The Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations

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MINUTES OF THE TENNESSEE ADVISORY COMMISSION ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

February 13, 2026

Meeting Called to Order

The Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations met in House Hearing Room I of the Cordell Hull Building at 8:34 a.m., Chairman Ken YAGER, presiding.

Present 14

Mayor Rogers Anderson
Senator Richard Briggs
Mayor Paige Brown
Senator Heidi Campbell
County Clerk Mary Gaither
City Manager Valerie Hale
Comptroller Jason Mumpower[1]
Representative Antonio Parkinson
Mr. Jeff Peach
Mayor Bob Rial
Commissioner Deniece Thomas
Representative Ryan Williams
Senator Ken Yager
Senator Jeff Yarbro

Absent 11

Mayor Kevin Brooks
Commissioner Jim Bryson
Councilman Chase Carlisle
Mr. Calvin Clifton
Representative John Crawford
Mayor Terry Frank
Representative Gary Hicks
County Executive Jeff Huffman
Representative Harold Love, Jr.
Mayor Larry Waters
Senator Bo Watson

[1] Laura Bond Represented Comptroller Jason Mumpower.

1. Call to Order and Approval of the Minutes

Chairman Ken YAGER called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. Executive Director Cliff LIPPARD recognized guests including Dr. Murat Arik, the Rebecca and Jennings Jones Chair of Excellence in Regional and Urban Planning at Middle Tennessee State University's Jones College of Business, and several students of that program's Scholars Program. Chairman YAGER said that he was happy to have the chance to speak with the students. Chairman YAGER then requested and received approval of the December 18, 2025, meeting minutes.

2. Commission and Staff Update

Executive Director Cliff LIPPARD informed the members that Tipton County Clerk Mary Gaither would be retiring later this year after 33 years of service in that role. He said that with her retirement, this will be her final meeting with the commission. County Clerk Gaither was first appointed in 2019 and has been a valuable member and a strong voice for county officials. County Clerk GAITHER said that it was an honor to serve on the commission, complimenting the members and the staff. Chairman Ken YAGER said that it had been a privilege to serve with County Clerk Gaither on the commission and in professional associations, commenting on her long service, integrity, and dedication to her constituents, and asked the members and audience to join him in congratulating her on her retirement.

Dr. LIPPARD next asked the members to join him in welcoming the commission's newest member, Crossville City Manager Valerie Hale, who was appointed by Speaker of the House Sexton on February 4, 2026.

Dr. LIPPARD concluded the commission update saying that the contract with the University of Tennessee's Center for Transportation Research that was mentioned at the last meeting had been finalized. The Center will augment the work of the commission's own transportation study by modeling various aspects of the state's transportation system and related needs.

Moving on to staff updates, Dr. LIPPARD said that in recognition of his skills, experience, and excellent work, Research Manager Bob Moreo had been named the commission's Senior Research Manager. Dr. LIPPARD also said that he himself had recently celebrated 30 years of service to the State of Tennessee. Following this, Chairman Ken YAGER surprised Dr. Lippard by presenting him with a proclamation on behalf of the Tennessee Senate honoring his years of service.

3. Tennessee Valley Authority Payments in Lieu of Taxes – Annual Report for Approval

Research Associate Nathaniel PETTIT presented the commission's annual report on the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs) for approval. The report finds that for purposes of monitoring compliance with Public Chapter 1035, Acts of 2010, it would be beneficial for TVA to provide the Tennessee Department of Revenue with a list of the electric utilities and cooperatives in Tennessee that are purchasing power from non-TVA sources. There are no recommended actions to be taken by the General Assembly.

Chairman Ken YAGER asked whether the credits against PILOT payments given to distributors buying power from sources than TVA applied to state or local taxes. Mr. PETTIT said that the credits count toward the PILOT amount remitted to the state. Senator Jeff YARBRO said it was notable that sixteen years after the law created this credit exception, the credits always outweigh what would otherwise be paid in lieu of tax. Senator YARBRO asked what the credit was and why commission staff thought those credits always outweighed the payments owed. Mr. PETTIT said that he would want to talk to the Department of Revenue to ensure he didn't misrepresent distributors' situations. Senator YARBRO said he wants to figure out whether we're getting all the information necessary to determine what would be owed and whether the credits are being properly reported.

Commissioner Deniece THOMAS asked whether future TACIR reports on TVA will look back at the short- and long-term strategies proposed by TVA to handle demand increases from weather or new data centers to see how those strategies affect TVA's ability to carry out their functions. Mr. PETTIT said that as situations like demand for data centers continue to evolve, the reports will focus more on the increase in demand. Those examples, Mr. PETTIT said, will either become regular parts of the report because of their prevalence or be useful points to review as TVA's strategies evolve. Mayor Rogers ANDERSON asked whether the data centers would be figured into the PILOT program. Mr. PETTIT said that the data centers' effect on the power demand in Tennessee and how TVA meets that demand will be reflected in the equation. Mayor ANDERSON asked whether the data centers will be incorporated under the TVA cooperative agreement. Mr. PETTIT said that without reviewing specific agreements he would be unable to comment on how TVA will manage those. Mr. PETTIT said the PILOT equation will reflect any power increases, regardless.

Senator Heidi CAMPBELL asked whether staff would update the report to reflect recent strategic changes by TVA regarding their remaining coal facilities. Mr. PETTIT said that the report's language regarding TVA's coal strategies would be updated this year to reflect their new plan to continue operating their coal facilities, and that any downstream financial effects or PILOT changes would be reflected in the 2027 report.

Chairman YAGER asked whether the "direct payments to counties" reflected in Table 1 of the report were the impact money or the in lieu of tax payments. Mr. PETTIT said that those figures reflect the payments made for power property purchased by TVA in a particular county.

Representative Ryan WILLIAMS asked whether commission staff expected the impact fees for the Clinch River site to be dramatic because of the significant investment being made in that area. Mr. PETTIT said that the decision about impact fees is made before the figures get to commission staff, and that staff would need to talk to TVA to get more specific expectations on how those payments would be allocated to the area. Representative WILLIAMS said that payments to offset the impact of the sizeable investment at the site would be helpful to the area, and he hoped that

TVA would do that. Chairman YAGER asked Mr. PETTIT to share the information he collected with other members of the committee. [Note: Staff emailed commission members with the information after the meeting.]

Chairman YAGER moved approval of the report, which was seconded by Mayor Rogers ANDERSON. The commission approved the report unanimously.

4. Annual Report on Tennessee's Public Infrastructure Needs—Final Report for Approval

Research Manager Tyler CARPENTER presented the annual report for approval. The report documents $82.7 billion of needed infrastructure improvement projects, which are or will be in development during the five-year period of July 2024 through June 2029.

Chairman Ken YAGER asked whether the costs reported for transportation were actual costs or estimated costs. Mr. CARPENTER said that existing projects are rolled forward each year and updated with new information provided by the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT). Mr. CARPENTER said he would follow up with Chairman YAGER with information on the percentages of the inventory that remain unfunded after five years. (Note: That data was sent to Chairman YAGER after the meeting.)

Senator Heidi CAMPBELL asked whether TDOT is still employing a practice similar to "just-in-time" economics where there are multiple processes taking place at once and whether that changes the way that projects are assessed. Mr. CARPENTER said that practice was part of the Transportation Modernization Act, and it may take time for the reported inventory costs to fully reflect these policy changes. He said he would have to follow up with TDOT to confirm that they are employing this new policy. (Note: Mr. CARPENTER confirmed, and shared with Senator CAMPBELL post-commission meeting, that TDOT is using the alternative delivery system.) In response to Senator Campbell's question about whether inflation is considered in the report, Mr. Carpenter said that inflation-adjusted historical costs are shown in the report, though future inflation is not projected. Executive Director Cliff LIPPARD added that cost estimates become more accurate the further a project moves toward completion.

In response to a question from Representative Ryan WILLIAMS about how public-private partnerships are treated in the inventory, Mr. CARPENTER said that only publicly owned infrastructure is included.

Crossville City Manager Valerie HALE asked how water and wastewater projects are inventoried—specifically whether they come from the state revolving fund list. Mr. CARPENTER explained that if it is a local project, the information would likely be conveyed to our development district surveyors. He added that everything in the inventory that isn't coming from TDOT or another state agency through a budget request is self-reported by the local respondents.

Senator Jeff YARBRO asked whether there is anything unique about transportation that is causing its reported cost of needs to grow faster than other infrastructure categories. Mr. CARPENTER explained that TDOT recently revised its bridge evaluation criteria, which resulted in an increase in identified bridge needs for the current inventory year. He also noted that transportation projects tend to remain in the inventory for extended periods, and updated cost estimates—combined with newly added projects—contribute to overall growth in transportation needs.

Senator YARBRO further asked what factor is driving the increase in new school needs over recent years. Mr. CARPENTER said that prior reports attributed the increase to population growth and rising demand in the Metropolitan Nashville area and surrounding counties. In response to Representative Antonio PARKINSON's question about how much of the cost increase or delayed projects is attributable to having to source from outside of the country, Mr. CARPENTER said that information is not tracked in the inventory.

The commission approved the report unanimously.

5. Public Chapter 418, Acts of 2025 (Housing Juvenile Offenders)—Final Report for Approval

Senior Research Associate Hannah NEWCOMB presented the final report on housing juvenile offenders for the commission's approval. The report was prepared in response to Public Chapter 418, Acts of 2025, which directed the commission to study (1) the availability of facilities for housing juveniles who have been adjudicated delinquent and placed in custody of the Tennessee Department of Children's Services (DCS) or who have been detained by juvenile courts prior to an adjudicatory hearing and (2) whether there is a need for additional housing, detention, and treatment facilities in Tennessee. Ms. NEWCOMB said that the report's original recommendations remained unchanged, and staff added information clarifying that Madison County's proposed $70 million juvenile justice center includes space for a juvenile court and clerks' offices in addition to a 40-bed detention center. Staff also added information on national trends and best practices for the size of juvenile detention centers, as well as the capacities of new facilities planned or recently built in other states.

Senator Heidi CAMPBELL said she appreciates that the report includes recommendations on oversight. She said she is concerned about the process for awarding contracts for the construction of juvenile detention facilities and asked whether this was a consideration in the report. Ms. NEWCOMB said the report does not include information on contracts awarded for the construction of juvenile detention facilities. Senator CAMPBELL said there seems to be a lack of transparency surrounding juvenile detention facilities and placements for youth in the foster care system, and she is concerned that children in state custody for dependency and neglect rather than delinquency are being placed in juvenile detention centers or similar facilities and asked whether this issue came up during research for the report. Ms. NEWCOMB said this topic did come up during the research process, and the report includes some information from the 2022 Comptroller's audit of DCS, which found there were not enough placements available either for youth in DCS custody for dependency and neglect or those in custody for delinquency.

The commission approved the report unanimously.

6. Public Chapter 445, Acts of 2025 (Continua of Care)—Final Report for Approval

Research Manager Michael STRICKLAND presented the final report for the Continuum of Care (CoC) study, prepared in response to Public Chapter 445, Acts of 2025, which requested a study of the CoCs in Tennessee, how they might be improved, and how they compare to CoCs in other states. Dr. STRICKLAND said there had been no significant revisions or additions following the presentation of the draft report, other than the inclusion of some additional data in an appendix, and the six recommendations remained unchanged: That the General Assembly appropriate funding to CoCs for expenses that conventional CoC grants do not cover; that the General Assembly appropriate funding to cover end user license fees for homelessness service providers to use CoCs' Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS); that the General Assembly appropriate funding for the University of Tennessee's Social Work Office of Research and Public Service to aggregate HMIS data from all 10 CoCs in the state; that the University of Tennessee's Social Work Office of Research and Public Service then use that aggregated data to produce dashboards that make data on homelessness more accessible, including a dashboard on aggregated service needs; that the state reestablish an interagency council on homelessness; and that the interagency council, once established, work with CoCs to develop an agreed-upon set of measures for CoCs' Coordinated Entry systems and then use that information to continually improve procedures.

Commissioner Deniece THOMAS asked whether the recommendation for an interagency council on homelessness could specify at least several agencies to be represented, including but not limited to the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Department of Human Services, Department of Education, Department of Children's Services, Department of Correction, TennCare, and the Tennessee Housing Development Agency. She made a motion to amend the recommendation to include such a list, which was approved.

Representative Ryan WILLIAMS said data cited in the report notes that some 22,000 children are experiencing some level of homelessness in Tennessee, including around 2,200 kindergartners, and that this situation is untenable. He asked about long-term trends in homelessness in Tennessee, particularly among children, and whether those showed any improvement or deterioration. (Note: That data was sent to Representative Williams after the meeting.)

Representative Antonio PARKINSON asked whether there are any forecasts on the effect of changes in public housing funding at the federal level on homelessness or service demands. Dr. STRICKLAND said that staff were not aware of any forecasts that had been made, though anecdotally some stakeholders had raised concerns about closures of permanent supportive housing that might add to homelessness. Representative PARKINSON added that if it were possible to have such information it could help the state prepare in case of an increase in homelessness.

Senator Richard BRIGGS said there are different reasons for why people become homeless and said that the commission should perhaps consider those who are homeless because of economic reasons and those who become homeless because of mental illness or a substance abuse issue separately as they may need to be addressed in different ways. Dr. STRICKLAND said that the CoCs do strive to provide different services tailored for the needs of these different subpopulations. Senator Jeff YARBRO said that, on the question of causes of homelessness, the incidence of mental health and substance abuse issues is uniform across the population; what distinguishes states or areas with higher rates of homelessness is high housing prices. Representative WILLIAMS said that, in broad strokes, the population of those who are homeless could perhaps be divided into thirds: those who choose homelessness, those with a substance abuse or mental health issue, and those who become homeless for other reasons. He said it may be difficult to sort out who falls into which group, but it is different for children, as they are, as a rule, only homeless because of circumstances beyond their control.

Mayor Rogers ANDERSON said that members of the General Assembly could investigate ways to use the opioid abatement program to address homelessness among those with substance abuse issues. He also said that faith-based institutions could be more involved in homelessness services, especially with children, and that such institutions had been more involved in the past, but had diminished over the years, with responsibility shifting towards government. Representative WILLIAMS said he would like to see pathways created through legislation for more people to be able to find help, including perhaps with faith-based groups, but that risk and liability concerns may prevent many from being involved.

Senator YARBRO asked what could be learned from other states about collecting and managing homelessness data. Dr. STRICKLAND said that, according to stakeholders in other states that staff had spoken with, aggregated CoC data helped to provide a statewide portrait of homelessness, resolve gaps in data and questions of duplication, and inform state-level policy on homelessness.

Executive Director Cliff LIPPARD said that the study's scope had been limited to CoCs and their operations, there was also of course a broader issue of homelessness in general, and that a current bill before the legislature would request the commission to undertake a study of homelessness itself. Representative PARKINSON said, if the bill did not pass, the commission might still consider taking up the study.

Representative WILLIAMS motioned approval of the report, with Representative PARKINSON seconding. The report was approved unanimously.

7. Public Chapter 941, Acts Of 2024 (Real Estate Fraud)—Final Report for Approval

Research Manager Bob MOREO presented the final report on real estate fraud for the commission's approval. The report was prepared in response to Public Chapter 941, Acts of 2024, which directed the commission to study the prevalence of real estate fraud in Tennessee, the schemes used to perpetrate real estate fraud, the methods used by other states to combat real estate fraud, the best practices for local government officials registering documents related to real estate transactions, and propose statutory changes to reduce real estate fraud. He said that the report's three original recommendations and the two additional recommendations presented at the December 2025 commission meeting remained unchanged. He said that, based on December 2025 commission meeting discussions and feedback from the Shelby County Register of Deeds and others, staff prepared an alternative recommendation—included in the docket book memo—authorizing only Shelby County to participate in a pilot program to require identification before recording real estate documents.

Mr. Ben ROGERS, Executive Director of the County Officials Association of Tennessee, introduced Montgomery County Register of Deeds Julie Runyon and Hamilton County Register of Deeds Marc Gravitt who provided comments on the report's recommendations. Ms. Juli RUNYON said the implementation of the proposed pilot program by the registers would be problematic. The recommendations do not provide clear guidelines for how the program would operate, including how information from IDs would be retained. She said that allowing individual counties to opt in or set their own procedures undermines the principle of statewide uniformity. Tennessee is a race to record state, which means the first to present a document for recording has priority. Therefore, there cannot be a delay in recording based upon the belief that a document may be fraudulent. Additionally, the mechanism and means for recording such as in-person versus electronic recording must be treated equally. The report references Florida, which had a pilot program, but it is not a race to record state. So, the same issues that Tennessee is presented with do not apply in Florida. The Tennessee Registers Association supports stricter penalties for fraudulent transactions and stricter guidelines for notaries.

Mr. GRAVITT said that identity verification in property transactions is the responsibility of notaries, who are legally required to confirm a signer's identity before documents reach the register's office. Notaries are required to see an ID before notarizing a document. If that identification process is being bypassed or misused, the solution should be aimed at strengthening notary accountability and standards. Tennessee has begun requiring online remote notaries to complete training and pass an exam. However, neither training or an exam is required to become a traditional in-person notary. Tennessee also does not require criminal background checks for notary applicants. Registers are not attorneys and therefore cannot legally question a document when it meets state recording requirements. Registers are essentially librarians. He also said that someone should file a bill prohibiting register of deeds from providing these blank deed forms on their websites.

Chairman Ken YAGER asked whether the staff had heard from the registers of deeds when preparing the report. Mr. MOREO said the staff had interviewed registers as a part of the study.

Representative Antonio PARKINSON asked whether a pilot program in Shelby County would impose costs or liabilities on other counties. Mr. GRAVITT said their main concern isn't the cost, but the uniformity across all 95 counties. Allowing one county to follow its own rules would disrupt the uniformity of the system. Ms. RUNYON said that even if the pilot program is limited to Shelby County, other counties would feel pressure to consider adopting it as well, particularly if fraud occurred in a county that chose not to participate. Representative PARKINSON said that real property theft occurs when a property transfer is recorded, not when it is notarized, and asked whether registers bear any responsibility for preventing fraudulent transfers. Ms. RUNYON said that when a deed is fraudulent or legally insufficient, the property doesn't transfer but it may create a cloud on the title that could lead to litigation. Mr. GRAVITT said that the minute paperwork is signed, a crime has already occurred, because there is marketable and equitable interest in that property before it reaches their office. A pilot program will create liability for the other 94 counties should they choose not to participate in it. According to a survey he administered, all registers of deeds in the state, except Shelby County, oppose the legislation. Representative PARKINSON said that the Shelby County Register's Office provides a blank quit claim deed form on its website and asked whether such forms could be obtained from other sources. Mr. GRAVITT said you can go online and find them from other sources. Representative PARKINSON asked whether requiring quitclaim deed forms to be provided only by attorneys would increase the cost of transferring property. Ms. RUNYON said that most of the deeds her office receives that are prepared by property owners rather than attorneys are questionable regarding their legal sufficiency and might not accomplish what the drafter intended. Many of the deeds that have been submitted to them for review that have been alleged to be fraudulent did not comply with recording requirements.

Commissioner Deniece THOMAS asked how many counties offer a free e-mail property fraud alert system that will notify property owners when a document is filed on their property. Mr. MOREO said he deferred to the registers who were present. Mr. GRAVITT said all 95 counties have access to a property alert system. Commissioner THOMAS said there should be an update to the report to reflect that. (Note: The report has been revised to reflect that all 95 counties have access to a property alert system.)

Tipton County Clerk Mary GAITHER said that fraud occurs at the time of notarization and that stronger penalties for notaries would allow the attorney general and district attorneys to better investigate and prosecute fraud. She said that registers of deeds are record keepers who perform their duties properly, and said the stakeholders need to get together and work this out.

Representative PARKINSON said that he agreed that stronger penalties and stricter oversight of notaries are needed. He said that while forgery may occur at notarization, he thinks the actual property theft does not happen until the property is transferred and that is their only point of disagreement.

Executive Director Cliff LIPPARD said that the report makes recommendations about notary reforms that have been included in legislation introduced this year. The recommendations include mandatory training for notaries and maintaining formal journals for a specified period. These measures may not eliminate all fraud, but they would strengthen safeguards and improve recordkeeping.

Chairman YAGER said he initially planned to vote in favor of the pilot program because it was limited to one county that requested it. After hearing testimony, he said he changed his mind because of concerns about unintended consequences and the possibility of creating new problems. He said he supported deferring the vote until the next meeting so staff can work through the issues raised and provide further clarification. More careful review is needed before taking a final position.

Mayor Paige BROWN said that she thinks technology will solve these issues. When you buy alcohol, they don't check your ID, they scan your ID. She said she agrees that notaries should have training. Someone intent on stealing property could simply order a notary stamp online and submit a document that appears properly notarized, even though there may be no verification that the notary is legitimate in Tennessee or any other state. She thinks there should be a database of approved notaries. She said she knows they try to shut down companies selling the notary stamps by mail, but it is likely that as soon as one gets shut down, another one pops up. She said, over time, technology will help resolve these issues and identification and proof of identity must be a part of it.

Mr. Jeff PEACH said that he thinks that the best solution would be a comprehensive list of notaries.

Ms. GAITHER made a motion to defer the report. The motion was seconded by Chairman YAGER. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Public Chapter 102, Acts of 2025 (Cosmetology and Barbering Professions)—Draft Report for Review and Comment

Research associate Cameron FOX presented the draft report on the cosmetology and barbering professions for review and comment. The report was prepared in response to Public Chapter 102, Acts of 2025, which directed the commission to study the economic impact of the barbering and cosmetology professions in Tennessee, including the revenue generated through the services provided and the number of jobs generated by the professions, as well as retail sales, training and education opportunities, and potential barriers to entry in the industry. Ms. FOX said the draft report identifies and focuses on two nationwide trends in the professions: overall growth and specialization. According to the Tennessee Department of Revenue and the Board of Cosmetology and Barber Examiners, between fiscal years 2018-19 and 2023-24, total salon industry revenues in the state increased 35.6%, totaling $1.1 billion in fiscal year 2023-24. Like other states, Tennessee has adapted to evolving specialization in the industry by establishing specialty licenses. However, the state has not established a specialty license for one popular service in particular—hair styling. Because a specialized hair license would allow people to focus on their interest, save money and time on education, and begin working more quickly, the draft report recommends the state establish a hair styling license focused only on hair-related services that require fewer hours of education than the existing cosmetology and master barber licenses.

9. **Public Chapter 416, Acts of 2025 (Speech Therapy Services)—Draft for Review and Comment**

Senior Research Associate Jennifer ARZATE presented the draft report on speech therapy services for review and comment. The report was prepared in response to Public Chapter 416, Acts of 2025, which directed the commission to study the feasibility and effects of requiring some insurance plans, including the State Group Insurance Program, Affordable Care Act (ACA) plans, TennCare, and CoverKids, to cover speech therapy services for stuttering—both habilitative and rehabilitative—without age or visit caps, or utilization review requirements. Because visit limits are one of the primary reasons speech therapy claims are denied and because public programs in Tennessee—the State Group Insurance Program, TennCare, and CoverKids—already provide coverage for medically necessary therapies with either no visit limits or higher visit limits, increasing the minimum number of therapy visits required under ACA plans would help ensure greater access to care. Ms. ARZATE outlined the report's recommendation that the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance update Tennessee's Essential Health Benefits (EHB) benchmark plan for ACA plans to increase the minimum annual number of speech therapy visits each plan is required to cover.

10. **Public Chapter 413, Acts of 2025 (Ambulance Services) – Update**

Research Associate Nathaniel PETTIT presented an update on commission staff's study of ambulance services in Tennessee. Public Chapter 413, Acts of 2025, requires TACIR to study (1) the economic impact of required ambulance services on counties, (2) how Tennessee's counties and municipalities provide such services, and (3) whether policy changes may improve the provision of these services. Additionally, the Act requires the commission to (4) review emergency and non-emergency transport reimbursements and (5) determine how counties and municipalities fund the deficit at which ambulance services operate. Mr. PETTIT provided an overview of preliminary research regarding how Tennessee counties provide required ambulance services, how those services are funded, and the demand and delivery of ambulance services across the state.

Mr. Jeff PEACH said he doesn't like that this issue pits cities and counties against each other. He said he hopes that TACIR's report looks at how requiring cities to contribute funds to ambulance services as would have been required by Senate Bill 160 by Senator Joey Hensley, House Bill 83 by Representative Kip Capley, would have city residents paying twice for the same service, once through city taxes and once through county taxes. He said he's also interested in how, in a hypothetical reaction to the bill, cities starting their own ambulance services rather than paying the county for ambulance services would affect response times when the city ambulance service does not respond to calls in unincorporated parts of the county. Mayor Rogers ANDERSON said response times to rural areas would increase and that in Williamson County, 51% of their ambulance calls occur in Franklin.

Mr. PEACH said that most of the displeasure he has seen regarding ambulance services comes from counties who have contracted with a for-profit venture for their ambulance services. He said he'll be interested in seeing that breakdown in TACIR's report.

Mayor ANDERSON asked why Williamson County was not included in the county data tables in the appendix. Mr. PETTIT explained that the table represented a list of counties that, at the time of creation, commission staff understood to provide their service directly. Williamson was not part of that list, but Mr. PETTIT said the draft report will include data for all counties.

Mayor ANDERSON said that four or five years ago, counties had American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding and counties used that funding to purchase ambulances. That ARPA funding came from the county side and represented all residents, both rural and urban. He said that the number of ambulances per county would be interesting to know because, like with fire trucks, purchased ambulances take somewhere between 18 and 40-plus months to arrive, and that counties must budget 50% of those ambulance funds up front to purchase the ambulance, despite having to wait several years for delivery. Mayor ANDERSON said that Williamson County is buying ambulances in 2026 that they won't see until 2029. Mr. PETTIT said that TACIR's 2025 report, *Overcoming Vehicle Supply Chain Disruptions and Large Cost Increases Involves Various Strategies Implemented by Governments*, covered that issue but so could this study.

Mayor Paige BROWN said that the example of cooperation between Sumner County and Portland given in the update represents a dynamic that exists in several other areas. She said that Gallatin has three joint fire and ambulance bays that the city of Gallatin funded and pays to maintain. She said that fire has focused more on medical support, and that also helps the ambulance services be more efficient.

Other Business

Chairman YAGER adjourned the meeting at 11:08 a.m.