

**FIRST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**  
**3rd QUARTER STATUS REPORT**  
**July - September 2016**

**ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

- The First Tennessee Development District assisted the following communities that were funded for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG).
  - **Town of Baileyton** – N. Greene Water Line Rehab
  - **Johnson County** – Fire Equipment Purchase
  - **Town of Mountain City** – Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements
  - **Town of Surgoinsville** – Johnson Estates Sewer Line Extension
  - **Unicoi County** – Rocky Fork Water Line Extension
  
- The District assisted the following communities that were funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission:
  - **Town of Erwin** – Trail Extensions
  - **Erwin Utilities** – Temple Hill & Bumpus Cove Broadband Expansion
  - **Unicoi County** - Rocky Fork Water Line Extension
  
- The District assisted the following communities that were funded by the Local Parks Recreation Fund (LPRF) program:
  - **Town of Bulls Gap** – New Park Development
  - **City of Elizabethton** – Splash Pad
  
- The District assisted the following community that was funded by the Clean Tennessee Energy Grant (CTEG) program:
  - **City of Johnson City** – Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements
  
- District staff assisted the Tennessee Historic Commission in completing an inventory of buildings in the Historic District in the **Town of Rogersville**.
  
- One business in **Johnson City** was assisted by the Downtown Johnson City Redevelopment Loan Program.
  
- Economic and demographic data is available [here](#).

**INDUSTRIAL PROGRAMS**

- During the quarter, the District assisted the following communities with Fast Track Infrastructure Development Program (FIDP) funds and Economic Development Funds (ED) from the Tennessee Department of Economic & Community Development (TECD):
  - **Hawkins County, (Homeland Vinyl FIDP)** Design Phase
  - **Hancock County, (Kiefer FIDP)** Construction began on the gas line project and is about 70% complete.
  
- During the quarter, the District assisted the following communities with U. S. Department of Commerce,

Economic Development Administration (EDA) funds:

- **City of Bristol, (Royal EDA)** The design phase has begun on the project.
- **Greene County, (C&C Millwright EDA)** Construction is about 35% complete.
- **City of Kingsport, (Eastman EDA)** The Raw Water Conveyance project construction is about 45% complete.
- **Town of Mosheim, (US Nitrogen EDA)** Construction is about 60% complete.
- **Town of Unicoi, (EDA)** Phase I (Rural Development) has been completed. The project was bid, with Armstrong Construction being the lowest bidder. Construction should begin by early next quarter.
- **Town of Mountain City, (Parkdale EDA)** WWTP upgrade project was recently funded in the amount of \$1,000,400.
- During the quarter, the District assisted the following communities with Tennessee Department of Transportation State Industrial Access Road Project (SIA):
  - **Unicoi County, (SIA)** Continued working on a new application to provide access to a green field site for a potential industrial expansion in the area.

**HOUSING PROGRAMS**

- During the quarter, the District assisted the following communities with THDA Emergency Repair Program for the Elderly:
  - **Signed Contracts**  
**Sullivan County- 1**
  - **Completed Homes**  
**Hawkins County- 1**                      **Johnson County- 2**  
**Hancock County- 1**                      **Greene County- 1**
- During the quarter, the District assisted the following communities within the Northeast Tennessee/Virginia HOME Consortium with Down Payment Assistance:
  1. Signed Contract on one(1) Reconstruction Project in **Sullivan County, TN**
  2. Signed Contracts on two (2) Reconstruction Projects in **Bristol, VA**
  3. Signed Contract on one (1) Rehabilitation Project in **Bristol, VA**
  4. Completed one (1) Reconstruction Project in **Bristol, TN**
  5. Completed one (1) Rehabilitation Project in **Johnson City, TN**
  6. Completed four (4) Homeownership Projects:  
**Kingsport -3**  
**Johnson City-1**

- During the quarter the District, assisted the following with **Johnson City** CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Program funds:
  - Prepared Environmental Reviews and completed the bid process for two (2) homes.
- During the quarter the District, completed the Bidding Phase and Signed Contracts with the following:
  - Six (6) homeowner projects for **Carter County HOME**.
- During the quarter the District, completed the following Rehabilitation Project:
  - **Town of Greeneville HOME** Program

## AREA AGENCY ON AGING AND DISABILITY

- The Public Guardian program served a total of 38 clients as follows:
  - Conservator of Person and Property = 34
  - Conservator of Person Only = 3
  - Power of Attorney = 1
  - The program admitted 3 new clients during this quarter.
  - A total of 6 volunteers were utilized with four providing direct and two providing indirect services.
  - The program recruiting one new volunteer during this quarter.
- The First Tennessee District Senior Olympics were held on September 7 – 24. One-hundred seventy five athletes participated in this year’s games which were held in various locations in **Johnson City** and **Kingsport**. Events include basketball, bowling, pickle ball, horseshoes, shuffleboard, track and field, table tennis, golf, and swimming. The district games are a qualifier for the state Senior Olympics which will be held in June 2017. The athletes are now preparing for the National Senior Games which will be held June 2 – 15, 2017 in Birmingham, Alabama.
- CHOICES provided the following services for this quarter:
  - 596 Information, assistance, and screening calls
  - 138 Home visits to facilitate enrollment into CHOICES
  - 114 Pre-Admission Evaluations and Medicaid application submitted to TennCare and Department of Human Services
  - 156 Referral to Managed Care Organizations
  - 32 Money Follows the Person (MFP) survey
  - 16 Nursing home visits to counsel individuals and families on Long Term Services and Supports
  - 11 Community Living Support Ombudsman visits
  - Comments received from consumers this quarter: “I have been treated with respect and my voice was heard. I like the way I was treated.” “They were wonderful.” Really appreciate how they guided us through the whole process”.
- Home-delivered meals, homemaker, personal care, in-home respite, personal emergency response system and supply reimbursement services were provided to approximately 900 individuals. Waiting list of 1,817 for all services.

- 77 individuals referred to outside agencies for food boxes, blind services, cleaning supplies, Lions Club, and utility bill assistance, and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), NET Trans, Salvation Army, Crisis Center, Frontier Health.
- Assisted 4 individuals with the Emergency Assistance Program to help with utility bills, water bill, or rent.

## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

During the past quarter, the Environmental Management Program staff worked on several projects that involved many of our local governments. Staff assisted or implemented the following projects during the past quarter:

- Worked District Solid Waste Needs Assessments for **Hawkins County**.
- Prepared Used Oil Equipment Grant application for **Carter County** totaling \$16,200.
- Prepared Recycling Equipment Grant applications for **Hancock County** (\$33,000), **Hawkins County** (\$96,372), **Sullivan County** (\$95,700), **Washington County** (\$38,475), **Greene County** (\$152,696) and **Carter County** (\$39,000).
- Provided updates to the Recycling Feedstock Survey of industries throughout the District.
- Hosted quarterly solid waste directors and staff meeting at FTDD.
- Provided technical assistance to the **City of Tusculum** on its curbside recycling program.
- Participated in quarterly conference calls with TDEC Division of Solid Waste Management staff.
- Provided assistance to **Washington County** with implementing of Used Oil Equipment project.
- Prepared Close-Out Report and Annual Report for Cash Hollow Watershed Improvement project.
- Provided assistance to **Sullivan County** with potential fall Household Hazardous Waste Collection event.

## RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

During the past quarter the First Tennessee RPO staff assisted local transportation representatives and elected officials with numerous requests concerning rural transportation. The RPO was also involved in the following projects and initiatives:

- Meeting with local transportation officials to discuss TDOT's funding opportunities available to local governments.
- Attended Land of Sky RPO meeting in Asheville, NC.
- Prepared **Greene County** roadway functional classification and traffic maps.
- Completed GIS database of major traffic generators, including manufactures, schools, etc. in the FTRPO area. Map is available on the FTDD website.
- Worked on environmental review documentation for **Elizabethton** Safe Routes to School project.
- Provided assistance to the **City of Tusculum** on a potential crosswalk project on the Tusculum College campus.
- Worked Street Improvement Plan for the **Town of Erwin**.
- Attended TDOT ADA Transition Plan workshop in Knoxville.
- Attended TDOT Traffic Demand Model Workshop in Cookeville.
- Developed interactive map of TDOT projects in the FTDD area. Map is available on the District's website.
- Participated in Road Safety Audit Review on Boone Station Road in **Washington County**.
- Prepared survey of ADA Transition Plan compliant localities.

## **PLANNING**

During the past quarter, the First Tennessee Development District local planning staff assisted communities, Planning Commissions, Boards of Zoning Appeals and developers in the following areas:

- Staffed 22 Planning Commission meetings.
- Staffed 6 Boards of Zoning Appeals meetings.
- Staffed 3 other local meetings concerning development and landuse controls.
- Reviewed 5 requests for zoning variances.
- Prepared 2 zoning ordinance amendments.
- Prepared 1 subdivision regulations amendment
- Prepared 1 amendment to zoning maps.
- Reviewed 11 subdivision plats including a total of 26 lots and 38.0301 acres.
- Reviewed 4 community development site plans for a total of 4 lots and 24.38 acres.
- Provided continuing education opportunities for 3 Planning Commissions or Boards of Zoning Appeals totaling 54 hours of CEU's for 20 individuals. During the quarter the following topics were addressed:
  - National Flood Insurance Program
  - Stormwater Phase II
  - Zoning Ordinances and Map Amendments

## **WORKFORCE & LITERACY INITIATIVES**

### **Pathways:**

- The regional Pathways Advisory Board met in August. The team heard from Nick Hansen with TN Pathways as well as an update on what is currently in place or being worked on in the region. Another meeting is being scheduled to begin work on the strategic plan.
- Advisory board members and members from various CTE departments attended the State Pathways Summit in Nashville and walked away with clearer plans for our region. The Business Journal will feature an article on the Pathways work and next steps.

### **Inform:**

- The Director Workforce Initiatives has made various presentations including to the Children's Advisory Council, Rotary, the WCEDC and a Kiwanis club. Also, various media interviews have been conducted. Presentations have been made to two school systems.

### **Initiatives:**

- **CareerQuest TN** is well underway with the core team members having now met with the sector leads. The interactive career event is March 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Minidome and is designed for middle and high school students in the region.
- Sector leads are:
  - Advanced Manufacturing: Kenny Smith UT Extension Office, Susan Harris NN Inc
  - Construction: Tommy Burleson, owner Burleson Construction, Alicia Summers WCEDC

- Health Care: Hamlin Wilson SVP HR Wellmont, Jamie Parsons SVP HR MSHA, Rachel Wampler MSHA
  - IT: John McMeen Director Emerging Technology Center ETSU, Paul Merrywell CIO MSHA, Lottie Ryans FTDD
- **Work Ethic Diploma:** a meeting was held with school system representatives from around the region to begin the dialogue about a regional work ethic diploma modeled after the Lakeways Links which includes **Hawkins County**. All systems in the region are seeking approval from their boards of education to participate in the regional effort. A follow up meeting is October 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss next steps.
  - **Work Ready Community** is well underway with all 7 counties being accepted into the academy process. A good bit of the summer was spent meeting with educational, chamber and business members educating them on the initiative and getting people to sign on to the county applications as core members. The first academy will be in October in Atlanta.
  - **EDI**, Educational Development Index, has been the focus of meetings with the College of Education and the College of Pediatrics with ETSU. The EDI model can be used to map vulnerabilities within a community based on information obtained from kindergarten teachers. A presentation about this model has been made to Susan Reid. Drs. Wood, Hale and Lottie Ryans will be presenting this model to the regional superintendents for their buy-in before approaching the Mayors and other community leaders.
  - A follow up reporting meeting was held with the full task force of the WCEDC study group working on workforce and education initiatives. Various summer reading and feeding programs were modeled this summer with positive outcomes. Most programs will be expanded in 2017. Many workforce initiatives such as the work ethic diploma and CTE academies were also highly successful or in progress.
  - The first co-sponsored **Faith Based Recovery event** was held in early August. The event was a partnership with the State of Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Insight Alliance and the District. More than 80 people from around the region participated in this event. Great pre- event, event and post event media coverage resulted from the partnership. Insight has received several calls from individuals or family members seeking assistance as a result of the media coverage.

### **Grants/Funding:**

- This region was not awarded the Leap Grant which was a partnership with Northeast State Community College, AB&T, and FTDD.
- We have submitted the first round letter for a Power Grant for **Unicoi, Carter, Washington, and Sullivan** Counties in conjunction with Northeast State Community College.
- A request for funding for CareerQuest has been submitted to TVA.

### **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

- Continued maintenance and updates on the FTDD website including updates to the Interactive Historic Places map.
- Completed a Local Food Access Asset Report & continued work with the Food Access Policy Working Group as part of a regional collaboration between the FTDD, Second Harvest, Feeding America Southwest Virginia and many more.

- Planned and hosted a regional luncheon on Team Awareness for local employers as a tool to address productivity, absenteeism and drug use in the workplace in partnership with ETSU and the region's Anti-Drug Coalitions.
- Continued outreach with regional Anti-Drug Coalitions to provide support for regional efforts on a healthy workforce.
- Planned the 50<sup>th</sup> FTDD Annual Meeting.
- Compiled and edited the Annual Report.

### **CALENDER OF EVENTS**

- November 1-3, 216: Tennessee Federation for the Aging Conference

**WEBSITE:**                      <http://www.ftdd.org>