

TENNESSEE COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
ASSOCIATION

DAVID CONNOR
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TCCA News

Volume 1, Issue 4

November 18, 2009

Contact Us:

TCCA
226 Capitol Boulevard Bldg
Suite 700
Nashville, TN 37219-1896

Office: 615.532.3767
Fax: 615.532.3769
Cell: 615.440.3959

tcca_connor@tncounties.org
tcsa_himes@tncounties.org

TCCA Board of Directors

- James Westbrook, President
- Troy Beets, President-Elect
- Houston Naron, Treasurer
- Mureleane Steinbuck, Sec.
- Ronnie Raper
- Scott Gillenwaters
- James "Buddy" King
- Ann Bankston
- Richard Medley
- Bob Barnwell
- Paul Mathenia
- Alan Burchfiel
- Charles Byrd
- Warren Mackey
- Thomas "Tank" Strickland
- Jim Forkum
- Steve Mulroy
- Ralph Puckett
- John Salmon
- Johnnie Wheeler
- Phil King
- Wallace Austin
- Greg Adkins
- Johnny Joe Dower
- James Whitehorn

TACIR Publication on School Capital Projects

The Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR) has released a new publication entitled *Capital Expenditures for Public Schools*. The publication is available on the Internet. The report finds that in the 5-year period around the time when the smaller class-size mandate of the Education Improvement Act (EIA) of 1992 became a requirement (fiscal year 2001-02), Tennessee school systems spent over \$2 billion dollars on capital projects.

The TACIR report describes those expenditures and compares them to the growth in school enrollment, the increase in the number of schools, the condition of school buildings as reported to TACIR in its annual inventory of infrastructure needs, as well as the overall cost of needs reported in that inventory. The report closes with a suggestion that the legislature consider expanding the authority of the Tennessee State School Bond Authority to extend its lending support to school systems. It also suggests that the state consider re-establishing technical and administrative assistance services for school capital outlay programs in the Department of Education. The full report is available at http://www.state.tn.us/tacir/PDF_FILES/Education/Capital_expenditures_for_public_schools.pdf.



Education System Report Cards

Earlier this month, the Tennessee Department of Education released its annual comprehensive report card on pre-K – 12 education. The Department's report card includes state, district and school-level information on achievement, demographics, and discipline. This year's report card demonstrates fundamental changes to the calculations of Value Added and Achievement scores. The method of calculating scores and the scale used to determine letter grades have been revised to allow for a transition to the new standards and assessments required by the Tennessee Diploma Project. To see the full report and evaluate information on a state, school system, and individual school level, go to <http://tn.gov/education/reportcard/index.shtml>.

County Commission Survey Results Pending

The Tennessee County Commissioners Association periodically surveys all 95 counties to determine who currently chairs the commission, how often it meets and on which days it meets, the compensation paid to county commissioners and whether or not commissioners are eligible for county health insurance and retirement benefits. We sent these surveys out earlier this month to chairs of county commissions and to county mayors. We already have responses from over 75 counties. It is my hope to compile the responses and report the results back to the counties in the December version of this newsletter. If your county has not yet responded, please do so as soon as you can. County commissions across the state frequently ask the association for this information, so we try to keep it as accurate as possible to help you, our members.

Budget and Revenue Data

At the end of October, the Comptroller released an update on the state of Tennessee's revenue collections. That revenue report and other information can be accessed at <http://www.tn.gov/comptroller/bf/fiscalyear/iu20091030.htm>. Also of interest, the Bredesen administration began conducting departmental budget hearings on Monday of this week in preparation for developing next year's budget. The hearings will continue over the coming days. For a full schedule of these hearings and to access live streaming audio and video of the current hearings or watch archives of those that are completed, go to <http://www.tennesseeanytime.org/gov/budget/>.



Video of Energy Block Grant Application Workshop Available On-line

ECD recently hosted two Energy and Efficiency Conservation Block Grant application workshops related to grant programs which have been previously reported in this newsletter. The meetings reviewed the guidelines and application process and offered suggestions for completing a competitive application. For those unable to attend the meetings, a video of the workshop is now available in three parts on ECD's YouTube Channel. You can find part one here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SSFijORtFco>. There are links to parts 2 and 3 on that page.

Executive Director's News and Notes

If you find the information in this newsletter helpful and useful, I encourage you to check out the Executive Director's News and Notes portion of the Tennessee County Commissioners Association website. Many of the articles in these monthly newsletters originate from a post there. But on the website, you can see them the day they go up rather than waiting for the next monthly newsletter. In addition to the types of articles and information you find here, there are links to Internet resources, schedules of upcoming events, and links to on-line news and scholarly articles that relate to county government. The website can be found by clicking on the link on the main association page at www.tnccommissioners.org or by going directly to the News and Notes page at <http://tccablog.blogspot.com>.

