

TACIR

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TENNESSEE'S PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS DECREASED TO \$41.5 BILLION

Lauderdale County's Share Is \$432.7 million

NASHVILLE, TN, Sept. 14 - Tennessee needs at least **\$41.5 billion** of public infrastructure improvements to be in some stage of development during the five-year period of July 2014 through June 2019. Public infrastructure improvements for **Lauderdale County** total **\$432.7 million**, a decrease of **\$15.9 million (3.5%)** since last year's report, according to a new report released by the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR).

The current report, which is based on information provided by state and local officials, shows an increase of **\$28.3 billion** in the entire state's infrastructure needs since the first inventory was published in 1998 and a decrease of **\$299 million (0.7%)** from the June 2015 report.

Statewide, the top three areas of need are

- Transportation at \$25.2 billion,
- Post-secondary education and preschools at \$4.6 billion, and
- Water and wastewater at \$3.3 billion.

Officials report Lauderdale County's top three areas of need as

- Transportation at \$395.5 million,
- School renovations & replacements at \$24.6 million, and
- Law enforcement at \$8.2 million.

The county's total estimated cost for new or improved infrastructure is \$15,801 per capita, compared with \$6,332 per capita statewide. Lauderdale County's estimated transportation needs per capita amount to \$14,444, higher than the statewide estimate of \$3,843 per capita. Lauderdale County reported school renovations & replacements infrastructure needs at \$898 per capita, higher than the statewide average of \$364 per capita. As for law enforcement infrastructure improvements, Lauderdale County reported \$298 per capita, which is higher than the statewide average of \$124 per capita.

Less than half of the money needed to meet Tennessee's public infrastructure needs has been identified. Of the \$32.7 billion in needs for which the availability of funding was reported statewide, officials are confident that \$11.8 billion (35%) of that amount will be available. About **\$33.5 million (8.4%)** of the **\$397.0 million** total funding needed to meet **Lauderdale County's** infrastructure needs has been identified.

- More -

Among Tennessee's 95 counties, Lauderdale County ranked

- 54th in total population (27,382),
- 72nd in population change between 2000 and 2010 (333),
- 77th in population growth rate since 2000 (1.2%),
- 58th in population density at 58 people per square mile,
- 24th in total estimated infrastructure needs (\$432.7 million),
- 6th in total estimated infrastructure needs per capita (\$15,801), and
- 20th in total public school needs per student (\$5,944).

This report is the only source of statewide information on the condition of public school buildings and the cost to put them all in good or better condition. According to local school officials, **91.6%** of local public schools are now in good or excellent condition. However, they estimate the cost to put the remaining 8.4% in good or better condition and keep the others in good or excellent condition at **\$1.7 billion**, which is a **\$287.4 million** increase from the cost reported in the previous inventory.

Officials in Lauderdale County rated 42.9% of their school buildings as less than good overall. This compares unfavorably with the statewide figure of 8.4% of school buildings that are in less than good condition. Local officials estimate the cost to upgrade or maintain existing schools to good or better condition at \$24.1 million for the Lauderdale County school system. The cost to bring all areas of all Tennessee public school buildings up to good condition is \$1,828 per student statewide compared with **\$5,100** per student in **Lauderdale County**.

The full report can be found on TACIR's web site at <http://www.tn.gov/tacir/article/tacir-infra-2014-2019>.

TACIR Mission

TACIR's mission is to serve as a forum for the discussion and resolution of intergovernmental problems, provide high quality research support to state and local government officials in order to improve the overall quality of government in Tennessee, and to improve the effectiveness of the intergovernmental system to better serve the citizens of Tennessee.