

# ROBERTSON COUNTY

# NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## FY 2010

Prepared by:  
Phil Armor, Deputy Executive Director/Director of Regional Planning

Greater Nashville Regional Council  
501 Union Street, Floor 6  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219-1705

**SECTION 1: Demographic Information**

TABLE 1.1 Historic and Projected Population

	2000	2005	2010	% Growth 2000-2010	2015	% Growth 2010-2015
Robertson County	54,433	59,380	65,900	19.0%	70,196	8.3%
Adams	566	594	642	13.4%	688	7.1%
Cedar Hill	298	315	337	13.0%	365	8.3%
Coopertown	3,027	3,248	3,532	16.6%	3,812	7.9%
Cross Plains	1,381	1,449	1,568	13.5%	1,685	7.4%
Greenbrier	4,940	5,873	6,524	32.0%	7,181	10.0%
Millersville (pt.)	978	1,116	1,231	25.8%	1,341	8.9%
Orlinda	594	635	687	15.6%	744	8.2%
Ridgetop (pt.)	1,012	1,817	2,178	115.2%	2,590	18.9%
Springfield	14,329	15,451	16,824	17.4%	18,181	8.0%
White House (pt.)	3,085	3,569	3,940	27.7%	4,324	9.7%
Unincorporated	24,193	25,313	27,349	13.0%	29,286	7.0%

Source: US Census Bureau

The total population of Robertson County has grown 19% from 2000 to 2010 and is projected to grow by 8.3% between 2010 and 2015 (Table 1.1).

In 2000, 55.5% of the population was within the city limits of the ten incorporated cities in the County (Table 1.2). Projections show that the cities as a whole will grow slightly faster than the unincorporated portions of the County with most of the growth in the Southern and Eastern cities. By 2010 the cities will contain 58.3% of the population while the unincorporated portion of the county will have 41.7%, a decrease of 2.8%. Many believe that the 2015 projects are too low and that considerable more growth will take place throughout the County.

TABLE 1.2 Population Distribution

Year	County	Cities	% of County	Unincorporated	% of County
2000	54,453	30,240	55.5%	24,193	44.5%
2005	59,380	34,067	57.4%	25,313	42.5%
2010	65,900	38,551	58.5%	27,349	41.5%
2015	70,196	40,910	58.3%	29,286	41.7%

Source: US Census; GNRC

The unincorporated portion of the County grew by 13% from 2000 to 2010 and is estimated to grow by 7% between 2010 and 2015. This averages out to 1.3% and 1.4% annual growth respectively, consistent and manageable rates. The County has planned two additional convenience centers to handle the

additional growth and make the system more efficient. The new centers will be in the White House and Barren Plains portion of the County.

Other than the convenience centers, the County Transfer Station is the main component of the solid waste management system. In 2009 the Transfer Station had a through-put of 33,000 tons and the County Solid Waste Director said the system could probably take 3%-4% more waste before expansion would be necessary. The cities of Springfield, White House and Millersville, as well as the unincorporated portion of the county, all rely on the Transfer Station and with their projected growth expansion will probably be needed in three years, certainly within the next five years.

**SECTION 2: Economic Profile**

Before the global recession that began 2008, Robertson County had a fairly strong economy. Retail sales grew over 46% between 2001 and 2006 (Table 2.1) and sales tax collected grew by 18.5% from 2004-2008 (Table 2.2).

**TABLE 2.1 Historic Retail Sales**

Year	(\$1,000) Sales	Year % Change	% Change
2001	\$406,608	-	2001-2006= 46.8%
2002	\$408,525	.47%	
2003	\$292,312	-28.45%	
2004	\$327,926	12.18%	
2005	\$545,060	66.21%	
2006	\$596,883	10.25%	
2007	\$632,695	6.0%	
2008	\$616,557	-2.5%	
2009	\$545,750	-11.4%	

Source: TN Dept. of Economic and Community Development

**TABLE 2.1a Estimated Retail Sales**

Year	(\$1,000) Sales	Year % Change	% Change
2009	\$545,750	-11.4%	2009-2014= 5.6%
2010	\$534,835	-2.0%	
2011	\$535,000	0.0%	
2012	\$545,700	2.0%	
2013	\$562,000	3.0%	
2014	\$576,122	2.5%	

Source: TN Dept. of Economic and Community Development; Estimating GNRC

Based on historic retail sales (Table 2.1) that have fluctuated greatly, estimates of future sales are very hard to make. The sales figures shown in Table 2.1 are an attempt to show a reasonable estimate based on historic trends and the recent recession and a slow recovery. The recession will continue to have a negative impact on Robertson County's economy for at least the next three to five years.

**TABLE 2.2 Per Capita Personal Income**

Per Capita Personal Income	ROBERTSON	Tennessee	Percent of State
2000	\$27,470	\$26,097	105.2%
2006	29,079	32,172	90.3%
2008	29,134	34,300	84.9%
2009	29,717	34,991	85.0%
2010	30,014	34,986	85.7%
2011	30,314	35,755	84.7%
2012	30,769	36,756	83.7%
2013	31,168	37,858	82.3%
2014	31,761	38,922	81.6%

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

Per capita income grew from \$27,420 in 2000 to \$29,134 in 2008 but did not grow as fast as the Tennessee averages, dropping from 105.2% to 84.9% of the State (Table 2.2). However, as seen on Table 2.3, the County median household income increased from 191.9% of the state average to 208.5% during the same period. This indicates that more than one person per household is working and providing an income. Future projects indicate that trend will continue. However, this could be deceiving because of the County's location. Being adjacent to Nashville/Davidson County and having interstates in the Eastern and Southern portions of the County could greatly speed up the overall growth rate when the recession ends.

The recession also caused the unemployment rate to jump to 9.6% in December, 2009, which was just under the state rate of 9.7% and 1.3% below the US rate of 10.9% (Table 2.5). Table 2.6 lists the employment by sector and shows a fairly well-diversified economic base which likely caused the job loss to be not quite as severe.

**TABLE 2.3 Median Household Income**

Year	ROBERTSON County	Tennessee	Percent of State
2000	\$68,651	\$35,760	191.9%
2006	81,294	39,584	205.3%
2008	85,192	40,856	208.5%

Source: Woods & Poole, Inc.; Bureau of Economic Analysis

**TABLE 2.4 Labor Force and Employment (December 2009)**

Area	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate %
Robertson County	33,430	31,340	2,069	6.3%
Tennessee	3,050,300	2,846,000	204,200	6.7%
US	154,287,000	145,362,000	8,924,000	5.8%

Source: TN Dept. of Labor & Workforce Development

**TABLE 2.4a Future Employment, Robertson County**

Year	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate %
2009	33,430	31,340	2,069	6.3%
2010	33,220	30,040	3,190	9.6%
2011	33,380	30,175	3,200	9.6%
2012	33,900	30,900	3,000	8.9%
2013	34,200	31,430	2,770	8.1%
2014	335,800	33,008	2,792	7.8%

Source: Estimations by GNRC

Future estimates of employment are closely tied top the State and even US economic recover. Therefore, it should be noted that the figures are estimates than can move up or down due to many factors: the location of one large employer in the County, cut-backs or closures of existing businesses, a slower or faster recover of the US and State economy than expected.

**Table 2.5 Employment by Sector**

Sector	2008	2007	2006	2005
Construction	1,084	1,144	1,025	925
Education & Health Services	3,149	3,034	2,923	3,802
Financial Services	500	516	500	477
Goods-Producing Domain	6,566	7,271	7,317	7,365
Information	67	47	49	49
Leisure & Hospitality	1,487	1,494	1,388	1,300
Manufacturing	5,305	5,952	6,132	6,284
Other Services	400	395	507	464
Professional & Business Services	1,132	1,061	1,001	1,002
Public Administration	826	808	753	740
Service-Providing Domain	11,273	10,990	10,634	10,392
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	3,683	3,620	3,559	3,556

Source: TN Dept. of Labor & Workforce Development

**SECTION 3: Solid Waste Stream****TABLE 3.1 Waste Stream Comparison 2000-2008**

Year	Disposed (tons)	Diverted (tons)	Total Generated (tons)	Real Time Diversion (%)
2000	22,534		22,534	
2001	20,464		20,464	
2002	33,514		33,514	
2003	61,662		61,662	
2004	42,506	38,392	81,009	47.5%
2005	42,020	40,982	83,195	49.2%
2006	49,414	180,472	229,900	78.5%
2007	37,203	41,673	78,890	52.8%
2008	57,412	42,878	100,299	42.7%
2009	44,547	36,519	81,070	45.0%
Percent Growth 2004-2009	4.8%	-4.8%	0.0%	-5.2%

Source: 2009 APR

**TABLE 3.2 Tons Generated Per Capita, 2000-2008**

Year	Population	Generated (tons)	Tons Generated Per Capita
2000	54,433	22,534	0.41
2001	55,000	20,464	0.37
2002	56,000	33,514	0.59
2003	57,500	61,662	1.07
2004	59,322	81,009	1.36
2005	60,379	83,195	1.37
2006	62,187	229,900	3.69
2007	63,333	78,890	1.24
2008	64,898	100,299	1.54
2009	65,000	81,070	.80
Percent Growth: 2004-2009	9.5%	0.0%	-41.1%

Source: 2009 APR; GNRC

The total amount of waste generated in 2009 was 81,070 (Table3.1), about the same that was generated in 2004 (81,009). During the same period population grew by 9.5% (Table 3.2) and the amount diverted decreased 4.8%. As can be seen in Table 3.1, the Real Time Diversion Rate as over 42% every year from 2004-2009. The tons generated per capita dropped from 1.36 to .80 (41.1%) during that same period.

During 2006, there was a huge jump in waste diverted tonnage, from 40,982 in 2005 to 180,472 in 2006 (Table 3.1). This was caused by several factors, Nashville Wire and Electralux both recycled record amounts of metal and there was a much higher response to the recycling survey taken by the County. Table 3.1 also shows a larger amount of waste disposal in 2003. This was caused by the one-time disposal of over 10,000 tons of tobacco.

Table 1.1 shows that the population of Robertson County will grow to 70,196 in 2015, an 8.3% increase over 2010. The County will probably need two additional convenience centers to accommodate that growth.

There are a number of industries that have their own recycling program that totaled over 33,000 tons in 2009, slightly down from the 36,000 tons in 2008. The Robertson County Recycling Program also recycled less than in 2008, dropping from 3,325 to 2,914 in 2009.

The County recycles e-waste, tires, used oil, batteries, and auto fluid for recycling at the Transfer Station convenience center. The batteries are shipped directly to a smelter plant. Enamel paint is boxed and collected by Clean Harbors. The latex paint is bulked and transported to Bi-County for use as alternative daily cover.

**TABLE 3.3      Problem Waste**

Material	2009 Tons	Present System	Future System
Tires	712.9	Collected at TS, Mac's Tires hauls to their facility for beneficial end use	Continue contract
Used Oil	8.5	Collected at TS and hauled away by used oil recycler	Continue contract
Latex Paint	6.9	Collected at TS, bulked then County hauls to Bi-County Landfill for use as daily cover	Continue contract
Batteries	4.1	Collected at TS and hauled to smaller recycler	Continue contract
Electronics	29.8	Collected at TS and hauled away by electronic recycler	Continue contract

Source: Robertson County Solid Waste

Most commercial and business wastes are handled by private haulers under contract to individual businesses. The Transfer Station receives very little of this waste and it is blended in with Class I waste and hauled to Landfill in Kentucky by the Landfill trucks under contract to the County.

**SECTION 4: Solid Waste Collection**

**TABLE 4.1 Municipal Solid Waste Collection Systems**

Jurisdiction	Type	Percent Publically Operated	Percent Publically Contracted	Percent Private Contracted
Robertson County	County Convenience Centers (CCC)	100%	-	-
Adams	CCC; Curbside	50%	-	50%
Cedar Hill	CCC; Curbside	50%	-	50%
Coopertown	CCC; Curbside	50%	-	50%
Cross Plains	CCC; Curbside	50%	-	50%
Greenbrier	Curbside	-	100%	-
Millersville (pt.)	Curbside	100%	-	-
Orlinda	CCC; Curbside	50%	-	50%
Ridgetop (pt.)	CCC; Curbside	25%	-	75%
Springfield	Curbside	100%	-	-
White House (pt.)	Curbside	100%	-	-

Source: Robertson County Solid Waste Director

Robertson County operates seven convenience centers and a transfer station. In 2008, the County disposed of 57,412 tons, most of which (33,127 tons) was transported to the Ohio County Landfill in Kentucky by haulers provided by the Landfill. The remaining volume went to Bi-County Solid Waste (2,049 tons) and Middle point Landfill in Rutherford County (9,387 tons). The County generated 12,846 tons of construction and demolition material that was transported to Bi-County 3-4 Landfill (4,079 tons), Ohio Landfill (3,360 tons) and Southern Services 3-4 Landfill (5,407 tons). The County hauled the C & D waste to Bi-County Landfill, Kentucky Landfill transported the waste to its landfill and several private haulers carried waste to Southern Services Landfill.

The Cities of Adams, Cedar Hill, Coopertown, Cross Plains, Orlinda and Ridgetop do not provide any service. As shown in Table 4.1, the citizens of those communities use either the County convenience centers or contract directly with a number of private haulers for service. The City of Greenbrier contracts with Hudgins Disposal for service.

The Cities of Millersville, Springfield and White House provide weekly curbside service for their residents. The waste collected by the cities is taken to the County Transfer Station.

The location and hours of the County Convenience Centers:

	<b><u>LOCATION</u></b>	<b><u>HOURS</u></b>
1	<b><u>431 North Site</u></b> 4816 Hwy 431 North Springfield, TN	Monday: 1:00pm – 6:00pm Tuesday: 6:00am – 10:30am Wednesday: Closed Thursday: 1:00pm – 6:00pm Friday: 1:00pm – 6:00pm Saturday: 8:00am – 6:00pm Sunday: Closed

2	<b><u>49 Market Site</u></b> 4080 Flewellyn Road Springfield, TN	Monday: 1:00pm – 6:00pm Tuesday: 6:00am – 10:30am Wednesday: Closed Thursday: 1:00pm – 6:00pm Friday: 1:00pm – 6:00pm Saturday: 8:00am – 6:00pm Sunday: Closed
3	<b><u>Cedar Hill Site</u></b> 2235 Old Washington Road Cedar Hill, TN	Monday: 1:00pm – 6:00pm Tuesday: 6:00am – 10:30am Wednesday: Closed Thursday: 1:00pm – 6:00pm Friday: 1:00pm – 6:00pm Saturday: 8:00am – 6:00pm Sunday: Closed
4	<b><u>Cross Plains Site</u></b> 4563 Yates Cave Road Cross Plains, TN	Monday: 1:00pm – 6:00pm Tuesday: 6:00am – 10:30am Wednesday: Closed Thursday: 1:00pm – 6:00pm Friday: 1:00pm – 6:00pm Saturday: 8:00am – 6:00pm Sunday: Closed
5	<b><u>Greenbrier Site</u></b> 3461 Old Greenbrier Pike Greenbrier, TN	Monday: 1:00pm – 6:00pm Tuesday: 6:00am – 10:30am Wednesday: Closed Thursday: 1:00pm – 6:00pm Friday: 1:00pm – 6:00pm Saturday: 8:00am – 6:00pm Sunday: Closed
6	<b><u>Orlinda Site</u></b> 9105 Hwy 49 East Orlinda, TN	Monday: 1:00pm – 6:00pm Tuesday: 6:00am – 10:30am Wednesday: Closed Thursday: 1:00pm – 6:00pm Friday: 1:00pm – 6:00pm Saturday: 8:00am – 6:00pm Sunday: Closed
7	<b><u>Transfer Station</u></b>	Monday: 7:00am – 3:15pm Tuesday: 7:00am – 3:15pm Wednesday: 7:00am – 3:15pm Thursday: 7:00am – 3:15pm Friday: 7:00am – 3:15pm Saturday: 8:00am – 12:45pm Sunday: Closed



**SECITON 5: Solid Waste Reduction Goal**

**TABLE 5.1 Reduction Rate by Different Methodologies**

**BASE YEAR METHOD**

	1995	2009	% Change
Waste Disposed	44,753	44,547	.5%
Population	47,955	65,000	35.5%
Tons Per Capita	.93	.68	-26.8%

Source: 2008 APR

The Base Year Method shows that the per capita waste disposal decreased by 26.8%. The Real Time Diversion Rate from 1995 to 2010 was a 45.0% decrease. As shown on Table 3.1, the County has had a Real Time Diversion Rate of over 42% for the past six years.

Table 5.2 Real Time Diversion Rate

<u>2009</u>			
Waste Disposed	44,547 tons	Waste Diverted =	<u>36,519</u>
Waste Diverted	<u>36,519 tons</u>	Total Waste	81,070 = 45.0% Diversion
Total Waste	81,070		

**SECTION 6: Collection and Disposal Capacity**

**TABLE 6.1 Landfill Capacity**

Landfill Class I	Current Volume (tons/day)	Maximum Capacity (tons/day)	Projected Life of Facility (years)
Bi-County Landfill	550 tons	1,000+ tons	80+ years
Middlepoint Landfill	4,000 tons	5,500 tons	14 years
Ohio County Landfill (Kentucky)	1,800 tons	3,000 tons	55 years

Source: 2008 APR

The Cities of Adams, Cedar Hill, Coopertown, Cross Plains, Orlinda and Ridgetop do not provide any service. An unknown number of citizens contract directly with haulers and an unknown number of citizens use county convenience centers.

**TABLE 6.2 Collection Service**

Service Provider	Service Area	Population Served	Service Frequency	Tonnage Capacity	Service Type
Robertson County	Unincorporated	27,349	5 days/wk	57,000	Convenience Centers
Springfield	City Limits	16,824	1 day a wk	20,000	Curbside
Greenbrier	City Limits	6,524	1 day a wk	10,000	Curbside
Millersville	City Limits	1,231	1 day a wk	3,000	Curbside
White House	City Limits	3,940	1 day a wk	8,000	Curbside

Source: County Solid Waste Director; City Officials

The Robertson County Transfer Station handled 33,000 tons in 2009 and expects this to increase about 3% annually. Given this volume, the Transfer Station will need to be expanded in the next 3-5 years.

**SECTION 7: County Solid Waste Budget (Annual Needs)**

**Table 7.1 County Solid Waste Budget Needs**

Description	Present Budget	Unmet Needs	Budget Needed
Convenience Centers	\$ 235,993	\$ 81,000	\$316,993
Transfer Station	1,663,444		1,663,444
Recycling Center	62,970		62,970
Landfill Post Closure	92,039		92,039
Other Expenses	109,554		209,554
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,164,000</b>	<b>\$ 81,000</b>	<b>\$2,245,993</b>

Description	Present Budget	Unmet Needs	Budget Needed
Property Tax	\$ 789,054	\$ 81,000	\$870,054
Other Local Revenues	1,163,946		1,163,946
State of Tennessee	38,000		38,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,991,000</b>	<b>\$ 81,000</b>	<b>\$2,072,000</b>

Source: Robertson County budget 2009-2010

The main needs for the solid waste system is for two additional convenience centers and four receiver boxes all of which will be paid using County property tax revenue.

**Table 7.2 2008-2010 Solid Waste Budget**

**REVENUES**

Source	2010		2009	2008	Percent Change 2008-2010
Property Taxes	789,054	(39.6%)	894,828	891,560	-11.5%
Other Local Revenue	1,163,946	(58.5%)	1,166,862	1,178,079	-1.2%
State of Tennessee	38,000	(1.9%)	29,173	37,344	-1.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,991,000</b>	<b>(100.0%)</b>	<b>2,090,863</b>	<b>2,106,983</b>	<b>-5.5%</b>

## EXPENDITURES

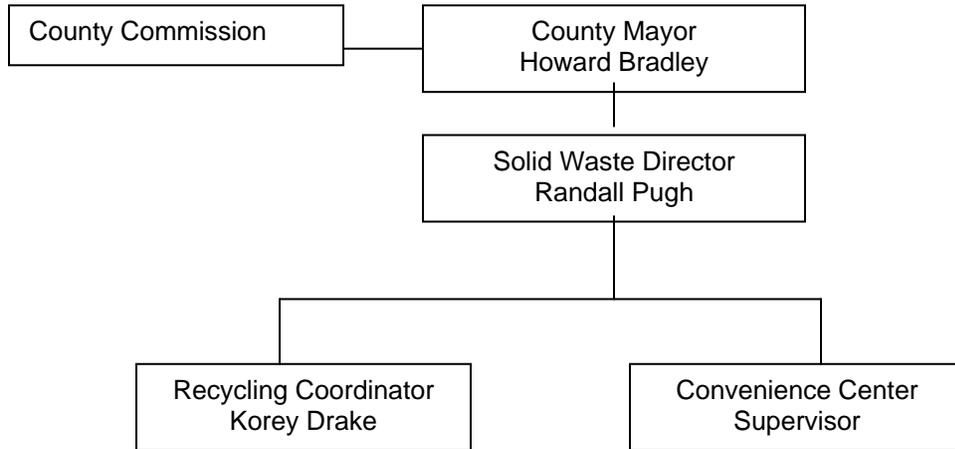
Source	2010	2009	2008	Percent Change 2008-2010
Salaries	471,276	455,137	432,491	8.9%
Other Costs	1,692,724	1,621,811	1,626,868	4.0%
TOTAL	2,164,000	2,076,948	2,059,359	5.0%

Source: 2010 County Budget

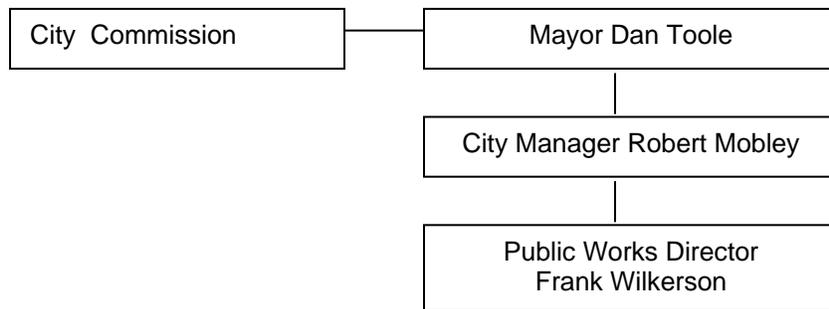
The County Solid Waste System operating budget is presently in sound condition but declining County revenues caused by a slow recovery from the recession could create pressure on the budget over the next five years.

**SECTION 8: Management and Organizational Structure**

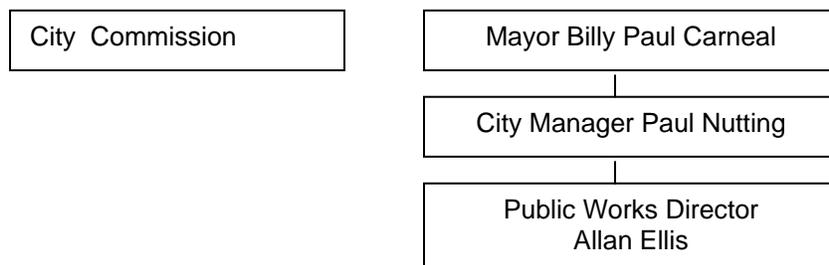
**ROBERTSON COUNTY**



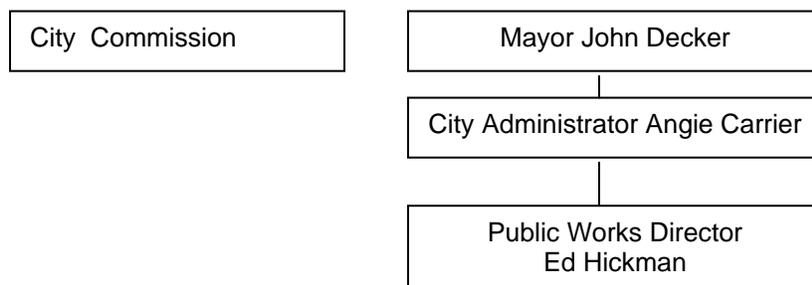
**MILLERSVILLE**



**SPRINGFIELD**



**WHITE HOUSE**



The Cities of Adams, Cedar Hill, Coopertown, Cross Plains, Orlinda and Ridgetop do not provide any solid waste service. The citizens of these communities either use the County Convenience Center or contract directly with private haulers. The City of Greenbrier contracts with a private hauler to provide curbside service to its residents.

## **SECTION 9: Revenue Sources**

As shown on Table 7.2, Robertson County funds its solid waste department from property tax (\$789,054; 39.6%), other local taxes (\$1,563,946; 58.5%) and the State of Tennessee (\$38,000; 1.9%). Table 7.2 also shows that these revenues have decreased since 2008 by 11.5%, 1.2% and 1.7% respectively. The overall solid waste funding has decreased by 5.5% while expenses have increased 5.0%. The shortfall will be covered by a fund balance that was \$576,548 at the beginning of FY 2010.

The Cities of Springfield, Greenbrier, Millersville and White House operate their programs out of their General Fund, primarily from property taxes.

The Cities of Adams, Cedar Hill, Coopertown, Cross Plains, Orlinda and Ridgetop do not provide service for solid waste.

Every city and county that provides solid waste service is likely under pressure every budget cycle, especially when caught in a major recession. Most local governments rely heavily on the property tax and high unemployment coupled with falling home prices and a weak housing market create a very stressful fiscal situation. Although providing adequate solid waste service is an important issue with citizens and elected officials, it often does not fare well when competing for tax dollars against schools, public safety, water and wastewater and some other public services.

The next five years will be difficult on solid waste management services and every effort will be made to cut expenses even more than they already have. With a poor economy and declining revenues, raising local taxes is the last thing elected officials want. However, it is an option that is always on the table.

## **SECTION 10: Education/Citizens Participation**

The primary education program is in the schools where anti-litter, reduce-reuse-recycle and household hazardous waste programs are presented. The proper storage and disposal of waste are also covered in a classroom setting.

The cities of White House and Greenbrier have begun collection of plastic and glass for recycling. The County will encourage and assist other cities to begin or expand recycling programs. Anti-littering efforts have been increased by the Sheriffs becoming more responsive to calls about roadside dumping. The General Sessions Court has two anti-littering bans now in operation.

## **SECTION 11: Five Year Plan**

During the next five years, the County will add additional materials for recycling if the market improves. Support will be given to the newly implemented small recycling programs of White House and Greenbrier. Other cities will be encouraged to start their own recycling programs.

The County will need to relocate one convenience center due to increased traffic flow. As the County continues to grow additional convenience centers will likely be needed. The increased volume of material will cause the tipping floor area to be expanded in the next three-five years.

The Transfer Station will likely need expanding if the volume of through-put increases more than 4-5% in the next five years. Increasing revenue for the solid waste management system will continue to be a major effort by the department.