Building Tennessee's Tomorrow:

Anticipating the State's Infrastructure Needs

July 2023 through June 2028

APPENDIX B: PROJECT HISTORY

The Public Infrastructure Needs Inventory Act was adopted by the Tennessee General Assembly on April 11, 1996, and signed into law by Governor Don Sundquist as Public Chapter 817 on April 25, 1996. The bill was sponsored by Senator Robert Rochelle (Senate District 17) and Representative Shelby Rhinehart (House District 37) at the request of the Rebuild Tennessee Coalition (RTC) and the Tennessee Development District Association (TDDA). The RTC was established in 1992 as a chapter of the national Rebuild America Coalition. The RTC is an association of public and private organizations, along with individuals, who are committed to encouraging investment in Tennessee's infrastructure. The TDDA comprises nine development districts that provide economic planning and development assistance to local governments in their respective regions.

The Act, which became effective July 1, 1996, directs the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (Commission) to compile and maintain an inventory of needed infrastructure within this state. Commission staff manages the implementation of the inventory and gathers information from state agencies, while staff from each of Tennessee's nine development districts survey public officials within their jurisdictions to develop the inventory under commission staff direction.

The first inventory was completed in 1998, and the first report was published in January 1999. The infrastructure inventory is a dynamic and progressive program that has evolved since its inception. This is the twenty-third report in the continuing inventory of Tennessee's infrastructure needs. It reflects several improvements over the first inventory.

- Communication and partnerships among stakeholders have been improved.
- A dedicated effort has been made to better capture new school construction needs.
- Commission staff have developed procedures to incorporate needs reported by state officials, including state transportation needs, into the inventory.
- The format of the report has been updated to include one-page county summaries that highlight the top three infrastructure needs and their trends in the county, as well as totals for each type of infrastructure broken down by stage. Additionally, student enrollment trends are compared with the need for new space and renovating existing space at public schools.
- Standardized procedures have been clarified to enhance reporting consistency.
- Quality control has been augmented with statistical analysis.
- Commission staff review information to ensure that all required fields are completed and that valid information is entered for each field.

- For each type of need, Commission staff compare the estimated cost over time. Unusually large increases or decreases are examined thoroughly. Sometimes the changes are due to one or more large projects being cancelled or needing to be recategorized.
- Each mayor, county executive, and school district superintendent is provided summary information for their municipality, county, or district. This allows a review of the information to make sure needs are being accurately captured.