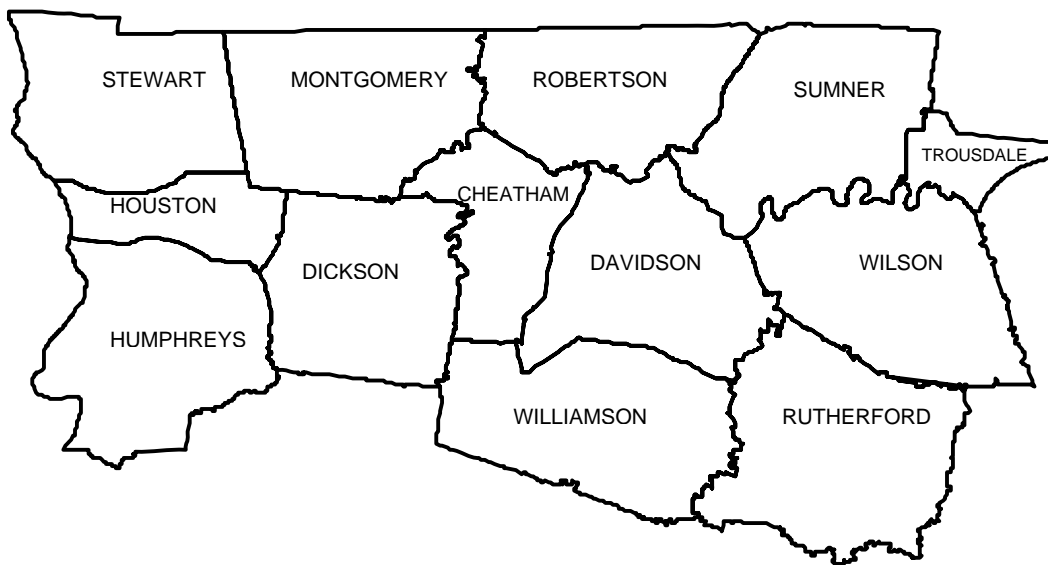


# Greater Nashville Regional Council

## ANNUAL REPORT 2006-2007



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# **ANNUAL REPORT 2006-2007**

of the  
Greater Nashville Regional Council

William R. Orange, President  
Cheatham County Mayor



Don Fox, Vice President  
Mayor of Lebanon



Jerry Clift, Treasurer  
Trousdale County Executive



Samuel H. Edwards  
Executive Director

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DON FOX, Vice President

JERRY CLIFT, Treasurer

\* \* \*

Vacant, Immediate Past President

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HOWARD GENTRY – JIM SHULMAN, Metro Nashville/Davidson County

MELVIN BLACK, Metro Nashville/Davidson County Minority Representative

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HERBERT BARBEE, Robertson County Minority Representative

ERNEST G. BURGESS - \*NOLAN BARHAM, Rutherford County

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RICK JOINER- \*JEFF KNOTT, Stewart County

LESA FITZHUGH - \*JIMMY SCURLOCK, Small City Representative, Dover, Stewart County

R. J. "HANK" THOMPSON - \*MIKE MOULTON, Sumner County

JERRY CLIFT - \*GLENN HAYNES, Trousdale County

ROGERS ANDERSON - \*DIANE GIDDENS, Williamson County

DON FOX - \*CAROL KNIGHT, Wilson County

KENT COLEMAN, Representative, Tennessee General Assembly

JOE HAYNES, Senator, Tennessee General Assembly

\*Designated Alternate

\* \* \*

## STAFF

Sam Edwards, AICP, Executive Director/Legal Counsel  
Phil Armor, Director, Regional Planning/Deputy  
Executive Director  
Greer Broemel, AICP, Assistant Executive Director  
Andrea Alexander, Administrative Assistant, MADC  
Marlene Bethmann, OPTIONS Service Coordinator/RN  
Eric Beyer, Admin/Research  
Tonya Blades, Regional Planner/Historic Preservation  
Specialist  
Tauna Blaisdell, Deputy Fiscal Officer  
Ernestine Bowers, Director of Aging Programs  
Stephanie Butcher, Service Coordinator Team Leader  
Marcell Campbell, Aging Information and Assistance  
Specialist  
Kaitlin Carlson, OPTIONS Service Coordinator  
Jeanne Carroll, Aging Information and Assistance  
Specialist  
Patty Cavanah, Executive Administrative Secretary/  
Fiscal Assistant  
Mitzi Cerjan, Chief of Research  
Earlean Chenault, OPTIONS Service Coordinator  
Melody Choate, OPTIONS Service Coordinator  
Erin Collier, RTA Operations Assistant/Customer Service  
Heidi Copeland, OPTIONS Service Coordinator  
Leanne Cox, Senior ECD Specialist  
Kyle Davis, Senior Medicare Program Specialist  
John Earthman, OPTIONS Service Coordinator  
Brenda Edwards, Secretary  
Saudia Forman, OPTIONS Service Coordinator  
Sara E. Fowler, Service Coordinator Team Leader  
Teresa Gamble, Aging Fiscal Assistant  
Gary Garrett, Senior Aging Program Specialist  
Tonya Graham, OPTIONS Service Coordinator  
Whitney Griffin, OPTIONS Service Coordinator  
Glenda Griggs, RTA Rideshare Director  
Becky Haack, Administrative/Marketing Assistant  
Kim Hale, Public Guardian for the Elderly  
Tanisha Johnson Hall, AICP, Director of Research  
Keisha Harris, Assistant Public Guardian for the Elderly  
Faye Head, OPTIONS Service Coordinator  
Barbara Heflin, Aging Family Caregiver Coordinator  
Era Hogan, RTA Fiscal Specialist

Caroline Hopkins, OPTIONS Service Coordinator  
Melanie Howell, OPTIONS Service Coordinator  
Supervisor  
Amanda Huston, Assistant Director Mid-Cumberland  
Area Development Corporation  
Djuana Hayden, Aging Administrative Assistant  
Tonya Johnson-Lee, OPTIONS Service Coordinator  
Clara Kelly, OPTIONS Service Coordinator  
Jovia King, Fiscal Specialist  
Leah Knox, Case Aide  
David Konig, Aging MIS Department Coordinator  
Sonya Marbury, OPTIONS Service Coordinator  
Tom McAuley, Executive Director Mid-Cumberland Area  
Development Corporation  
Pamela McRae, OPTIONS Service Coordinator  
Linda Murphy-Esmond, Aging Data Clerk  
Stephanie Nitti, OPTIONS Service Coordinator  
Jeff Pancirov, RPO Coordinator  
Lucreacia Points, RTA Administrative Assistant  
Norma Powell, Quality Assurance Coordinator  
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Program Coordinator  
B. J. Shipp, Assistant Public Guardian for the Elderly  
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Sharon Simmons, RTA Job Access Coordinator  
Mark Singer, Aging Information & Assistance  
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Tayloe Steedman, Receptionist  
Ben Stewart, Director ECD  
Lynn Stewart, Senior Aging Programs Specialist  
Misty Storie, Aging Data Clerk/Case Aid  
Gwen Thompson, Aging Fiscal Specialist  
Diane Thorne, RTA Executive Director  
Charlotte Tugwell, ECD Specialist  
Catherine White, Assistant Director of Aging Programs  
Pamela Williamson, OPTIONS Service Coordinator  
Leigh Wooding, Senior Aging Programs Specialist  
Jane Young, ADRC Coordinator

## 2006-2007 GNRC Full Board

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Kingston Springs Mayor Gary Corlew  
Pegram Mayor Charles Morehead  
Pleasant View Mayor Kerry R. McCarver  
Hadley Williams, Minority Representative

Nashville/Davidson Co. Metro Executive Bill Purcell  
Belle Meade Mayor George Crook  
Berry Hill Mayor Harold Spray  
Brentwood Mayor Joe Reagan (also Williamson County)  
Forest Hills Mayor Charles K. Evers  
Goodlettsville Mayor Jerry Garrett (also Sumner County)  
Lakewood Mayor Jeff Thompson  
Oak Hill Mayor Tom C. Alsup  
Melvin Black, Minority Representative

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Burns Mayor Jack L. Garton  
Charlotte Mayor William R. Davis  
Dickson Mayor Don L. Weiss, Jr.  
Slayden Mayor Michael Davenport  
Vanleer Mayor Don Shirley  
White Bluff Mayor Linda Hayes  
Marvin Corlew, Minority Representative

Houston County Mayor George E. Clark  
Erin Mayor Cecil Baggett  
Tennessee Ridge Mayor Stony Odum  
Lori Taylor, Minority Representative

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McEwen Mayor Clyde Adams  
New Johnsonville Mayor Richard Bryant  
Waverly Mayor David M. Vaughn  
Robert Reid, Minority Representative

Montgomery County Mayor Carolyn Bowers  
Clarksville Mayor Johnny Piper  
Michael Tharpe, Minority Representative

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Cedar Hill Mayor Tom Richards  
Coopertown Mayor Danny Crosby  
Cross Plains Mayor Barry Faulkner  
Greenbrier Mayor Billy E. Wilson  
Orlinda Mayor Ricky Stark  
Ridgetop Mayor Mark J. Johnson  
Springfield Mayor Billy Paul Carneal  
White House Mayor John W. Decker (also Sumner County)

Herbert Barbee, Minority Representative

Rutherford County Mayor Ernest Burgess  
Eagleville Mayor Nolan S. Barham, Sr.  
LaVergne Mayor Ronnie Erwin  
Murfreesboro Mayor Tommy Bragg  
Smyrna Mayor Bob Spivey  
Darlyn Green, Minority Representative

Stewart County Mayor Rick Joiner  
Cumberland City Mayor Gary Vaughn  
Dover Mayor Lesa Fitzhugh  
David Dunlap, Minority Representative

Sumner County Executive Hank Thompson  
Gallatin Mayor Jo Ann Graves  
Goodlettsville Mayor Jerry Garrett (also Davidson County)  
Hendersonville Mayor Scott Foster  
Millersville Mayor Dan Toole  
Mitchellville Mayor Jarrett Bigsby  
Portland Mayor Kenneth A. Wilber  
Westmoreland Mayor Ricky W. Woodard  
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Eddie Booker, Minority Representative

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Fairview Mayor Ken Brison  
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Nolensville Mayor Beth Lothers  
Spring Hill Mayor Danny Leverette (also Maury County)  
Thompson's Station Mayor Leon Heron  
Nick Murdic, Minority Representative

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Lebanon Mayor Don Fox  
Mount Juliet Mayor Linda C. Elam  
Watertown Mayor Michael Jennings  
Fred Burton, Minority Representative

Tennessee Representative Kent Coleman  
Tennessee Senator Joe Haynes

Note: Those in bold are also members of the GNRC Executive Committee

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greater Nashville Regional Council organization was created in 1967 by the 13 counties and cities with in those counties to serve the need for the various local governments to coordinate with state and federal agencies to come together to promote regional planning and to improve economic development. GNRC is proud to celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> year of serving our region.

As you can see in the report, the Council has brought millions of dollars worth of grants and loans to the region and assisted the local governments in administering these grants and loans.

Several organizations contract with GNRC to provide administrative services, including payroll, benefits and bookkeeping.

One of the most notable programs that GNRC administers is the Regional Transportation Authority. The RTA staff has seen the start up of the Music City Start Commuter Rail project and the growth of their other transit programs, the Relax and Ride regional commuter buses, the Job Access Program, the Ride Share and Ride Match programs. They have worked creatively to create new partnerships to promote alternate ways to get to work and to increase the number of riders in each of these programs.

The Mid-Cumberland Area Development Corporation has a separate board and has been a vital force in providing expertise in small business loans to the region including SBA 504, USDA Rural Development Intermediary Re-lending Program funds and loan funds from the Economic Development Administration. To date MADC's accumulative loans total \$87,374,507. These loans generated over \$146,017,718 in new private investment and created over 5,324 new jobs in the region for small businesses.

GNRC is the Area Agency on Aging and Disability it is the largest of all the programs staffed by our employees. The AAAD has continued its growth in providing Home and Community based care for the elderly and disabled and in the Aging and Disability Resource Center. This year the ADRC opened a service center in Clarksville, and hopes to open several more in the near future.

The Economic and Community Development staff provides technical assistance and administers grants for industrial infrastructure, water and waste water improvements, transportation enhancements, parks and recreation, historic preservation, and solid waste. They also work on the grants that allow counties and cities to assist families in need with rehabilitation or reconstruction of their homes. Many thanks to our state legislators who funded the Emergency Home Repair program, a new grant this year from the Tennessee Housing Development Agency, this program assists low income seniors make small home improvements. Since 1989, GNRC has generated over 100 Million in grant funds for economic development and housing. These funds stimulated over 2.5 Billion dollars in private investment and have made a great impact in the region, benefiting over 240,000 individuals and creating over 17,165 jobs.

It continues to amaze me that we have accomplished all this and much more this year and for the last 40 years. We look forward to continuing the high level of effort we have seen and I appreciate the opportunity to have served this organization over the last three years.

Sincerely,

*William R. Orange*

William R. Orange, President  
Cheatham County Mayor

# GNRC 2006-2007

*40 years of Regional Planning  
and  
Economic Development*

## Introduction

The Greater Nashville Regional Council (GNRC) is the regional planning and economic development organization of the 13 counties and 52 cities of the Greater Nashville Region of northern Middle Tennessee. Nashville, Music City USA and the State's Capitol, is the central urban area of the Region. Counties comprising the Region include Cheatham, Davidson, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys, Montgomery, Robertson, Rutherford, Stewart, Sumner, Trousdale, Williamson, and Wilson counties.

GNRC's full Board membership is made up of the mayor of each city, the mayors of each county, two members of the State Legislature, four minority members and an industrial representative of each county. The full Board meets annually to elect new officers, certify the Executive Committee, and approve the annual budget and work program. GNRC's Executive Committee, with representatives from each county, meets monthly in carrying out



responsibilities of directing the Council's programs and services on behalf of member governments, with a professional staff of over 80 people and an annual budget of \$ 9.5 million dollars.

The Council's primary mission through regional planning and cooperation is to help guide and accommodate the growth and development of the Region in the most desirable, efficient and cost effective manner, and to assist in ensuring both the environmental quality and the long-term viability of the Region for all citizens.

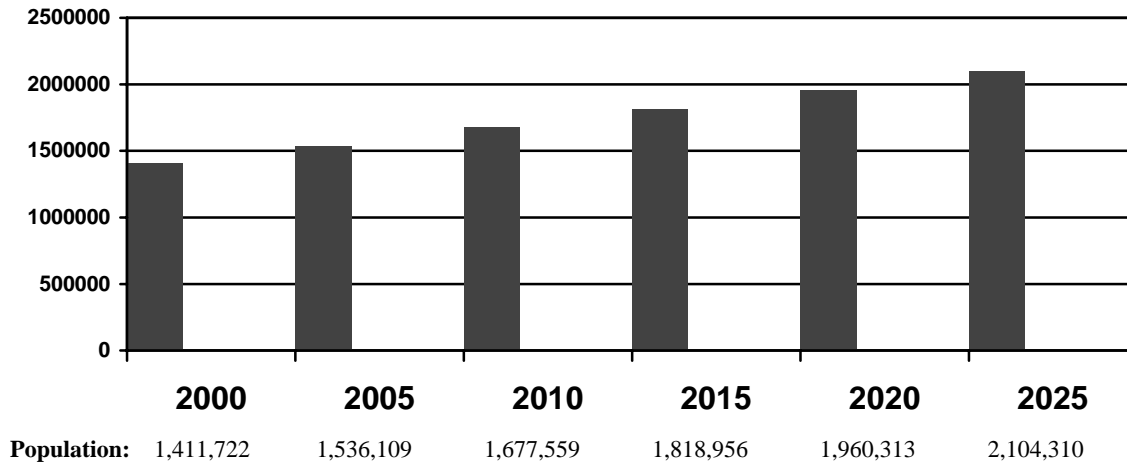
This report describes the work of area local governments through the Council in all these areas of regional concern for the year ended June 30, 2007. The report illustrates the many successful joint efforts of cities and counties of the Greater Nashville Region to meet the growth and development needs of today and of the future.

## GREATER NASHVILLE REGION GROWS

The 2000 Census showed that since 1990, our 13-county region added 287,000 new people growing to over 1.4 million people by 2000. Recent forecasts indicate that for the period between 2000 and 2025, we can expect to add almost 700,000 more people for a total population level of over 2.1 million people.

In the future, the greatest challenges facing local governments will be in keeping abreast of this growth and its impacts, in maintaining a quality environment in every aspect of growth, and in determining affordable ways and means of paying for the necessary public facilities and services that will be required to accommodate the growth.

## Greater Nashville Region Growth: 1990-2020



Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census; University of Tennessee, 2003; and Greater Nashville Regional Council

# Regional Planning

### Building Partnerships

Since 1967, the Council has served as the regional planning agency for the counties and cities of the Greater Nashville Region. During this time, GNRC has maintained a committed, active regional planning program with strategies for regional water and sewer facilities, transportation, air quality, and other area needs that have been and are being put into place by the cities and counties of this Region. When implemented, these plans help to provide better roads, cleaner water, air, and many other services at lower costs.

One goal of the Council's regional planning program is to assist in supporting local area planning. Only through strong, viable city and county planning can regional planning be built. Therefore, these plans are focused toward benefiting each city and county in the Region. These plans emphasize the importance of intergovernmental links and relationships in meeting regional infrastructure and service delivery needs and in achieving the overall development goals of the Region.

Many aspects of the Council's long-range plans and strategies cannot be accomplished solely by local governments. The implementation of these plans generally requires combined efforts of local, state, and federal governments, as well as the private sector. The Council works to coordinate and assist in building these partnerships.

Regional planning offers a formal means for regional cooperation and joint ventures among the various levels of government at the earliest stage of program design and planning. It is an ongoing process of continual feedback from our local governments on information about plans that will enhance our future and protect our environment.

### Fundamental Research & Development:

An important part of the planning process is gathering and analysis of pertinent and accurate information. GNRC's data analysis assists in determining future needs and appropriate actions for resolving those needs.

## Census

GNRC is the designated regional contact agency and a regional data center with the U. S. Bureau of the Census. This year the Council worked with the Bureau of the Census in the dissemination of census data to local governments, the private sector and interested individuals.

## Regional Data Center

In 2004, the regional geographic information system (GIS) was further refined and utilized. The GIS was used in regional transit and transportation planning, and other local and regional applications. Every year the Council responds to requests for specialized and general data from individuals, developers, real estate firms, banks, and state and local governments. During this past year, the Council answered requests for data on population, housing, labor force, and the economy, as well as other related requests. Many of the requests were for census information which is now available on the Internet ([www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)) and soon on GNRC's website.

## Planning in Progress: Solid Waste Management

Municipal solid waste management planning has been required by state law since 1991 and great strides have been made throughout the entire state. The thirteen counties that comprise the GNRC have improved every aspect of their solid waste management programs including collection, transportation, disposal and recycling. GNRC has provided planning and programming technical assistance in virtually all of these areas and will continue to do so in the future.

The primary areas of GNRC involvement in FY 2006 included planning assistance, annual report preparation, recycling, education, coordinating Middle Tennessee Solid Waste Directors' meetings and advising the Board of Directors of the Recycling Marketing Cooperative of Tennessee (RMCT).

The Solid Waste Management Planning Act was reauthorized by the 2004 General Assembly for five years. The main elements of the Act were the retention of the seventy-five cents (\$0.75) per ton surcharge for waste disposal in a Class I landfill and the elimination of the requirement to do a full update

of the ten year plan every five years. The annual progress report will now be considered an annual update of the plan.

## Water Quality

In FY 1999, GNRC was awarded a grant from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) to develop a model approach for assisting and enhancing TDEC's watershed management program by increasing public awareness and active involvement at the local level. By focusing on the Harpeth River watershed, tools and models were developed that have been supplied to other watersheds throughout the state. To organize and manage this effort, GNRC subcontracted with the Cumberland River Compact, an organization whose mission is to "enhance the water quality of the Cumberland River and its watersheds through education and by promoting cooperation among citizens, business and agencies in Kentucky and Tennessee."

In FY 2001 this process was initiated in the Red River Watershed where a number of stakeholders, interested citizens and others met to learn more about the watershed and the issues impacting water quality. The process resulted in the creation of the Red River Watershed Association.

In FY 2002 the watershed program was initiated in the area drained by the main stem of the Cumberland River from Old Hickory Dam to Cheatham Dam. This area, called the Mid-Cumberland Watershed, is the most developed of all the Cumberland Basin watersheds. The Mid-Cumberland Watershed Coalition was formed to continue to improve this section of the Cumberland River Basin.

In FY 2003 GNRC initiated an effort to survey local officials to determine the level of knowledge that local officials have of water issues. This activity was funded by a grant from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and will be performed by the Cumberland River Compact. Initial implementation was begun in 2004 with the development of a preliminary curriculum. Discussions for funds to carry on the program are taking place with two state agencies.

The same process was utilized to start local organizations in the Caney Fork and Stones River Watersheds in FY 2003 and FY 2004 respectively. In

FY 2007 the process was begun in the Old Hickory Watershed.

## Air Quality

In FY 96-97, this Region's five county non-attainment area composed of Davidson, Rutherford, Sumner, Wilson and Williamson counties were redesignated as having attained acceptable levels for ozone by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. This designation means that these counties are placed in a maintenance classification. This classification requires that certain programs, such as auto emissions testing, must stay in place in order to "maintain" the quality of the Region's air. In July of 1997, the Environmental Protection Agency finalized new regulations for ozone and particulate matter. The State of Tennessee submitted a list to EPA of the areas which have the potential of being designated as non-attainment areas under the new standards. Davidson, Rutherford, Sumner, Williamson and Wilson counties are expected to fail to meet the new standards. These counties, along with others have joined the Early Action Compact.

In FY 2007, the Council continued to monitor the following: progress in attainment status to these counties; local and state governments' efforts in improving the Region's air quality; the implementation of the GNRC assisted plan for the vehicle inspection and maintenance program; the development process and text of EPA's new standards for ozone and particulate matter; evaluation of these new standards; and the means by which the counties may reach attainment of the standards.

## Regional Development Team

The provision of technical assistance to local governments in economic and community development activities has always been a major emphasis for GNRC and a number of other local, state and federal agencies. To strengthen and further define this effort several agencies instituted the Greater Nashville Regional Development Team (RDT). The formation of the team was funded by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). GNRC is the coordinating agency for the RDT and the point of contact for those needing assistance at the local government level.

The RDT meets quarterly to discuss various agency programs and to identify local governments which may need additional assistance. Several counties are considering joint efforts with the RDT in FY 2007.

## Cumberland Region Tomorrow

Cumberland Region Tomorrow (CRT) was established four years ago as a private citizens' organization assisted by Vanderbilt University and others. GNRC has partnered with CRT in two Regional Summits and in the regional visioning process that grew out of the Summit. The visioning process focused on soliciting consensus on how we want the region to grow over the next 20 years. This year our partnership also included GNRC Executive Board adoption of the CRT goals for the region. The CRT has continued its mission to educate and inform the regional leaders about smart growth by creating a Quality Growth Toolbox for use by cities, counties, developers and others interested in sustainable development. GNRC will remain a partner in coordinating strategies using the 1101 process, the Farmland Protection Coalition and other programs that benefit the entire region.

## Regional Greenways and Trails Plan

A second regional project initiated three years ago involves the Greater Nashville Regional Council and the five county Nashville MPO with the GNRC Regional Greenways/Trails Planning Advisory Committee working in association with TDOT, TDEC and area congressional offices to develop a regional greenways/trails plan. In 2002 Committee members and staff presented a preliminary plan at a series of five regional public meetings (Metro Nashville, Clarksville, Murfreesboro, Waverly and Gallatin) to solicit citizens' views and comments. The Committee has been considering additions and revisions that resulted from citizens' input. The final plan has been adopted.

## Tennessee River Trails Association

Since early 2002 the GNRC staff has been working with three other Development Districts to enhance the sustainable economic development potential of the nine counties that border the lower Tennessee River through the Tennessee River Trails Association

(TRTA). This year TRTA is moving toward completion of a strategic plan for the region, including website and brochure development through a USDA Forest Service Economic Recovery grant awarded in 2003. A program administrator was also hired from funds secured through a USDA Rural Development Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) to assist in grants management and fostering greater regional economic development efforts. In January 2005, the TRTA reapplied to the Federal Highways Administration through TDOT for a Scenic Byway grant seeking funding for undertaking a Corridor Management Plan to enhance a rural transportation network based upon the region's resources. The nine counties along the lower Tennessee River involved in this effort under the TRTA are: Stewart, Houston, Humphreys Counties, as well as Perry, Wayne, Hardin, Decatur, Benton, and Henry Counties.

## **Implementing Plans Through Technical Assistance:**

GNRC's regional planning staff is well versed in government organization and planning and offers assistance to member governments in a number of areas. Some of the major activities undertaken in FY 2007 include:

## **Cooperative Intergovernmental Planning**

Common problems and areas of interest in planning, development, infrastructure, and the environment can be addressed by locally instituted intergovernmental planning committees. The key benefit of this type of committee is a shared understanding by each government of the other's long term comprehensive planning goals and objectives. This ensures compatibility of their individual plans and development regulations across jurisdictional boundaries. Groups such as this provide opportunities for both local and regional plans to be consistent and improve the potential for the plans to be implemented. The Council offers to assist local governments within the Region in forming intergovernmental planning committees.

## **Legislative Monitoring**

Throughout the session of the 105<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, the Council tracked bills of region-wide interest and reported to the Executive Committee on the status of legislation. This monitoring provides local officials with vital information on new programs,

regulations, and laws impacting the Region and area local governments.

## **Transportation Planning**

The Council's focus in transportation planning is on work with the two Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) within the GNRC geographical area, the Nashville Area MPO and the Clarksville Area MPO. The MPO's were created to carry out "comprehensive, cooperative, and continuing transportation planning" in the urban area. By law, the MPO includes all urbanized areas of a metropolitan statistical area as determined by the decennial census. GNRC has a seat on both the MPO Executive Board and the Transportation Coordinating Committee in both MPO's.

The 2000 Census data has affected the make up of all MPO's due to growth. The Nashville MPO has been expanded by Spring Hill, Fairview, Millersville, Springfield, and White House surpassing the 5,000 population threshold for membership on the Executive Board. This has caused the portions of Maury County within the Spring Hill city limits and the portion of Robertson County within the city limits of Millersville and White House to also be included in the MPO Study Area. Additionally, the Census Bureau added the portion of Robertson County within the city limits of Ridgetop, Greenbrier and Springfield to the Nashville Urban Area and the Nashville Study Area.

The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) defined the planning area of the Nashville Area Metro Planning Organization (MPO) to include five counties: Davidson, Sumner, Wilson, Rutherford and Williamson. This included 12 cities with a population of 5,000 or more. In 1998 Congress passed the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). This bill replaces ISTEA and returns 91¢ for every dollar Tennessee sends in for federal gasoline tax. This is a 13¢ increase over what Tennessee was previously receiving. These funds are used to support existing highway maintenance and transit programs to assist in maintaining and improving the quality of our citizens transportation network through the year 2004. We are currently operating under extensions to TEA-21, which expired September 30, 2003, until Congress passes a new authorization bill.

In FY 2007, GNRC and RTA continued to provide input into the transportation planning process of the

Nashville Area MPO. Under contract arrangements with the MPO, GNRC and the staff assisted several members of the MPO in accomplishing their various work elements as outlined in the MPO's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Within the UPWP local governments accomplished such work tasks as: data collection for the submittal of planning projects, special studies that complement the regional work tasks, and projects to be submitted for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Through these planning efforts the MPO's members can obtain funding for such projects as roadway improvements, transit, intersection improvements, bike and pedestrian ways, and other projects that enhance and improve both transportation and air quality within the Region. GNRC and RTA also assisted in the monitoring and review of TIP projects during the development and implementation phases.

The Clarksville MPO is responsible for transportation planning in the Clarksville-Montgomery County (TN) and Oak Grove-Christian County (KY) area. The Clarksville-Montgomery County Regional Planning Commission is the agency principally responsible for administering the Clarksville MPO activities.

Staff continues to work with the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) in assisting the Nashville and Eastern Rail Authority (NERA), in operation of the 130-mile rail line which extends from Nashville-Davidson County to Monterey in Putnam County. This shortline railroad was organized to save the line following its abandonment by CSX Railroad several years ago, and to insure saving the jobs of some 60 businesses and industries served by the line. The four counties comprising the Nashville and Eastern Rail Authority include Davidson and Wilson in the Greater Nashville Region and Smith and Putnam in the Upper Cumberland Region. The short line railroad is leased to an operator under the oversight of the NERA. GNRC, UCDD and TDOT staffs assist NERA on a continuing basis in seeking needed rehab financing, infrastructure and industrial development financing assistance, in the regular conduct of business, and related technical assistance.

GNRC continues its support and involvement in the efforts to implement a Commuter Rail System within the Nashville MPO Area. Staff supports and assists the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) in development and implementation tasks. Additionally, the MPO and local governments are advised and assisted in the planning and development activities necessitated by the Commuter Rail System.

The Council's philosophy in transportation planning is that there must be a balance of multi-modal approaches to the transportation problems of the Region. In FY 2003 the Council assisted local governments outside the MPOs in establishing, furthering, and keeping a mix of transportation options such as rail, ports, airports, van and carpools, park and ride lots, pedestrian and bike ways and van services for the elderly and handicapped. GNRC works closely with TDOT and RTA in support of their respective efforts in all of these areas. GNRC staff assists, when requested, the local governments within the Region in preparing their applications for TDOT's Enhancement Program funding.

GNRC staff prepared eight transportation enhancement applications for local jurisdictions for project grant funds under TEA-21. The transportation enhancement activities must relate to the intermodal transportation system in function, proximity or impact. There are ten categories defined by the federal legislation that the activities can relate to. Local projects include the following:

- ▶ Provision of facilities for pedestrians & bicycles;
- ▶ Acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites;
- ▶ Rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures or facilities including railroads and canals; and
- ▶ Preservation of abandoned railway corridors for the conversion and use for pedestrian and or bicycle trails.

## Rural Planning Organization

The Greater Nashville Area Rural Planning Organization (RPO) serves 8 of the 13 counties within the GNRC Region. The RPO provides a formal mechanism and structure for local officials and the public to identify multi-modal transportation needs and make subsequent recommendations to the State about prioritized projects for funding considerations. As a result of Executive Board and Technical Committee efforts, five of seven projects recommended for input to the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) are moving forward with funding in 2008-2010 years. Also, SR-49 in Cheatham County, from Ashland City to I-24 is currently undergoing a Transportation Planning

Report (TPR) as part of the evaluation process for future placement into the STIP. In addition to local and regional state highway projects, the RPO presented Greenways and Trails, General Aviation, and Public transit presentations as well as grant programs to help inform and educate members. Calendar year 2007 officials are: Executive Board; Chair- Robert Stone, Dickson County Mayor; Vice Chair- Murry Hawkins, City Administrator Ashland City; and Technical Committee Chair- Rydell Wesson, City of Dickson Planning and Zoning; Vice Chair- James Fenton, Cheatham County Joint Economic Community Development Board

## Project Review Process

GNRC was designated the regional clearinghouse for the administration of the State and Local Project Review Process established by Presidential Executive Order 12416 and the Governor's Executive Order 58. In 1995, the State of Tennessee terminated the clearinghouse process. However, in April of 1995 the Council's Executive Committee voted to continue with the project review process in cooperation with state and federal agencies and jurisdictions requesting reviews of projects.

Historically, this process has been used in the day-to-day review of federally and state-assisted projects and plans. Project review has ensured compliance with regional development plans and policies, as well as with state and local plans. In the past, this process has prevented the duplication of efforts in funding and services, as well as potential conflicts with existing or proposed developments. Types of projects subject to review include federally or state-assisted bridge and highway projects, housing developments, water and sewer projects, outdoor recreation projects, planning projects, and others.

In FY 2007 under the project review process, a total of 31 projects were reviewed amounting to \$103,231,256.00. A breakdown of the number of projects reviewed by agency follows:

Projects Reviewed During Fiscal Year 2007	
AGENCY	# OF PROJECTS
EPA	22
FTA	1
THDA	1
USDA	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31</b>

## Excellence in Development

GNRC has been one of the sponsoring organizations of the Excellence in Development Awards for seventeen years. The purpose of the Awards Program is to recognize high quality development that contributes to Middle Tennessee, to elevate public awareness of quality design and construction, and to encourage those committed to excellence in development throughout the region.

The Excellence in Development Steering Committee is made-up of representatives from 12 organizations: American Institute of Architects, Middle Tennessee Chapter; American Planning Association; American Society of Landscape Architects; Construction Specifications Institute; Greater Nashville Association of Realtors; Greater Nashville Regional Council; International Interior Design Association; Metro Planning Commission; Metro Historical Commission; Metropolitan Housing and Development Agency; Nashville Civic Design Center; Young Architects Forum; Nashville Neighborhood Alliance and the American Council of Engineering Companies/Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers.

The Lifetime Achievement award was awarded this year to Robert C. H. Mathews, Jr. Winners for the 2006-2007 Excellence in Development Awards, presented in October 2006 were: Excellence awards were Buttrick Hall at Vanderbilt; The Lofts at 160; and Westhaven in Franklin. Awards of Merit were The Amerisite 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Storage; Gateway at Armory Oaks and Pinnacle Financial Partners. Winnrs of Honorable Mention were Church and Capitol Streetscapes; Student Life Center at Vanderbilt and the North Rutherford County YMCA.

GNRC staff provides financial management and works with the Steering Committee to arrange the awards banquet, secure judges for the competition and provide publicity for winners in the local media.

# *Economic & Community Development*

## **Mission**

To ensure that the greater Nashville region has the capacity that will empower each community to strategically create, direct sustainable, & enhance job growth while improving the quality of life for each citizen.

## **Vision**

Economic & Community Development Division will be recognized as a hallmark of Greater Nashville Region Council and the premier economic & community development program in Tennessee.

## **Goals**

- ◆ Create, sustain, and enhance development opportunities in our communities which are characterized by human, economic, physical and organizational sustainability.
- ◆ Promote availability of safe, sanitary, and affordable housing in the region.
- ◆ Ensure that each community in the region has proactive planning resources.
- ◆ Establish the infrastructure capacity to support economic & community development in each community.
- ◆ Maintain active communication with board to ensure awareness of each community's objectives and needs.
- ◆ To secure every appropriate grant dollar that is made available to the communities in our region.
- ◆ To provide expert and professional technical assistance to our communities that rivals none.

## **Development**

Each day the Council works with board, our local elected leaders, economic development council and chamber of commerce officials, and local community leaders to organize and prepare for economic and community development. The council assists our communities in project planning, grant and loan applications, and project administration for such activities as affordable housing, water and sewer service improvements and industrial development infrastructure. The team at GNRC Economic & Community Development is unparalleled in years of grant experience and projects administered.

- ◆ \$10.5 million in Community Development Block Grant projects and applications;
- ◆ \$6.3 million in Tennessee Housing Development Agency in projects and applications;
- ◆ \$13.9 million in FastTrack Infrastructure Development Program grants;
- ◆ \$2.9 million in Rural Development Administration loans/grants;
- ◆ \$2.7 million in Transportation Enhancement grants.

These projects allow local governments to provide better community services to over 65,116 citizens and to bring 4,312 new job opportunities to the citizens of the Greater Nashville region.

Funds are secured from the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development for Small Cities Community Development Block Grant funds and the FastTrack Infrastructure Development Program. Funding also comes from the U. S. Economic Development Administration, the U.S. Rural Development Administration, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Tennessee Housing Development Agency. Transportation Enhancement Grants are secured through the Tennessee Department of Transportation. Local Parks and Recreation and Recreational Trails Program funding are secured by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Recreation and Educational Services Division.

Active projects by county:

## CHEATHAM COUNTY

- ◆ Technical assistance to the Town of Kingston Springs for a \$704,209 Transportation Enhancement Grant in order to initiate Phase One Sidewalk Improvements. The Town of Kingston Springs will provide \$140,841 to the project.
- ◆ Project administration to the Town of Pleasant View for a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant to construct a sewer system for 215 residents. Pleasant View Utility District will provide \$1,210,000 to the project through a Rural Development Grant/Loan.

## DAVIDSON COUNTY

- ◆ Project administration to the Metropolitan Nashville Davidson County for a \$300,000 FastTrack Infrastructure Development Program grant to construct a data center for Louisiana Pacific. This project will create 188 jobs.
- ◆ Technical assistance and project administration to the Metropolitan Nashville Davidson County for a \$495,125 FastTrack Infrastructure Development Program grant to provide site preparation for Gateway Pro Partners. This project will create 300 jobs and \$6,000,000 in private investment.
- ◆ Technical assistance and project administration to the Metropolitan Nashville Davidson County for a \$682,200 FastTrack Infrastructure Development Program grant to provide network, telecommunications, and data cabling for Accredo. This project will create 148 jobs and \$13,600,000 in private investment.

## DICKSON COUNTY

- ◆ Project administration assistance to Dickson County for the \$447,790 Tennessee Housing Development Agency/HOME grant awarded for housing rehabilitation program. Nine units of housing were rehabilitated or reconstructed and 18 residents served. Closed out in 2007

- ◆ Project administration to Dickson County for Imminent Threat Waterline Extensions for \$456,458 to extend water to 53 homes impacted as a result of groundwater contamination from industrial waste disposal.
- ◆ Technical assistance and project administration for Dickson County for a \$500,000 Tennessee Housing Development Agency/HOME Grant for housing rehabilitation. The County will serve up to 12 qualified households with these grants.
- ◆ Technical assistance and project administration to the Town of Slayden for a \$250,000 Tennessee Housing Development Agency/HOME Grant for housing rehabilitation. The Town of Slayden will rehabilitate 6-8 units of housing with the grant funds.
- ◆ Project administration for the Town of White Bluff for a \$500,000 Tennessee Housing Development Agency/HOME Grant for housing rehabilitation. The White Bluff will serve nine households through rehabilitation or reconstruction of their homes.

## HOUSTON COUNTY

- ◆ The Greater Nashville Regional Council is one of seven state, local and federal agencies that form the Houston County Partners in Homeownership. The purpose of the Partnership is to assist low and moderate income families in Houston County improve home ownership opportunities.
- ◆ Project administration to Houston County on behalf of the City of Erin for a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant. The proposed project will extend water lines to 212 residents of the county who are without a safe, adequate supply of water. Erin will provide \$68,182 to the project through a Rural Development Loan/Grant.
- ◆ Project administration to Houston County for a \$500,000 Tennessee Housing Development Agency/ HOME grant awarded for housing rehabilitation program to assist 9 qualified households.
- ◆ Technical assistance and project administration to the Stewart-Houston Industrial Park for a

\$235,000 FastTrack Infrastructure Development Program grant to provide utility and site improvements for Tennessee Wire Technology. This project will create 55 jobs and \$500,000 in private investment.

- ◆ Project administration to the City of Erin for a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant to make water system improvements for 5,902 people in the city. Erin will provide \$61,687.
- ◆ Project administration to the City of Erin for a \$300,000 Transportation Enhancement Grant in order to initiate Phase One of a Town Square Beautification Project. The City of Erin will provide \$60,000 to the project.
- ◆ Project administration to the Town of Tennessee Ridge for a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant to construct a water treatment plant. The proposed project will serve 2,901 people. Tennessee Ridge will provide \$588,500 through a Rural Development Grant/Loan.

## HUMPHREYS COUNTY

- ◆ Project administration to Humphreys County for a \$243,227 Tennessee Housing Development Agency/ HOME grant awarded for housing rehabilitation program to assist 5 qualified households consisting of nine residents with rehabilitation or complete reconstruction of their homes. Closed out in 2007
- ◆ Project administration to Humphreys County for a \$300,000 Community Development Block Grant for fire protection. The project will serve 6,781 people. Humphreys County will provide \$44,830 to the project.
- ◆ Technical assistance and project administration to Humphreys County for a \$1,150,000 FastTrack Infrastructure Development Program grant to construct an addition to the Center for Higher Education. This project will create 120 jobs.
- ◆ Technical assistance to Humphreys County for a \$500,000 Tennessee Housing Development Agency/HOME Grant for housing rehabilitation.

The County will serve up to 12 qualified households with these grants.

- ◆ Technical assistance and project administration to City of McEwen for a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant for sewer system improvements. The project will serve 1,506 people. McEwen will provide \$55,560 to the project.
- ◆ Technical assistance to the Town of New Johnsonville for a \$352,600 Community Development Block Grant for water system rehabilitation. The project will serve 1,986 people. New Johnsonville will provide \$77,400 to the project.
- ◆ Technical assistance to the City of Waverly for a \$500,000 Transportation Enhancement Grant in order to continue Phase Two of the Waverly Greenway Trail. The City of Waverly will provide \$100,000 to the project.
- ◆ Technical assistance to the City of Waverly for a \$250,000 Tennessee Housing Development Agency/HOME Grant for housing rehabilitation. The City will serve 6-8 qualified households with these grants.

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY

- ◆ Technical assistance to Montgomery County for a \$496,211 Tennessee Housing Development Agency/HOME grant awarded for a housing rehabilitation program to assist 12 qualified families in the unincorporated Town of South Guthrie. Closed out in 2007
- ◆ Technical assistance to Montgomery County for \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant funds to establish a housing rehab program to assist 41 qualified homeowners.
- ◆ Technical assistance to the Industrial Development Board of Montgomery County for a \$648,978 FastTrack Infrastructure Development Program grant to provide rail service to Florim. This project will create 100 jobs and \$12,000,000 in private investment.
- ◆ Administration assistance to the Industrial Development Board of Montgomery County for a \$750,000 FastTrack Infrastructure

Development Program grant to provide rail service to Sanderson Pipe. This project will create 70 jobs and \$38,600,000 in private investment.

## ROBERTSON COUNTY

- ◆ Technical assistance to Town of Adams for a \$346,950 Community Development Block Grant for water system rehabilitation. The project will serve 4,245 people. Adams will contribute \$38,550 to the project.
- ◆ Technical assistance and project administration to Town of Adams for a \$451,939 Tennessee Housing Development Agency/HOME grant. The Town of Adams proposes to establish a housing rehabilitation program to assist 12 qualified families.
- ◆ Technical assistance to City of Coopertown for a \$500,000 Tennessee Housing Development Agency/HOME grant. The County proposes to establish a housing rehabilitation program to assist 12 qualified families.
- ◆ Technical assistance and project administration to City of Ridgetop for a \$48,061 Tennessee Housing Development Agency/ HOME grant. The City of Ridgetop served one qualified family with a reconstruction.
- ◆ Project administration to the City of Springfield for a \$372,653 Tennessee Housing Development Agency/HOME grant awarded for housing rehabilitation program to assist 10 to 15 qualified families. Closed out in 2007
- ◆ Project administration to the City of Springfield for a \$968,674 Transportation Enhancement Grant in order to continue Phase Two of Sidewalk Improvements in the Central Business District. The City of Springfield will provide \$139,734 to the project.
- ◆ Technical assistance to the City of Springfield for a \$500,000 Tennessee Housing Development Agency/HOME Grant for housing rehabilitation. The City proposes to continue its established housing program and serve 12 qualified families.

## RUTHERFORD COUNTY

- ◆ Project administration to Rutherford County for the \$230,124 Tennessee Housing Development Agency/ HOME grant. The County proposes to establish a housing rehabilitation program for 19 residents. Closed out in 2007
- ◆ Technical assistance and project administration to Rutherford County Industrial Development Board for a \$528,500 FastTrack Infrastructure Development Program grant to provide utilities to Taylor Farms. This project will create 64 jobs and \$32,000,000 in private investment.
- ◆ Project administration to the City of Eagleville for the \$500,000 HOME grant awarded by the Tennessee Housing Development Agency. Approximately 12 qualified homeowners will receive housing rehabilitation assistance.
- ◆ Application and Administration assistance to the City of Murfreesboro for a \$750,000 FastTrack Infrastructure Development Program grant to provide rail service to Huskey Truss and Building Supply. This project will create 70 jobs and \$11,500,000 in private investment.
- ◆ Project administration to the Town of Smyrna for a \$2,845,000 Tennessee Industrial Infrastructure Program grant for wastewater treatment plant improvements. Nissan, a car production plant will add 1,000 new jobs.
- ◆ Project administration to the City of Murfreesboro for a \$750,000 FastTrack Development Infrastructure Program grant to provide water, sewer and rail to serve Southern Container. The company will hire 130 additional employees. Murfreesboro will contribute \$630,982 to the project.

## STEWART COUNTY

- ◆ Technical assistance and project administration to Stewart County for a \$500,000 Tennessee Housing Development Agency/ HOME grant. The County proposes to establish a housing rehabilitation program to assist 12 qualified families.
- ◆ Technical assistance to Stewart County for the \$500,000 Community Development Block

Grant application to extend water lines. The County will serve 99 people. The County will provide \$149,000 to the project.

- ◆ Technical assistance and project administration to Stewart-Houston Industrial Park for a \$235,000 FastTrack Infrastructure Development Program grant to provide utility and site improvements for Tennessee Wire Technology. This project will create 55 jobs and \$500,000 in private investment.
- ◆ Project administration to Cumberland City for a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant for extension of water lines. The City will provide \$211,980 to the proposed project which would provide safe, potable water to 27 homes.
- ◆ Project administration to the Town of Dover for the \$400,000 Community Development Block Grant for sewer system improvements. The project will provide improved service to 1,399 people. The Town will provide \$65,117 to the project.
- ◆ Technical assistance to the Town of Dover for a \$800,000 Transportation Enhancement Grant for a historic walkway. The Town of Dover will provide \$160,000 to the project.

## SUMNER COUNTY

- ◆ Technical assistance and project administration to Sumner County for a \$500,000 Tennessee Housing Development Agency/ HOME grant. The County proposes to establish a housing rehabilitation program to assist 12 qualified families.
- ◆ Technical assistance to Sumner County for a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant to extend water lines to 48 homes without a safe, reliable source of water. The County will contribute \$219,255 to the project.
- ◆ Project administration to the City of Gallatin for a Tennessee Housing Development Agency HOME awarded for \$230,666 for rehabilitation program to assist six (6) families. Closed out in 2007
- ◆ Project administration to the City of Gallatin for a \$200,000 FastTrack Infrastructure

Development Program grant to provide drainage improvements for Samick Music Corporation. This project will create 60 jobs and \$5,000,000 in private investment.

- ◆ Project administration to the City of Millersville for a \$300,000 Community Development Block Grant for drainage improvements to reduce flooding in the southern portions of the city. The project will benefit 6,075 people. The City will contribute \$44,828 to the project.
- ◆ Technical assistance and project administration to City of Millersville for a \$250,000 Tennessee Housing Development Agency/ HOME grant. The City proposes to establish a housing rehabilitation program to assist 6-8 qualified families.
- ◆ Project administration to the City of Portland for the \$250,000 grant awarded from the Tennessee Housing Development Agency/ HOME program for homeowner rehabilitation.
- ◆ Project administration to the City of Portland for a \$484,718 Community Development Block Grant to rehabilitate a section of the municipal water system. The project will benefit 13,855 people served by the system. Portland will contribute \$67,861 to the project.
- ◆ Administration assistance to the City of Portland for a \$367,650 FastTrack Infrastructure Development Program grant to provide a water tank for Federated Department Stores. This project will create 500 jobs and \$78,000,000 in private investment.
- ◆ Project administration to the Town of Westmoreland for a \$400,000 Community Development Block Grant for sewer system rehabilitation. The project will serve 1,831 people. Westmoreland will provide \$49,439 to the project.
- ◆ Technical assistance to the Town of Westmoreland for a \$200,000 Transportation Enhancement Grant for Phase Two of Little Tunnel rehabilitation. The Town of Westmoreland will provide \$40,000 to the project.

## TROUSDALE COUNTY

- ◆ The Greater Nashville Regional Council serves with federal, state, and local economic development organizations on the Hartsville Site Development Team. TVA created the team to develop a plan for the economic development of the abandoned nuclear power plant site.

## WILLIAMSON COUNTY

- ◆ Technical assistance to Williamson County for a \$200,000 Community Development Block Grant project to extend water lines. The project will serve 123 people. Williamson County will provide \$270,000 to the project.
- ◆ Administration assistance to the City of Franklin for a \$750,000 FastTrack Infrastructure Development Program grant to provide road and drainage improvements to Community Health Systems. This project will create 185 jobs and \$3,500,000 in private investment.
- ◆ Administration assistance to the Williamson County Industrial Development Board for a \$5,000,000 FastTrack Infrastructure Development Program grant to construct a building for BioMimetic Therapeutics, Inc. This project will create 180 jobs and \$19,500,000 in private investment.
- ◆ Technical assistance and project administration for Williamson County for a \$500,000 Tennessee Housing Development Agency/ HOME Grant. The County will serve up to 12 qualified households with these grant funds.

## WILSON COUNTY

- ◆ Technical assistance to City of Lebanon for a \$500,000 Tennessee Housing Development Agency/ HOME grant. The City proposes to establish a housing rehabilitation program to assist 12 qualified families.
- ◆ Technical assistance to the City of Lebanon for a \$905,000 Transportation Enhancement Grant in order to continue Phase Three of the Cedar City Trail. The City of Lebanon will provide \$181,000 to the project.

- ◆ Technical assistance to the City of Lebanon for a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant project for sewer line extension. The project will serve 77 people. Lebanon will provide \$415,860 to the project.
- ◆ Technical assistance and project administration to the City of Lebanon for a \$750,000 FastTrack Infrastructure Development Program grant to provide utilities to serve Kenwal Steel. This project will create 70 jobs and \$12,000,000 in private investment.
- ◆ Technical assistance and project administration to the City of Lebanon for a \$750,000 FastTrack Infrastructure Development Program grant to provide utilities for AmerSports/ Wilson Sporting Goods. This project will create 100 jobs and \$3,000,000 in private investment.
- ◆ Technical assistance and project administration to the City of Lebanon for a \$68,619 FastTrack Infrastructure Development Program grant to provide a sewer line for Nashville Refrigeration Services. This project will create 20 jobs and \$5,000,000 in private investment.
- ◆ Technical assistance and project administration for the City of Mt. Juliet for a \$477,832 FastTrack Infrastructure Development Program grant to provide water, sewer, and Stormwater for S & S Industries. This project will create 60 jobs and \$8,500,000 in private investment.
- ◆ Technical assistance to City of Mt. Juliet for a \$500,000 Tennessee Housing Development Agency/ HOME grant. The City proposes to establish a housing rehabilitation program to assist 12 qualified families.

## Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy/ Regional Capital Improvements Program

The Comprehensive Overall Economic Strategy (CEDS) formerly known as Overall Economic Development Program has been one of GNRC's most effective regional planning tools since 1971. The CEDS is updated annually to keep economic development goals, plans and strategies current and to identify areas of both need and opportunity within the regional economy. The Regional Capital Improvements Program (RCIP), which is in fact a "regional infrastructure needs inventory," has been incorporated into the CEDS since 1977 to provide a short-term, action-oriented element into the program. The CEDS/RCIP has been proven to be useful to local governments in identifying potential joint or coordinated projects, in pursuing funding assistance through state and federal programs, and in guiding public and private interests in understanding economic development needs and opportunities.

The success and potential of the RCIP was noted by the General Assembly and was strengthened and institutionalized through the passage of the Public Infrastructure Needs Inventory Act of 1996. The Act directs the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR), through contracts with the State's nine development districts, to compile and maintain an inventory of public infrastructure needs. This put in place, for the first time, the mechanism and funding to develop and maintain a statewide, annually updated, comprehensive inventory of infrastructure needs within the State known as the Infrastructure Needs Inventory (INI), it has been modified in order to accommodate the requirements of new growth management plans authorized by Public Chapter 1101. The plans under PC 1101 call for a twenty-year planning period while the infrastructure survey covers only five years. All local governments, school systems and utility districts are surveyed to develop an inventory of infrastructure needs.

Council's Comprehensive Overall Economic Strategy/Regional Capital Improvements Program (CEDS/RCIP) as a model in its proposal for development of the Statewide Infrastructure Needs Survey.

## 2007 3-Star Communities:

### Counties

Cheatham County	Dickson County
Houston County	Sumner County
Humphreys County	Rutherford County
Montgomery County	Stewart County
Robertson County	
Trousdale County	
Williamson County	
Wilson County	

### **Tourism:**

GNRC contracts with the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development to administer a \$35,000 matching grant with a total budget of over \$52,500. The grant has been cut by 9% for the fourth year, but the region continues to attract new members and create new partnerships with State agencies and local chambers and attractions. The Middle Tennessee Tourism Council (MTTC) is one of eight regional tourism agencies across the State contracting with the Department of Tourist Development. The MTTC's primary function is to promote tourism in the region. Benefits include research and information for its members concerning the tourism industry and assistance in marketing local events, attractions, hotels and restaurants. The Council publishes a brochure each year promoting tourism in all thirteen counties and hosts a web site [www.middletennesseetourism.com](http://www.middletennesseetourism.com).

Local governments realize tourism is an important tool for economic development. Nashville attracts more visitors than any other single county in Tennessee. Our region and much of the rest of Tennessee have seen an increase in visitors for the last few years. Surrounding cities and counties in the region are taking advantage of this and marketing their own hotels, bed & breakfasts and attractions to individuals, small groups and motor coach tours. Youth and adult sports tournaments have become an important market for several of our members. Visitors to the area are spending additional nights visiting regional sites. There continues to be strong interest in heritage tourism including Civil War and other historic sites in the region. This year, a new web site focusing on ag-tourism in the region was created with a \$3,000 Tennessee Agritourism Association Grant and was the fourth year for the partnership between the regional

Tourism Council and the TN Department of Agriculture. This web site is [www.FarmFreshFun.com](http://www.FarmFreshFun.com)

## Other Special Projects:

GNRC staff continues to provide support to communities applying for Federal Emergency Management Fire Grants. Eligible activities available for funding include Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety Program, Fire Prevention Program, Emergency Medical Services Program, and the Firefighting Vehicles Acquisition Program.

GNRC staff worked jointly with the staff of the Upper Cumberland Development District (UCDD) and the County Technical Advisory Service (CTAS) in assisting the Four Lake Industrial Development Authority (FLIDA) to provide technical assistance and support for regional economic development activities. The FLIDA is comprised of local elected officials of the five counties in the Hartsville Nuclear Plant impact area. Following TVA's abandonment of the Hartsville Nuclear Plant, the area organized under state statute as the FLIDA in order to promote industrial development and new long-term job creation. The five counties include Sumner, Trousdale, and Wilson in the Greater Nashville Region, and Smith and Macon in the Upper Cumberland Region.

## Excellence in Development

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encourage those committed to excellence in development throughout the region.

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The Lifetime Achievement award was awarded this year to Batey M. Gresham, Jr., AIA Winners for the 2006-2007 Excellence in Development Awards, presented in October 2006 were: Excellence awards were Buttrick Hall at Vanderbilt; The Lofts a@ 160; and Westhaven in Franklin. Awards of Merit were The Amerisite 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Storage; Gateway at Armory Oaks and Pinnacle Financial Partners. Winners of Honorable Mention were Church and Capitol Streetscapes; Student Life Center at Vanderbilt and the North Rutherford County YMCA

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# *Area Agency on Aging & Disability*

## **Vision:**

The Greater Nashville Regional Council Area Agency on Aging and Disability has a service delivery system that meets the individual needs of our consumers.

## **Mission:**

The Greater Nashville Regional Council Area Agency on Aging and Disability (GNRC AAAD) promotes independence, dignity and quality of life for older persons, adults with disabilities and those who care about/for them by maintaining an innovative service delivery system that is responsive to and empowers individuals to achieve their vision of independence.

## **Overview and Agency Function:**

The GNRC AAAD is one of nine (9) agencies statewide whose task is to plan programs and services for the older population and adults with disabilities in the 13-county Greater Nashville Region. The AAADs are funded in part by the Older Americans Act and State funding, through the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability (TCAD).

The Area Agency on Aging and Disability provides a number of key services to the people of the cities and counties in our region:

- Awarding grants and contracts to non-profit, for-profit and governmental agencies to provide services
- Monitoring the performance of the providers to ensure quality and efficiency in service delivery
- Coordinating with other agencies that serve older persons and persons with disabilities
- Advocating for, and representing the interests of our constituents to decision making bodies and to the general public

- Identifying needs and problems and planning services and programs accordingly
- Ensuring input of older persons in the planning and operation of services
- Promoting a positive image of the talents, skills, and contributions older persons make to society
- Providing opportunities for positive interaction of older persons and persons with disabilities with their peers and others in their communities
- Helping protect the rights of older persons to control decisions about their lives

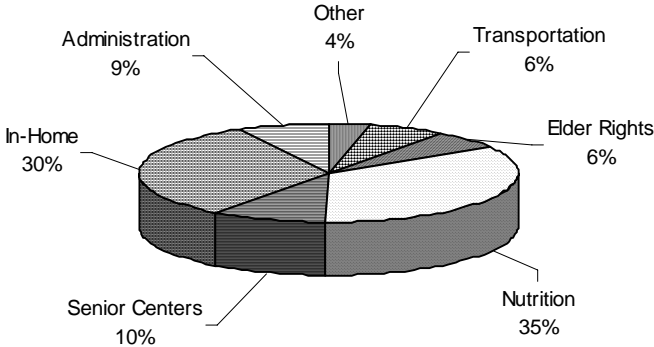
## **Funding & Service Network:**

During Fiscal Year 2007 the Area Agency on Aging and Disability increased the network of services in the 13-county Greater Nashville Region through a variety of different service providers:

- 19 Senior Centers
- 2 Adult Day Care Providers
- 33 Nutrition Sites
- 7 In-Home Respite Providers
- 16 Homemaker Providers
- 3 pest Control Providers
- 16 Personal Care Providers
- 1 Assistive Technology Provider
- 7 Personal Emergency Response Systems
- 9 Personal Care Attendant Providers
- 8 Chore Programs
- 22 Family Caregiver Providers
- 5 Transportation Programs
- 1 Legal Assistance Program
- 1 Long Term Care Ombudsman Program
- 3 Case Management Agencies

In addition, the Area Agency operates Case Management services, an Information and Assistance Program and the Public Guardianship Program for the Elderly.

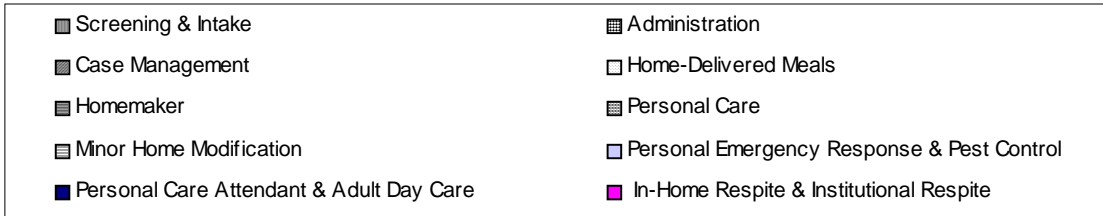
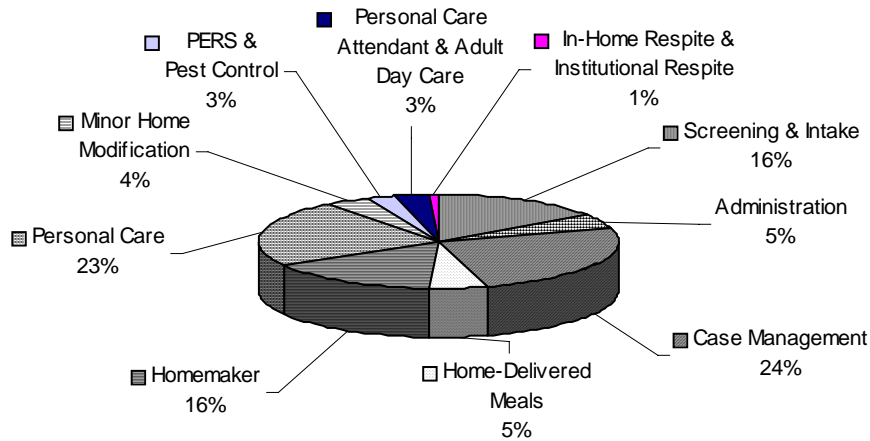
**Greater Nashville Regional Council  
Area Agency on Aging & Disability  
Federal (OAA) & State Expenditures  
Fiscal Year 2007**



- Other (Information & Assistance, LTC Screening, Medication Management)
- ▣ Transportation (Includes taxi pilots)
- Elder Rights (Legal, Ombudsman & Guardianship)
- Nutrition (Congregate-13% & Home-Delivered Meals-20%)
- Senior Centers (Education, Health & Fitness, Social Activities, Telephone Reassurance, Other)
- ▣ In-Home (Homemaker, Personal Care, Chore, Case Management, Family Caregiver, Other)
- ▣ Administration (Planning, Coordination, Prog. Development, Quality Assurance)

Total Federal and State Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2007 of \$5,678,000  
Older Americans Act (OAA) Funds of \$4,082,500 and State Funds of \$1,595,500

**Greater Nashville Regional Council  
Area Agency on Aging & Disability  
Medicaid Waiver Expenditures  
Fiscal Year 2007**



Total Medicaid Waiver Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2007 in excess of \$2,000,000

## Notable Highlights – Area Agency’s Activities

### Family Caregiver Support Program

During FY-2007 the Greater Nashville Regional Council’s Area Agency on Aging and Disability (AAAD) was recognized for its commitment to caregiving by the Johnson & Johnson/Rosalynn Carter Institute (RCI) Caregivers Program at a reception and awards ceremony on November 13, 2006. The AAAD received a Johnson & Johnson/RCI Caregivers Crystal Award and a two-year \$40,000 grant from Johnson & Johnson, as well as technical assistance and evaluation services provided by the Rosalynn Carter Institute.

The Johnson & Johnson/RCI Caregivers Program annually recognizes organizations that serve as national models for quality caregiving services. The Greater Nashville Regional Council’s AAAD was selected as one of five winners by a panel of national experts in various caregiving disciplines, including

gerontology, children, cancer nursing, hospice, mental health and disabilities.

AAAD will use the grant to implement the Take A Break Respite Program to benefit the caregivers of individuals age 19 to 59. The program provided 20 caregivers with 100 hours of in-home respite care along with other wellness services to promote their well being along with the well- being of care receivers.

The grant was important to GNRC Area Agency on Aging and Disability in two important ways, first it had a positive impact on the health and well being of the 20 caregivers of adults under age 60 who will receive 100 hours of respite and a wellness pack, secondly, it enhanced staff capacity to focus on the needs of caregivers in multiple programs for older persons and persons with disabilities.

The Johnson & Johnson/RCI Caregivers Program's principal mission is to support caregivers for disabled or chronically ill or elderly family members and friends.

## Home and Community Based Programs

The Area Agency on Aging and Disability continues to provide assistance for older persons and other adults with disabilities to maintain themselves in their own homes through home and community based programs. This program is provided using multiple funding sources such as Medicaid Waiver, State Options for Community Living, and Older American's Act to support the provision of in-home services for eligible persons in the GNRC area. The availability of services differ with the funding source but may include homemaking, personal care, home delivered meals, personal emergency alert service, Chore, Minor Home Repair, personal care attendant, adult day care, respite (in-home and institutional), minor home modifications, and pest control. The recipients of these services also receive case management (service coordination) through GNRC in order for services to be delivered consistently and reliably.

For Medicaid Waiver funding in the FY 2006-2007 a total of 154 new applicants were enrolled on the Medicaid Waiver program, bringing a total of 310 persons served by this funding source. This total includes 25 enrollees who were discharged from the Medicaid Waiver program this past year. In addition, the case management unit processed a total of 330 applications, which were withdrawn.

The GNRC AAAD also assisted the State of Tennessee in transitioning enrollees who were being served under the Adapt Waiver in Tennessee to be integrated into the Statewide Medicaid Waiver. In the Middle Tennessee region, GNRC transitioned a total of 21 Adapt enrollees into the Statewide Waiver.

The State Options program, which targets physically disabled individuals from age 18 and older were able to serve a total of 293 individuals, with 214 individuals over the age of 60 and 86 individuals under the age of 60.

The Older American's Act supported in-home services to individuals over the age of 60 and served 106 older consumers. In addition, 1618 older individuals were served by home delivered meals.

## Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

The Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability received a 3 year grant (October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2008) offered by the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Administration on Aging to develop two of the first Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) in the state of Tennessee.

- Greater Nashville Regional Council, Area Agency on Aging and Disability, was selected as one of two pilot sites in the state.
- The ADRC will serve as "one-stop" single entry points for a wide range of long-term care services.
- The center will help local communities integrate their varied long-term support programs into a single, coordinated system that will make it easier for families to get the most effective care for their loved ones, usually right in their own communities.
- The Centers will offer information, counseling and assistance to long-term care, benefits and care giving options including private pay options. Consumers will have easy access to this seamless long-term care system by phone, Internet, and by directly visiting one of the Centers locations. GNRC AAAD is in the beginning planning and development stages and the site locations are yet to be determined.
- The Centers will target older persons, age 60 and over, and persons with physical disabilities age 21 and over.
- A local advisory council was developed that will assist in the planning and development of the center and will pull together linkages and systems in the Greater Nashville Region. The Council will be comprised of Aging and Disability advocates, consumer groups, Home and Community Based service providers, Home Health agencies, Nursing Homes, etc.

During fiscal year 2007, the Tennessee initiative was designated as the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) and will serve as a "one-stop" single entry point for a wide range of long-term care services. The mission of the ADRC is to improve

access to information and linkages to long-term supports and chronic care services for eligible individuals in the Greater Nashville region.

A local advisory council comprised of Aging and Disability advocates, consumer representatives, Home and Community Based service providers, Nursing Homes, etc. assists the initiative in ensuring that accurate information for potential consumers is being made available on the AAAD website with links to other key information groups such as Tennessee Disability Pathfinder and the Legal Aid Society for Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlands. The statewide ADRC website is being developed and will provide information and assistance on long-term care,

benefits, and care giving options including private pay options.

In addition to streamlining the time it takes to be approved for long-term care Home and Community Based services, the ADRC has developed and opened an outstation site in the Clarksville Montgomery County Ajax Turner Senior Center. This local community presence is one of the site locations being developed to offer information, counseling and assistance to families seeking to get the most effective care for their loved ones, usually right in their own communities.

*Mid-Cumberland Area Development Corporation:  
Small Business Loans*

Mid-Cumberland Area Development Corporation (MADC) is a separate non-profit agency responsible for making small business loans in the Region using the SBA 504 program, the EDA (RLF) program and Rural Development's (IRP) program. MADC is a Certified Development Corporation (CDC) established under SBA guidance and regulations. Success has been substantial through the joint efforts of the GNRC and MADC Boards and in partnership with area banks.

MADC has made loans amounting to over \$85.0 million dollars, which has generated more than \$275.0 million in new private investment and created over 7,000 new small business jobs in the 13-county region. Agencies contributing grant funds for MADC's RLF program include the Federal Economic Development Administration (EDA), U.S. Department of Commerce, HUD Community Development Block Grant Funds from the City of Clarksville and Metropolitan Nashville Davidson County, and State Growth Fund monies from the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. MADC was honored by SBA as being the Lender of the Year in Tennessee for FY 2006.

The intent of MADC was to use some available, unrestricted funds to develop a new "In House Loan Program". The MADC Board of Directors determined

that a total of \$300,000 would be used to start the new program. These funds were transferred from the unrestricted funds generated from income of the SBA 504 loan program. The goal of the Capital Loan Program (CLP) will be to assist businesses that may not qualify for other loan programs presently offered by MADC. The Capital Loan Program will be used to: (1) Encourage small business growth and development; (2) Alleviate specific financing gaps, which prohibit firms from growing due to a lack of available credit sources; (3) Stabilize and diversify the area's economy by providing employers with capital for start-up and/or expansion of locally owned businesses; (4) Compliment local, state, and federal economic development loan programs; (5) Create new jobs and/or provide assistance to retain existing jobs; (6) Increase tax base of the local governments; and, (7) Increase per capita income.

During FY 2007:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Approved/Closed Amount</u>	
SBA 504	19 loans	\$8,990,000
RLF	19 loans	\$1,013,737
IRP	14 loans	\$295,850
CLP	17 loans	\$252,074

## Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)

As the Middle Tennessee region continues to grow, RTA is committed to developing a coordinated system of local and regional transportation services. The Regional Transportation Authority is a nine-county authority created by state statute in 1988 to develop a regional mass transit system and has a mission to improve air quality and provide ridesharing opportunities to the region.

The agency focuses on peak period commute trips, when congestion is heaviest, and facilitates carpools, vanpools, commuter bus services, and on September 18, 2006 started Tennessee's first commuter rail operation, the Music City Star. RTA is funded by CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) improvement funds and by member communities.

The RTA member counties are Cheatham, Davidson, Dickson, Maury, Robertson, Rutherford, Sumner, Williamson and Wilson. The board consists of the city and county mayors/executives within the region, Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) Commissioner and/or representatives, and six citizens appointed by the Governor. RTA is also one of the original members of the Clean Air Partnership of Middle Tennessee, and assists with efforts to improve the region's awareness of air quality concerns and issues.

The RTA contracts with the GNRC to provide staff, office space and related services.

Among current regional transportation efforts are:

▶ **RIDE Program Features:**

- **Ride Matching** with a commuter matching program. Software available on the RTA website allows commuters to search for a carpool match or a van pool.
  - **Emergency Ride Home Program** provides a free ride home for regular ridesharers with a work or home emergency.
  - **Employer Based Promotions** to encourage additional carpools, vanpools, regional express buses and the new commuter rail through employer programs including Commuter Choice/Transit Benefit programs.
- ▶ The largest rideshare program in the Southeast with approximately 120 vanpools in current service, and thousands of registered carpools. During 2006-2007, 6 vanpools and over 60 carpools were

added to the program. During the last two weeks of August, as the prices for gasoline continue to dramatically rise, requests for vanpool and carpool information have increased by about 20-25% per week.

- ▶ Two "Relax & Ride" Regional Commuter Bus Services operating between Nashville and LaVergne – Smyrna – Murfreesboro - MTSU and Hendersonville, TN. These two R&R routes serve hundreds of commuters each weekday, with a total of thirteen daily single trips between Nashville and LaVergne-Smyrna-Murfreesboro-MTSU, and five daily single trips between Nashville and Hendersonville, TN. A new mid-day trip was added to the Nashville to Murfreesboro route in late August, 2005 to provide commuters more flexibility in their weekday commute. Each of these R&R services use "suburban configuration" coaches on at least one trip each weekday. These are new MTA coaches which have been upgraded with more comfortable reclining seats, individual overhead reading lights, and overhead luggage racks, making the coach more suitable for longer trips such as the R&R routes which extend outside of Davidson County.
- ▶ RTA launched Tennessee's first commuter rail service, the Music City Star. The 32-mile Lebanon to Nashville commute rail is the first of several high-capacity transit corridors proposed for the region. The Music City Star East Corridor Commuter Rail began service in September 2006.
- ▶ Local oversight of the Federal Job Access/ Reverse Commute (JARC) grant that provides local job seekers with public transportation assistance for their return to the workplace. In 2006-2007, the JARC grant has helped to fund the R&R Commuter Bus Services add a new mid-day trip and extend service into the Tennessee Rehabilitation Center (TRC) in Smyrna, a vocational training center for disabled Tennessee residents. The grant has also allowed for 725 hours of training of TRC students and others on how to ride a bus, provided over 11,000 tickets for MTA fixed-route bus service to job seekers through community career placement services, purchased two new passenger vans for social service agencies and helped fund late-night and/or weekend MTA fixed-route bus service to assist shift-workers in areas of Nashville/Davidson County.

## Executive Director's Message

This Annual Report summarizes some of the successful projects and programs of area local governments and GNRC during FY 2007. They represent joint regional accomplishments of member cities and counties through GNRC over the past 40 years. I urge you to use this document as well as our web site, [www.gnrc.org](http://www.gnrc.org), to find information about our programs and a always please do not hesitate to call on or staff to assist in any way we can.

We are grateful for the dedication of the region's local leaders, county and city mayors and their staff, who oversee GNRC programs and services. Special gratitude is extended this year for the guidance and leadership of the President, Cheatham County Mayor Bill Orange, as well as the other GNRC officers and Board members that have dedicated their time and efforts to enhancing the region.

On behalf of the region's cities and counties, our appreciation goes to all the state, federal and private sector leaders and organizations that contribute their valuable expertise and resources to GNRC's successful programs and services year after year.

Many thanks also to our directors and staff, they have logged many hours and miles across the region in providing technical assistance for our member governments, meeting program deadlines, and pursuit of project funding. We are all proud to be a part of GNRC and look forward with great excitement to the many challenges that await us all in the months and years ahead.

We have two new directors on staff, Diane Thorne is the new Executive Director of the Regional Transportation Authority and Ben Stewart who is the new Economic and Community Development Director. I am certain that you will find them most knowledgeable and professional. I encourage you to call upon them.

Sincerely,

*Sam H. Edwards*

Sam H. Edwards  
Executive Director/Legal Counsel

# FY 2006-2007 FINANCIAL REPORT\*

(\*Prepared without Audit)

Program	Budgeted	Spent
<u>Aging</u>		
Planning	\$ 437,827.00	\$ 340,789.48
Pass Through	4,262,601.54	4,262,601.54
Public Guardian	335,617.00	322,832.80
Information & Assistance	332,325.00	313,270.96
Service Coordination	1,437,446.00	1,257,008.75
Medication Management	21,333.00	20,301.44
ADRC	97,650.00	83,188.18
<u>Economic &amp; Community Development</u>		
CDBG Administrative Assistance	\$ 113,347.00	\$ 106,543.96
EDA Planning & Technical Assistance	110,714.00	114,626.13
MADC Small Business Loan Support	451,661.00	436,990.86
THDA	183,864.00	84,364.81
Tourism Pass Through	17,400.00	49,900.06
<u>Regional Planning</u>		
Regional Rideshare Program	\$ 459,583.00	\$ 280,505.17
Job Access Program	94,641.00	71,249.90
Regional Solid Waste Planning Assistance	69,939.00	70,984.02
Historic Preservation	41,667.00	41,280.30
MPO Transportation Planning Assistance	76,896.00	77,313.75
East Corridor Rail Operations	199,713.00	179,289.42
FTA Commuter Rail	163,483.00	80,541.83
Commuter Rail Planning- MPO	75,000.00	37,148.41
Web Ridematch	39,915.00	2,835.96
Regional Infrastructure Needs Inventory	75,013.00	51,478.63
Administration *	\$ 547,458.00	\$ 488,873.40
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 9,645,093.54</b>	<b>\$ 8,773,919.76</b>

\*Administrative budget and expenses are included within each program's budget line and expense line; therefore it is not added twice in the totals. It is included for informational purposes only.