
TDOT AERONAUTICS ENGINEERING UPDATE

GREETINGS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

December marks the end of the year, holiday celebrations, and the first month of winter. For our airports this year, it also means the end of ACIP development, as the deadline for completing the ACIPs in BlackCat was December 1st. On behalf of TAD, I want to express sincere gratitude for the time and hard work invested over the last couple of months. This process is critical towards the success of our infrastructure. If you haven't completed your ACIP, please make sure to do so as soon as possible.

We have a few of key updates to make you aware of:

NEW PLANNING CONTACTS AND RESOURCES

- We've had several recent staff changes in the Division. One of those was the resignation of Paul Perry, our planning lead. While we work on hiring new planning staff, feel free to contact me with any planning related questions.
- **New Planning Website!** To assist in the planning and implementation of your projects, you can navigate to our new planning website at <https://www.tn.gov/tdot/topic/aeronautics-planning>. Among the resources and tools, key information for requesting projects is available, which covers...
 - **New deadlines.** The deadline for requesting projects is changing to the last Friday of every month.
 - **Key Dates.** New graphics showing the key dates from project request to executed grant.
 - Note - please remember to include a schedule with every request showing the key milestones. Just attach the schedule with the Engineer's Estimate in BlackCat. Also, to help in the organization of documents during the process, please place the following information on all documentation:
 - name of the consultant (or whoever is creating the cost estimate/summary)
 - name of the airport
 - name of the project in the request

PREVAILING WAGE RATES CLARIFICATION & APPLICABILITY

- Based on clarifications made during the November 16, 2017 Prevailing Wage Commission meeting, the State Prevailing Wage Act does not apply, and the TN Dept. of Labor has no enforcement authority, to:
 1. Any contract let, awarded, and administered by a local government agency, regardless of funding;
 2. Any airport construction project, regardless of funding or contracting agency; or
 3. Any contract for the performance of work on a public road that is constructed and maintained solely with local funds.
- Keep in mind that if any federal funds are used to fund the construction, the *DAVIS-BACON ACT WILL CONTINUE TO APPLY TO ANY PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT EXCEEDING \$2,000*. Thus, payment of the federal prevailing wage will continue to be required under Aeronautics grant contracts if federal funds are used.

PROJECT MANAGER AIRPORT ASSIGNMENTS

- Two (2) new project managers will be joining the Aeronautics Division in January, which means we will be redistributing the airports across seven (7) project managers. The additional staff will enable engineering to provide improved service and greater attention to the airports. We will try our best to minimize disruption and foster the relationships that have been developed. The new project manager assignments will be released soon.

December 4, 2017

I wish you and yours a safe holiday season and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,



John-Paul Saalwaechter [sawl véktər], P.E. | CE Manager 2

Prevailing Wage Rates Clarification

During the November 16, 2017 Prevailing Wage Commission meeting, it was determined that Tennessee Prevailing Wage Rates apply to state highway construction projects based on the following definitions:

Tenn. Code Ann. §12-4-402 does provide a definition of several terms, including;

(2) "Highway contractor" means any contractor, subcontractor, person, firm, or corporation engaged in a state construction project for the purpose of building, rebuilding, locating, relocating, or repairing any public highway;

(4) "Public highway" means any street, road, highway, expressway, bridge, or viaduct, including an adjacent right-of-way, that is constructed or maintained by the state, or any municipality or political subdivision of the state, and that is funded in whole or in part with federal or state highway funds;

(5) "State contract" means any contractual agreement, written or oral, entered into by any person, firm or corporation with this state for the performance of work on a state highway construction project; and

(6) "State highway construction project" means any construction project for the purpose of building, rebuilding, locating, relocating, or repairing any public highway.

If an entity not defined above so chooses to include prevailing wage rates, the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development has no jurisdiction to enforce those prevailing wage rates.