDD staff has been working with broadband service providers to bring nearly \$2.4 million dollars of investment into Campbell County and \$1 million dollars invested in Cocke County through Newport Utility Board.

ETDD is providing grant administration for the Mosey Creek Foundation (Jefferson City), City of Sweetwater and

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

HOUSING

ETDD's housing program provides technical assistance to city and county governments and non-profit organizations in the development, application, and implementation of affordable housing programs for low and moderate income households within the sixteen-county district. ETDD functions as a regional disseminator of housing program information by continuing communication with other housing-related organizations and exchanging information and ideas.

ETDD continues to work with THDA programs in our service area to assist the low-income and elderly populations with necessary home rehabilitation projects. One the most successful programs in our district is the Emergency Repair Program (ERP), a THDA grant that allow for vital repairs and modifications that will allow elderly and disabled homeowners to remain in their homes. In July 2020, ETDD received a 2-year allocation of \$510,000 from THDA for the ERP budget. With the assistance of our local providers, ETDD has been able to assist elderly homeowners in virtually every community within the district. Over the past five years, ETDD has completed over 350 individual projects and over \$1.85 million has been expended in this effort.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Our region is filled with unique historic and cultural resources and a network of engaged stewards who work to protect and preserve these valuable community assets. ETDD preservation staff partners with the Tennessee Historical Commission, the East Tennessee Preservation Alliance (regional arm of Knox Heritage) and preservation-minded local officials and individuals in each of our sixteen counties to conserve and promote our region's culture. ETDD strives to encourage and assist with these efforts utilizing various applications of technical assistance, education, outreach, historical research, field work and documentation. ETDD's Preservation Planner provides ongoing technical assistance and responds to inquiries on a variety of preservation matters, such as the National Register of Historic Places, Section 106 Review, grant opportunities, tax credits, local historic zoning, restoration and rehabilitation of historic structures, the Main Street program and downtown revitalization strategies. By offering this multifaceted set of historic preservation assistance tactics, ETDD serves as a regional resource for historic preservation planning.

ETDD preservation staff regularly submits National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nominations to the Tennessee Historical Commission for review and subsequent National Park Service approval. NRHP listing is an honorary designation that allows access to federal historic preservation grant funds and tax incentives, and provides for limited protection under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. In 2020, ETDD staff worked on National Register nominations for the Laurel Springs Primitive Baptist Church in Cosby, First Presbyterian Church in Jefferson City as well as initial National Survey packets for a 1929 Bank of Wartburg, Isaac Anderson Cabin of Townsend and The First Christian Church of Harriman. ETDD also submitted HP grant applications on behalf of the Graham-Kivette House, the Dunbar Rosenwald School and the Monroe County Courthouse. ETDD also assisted in the creation of the Historic Zoning Commission for Jellico, Tennessee. ETDD staff finished 2020 with assisting the THC in completing 50 surveys of Parrottsville, TN.

AREAWIDE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

AREAWIDE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Small Business Administration Certified Development Company Program, enacted on July 2, 1980, as an amendment to the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, was designed to help communities by stimulating the growth and expansion of small businesses within a defined area of operation. Areawide Development Corporation (ADC), the SBA Certified Development Company (CDC) for the ETDD region, was organized by ETDD under the provisions of Section 503/504 of the Act in December 1981. ADC is a 501(c)4 corporation and governed by its Board of Directors. Since its creation, ADC has been a strong force in the promotion and expansion of small business in the region and across the state. Because of its past success and its solid relationships with area lending institutions and the SBA, ADC will continue to provide quality financing opportunities to small businesses in the region as well as across the state of Tennessee.

SBA 504 LOAN PROGRAM

The SBA 504 loan program is a partnership between the Areawide Development Corporation (ADC), the U.S. Small Business Administration, and a private lender. SBA 504 loans allow small business owners to purchase and/or renovate an existing building; to purchase land and construct a new building; to purchase long term equipment and machinery; and to refinance their fixed assets and business expenses. The SBA 504 loan program was created for two reasons: 1) to provide financing to entrepreneurs who are ready to buy or build a facility, and 2) for the purpose of stimulating economic development through job creation, business growth and increased tax revenues. Working with a private lender, the CDC provides up to 40% of the financing needed for an eligible commercial project, a private lender typically provides 50% of the needed financing, while the entrepreneur invests as little as 10% down into the project. The maximum SBA debenture is \$5 million or \$5.5 million for small manufacturers. ADC works closely with the small business owner to process, approve, close, and service the SBA 504 loan. Funding is provided by the CDC issuing a 10-, 20-, or 25-year debenture bond giving entrepreneurs access to capital at low, fixed interest rates usually only available to large corporations. The March 2021 full term rate for the 10-year debenture was 3.258%. The rate for the 20-year debenture was 3.465%. The rate for the 25-year debenture was 3.492%. Since its inception, ADC has received SBA approvals for loans totaling \$221,598,069 resulting in over \$588 million dollars in economic investments and over 5,000 jobs being created or retained. ADC's current 504 loan portfolio has 39 outstanding loans, and the balance of the portfolio is approximately \$20 million dollars (SBA funding only). ADC had four loans approved in fiscal year 2020 totaling \$4,095,000.

EDA REVOLVING LOAN FUND

Since 1983 the Economic Development Administration Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) has provided fixed asset/working capital financing to small businesses in the East Tennessee counties serviced by ETDD. The objectives of the RLF program are to create / retain jobs, aid in small business development, increase tax base, overcome specific gaps in local capital markets that inhibit businesses from obtaining suitable credit, and provide capital for manufacturing and service companies using new technologies with an emphasis on growth industries. The maximum loan amount is \$200,000 and may not exceed 90% of the total project costs. Currently, the RLF portfolio has four outstanding loans with a total portfolio balance of \$409,980.

EDA-COVID REVOLVING LOAN FUND

On May 13, 2020 ETDD received \$740,000 grant to fund a CARES Act Supplemental Economic Development Administration Revolving Loan Fund (RLF-COVID). These funds are to alleviate sudden and severe economic dislocation caused by COVID-19 pandemic to small businesses (for profit and non-profit) within the ETDD sixteen county region. The EDA-COVID loan fund provides funds to small business affected by COVID-19 with low interest rate loans with flexible repayment terms. As of March 31, 2021 ETDD, has funded loans totaling \$509,536 to small

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The District's financial statement audit compiled by Rodefer Moss & Co, PLLC, Certified Public Accountants, for the year ending June 30, 2020 has been accepted by the audit committee and approved by the ETDD Executive Committee.

The District's estimated operating revenues for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 amounted to \$2,150,577. These revenues consist of a variety of federal, state and local funds received as grants, administrative reimbursements, and assessments as well as charges for administrative services provided to various utility districts, counties and municipalities within the District. The following is a non-inclusive listing of revenues from various contributors to the District:

- Local government contributions from the 56 municipalities and 16 counties that comprise the Development District \$188,000
- State appropriation through the Department of Economic and Community Development..... 175,000
- Tennessee Housing Development Agency, Technical Assistance and Outreach 20,000
- Tennessee Housing Development Agency, Emergency Repair Program 300,000
- U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, through the Tennessee Historical Commission..... 42,000
- Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Solid Waste Needs Assessment..... 0.00
- Federal funding directly from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration..... 70,000
- Federal funding directly from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration for Covid Response..... 200,000
- Appalachian Regional Commission fund administered by the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development 132,986
- Administrative Reimbursements – Loan Programs 312,360
- Grant Administration 183,000
- Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations 73,231
- Tennessee Department of Transportation, Rural Planning Organizations 135,000
- Regional Planning Services 309,000
- Other Revenues 10,000

STAFF



Terrence Bobrowski
Former Executive Director
35 Years of Service



Rick Yakubic
New Executive Director
11 years of service

Mitchell Loomis, Grant Programs Manager.....	27 years of service
Mollie Childress, Infrastructure Planner.....	23 years of service
Debbie Sudhoff, Areawide Development Corporation Manager.....	11 years of service
Don Brown, Transportation Planner.....	11 years of service
Joe Barrett, Community Planner.....	10 years of service
Christie Burt, Administrative Assistant.....	8 years of service
Dan Hawk, Contract Community Planner.....	6 years of service
Joe Austin, Business Development Specialist.....	6 years of service
David Williams, Community Planner.....	5 years of service
Tim Hendrick, Solid Waste Planner.....	4 years of service
Jordan Rockwell, Community Planner.....	3 years of service
Jonathan Moseley, Historic Preservation/Housing Planner.....	2 years of service
Jaclyn Courter, Grant Specialist.....	1 year of service
Emily Craig, GIS Planner.....	1 year of service
Walter Alan Woods, Fiscal Officer.....	2 months of service

The preparation of this report 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. The East Tennessee Development District is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Material from the annual report may be freely reprinted with proper accreditation of the source.