



TACIR

The Tennessee Advisory Commission
on Intergovernmental Relations



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MEMORANDUM

TO: TACIR Commission Members

FROM: Harry A. Green
Executive Director

DATE: June 29, 2011

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2012 Work Program

1. The proposed TACIR work program for fiscal year 2012 is attached for your review and approval.
2. A compilation of major Commission accomplishments for fiscal year 2011 is included as part of the work program.

Today and Tomorrow: TACIR's Work Program Fiscal Year 2012

107th General Assembly Requests

- **Campaigns and Lobbying: Voters Who Reside Outside Precinct of Permanent Address** [SB 1872 (Kyle)/HB 0472 (Pitts)]: Requires the state election coordinator to study the feasibility of permitting registered voters who reside outside the precinct listed as their permanent residence on their permanent voter registration card to vote only for candidates running for statewide office.

Due Date: None specified.

- **Campaigns and Lobbying: Police Presence for Door-to-Door Campaigning** [SB 2035 (Ford)/HB 0779 (Brown)]: Requires the local law enforcement department to make every reasonable effort to have a visible presence during the time a door-to-door campaign is conducted, if a candidate running for state or local public office desires such presence.

Due Date: None specified.

- **Local Government: Municipalities' Jurisdiction Beyond Corporate Limits** [SB 0347 (Haynes)/HB 0125 (Sargent)]: Deletes provision in the Comprehensive Growth Plan that allows a municipality and a county without county zoning to provide extraterritorial zoning and subdivision regulation beyond its corporate limits with the approval of the county legislative body.

Due Date: None specified.

- **Local Government: Lawrence County Commissioners of Water Utility District** [SB 0830 (Summerville)/HB 1295 (Hensley)]: Requires commissioners of water utility districts in Lawrence County to be elected by the customers of the utility district, if the water utility district has less than 1,600 customers. Specifies the voting procedure.

Due Date: January 2012.

- **Utilities: Water Utility District Commissioner Selection** [SB 0500 (Burks)/HB 0479 (Curtiss)]: Authorizes a water utility district in the western portion of White County with over 1,000 customers to change the manner in which vacancies are filled and commissioners are selected.

Due Date: January 2012.

- **Local Government: Local Government Issues Regarding Vacant Property** [SJR 0103 (McNally)]: Directs TACIR to study problems local governments are experiencing with vacant, blighted

properties and recommends solutions to assist local governments to ameliorate such problems by returning such properties to beneficial reuse.

Due Date: None specified.

106th General Assembly Requests

- **Veterans' Service Officers Compensation** [SB 1336 (Yager)/HB 0895 (Winningham)]: TACIR has been directed to study the provisions of SB 1336/HB 0895 and report its findings and recommendations to the House State and Local Government Committee. The bill establishes minimum compensation and benefits for county and municipal veterans' service officers.

Due Date: None specified.

- **Non-emergency Public Service Answering Points** [SB 1006 (Johnson, J.)/HB 0999 (Lynn)]: Public Chapter 473 directed TACIR to study the impact on public safety of non-emergency communications district affiliated PSAPs. Findings and recommendations will be reported to the House and Senate Government Operations Committees, including any proposed legislation or interim reports.

Due Date: December 1, 2011.

Recurring Mandates

- **Commission Meetings**
Conduct four commission meetings as required by T.C.A. § 4-10-105 and any other meetings of the commission or its committees, as necessary.
- **Education Fiscal Capacity**
Study the fiscal capacity of local governments to fund education; produce the Fiscal Year 2013 Fiscal Capacity Model.
- **Public Infrastructure Needs Inventory**
Compile and maintain an inventory of needed infrastructure within the state; present inventory of statewide public infrastructure needs and cost for provision of adequate and essential public infrastructure to the General Assembly at its next regular annual session following completion of the inventory each year.
- **Public Chapter 1101, Acts of 1998**
Monitor implementation of Tennessee's Growth Policy Act and periodically report findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.
- **Electric Generation and Transmission Cooperatives**
Monitor whether the current wholesale power supply arrangements between the TVA and municipal utilities and electric cooperatives are likely to change in a way that could affect PILOTS from the TVA to the state and to its local governments.
- **Basic Education Program Review Committee (BEPRC)**
Serve on the State Board of Education's BEPRC.
- **Strategic Planning and Performance Based Budgeting**
Maintain strategic plan and report performance in compliance with state requirements.

Staff Initiated Projects

- **Research Support**
Provide research support based on TACIR initiative or requests from the General Assembly, the Executive Branch, and Local Government.

Note: It is difficult to anticipate the amount of research support that will be requested in any given fiscal year. TACIR normally receives numerous such requests each year, primarily from the General Assembly and other state agencies. Most of these requests require relatively small amounts of staff work, though some require the commitment of extensive staff work and research resources. It is the intent of the staff to record as many of these requests as practicable in the Summary of Major TACIR Achievements section of each fiscal year's work program.

- **Tax and Fiscal Policy**

- Analyze current and potential fiscal policies and initiatives in Tennessee.
- Provide an update on the federal fiscal crisis and its effect on Tennessee.
- As time and resources permit, complete staff initiated projects included in fiscal year 2011 work program:
 - An update on TACIR's analysis of fiscal federalism incorporating changes resulting from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, healthcare reform, and other federal, state, and local programs and actions.
 - An evaluation of the privatization of local services focusing on program effectiveness and efficiency.
 - An analysis of the relative fiscal burden of MSA central and outlying counties and of rural counties.

- **Inter-Agency Coordination**

- Serve on TDEC's Water Resources Technical Advisory Committee.
- Participate with other state agencies in a TDOT initiated program with the National Governor's Association to be known as "The Policy Academy on Shaping a New Approach to Transportation and Land Use Planning".
- Participate with other state agencies to join together in a working group to develop Tennessee's role in a national initiative by the US DOT, HUD, and EPA known as a "Partnership for Sustainable Communities."
- Participate with the development districts in a workshop to provide training at the TDDA annual conference.

- **County Profiles**

Continue to expand analysis of county profiles to better understand the policy implications of local fiscal and economic conditions across the state.

- **Growth Policy**

- Complete study by University of Memphis on the relationship between school siting and land use planning.
- Monitor regional initiatives of Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Rural Planning Organizations as related to growth and the relationship of land use and transportation planning.

- As time and resources permit, complete staff initiated project included in fiscal year 2011 work program to conduct a review of workforce development practices in the evolving economy.
- **Technology**
 - Continue to refine plan to maximize use of GIS in TACIR analyses.
 - Expand and update Internet feature reports on pertinent topics.
 - Provide web-based public access to tables and data from the Public Infrastructure Needs Inventory.
 - As time and resources permit, complete staff initiated project included in fiscal year 2011 work program to conduct an analysis of how the Internet is and could be used by government officials and agencies to communicate effectively and increase public participation.
- **Administrative**

Efficiently manage all contracts.
- **Professional Development**
 - Effectively utilize staff training opportunities.
 - Attend Tennessee Municipal League and Tennessee County Services Association conferences and staff booths promoting TACIR's research.

Major Achievements in Fiscal Year 2011

Performance Standard Achieved: Received a 97% favorable rating.

Commission Meetings Held: Conducted required meetings.

Mandated Studies from the General Assembly:

Three bills were referred to TACIR for study during FY 2011:

- Completed study on effectiveness of Tennessee’s underground utility damage prevention program.
- Provided progress report on veteran service officer compensation study at the February 2011 Commission Meeting.
- Provided research plan for Non-Affiliated Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) study at the February 2011 Commission Meeting (Due date: December 1, 2011).

Published nine reports, briefs, or web publications:

- 📖 *Building Tennessee's Tomorrow: Anticipating the State's Infrastructure Needs*— Commission Report, July 2010
- 📖 *E-911: Emergency Communications Funding in Tennessee*— Staff Report, September 2010
- 📖 *The Property Tax in Tennessee - A Summary of TACIR Reports on the Property Tax and Property Tax Issues: 1999-2010*— Staff Research Brief, October 2010
- 📖 *Safe Digging! Working Together to Prevent Damage to Underground Utilities*—Commission Report, October 2010
- 📖 *Regional Jail Feasibility Study*— Prepared for TACIR by CRS, Inc., November 2010
- 📖 *Moving Forward: Public Transportation in Tennessee*—Part I: Land Use and Transportation Planning—Staff Report, January 2011
- 📖 *Intergovernmental Challenges and Achievements*—Biennial Report FY 2009 and FY 2010 Commission Report, February 2011
- 📖 *Land Use and Planning in Tennessee- Part II: Land Use and Transportation Planning*—Staff Report, February 2011
- 📖 *Are We There Yet?* —Part III: Land Use and Transportation Planning—Staff Report, March 2011

Provided the following presentations:

- "Summary of TACIR's Regional Jail Feasibility Study" to the Select Oversight Committee on Corrections (August 11, 2010)
- "Creating Solutions: A State Budget Forecast and Policy Forum" (September 15, 2010)
- "Streamlined Sales Tax Issue" to the Greater Nashville Regional Council (January 19, 2011)
- "How a Bill Becomes a Law" to the Tennessee Chapter of the American Planning Association (January 27, 2011)
- "TACIR's Fiscal Capacity Model" to the Ad Hoc Committee on Education Finance (March 16, 2011)

Requests for Information:

- Responded to requests for information and assistance from members of the General Assembly and legislative committees.
- Responded to requests for information and assistance from local government officials, state agencies, lobbyists, the public, and the media.

Fiscal and Tax Policy Research

- Completed summary of TACIR reports on the property tax in Tennessee from 1999-2010.

Education Finance

- Assisted Comptroller's Division of Bond Finance in developing application and process for the ARRA Qualified School Construction Bond program; reviewed and rated completed applications and submitted recommendations to Tennessee State School Bond Authority.
- Completed Fiscal Year 2010 fiscal capacity model.

Growth Policy

- Continued to monitor and report to the General Assembly on the implementation of PC 1101, Tennessee's growth policy law.
- Continued study by University of Memphis of relationship between school-siting and land-use planning.
- Completed four-part series on land use and transportation planning.

Infrastructure

- Continued annual Public Infrastructure Needs Inventory. Collected infrastructure data provided by 136 school systems, 95 counties, 318 municipalities, and 195 other entities.
- Completed annual report to General Assembly on public infrastructure needs.

Modernization

- Assisted Columbia and Maury County with consolidation commission research.

Other Research

- Completed study on effectiveness of Tennessee’s underground utility damage prevention program.
- Completed a regional jail feasibility study for Clay, Fentress, Overton, and Pickett counties.
- Completed comprehensive study of Tennessee’s 911 emergency communications funding system.

Administered 13 contracts:

- Nine development districts—support the public infrastructure needs inventory projects
- Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration—shared administrative support services
- University of Memphis—school siting and land use study
- Cumberland Region Tomorrow —Region Summit
- Middle Tennessee State University—economic indicators website

Using Technology for Public Information

- TACIR Clearinghouse on American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
- Tracking Tennessee’s Economic Recovery in partnership with Middle Tennessee State University
- Updated and enhanced Tennessee county profiles to include commuter maps