



# TACIR

The Tennessee Advisory Commission  
on Intergovernmental Relations



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## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Commission Members

**FROM:** Cliff Lippard *Cliff*  
Executive Director

**DATE:** 9 June 2021

**SUBJECT:** Work Program Amendment and New Research Plans

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The amendments to the Commission's work program listed below will add studies directed by legislation passed or referred by the 112<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and requests by members of the Commission. Research plans for each study are attached and, for those requested or referred by the General Assembly, include copies of the legislation. Members will be asked to consider each amendment for approval. Existing projects are recapped below.

### **Status of Existing Work Program Projects:**

- Annual Public Infrastructure Needs Inventory Report. Approved at your January 2021 meeting. We are simultaneously gathering and checking survey data for next year's report. Additionally, work continues on the special infrastructure staff research project focused on the effects of social disruptions and economic downturns from the global pandemic on public infrastructure needs. We will present a draft for your review and comment at our summer meeting.
- TVA PILOT Annual Report. The 2021 update was approved at your January 2021 meeting. We will present the annual update for your approval at the January 2022 meeting to meet the legislature's reporting deadline of February 28, 2022.
- Fiscal Capacity Index. We have submitted this year's index to the Department of Education and State Board of Education and will provide a recap of this year's

results at this meeting. The next index will be due to the department by May 1, 2022.

### **111<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Requests: 2020**

Because of the shortened final session of the 111<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, the Commission was not referred any additional mandated studies in 2020. The Commission instead focused on completing the large volume of studies referred in the previous session, completing recurring, annually mandated studies, and on providing additional analysis as needed. A discussion of the completed studies is included in Tab 3, Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Accomplishments.

### ***Seven amendments are submitted for your consideration***

The first three amendments would add studies requested in bills passed by both chambers of the General Assembly, and the fourth amendment adds a study requested by the Speakers of the Senate and House. The fifth amendment adds a study requested by a bill passed in the House. The final two would add studies requested by Commission members. According to the amendment made to our bylaws at our November 2020 meeting, the first five amendments require a majority vote of the Commission members present and voting, provided there is a quorum. The final two amendments require an affirmative vote of seventeen (17) Commission members who are present and voting.

#### **Amendment One:**

Adds a study required by Public Chapter 585, Acts of 2021, related to a state gold depository.

- Directs the Commission to study the feasibility of creating a state gold depository and report its findings to the speakers of the senate and house of representatives.

Due Date: Final report due January 1, 2022.

#### **Amendment Two:**

Adds a study required by Public Chapter 503, Acts of 2021, related to childhood obesity.

- Directs the Commission to conduct a comprehensive evaluation on the socioeconomic impact childhood obesity has in Tennessee and its short and long-term effects.

Due Date: January 31, 2023.

**Amendment Three:**

Adds a study required by Public Chapter 497, Acts of 2021, related to funding for all non-fish and game recreational activities, particularly the use of non-motorized vessels.

- Directs the Commission to study funding for all non-fish and game recreational activities, particularly the use of non-motorized vessels and report its finding and recommendations to the General Assembly.

Due Date: December 31, 2022.

**Amendment Four:**

Adds a study requested by Speaker of the Senate Randy McNally and Speaker of the House Cameron Sexton of Senate Bill 1604 by Bailey and House Bill 366 by Williams related to right-of-way.

- The bill would require local governments to pay property owners if they take possession of rights-of-way.

Due Date: No date specified.

**Amendment Five:**

Adds a study requested by House Bill 1593 by Miller related to state contracting.

- Directs the Commission to study disparities in the issuance of state contracts to businesses owned and operated by African Americans.

Due Date: January 31, 2022.

**Amendment Six:**

Adds a study requested by the Commission related to electric vehicles.

- Commission members expressed concern at their January 7, 2021 meeting that revenue for local governments from fuel taxes could decrease as electric vehicles replace gasoline-fueled ones. Members also said they have been asked by constituents about providing more support for electric vehicles. Staff has prepared an update memo for the commission to be presented at this meeting and will be seeking guidance from the commission on additional research that may need to be completed on this topic.

Due Date: No date specified.

**Amendment 7:**

Add a study request by Commission member, Senator Yager related to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation post-award grant implementation process.

- Requests the Commission review the post-award and implementation process of the state's grant management requirements and make recommendations for streamlining the process.

Due Date: No date specified.