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# Southwest Tennessee Development District

1971 - 2021

## SOUTHWEST TN

### Annual Report 2021





## 2021 Annual Report Table of Contents

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# A Letter from Joe Barker, Executive Director of SWTDD

In 2021, Southwest Tennessee Development District celebrated 50 years of service to the citizens of Southwest Tennessee! For the past 14 years, I have had the honor of serving as SWTDD Executive Director. Prior to becoming Executive Director, I served on the SWTDD Board of Directors for eight years in my capacity as County Executive of Hardin County. SWTDD continues to be a vital partner with our leaders in local government as we continue to serve the aging and those in need with a dedicated professional staff and volunteers from throughout the District.

SWTDD is the Area Agency on Aging and Disability (AAAD) and constantly looks for more programs and services to assist our increasingly aging population. SWTDD also works closely with our local communities in economic and community development. Our ECD division, writes and administers grants, provides planning and technical assistance, develops strategic plans, and assists in economic growth with small business loans to grow jobs and expand the local tax base.

However, 2021 will be forever remembered in rural Southwest Tennessee, as the year Ford Motor Company announced the largest capital investment in the history of our great state. For years, SWTDD played an integral role in promoting and supporting the Memphis Regional Megasite. We give our thanks to the many local elected officials who had the vision and foresight to secure the property for the Megasite and worked tirelessly to bring much needed, life changing jobs to the region. SWTDD was the coordinating agency for many meetings and events to promote the Megasite as many different elected officials came and went during the past decade. SWTDD felt it was our responsibility to not let the initial enthusiasm for the Megasite die and to keep the hope that, one day, the fruits of all our labors would be rewarded. The announcement by Ford Motor Company will result in the biggest change in rural West Tennessee in our state's history. However, with change comes challenges. The growth anticipated will create challenges to our workforce, infrastructure, education systems, law enforcement, healthcare, and, at the same time, retaining our great quality of life.

SWTDD looks forward to being involved in this exciting transition in rural Southwest Tennessee and I believe, in the next 50 years of our organization, we will continue to be a vital partner for growth and prosperity.



Joe W. Barker, Executive Director  
Southwest TN Development District

~ Joe W. Barker

## Southwest Tennessee Development District Board of Directors

### CHESTER COUNTY

County Mayor Barry Hutcherson\*  
Vacant, Minority Representative\*  
Mayor Melinda Johnston, Enville  
Mayor Bobby King, Henderson\*

### DECATUR COUNTY

County Mayor Mike Creasy\*  
Joseph Fisher, Minority Representative  
Mayor Tim Price, Decaturville  
Mayor Tim David Boaz, Parsons\*

### HARDEMAN COUNTY

County Mayor Jimmy Sain\*  
Elmer Cobb, Minority Representative  
Mayor Julian McTizic, Bolivar\*  
Mayor Curtis Lane, Grand Junction  
Mayor Ricky Ayers, Hickory Valley  
Mayor Megan Hedwall, Hornsby  
Mayor Jackie Cox, Middleton  
Mayor Jim Daniel, Saulsbury  
Mayor Willard Beshires, Silerton  
Mayor Jackie Kelley, Toone  
Mayor Gene Bowden, Whiteville

### HARDIN COUNTY

County Mayor Kevin Davis\*  
Allen Cherry, Minority Representative\*  
Mayor Ricky Tuberville, Crump  
Mayor Ricky Hollin, Milledgeville  
Mayor Larry Lowery, Saltillo\*  
Mayor Bob Shutt, Savannah

### HAYWOOD COUNTY

County Mayor David Livingston\*  
Robert Green, Minority Representative\*  
Mayor William Rawls, Jr., Brownsville\*  
Mayor Allan Sterbinsky, Stanton

### HENDERSON COUNTY

County Mayor Eddie Bray\*  
Barbara Parker, Minority Representative\*  
Mayor Jeff Griggs, Lexington\*  
Mayor Kenneth Kizer, Parkers Crossroads  
Mayor J.W. Creasy, Sardis  
Mayor Kenny Parrish, Scotts Hill

### LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS

Senator Ed Jackson\*  
Representative Chris Todd\*

### MADISON COUNTY

County Mayor Jimmy Harris\*  
Herbert Slack, Minority Representative\*  
Mayor Scott Conger, Jackson\*  
Mayor Brad Replogle, Medon  
Mayor Larry Sanders, Three Way

### MENAIRY COUNTY

County Mayor Larry Smith\*  
Harry Crayton, Minority Representative\*  
Mayor David Leckner, Adamsville  
Mayor Gary Bizzell, Bethel Springs\*  
Mayor Jessie Robbins, Eastview  
Mayor Robert Heathcock, Finger  
Mayor Keith Rinehart, Guys  
Mayor Anthony Smith, Michie  
Mayor George Armstrong, Ramer  
Mayor Sherry Inman, Selmer  
Mayor Larry Russell, Stantonville

\*Member of SWTDD Executive Committee



## Executive Officers



Jimmy Sain, Mayor of Hardeman County  
Chairman of the Board



Bill Rawls, Mayor of Brownsville  
Vice Chairman of the Board



Jimmy Harris, Mayor of Madison County  
Secretary/Treasurer

# SWTDD Staff: Who We Are and What We Do



Southwest Tennessee Development District was created by the Tennessee General Assembly under the Tennessee Development District Act of 1965. Like all development districts, SWTDD provides comprehensive planning and promotes economic, community, and human resource development in a defined geographic area.

Organized in 1971, as a public non-profit association of local governments, SWTDD serves Chester, Decatur, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, McNairy and Madison counties. The SWTDD Executive Director & Board of Directors (including member government officials, a state senator and representative, and minority representatives) manage SWTDD. Its 24-member Executive Committee meets six times per year to set policy and conduct business. The full Board of Directors, which includes all county and city mayors in our region, meets once each fiscal year – typically at the Annual Meeting that is held in the fall.

SWTDD is staffed by about 34 full-time people with expertise in district management, economic development, community development, housing, environmental planning, regional planning, aging and disability assistance, social work, nursing, grant writing, and public guardianship for the elderly. Financial support is provided from EDA, THDA, Tennessee Department of Economic & Community Development, Tennessee Department of Transportation, TACIR, Tennessee Commission on Aging & Disability, TennCare, Delta Regional Authority, USDA Rural Development, and others.

Funds received from the Commission on Aging & Disability are distributed through contracts to senior centers and regional service provider agencies. SWTDD also receives fees for grant administration/management services rendered for member governments and income from its small business loan program. SWTDD is designated as a regional clearinghouse for projects under Executive Order 12372 and acts as the Regional Affiliate Data Center for the Bureau of the Census.

# AAAD Services and Programs for the Aging and Disabled

The Southwest Area Agency on Aging & Disability staff's ultimate goal is to ensure that each client receives the services and supports to live in a dignified and fulfilling manner. Staff members receive training on providing person-centered planning and strive to include each consumer's family members when developing a plan of action. The following programs are provided either directly or through service provider contracts:

**Options for Community Living:** In-home care: meals, homemaker, and personal care services.

**Public Guardianship:** Court-appointed guardian for financial and medical decisions for persons 60 years of age and older who are unable to manage their own affairs and have no family member, friend, bank, or corporation willing and able to act on his or her behalf.

**Ombudsman:** Advocates for persons in nursing homes and other long-term care institutions.

**Nutrition Services:** Nutritious meals at community locations and through home-delivered services.

**CREVAA (Collaborative Response to Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse):** This referral-based program provides needed emergency services to elder and vulnerable adult victims of crime.

**Caregiver Support:** Helping families provide better care for their loved ones.

**Senior Centers:** SWAAAD has ten community centers that provide resources, support groups, congregate meals, and activities for seniors and their families.

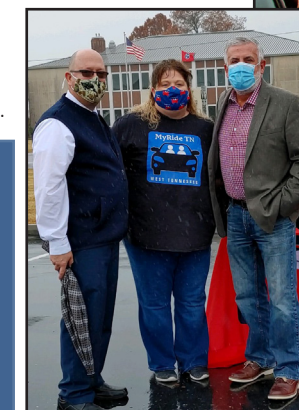
**TennCare CHOICES:** Medicaid long-term services and supports.

**MyRide West TN:** Provides volunteer transportation service to those 60 years and older.

**Senior Volunteer Transportation Network:** Coordinating statewide expansion of volunteer transportation services to senior adults who are 60 years and older.

**SNAP:** Application assistance and information to older adults interested in SNAP benefits.

The Southwest Area Agency on Aging and Disability (AAAD) serves consumers who are 60 years and older, as well as, adults 18 years and older with a physical disability. The service area includes Chester, Decatur, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, and McNairy Counties. Services are targeted to persons who have the greatest economic need with particular attention to low-income older individuals (including low-income minority older individuals, older individuals with limited English proficiency, and older individuals residing in rural areas).



(Pictured from top) SWAAAD bought a mobile resource van to make it easier for consumers to sign up for services in Southwest Tennessee. During the pandemic, Tonia Moss and other staff members had to pivot to overcome obstacles for getting meals and other sources of help to seniors isolated at home - including the delivering of meals to homes when the senior centers were ordered closed. Henderson County Mayor Eddie Bray and Lexington Mayor Jeff Griggs came out to greet residents and to help MyRide staff and volunteers with the start-up of the MyRide West TN service in Henderson County.

# Southwest Area Agency on Aging and Disability Services

The mission of the Development District's Area Agency on Aging and Disability is to improve the quality of life for older adults and persons with disabilities in the eight county service region. Never has this mission been in greater focus than during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since older adults and persons with compromised immune systems were at greatest risk for complications from COVID-19, the AAAD was particularly focused on ensuring that services, resources, and information were available through delivery, telephone, and/or online.

This touchstone year saw significant increase in federal funding for senior nutrition, caregiver services, aging and disability resource center services, and transportation. As a recipient of the funds, the AAAD was able to clear all waiting lists for its services. Unfortunately, an increase in persons approved for services put a significant strain on the aging network within the region who struggled to hire enough staff to meet the increased demand.

## Ten Senior Centers

The AAAD is particularly proud of the efforts and outcomes of the ten area Senior Centers that it funds. The additional federal funding provided during and because of the pandemic allowed the Agency to contract for telephone reassurance service, errand service, and "grab and go" meals at each Senior Center. These services provided needed support and connection for older adults, especially those who were feeling lonely and/or in social isolation. The Centers provided 30,470 units of service to 1,793 individuals during the FY2021 year.

## Nutrition for Older Adults

The Nutrition program at the AAAD provides for the nutritional needs of older adults through the provision of congregate meals, home-delivered meals, nutrition education, counseling, and nutrition screening. During the pandemic, the nutrition sites closed to participants in order to prevent the virus from spreading among participants in close contact. Fortunately, persons who usually ate congregate meals at the sites were able to either drive through to pick up their meals or receive home delivered meals. As previously mentioned, "grab and go" meals (prepared at the site or provided through a contracted local restaurant) were also available. For the period of July 1, 2020 until June 30, 2021, the Agency utilized \$1,205,824.75 to provide 266,526 meals. The AAAD provides direct administration of the Nutrition program and operates the Lewis Center Nutrition Site in Jackson. The provider for the meals (under contract) is the Southwest Human Resource Agency in the nearby City of Henderson.



*The AAAD staff seeks always to ensure that each client receives the services and supports needed to live in a dignified and fulfilling manner. Whenever possible, the client's family is involved in establishing his or her loved one's care plan.*

# FY 2020/2021: SWAAD Accomplishments

## Public Guardianship Services

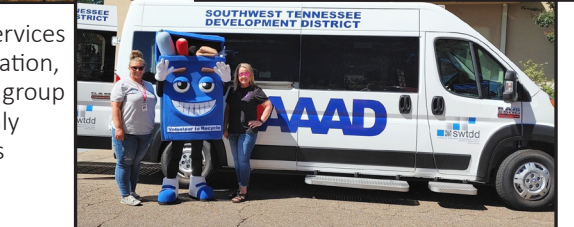
The Public Guardianship for the Elderly program provides services to persons over the age of 60 who have a physical disability, are unable to make financial or healthcare decisions for themselves, and who have no person or entity willing to serve. The program takes direct referrals from consumers, healthcare centers, hospitals, Adult Protective Services, and other agencies. The program is not allowed to solicit cases. During FY2021, the program served 34 individuals through either court-appointed conservatorship or power of attorney, and provided 1,849 units of service. The program has served clients in seven of the eight Southwest Tennessee Development District counties during the 2020/2021 fiscal year and collected \$19,856.65 in fees according to the approved sliding scale rates.

## Long-Term Care Ombudsman

The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is directly administered by the AAAD through a Waiver for Services with the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability. This program provides advocacy, support, education, and assistance with dispute resolution for persons living in a healthcare facility, assisted living facility, or group home. Due to the nature of this work, all activity with residents and/or their representatives is kept highly confidential. There were 665 cases opened in FY2021, 691 cases were closed, and total number of cases handled was 713. Additionally, \$58,997 was utilized for the program.

## Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly known as food stamps) is a program that helps individuals who qualify with enrollment assistance. SWTDD's SNAP program coordinator works throughout the region to provide education on the benefit, ways to utilize items purchased with the benefit, and to facilitate the gathering of documentation needed for the application. The SNAP program is vital to ensuring the nutritional health and security of older adults, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Specific education related to the increase in benefits during this time was distributed. During the 2021 fiscal year, application assistance was provided to 356 individuals, 2,982 persons were pre-screened for benefits, and \$63,080 was utilized for the program.



*Children and grandchildren of staff and volunteers made cards to accompany meals delivered to isolated seniors during the pandemic. SWTDD's mobile resource van is 100 percent handicap accessible and is used at festivals and events to make it easier for seniors to access services. SWTDD's AAAD added a live chat feature to its webpage to quickly respond to those needing specific information on services.*

# Southwest Area Agency on Aging and Disability Services

## Assistance for Elderly and Vulnerable Adult Abuse

The CREVAA (Collaborative Response for Elderly and Vulnerable Adult Abuse) program works alongside local law enforcement, district attorneys, Adult Protective Services, and other agencies to provide emergency services for victims of crime. Services may include emergency housing, clothing, food, home modifications, and other items that the victim needs due to the crime. This program saw a dramatic increase in calls for service during the year as compared with previous years. The total number of people served by the CREVAA program during FY2021 was 230 utilizing \$36,337.39 in funding.

## Home and Community Based Services

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) are integral to fulfilling the mission of the AAAD. By providing homemaker and personal care services, the Agency enables older adults to remain independent and within their own homes longer. The AAAD was able to empty its waiting list for these services during FY2021 due to the substantial funding increases provided through recovery legislation. Persons who are 18 years and older with a physical disability and persons age 60 years and older are screened for services by calling the AAAD directly or by applying online at [www.swtdd.org](http://www.swtdd.org). Home and Community Based Services are managed by three Options Counselors employed by the Agency. The SWAAAD contracts with five service provider agencies to complete the authorized services. Older American's Act funding (supplemented by state funding) helped the Agency serve 86 consumers utilizing \$58,108.32 for homemaker services. Options funding for the AAAD was \$565,200 and was utilized to provide homemaker, personal care, and home-delivered meals to 410 consumers. CARES IIIB Homemaker funding served 88 consumers utilizing \$31,648.32.

## Legal Representation

West Tennessee Legal Services contracts with the AAAD to provide legal representation and advice to older adults who are 60 years and older. Focus areas include public benefits, healthcare, housing, consumer, and simple wills, powers of attorney, and advance directives. Numerous processes were changed for WTLS during 2020 and 2021 to allow the agency to continue to provide services in a safe and secure way due to the pandemic.



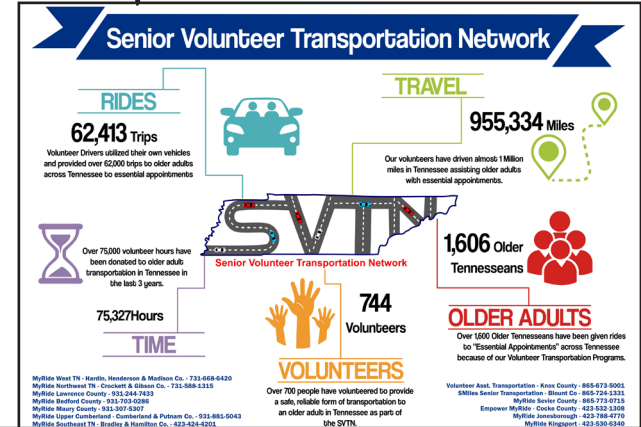
# FY 2020/2021: SWAAAD Accomplishments

## Senior Volunteer Transportation Network

The Senior Volunteer Transportation Network (SVTN) was quick to pivot during FY2021 when the pandemic forced many older adults to change how they receive necessary household items, healthcare, and groceries. The Program had been providing assisted transportation to older adults since 2017, but when the pandemic began to shut down many local businesses and facilities, SVTN staff and volunteers began to offer education and training on utilizing online services to its' consumers instead of direct rides. Training was provided to interested members on how to utilize telehealth services, order groceries and supplies online, and how to connect with others via computer or smart phone. Across the state of Tennessee, these programs began to make regular reassurance calls to ensure the safety and welfare of it's riders. Volunteers were utilized by the individual programs to make deliveries, take orders, deliver Meals on Wheels, and performed other outreach efforts. For the period of July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021, the SVTN program served 3,172 consumers, performed 15,588 rides, and completed 606 errands.

## MyRide West TN

MyRide West TN is an affiliate program of the SVTN and currently serves consumers in Madison and Henderson Counties. Through the pandemic, the MyRide program coordinators worked tirelessly to ensure the older adults within their communities did not go without needed personal protective supplies, food, or technical assistance. The Madison County MyRide coordinator also became the Agency's "volunteer coordinator" and was tasked with the role of recruiting, training, and engaging volunteers. This new role allowed the Agency to greatly expand it's service capacity during such the height of the pandemic crisis. During FY2021, MyRide provided 646 trips to 42 persons in Madison County. In Henderson County, 493 trips were provided to 40 persons.



(Clockwise, Page 9) SWAAAD staff volunteer at the Alzheimer's TX Walk. SWAAAD staff raised money and participated in the annual "Seek Out Alzheimer's" event. MyRide volunteers began helping with home delivered meals during the pandemic. Pictured (the lower right of page 9) is a Christmas door hanging that was gifted to residents by MyRide volunteers on their meal route. (Page 10, top and bottom) The Senior Volunteer Transportation Network (SVTN) hit some major milestones in its third year of operation! (Center photo) SWTDD/MyRide received three "Vehicles for Vaccines" compliments of AARP and Toyota to take people to vaccine and doctor appointments.

# SWTDD Economic and Community Development Programs

The SWTDD Economic & Community Development team works with our regional governments to improve the quality of life for citizens in the area. Our ECD services are free-of-charge to our area governments – except planning services and solid waste assistance, which are provided on a contractual basis with participating communities. Below are brief explanations of some ECD services.

## **Grant Writing & Grant Administration:**

SWTDD has both a grant writer and a grant administrator on staff. All grant writing services are completely free to our member governments. SWTDD receives an administration fee only when a grant is funded.

## **Types of Grants Written by SWTDD:**

EDA, FastTrack Infrastructure, Site Development Grants, CDBG, CDBG Façade, DRA, SAFETEA-LU, LPRF/LWCF/RTP, USDA-RD, Assistance to Firefighters, Governor’s Highway Safety Office, TDOT, THDA, Solid Waste, Byrnes, Broadband, Childcare, Downtown Improvement, Downtown Main Street, and Disaster.

## **TACIR (Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations):**

SWTDD surveyed 74 School Infrastructure projects and 552 General Infrastructure projects (including the Tennessee Department of Transportation’s bridge projects) throughout our eight county region for a total project count of 626 projects. All projects were submitted to TACIR through the Public Infrastructure Needs Inventory database (PINI). The inventory projects surveyed include active and conceptual projects for the next 20 years.

## **Regional Planning Services (provided on a contractual basis):**

SWTDD’s regional planners provide customized services to planning commissions and local governments with the development of a comprehensive long range plan including land use and transportation plans, community facility plans, development process, design review guidelines, zoning ordinances/resolutions, and subdivision regulations that are compatible with local values and provide counsel that is enforceable within the scope of local and state authorities. During FY2021, SWTDD had contracts with the cities of Bolivar, Brownsville, Henderson, Lexington, McKenzie, Parker’s Crossroads, Saltillo, and Stanton; as well as with Chester, Hardeman, and Haywood counties.

## **Small Business**

### **Loans:**

SWTDD is an economic development lender. As an Intermediary for USDA Rural Development and the Economic Development Administration, SWTDD utilizes federal funds

to leverage local dollars and create jobs in the region. Loan funds extended to businesses or industries can be used for business startup or expansion, real estate or equipment purchase, and working capital. Lending policy is set by the Executive Committee. The loan program is overseen by a Loan Review Committee comprised of a Loan Officer or Bank President from each county that SWTDD serves. In addition to Revolving Loan Fund and Intermediary Relending Program loans, SWTDD administers a revolving loan fund through the CARES Act to assist businesses that were financially damaged by the coronavirus.

### **Solid Waste/Materials Management Technical Assistance:**

SWTDD contracts with interested communities in our eight county region to provide solid waste services in designing, implementing, upgrading, and maintaining solid waste plans, programs, and facilities; providing assistance in the formation or dissolution of planning regions; preparing the District-Wide Needs Assessments; providing technical assistance to solid waste boards to achieve Solid Waste Management Act goals; and providing assistance within the region to prepare and submit the required Annual Progress Report.



*SWTDD’s Economic & Community Development Team*

# Our Specialists Assist Local, Regional, and State Governments

## **Rural Planning Organization (Rural Roads & Transportation Planning):**

Southwest Tennessee Development District is one of the Tennessee Department of Transportation’s 12 rural planning organizations for enhanced service and rural transportation development. Our RPO serves all SWTDD counties with the exception of Madison County. The Southwest Tennessee RPO leadership consists of an executive committee and technical committee; these groups meet several times each year.

## **Historic Preservation Services:**

SWTDD partners with the Tennessee Historic Commission (THC) to provide technical support and state/federal program guidance. State Programs consist of Historical Sites and Historical Markers Programs and Tennessee War Commission. Federal Programs are National Register, Preservation Grants, Investment Tax Credit, Section 106 Review, and Local Government Assistance. SWTDD also provides help to historic zoning commissions, surveys historic resources, and contributes to Tennessee’s Plan for Historic Preservation.

## **Housing Services:**

SWTDD partners with Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA) to provide technical assistance to local governments and the public. SWTDD will aid in grant preparation and, in some cases, provide individuals with references to agencies that can assist them in meeting their housing rehabilitation needs.

## **U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA):**

SWTDD, a designated Economic Development District, conducts the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) process for our region. Partially funded by EDA dollars, this consists of keeping regional goals, strategies, and city/county statistical data up-to-date.

## **Environmental Reviews:**

SWTDD prepares environmental reviews for state and federal grants and for loans that have review requirements - including CDBG, THDA, HOME, LPRF/LWRF/RTP, Transportation Enhancement, Revolving Loan Fund, Intermediary Relending Program, FEMA, DRA, USDA Rural Development, and other projects as deemed necessary.

## **Strategic**

### **Planning**

### **Services:**

In 2015, SWTDD created the SOAR program to help our counties assess strengths and weaknesses for improved economic and community development and to foster a healthy economic climate. In 2020, SWTDD was awarded an EDA grant to address post-pandemic economic recovery through strategic planning. With help from Younger Associates, SWTDD facilitated a strategic planning process and is coordinating the implementation of individualized, strategic plans for all SWTDD counties – as well as the creation of the comprehensive regional plan for Southwest TN.



*(Top) Mammy’s Soap Co. in McNairy County received a loan from the SWTDD Small Business Loan Program. SWTDD’s small business loan program helps entrepreneurs create a new business or expand an existing one. One SWTDD small business loan recipient owns a wedding/ event venue, Horseshoe Lake. This beautiful facility is located in Huron (Henderson County).*

# SWTDD Economic and Community Development Department

## Community Development Block and Façade Grants:

During Fiscal Year 2021 the following communities were awarded CDBG grants: McNairy County received a \$308,520 grant for a fire improvement project, the City of Parsons received a \$442,002 grant for emergency generators at its water plants, and the Town of Whiteville received a \$630,000 grant for sewer system improvements.



*McNairy County used CDBG funding to add a new firetruck to its fleet.*

CDBGs are used for Economic Development (industrial infrastructure, industrial buildings and equipment) and Community Development (for water and wastewater treatment facilities, housing rehabilitation and projects that improve community livability.)

CDBG funds are also distributed for disaster recovery. SWTDD writes and administers CDBG grants.

## Site Development Grants:

In FY2021 the following communities received Site Development Grants: the City of Lexington received \$349,883 for its Reeves Property, Decatur County received a \$498,750 grant



*Timberlake Industrial Park in Lexington received a Site Development Grant in during the 2020/2021 fiscal year.*

for its HWY 641 Industrial Site, and the Selmer/McNairy County Industrial Development Board received a \$57,000 grant for due diligence at its Three-Star Monogram Site.

Site Development Grants are used, primarily, to improve many of TN-ECD's nationally recognized Select Tennessee Certified Sites and to prepare other sites to achieve certification.

## TVA InvestPrep Grants:

Tennessee Valley Authority's "InvestPrep" grants are specifically match-based funds used to "attract new companies — resulting in more jobs and investments in the Valley." In FY2021, the City of Lexington received a TVA InvestPrep grant for \$352,614 for industrial development on the Reeves Property.

## Rural Planning Organization & TN Department of Transportation Grants:

TDOT's Office of Community Transportation awarded the cities of Brownsville and Lexington Multi-Modal Access Grants. TDOT also awarded the City of Lexington a \$38K grant to provide 360 degree video detectors.

SWTDD prepared Community Transportation Planning Request Studies for State Route 54 and 179 for Haywood County. Our RPO also completed 52 weekly reports, four quarterly reports, and one annual report. Additionally, planning staff attended a public meeting for the prepared City of Bolivar Master Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and participated in three Road Safety Audits concerning Decatur, Chester, and McNairy Counties.

## Local Parks & Recreation Fund (LPRF) & Recreational Trails Program (RTP):

The Local Parks and Recreation Fund (LPRF) provides grants to eligible local government entities for the purchase of lands for parks, natural areas, greenways, and recreation facilities. The funds may also be used for trail development and capital projects in parks, natural areas, and greenways.

## Delta Regional Authority (DRA) Grants:

The City of Lexington was awarded \$509,000 for a Sewer Lift Station and \$337,906 for a utility infrastructure extension for Lexington Meat Company, and the City of Savannah was awarded a \$254,1798 DRA grant for its sewer system.

# FY 2020/2021: ECD Accomplishments

## EDA Economic Disaster Recovery Grant:

IN FY2021, SWTDD was awarded an EDA grant to address post-pandemic economic recovery in our region through a strategic planning process. We coordinated the strategic planning and began coordinating implementation of plans in each of the eight SWTDD counties. SWTDD also began work toward the implementation of the comprehensive regional plan. These plans were developed with professional assistance from Younger Associates and were created with support and input from local elected officials and community stakeholders. In FY2022, SWTDD will move forward through EDA's "Phase Two" goals, which focus more on the implementation of the strategic plans throughout the eight county SWTDD region.

## SWTDD Annual Legislative Luncheon [Virtual Edition]:

About 100 governmental, community, and business leaders participated in the 11th Annual SWTDD Legislative Luncheon. Because of the pandemic, in-person attendance was limited to only the SWTDD Executive Committee and local legislators who felt comfortable at an in-person event. Other legislators were invited to participate in the gathering via Zoom.



Tennessee Economic & Community Development Commissioner Bob Rolfe also participated virtually from Nashville to provide attendees and participants with updated information on the Memphis Regional Megasite.

## FY2021 Regional Workshops, Meetings, and Events:

SWTDD hosted trainings, forums, and workshop events-- both in-person and virtually. A few of these included CDBG Public Meetings, LPRF Grant Workshops, ECD Select TN Workshop, TDEC, USDA-RD Training, Fair Housing Conferences,

West Tennessee Legislative Caucus meetings, West Tennessee City & County Mayors meetings, Memphis Regional Megasite Authority meetings, WestStar meetings, West Tennessee Affordable Housing, Medicare/SHIP Training, THDA Housing Conference and Trainings, TCAD Coalition Meetings, and more.

## Tennessee Housing Development Technical Assistance Grant:

SWTDD hosted two virtual Fair Housing Conferences with our partner agencies Tennessee Affordable Housing Coalition, Tennessee Fair Housing Council, and West Tennessee Legal Services. SWTDD has begun working with the City of Stanton administering it's THDA HOME grant, which directly impacts families whose homes are selected for rehab or rebuild.

## Tennessee Historic Commission Technical Assistance Grant:

SWTDD wrote and was awarded a \$38,000 grant from the Tennessee Wars Commission for Parkers Crossroads, completed 100 Tennessee Historic Commission Architectural Surveys in Lexington and Scotts Hill, attended 17 Historic Zoning Commission meetings, aided Haywood County in securing Ground Penetrating Radar to research the burial ground on the County Farm, reviewed ten Certificate of Appropriateness applications, completed five Section 106 Reviews, participated in two Certified Local Government (CLG) trainings, began two new National Register of Historic Places nominations, and assisted the THC in overseeing the Alex Haley Home and Interpretive Center repairs.

## TDEC - Solid Waste Technical Assistance Grant:

In FY2021, SWTDD contracted with several counties to provide assistance on solid waste issues and provide reporting to the Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation. Some of these services included upgrading and maintaining solid waste plans, programs and facilities; providing assistance in formation or dissolution of planning regions; assisting with workshops, seminars, and meetings; reviewing, revising, and maintaining the regional needs assessment; providing technical assistance to solid waste boards to achieve Solid Waste Management Act goals; and providing assistance to prepare and submit the mandatory Annual Progress Reports and documentation to TDEC each year by March 31st.

# FY 2020/2021: SWTDD's ECD Accomplishments

## Regional Planning:

Regional Planning services are provided by SWTDD on a contractual basis. During FY2021, planning services were provided to Bolivar, Brownsville, Henderson, Lexington, Parkers Crossroads, Saltillo, Stanton and McKenzie and to the counties of Chester, Hardeman, and Haywood. As a result, SWTDD planners attended 61 planning commission meetings and one design review commission meetings for all contract communities.

During the FY2021, the SWTDD regional planners had the following major accomplishments: Assisted with the Chester County Major Road Plan and Future Land Use Map; prepared an Annexation Execution Plan packet for the City of Brownsville, City of Lexington, Town of Saltillo, and City of McKenzie; additionally, four Annexation Execution Plan Packets were prepared for the City of Lexington. Planning staff assisted Chester County with Subdivision Regulations and a Zoning Resolution; provided Haywood County with Zoning Ordinance text amendments concerning parking requirements for Industrial Uses; provided the City of Henderson with Zoning Ordinance text amendment concerning provisions for solar farms, bed and breakfast establishments, and consolidated animal feed operation provisions; and provided the Town of Saltillo with Zoning Ordinance text amendment concerning setback requirements visions. In total, SWTDD planning staff attended more than 202 meetings during FY2021.

## Community Transportation Grants/RPO Services:

Several transportation-related grants were awarded in the Southwest Tennessee region during FY2021. TDOT awarded the Cities of Brownsville and Lexington Multi-Modal Access Grants. The City of Lexington was awarded a grant for 360 degree video detectors. SWTDD's RPO planner prepared Community Transportation Planning Request Studies for State Routes 54 and 179 in Haywood County, attended meetings with city and county officials regarding the RPO program, and participated in Road Safety Audits in Decatur, Chester, and McNairy counties.

## Meeting with Tennessee Comptroller at JSCC

SWTDD and NWTDD co-hosted a regional meeting with Tennessee Comptroller Jason E. Mumpower at Jackson State Community College to learn about allowable uses of American Rescue Plan dollars. The standing room only crowd watched a presentation by the comptroller and had an opportunity to ask him and his staff specific questions regarding eligible uses of funds.

*SWTDD received a grant from BancorpSouth that paid fees for recipients of the Ag Loan Program. Elected officials from across West Tennessee came to JSCC for a joint meeting hosted by SWTDD and NWTDD with Tennessee Comptroller Jason Mumpower regarding allowable uses for American Rescue Plan (ARP) dollars.*



# FY 2020/2021: Administrative Accomplishments

SWTDD'S administrative team works closely with all staff and governmental groups by assisting in the roles of human resources, office management, financial management, IT management, facility management, and communications. Some highlights during FY2021 include:

**Facilities Management:** in July 2020, we installed glass barriers at the SWTDD front desk and in staff offices that are shared by multiple people to help create a safer workplace during the COVID outbreak.

**Technology:** In November 2020, SWTDD's Website Chat feature went live on www.SWTDD.org. This feature is used on the SWAAAD website pages and allows users to contact SWAAAD staff with questions and get answers in real-time. In December 2020, SWTDD took delivery and installed a DTEN ZOOM TV system. The DTEN ZOOM TV allows SWTDD/SWAAAD to conduct ZOOM meeting with 4K video displayed on a 75 inch screen. The system has 16-microphones for superior sound quality during meetings and has built in WI-FI. The system resides on a custom cart that allows it to be moved to different meeting areas in our facility, as needed.

**Health & Wellness:** Because of the pandemic, the opportunity for group exercise and wellness activities slowed and a switch was made toward providing a safe environment for in-person office interactions and meetings. SWTDD has continued to encourage staff to take ownership of their wellness-- including encouraging all staff members to be vaccinated for Covid-19.

**Communications:** SWTDD assisted with publicity for MyRide, SNAP, CREVAA, Public Guardianship and other services provided by SWTDD through monthly newsletters, Facebook pages, and media outlets. Communications helped create brochures and flyers and coordinated publicity for events in the SWTDD region. Communications also assisted the Memphis Regional Megasite Authority by coordinating meetings, taking minutes, and assistint as requested. SWTDD regularly hosts meetings for federal, state, and local partners at our facility. SWTDD Administrative staff assists at these meetings, when needed, by partnering organizations.



(Above) SWTDD's Administrative Staff. (Left) SWTDD's administrative department oversaw the creation of a beautiful mural painted on the front of our building. The mural was funded through a public art initiative by the City of Jackson; mural artists, Jonathan and Sarah Cagle, are from Lexington and work in Jackson-Madison County. (Bottom Left) SWTDD donated the "frontline worker" toys used in our display window to the local Toys for Tots program.

SWTDD Financial Overview	
<b>FY 2021 - Operating Budget</b>	<b>\$8,122,490</b>
<b>Pass Through Budget</b>	<b>\$2,816,169</b>
<b>Total Assets &amp; Liabilities [Govt.-Wide] Audited FY19</b>	<b>\$3,968,972</b>
<b>Full-Time Staff Members - 34</b>	<b>Part-Time Staff Members - 3</b>
In FY 2020-2021, SWTDD received \$1+M in additional funding to help our communities and aging population during the pandemic. This included additional meals, disaster recovery planning, and small business loans. Our staff remained constant during this time in helping our communities.	

# Southwest Tennessee Development District Staff Directory

## **AREA AGENCY ON AGING & DISABILITY:**

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## **ADMINISTRATION:**

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## **ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:**

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