



TACIR

The Tennessee Advisory Commission
on Intergovernmental Relations



4

Suite 508
226 Capitol Boulevard Building
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0760
Phone: (615) 741-3012
Fax: (615) 532-2443
www.tn.gov/tacir

MEMORANDUM

TO: TACIR Commission Members

FROM: Harry A. Green
Executive Director

DATE: September 8, 2010

SUBJECT: E-911 Report Update

At the June 30, 2010, meeting, the Commission postponed voting on the E-911 report that staff prepared at the direction of the House State and Local Government Committee. The report was in response to SB0208/HB0204, on which action was deferred in the House and which was sent to the General Sub of the Senate State and Local Committee in 2009. The Commission expressed a desire to further vet the report's findings and recommendations and expressed concerns that there were still open questions and issues from the December 2010 meeting.

Staff reviewed the minutes from the December meeting and determined that the remaining open issue is the lack of data necessary to analyze accurately the effect of potential changes to the current funding structure. This issue is at the heart of four of the report's principal recommendations:

- TACIR staff recommends that providers be required to file a standard line count return with each ECD and that the ECDs be required to file monthly or quarterly statistics with the TECB based on those returns.
- TACIR staff recommends that the General Assembly postpone any changes to the state's E-911 funding system until landline by customer type data is available.
- TACIR staff does not recommend any change in the allocation of the E-911 fee until sufficient data is available to conduct a full revenue analysis.
- TACIR staff suggests that a sub-committee of TACIR be appointed to evaluate potential funding structures.

As noted by the Chair at the December meeting, E-911 funding involves related and overlapping issues, such as interoperability and rate structures from the various phone entities, the three different groups, and access fees. Without sufficient data, the Commission cannot bring closure to the study of these issues. For ease of reference, the other recommendations from the draft report were as follows:

- TACIR staff makes no recommendation regarding changes to the current implementation plan for NG-911.
- TACIR staff recommends that the TECB analyze the significant differences in the amount of per capita landline revenue raised by ECDs with similar populations to determine the reasons for such wide differences.
- TACIR staff does not recommend an increase in the state wireless fee.
- TACIR staff also does not recommend any change in the allocation of the E-911 fee until sufficient data is available to conduct a full revenue analysis.
- TACIR staff makes no recommendation regarding changes to dispatching funding or requirements.
- TACIR staff recommends that the TECB continue to encourage ECD consolidation through the reimbursement of associated costs.
- TACIR staff recommends that the TECB require the completion of a thorough cost-benefit analysis demonstrating the potential benefits of a specific consolidation by any ECDs seeking reimbursement of consolidation costs.
- TACIR staff notes that continual advances in E-911 technology will require review and evaluation of potential productivity improvements and cost savings from consolidation of existing PSAPs and the use of virtual PSAPs.

TACIR staff requested and received written input from the various stakeholders, and we reported a summary of that input to the Commission in December and made copies of the original statements available (now posted on our website at <http://state.tn.us/tacir/e911/e911study.html>).

The staff is prepared to provide further information, consult with additional interested parties, or otherwise proceed as the Commission desires.