

**THE  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION**

PRESENTS ITS

**2009 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

TO THE

**106<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
STATE DELEGATION**

**SENATOR TIM BARNES  
REPRESENTATIVE CURTIS JOHNSON  
REPRESENTATIVE PHILLIP JOHNSON  
REPRESENTATIVE JOE PITTS**

Forwarded by

***Montgomery County Mayor Carolyn Bowers***

And Legislative Liaison Committee members

***Commissioner Mark Banasiak***

***Commissioner Dwain Etterling***

***Commissioner J.M. Genis***

***Commissioner Keith Politi***

***Commissioner Elizabeth Rankin***

DECEMBER 2008

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## I. HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION/INFRASTRUCTURE

**LEGISLATIVE ITEM:** Encourage the Tennessee Department of Transportation to obligate funding for the following projects: partnering with the City and County on engineering funding for SR48/Trenton Road from SR 13/Wilma Rudolph to SR236/Tiny Town Road; utility/construction money for SR112/US41-A from SR76 to McAdoo Creek Road; and construction funding for SR374/Warfield Blvd. from Dunbar Cave Road to Stokes Road/SR13.

**PURPOSE:** Support the Region's and State's economic vitality by enabling competitiveness, productivity and efficiency. Increase the safety and security of the transportation system. Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve air quality and overall quality of life.

For more detailed information, please contact the following individuals:

Commissioner Dwain Etterling  
Stan Williams, Metropolitan Planning Organization

**LEGISLATIVE ITEM:** Support the replacement of the Lynwood Tarpley Memorial Bridge (Bridge Identification Number 63SR0130015) over the Red River during this fiscal year.

**PURPOSE:** With a sufficiency rating of 29.1, the Lynwood Tarpley Memorial Bridge has one of the worst ratings of any bridge in the state. This bridge has been designated for replacement. According to the local TDOT construction project manager, the work to replace the bridge, and its 1969 southbound counterpart, could begin in late spring 2009. Preliminary engineering and right-of-way acquisition has been completed. However, since construction funds have not yet been authorized, a TDOT spokesperson indicated the beginning date may be delayed. This State-owned bridge, completed in 1931, carries northbound traffic on Wilma Rudolph Boulevard. TDOT estimates approximately 18,700 vehicles cross this bridge daily. Since preliminary engineering and right-of-way acquisition has been completed, and this bridge has one of the worst ratings in the state, work to replace the bridge should begin during this fiscal year.

For more detailed information, please contact the following individuals:

Commissioner Mark Banasiak  
Stan Williams, Metropolitan Planning Organization

**LEGISLATIVE ITEM:** Request assistance in funding to replace the bridge on Gholson Road.

**PURPOSE:** This structure, a 4-span concrete deck girder bridge built around 1965, was last inspected in January 2007. At that time, it was rated poor – the bridge was found structurally deficient with a sufficiency rating of 45.2. In the past, TDOT has offered the BZE Program, wherein the State paid 80 percent of construction costs, with individual Counties being responsible for the remaining 20 percent. This program has been eliminated. Counties must now bear the full brunt of any costs associated with bridge repair/reconstruction.

For more detailed information, please contact the following individuals:

Commissioner Mark Banasiak  
Mike Frost, Montgomery County Highway Supervisor

**LEGISLATIVE ITEM:** Support for State Emergency E-911 centers

**PURPOSE:** Support from our legislators in retaining funding from the collection of cell phone charges to be used *only for* 911 centers across the State, allowing all interest and principal from the collection of such funds to be retained in the 911 State board accounts. This request is imperative to continue the upgrades across the State for the Next Generation 911.

For more detailed information, please contact the following individuals:

Commissioner Elizabeth Rankin  
Loretta Bryant, Director of E-911

## II. STATE PARKS/NATURAL AREAS

**LEGISLATIVE ITEM:** Support the release of State funding that was set aside for an interpretive center to benefit Dunbar Cave State Natural Area.

**PURPOSE:** Approximately two years ago, the State of Tennessee allocated \$1.3 million for three state parks, of which \$250,000 was designated for the purpose of building an interpretive center inside the existing Visitor's Center at Dunbar Cave State Natural Area. To date, those funds have not been released. According to park staff, the hiring of an architect and a contractor is at issue. An interpretive center will help the public better understand cave formation and the long, varied history of humans in the cave during modern, as well as ancient, times. In addition,

an interpretive center will give people another reason to visit and explore Dunbar Cave State Natural Area, as well as other sites and attractions in Montgomery County.

For more detailed information, please contact the following individuals:

Commissioner Keith Politi  
Robert Wells, Park Manager, Dunbar Cave State Natural Area  
TDEC Commissioner Jim Fyke  
Mike Carlton, Assistant Commissioner, Parks and Conservation/Operation  
David Boen, Friends of Dunbar Cave

**LEGISLATIVE ITEM:** Support Port Royal State Park by joining a local delegation in meeting with TDEC Commissioner Jim Fyke to discuss the future of the park.

**PURPOSE:** Port Royal has been recognized as a Trail of Tears site by the National Park Service. A portion of the road was placed on the National Historic Register. We are interested in seeking pedestrian access to the north side of the Red River. Access is currently closed to the public due to safety concerns. This access would provide an additional 15+ acres that include the road bed, as well as additional hiking trails. Port Royal played a major role in the founding and settling of Tennessee. Protection and interpretation of this site is of utmost importance.

For more detailed information, please contact the following individual:

Commissioner Elizabeth Rankin

### III. EDUCATION

**LEGISLATIVE ITEM:** Support enhancement and expansion of the Tennessee Technology Center in Clarksville.

**PURPOSE:** Montgomery County Government, along with the Clarksville-Montgomery County Board of Education, strongly supports a major expansion of the Tennessee Technology Center to better serve the community and the school district. Considering Montgomery County's size and growth, it is critical that a major investment in this center be a priority, especially in receiving planning funds for the project on the Tennessee Board of Regents capital budget request. Our schools would benefit from partnerships that could be created by the expansion to allow high school students dual enrollment to benefit from courses at an

expanded Technology Center. The Clarksville-Montgomery County School System is very interested in creating strong partnerships with post-secondary institutions so students can have access to programs of interest.

For more detailed information, please contact the following individuals:

Commissioner J.M. Genis  
Debbie Griffin, Tennessee Technology Center

**LEGISLATIVE ITEM:** Support the formation of a committee to study the feasibility of implementing a voluntary, pilot program that would allow participating school systems to extend the use of transit style buses beyond the current State standard of 15 years or 150,000 miles.

**PURPOSE:** As it currently stands, state law requires that school systems retire school buses at 15 years. Buses can be extended up to an additional two years provided the mileage remains less than 150,000 miles. As a result, the Clarksville Montgomery County School System retires approximately 18 buses every year at a cost to the taxpayers of approximately \$1.35 million. Based on a review of the literature, it appears this standard is based more on subjective opinion, rather than objective data. With a documented history of careful and timely maintenance, we believe the Clarksville Montgomery County School System can operate reliably, and most importantly, safely, beyond the current state mandated bus retirement standard. Given the current climate of fiscal restraint at the Federal, State and local levels, local communities need to have some flexibility in using their resources more efficiently to meet the pressures of these spending restraints and to save taxpayer dollars.

For more detailed information, please contact the following individuals:

Commissioner Keith Politi  
Jim Sumrell, COO, Clarksville-Montgomery County School System

#### IV. VETERANS' CONCERNS

**LEGISLATIVE ITEM:** Support the need for a Veterans' Nursing Home in Clarksville.

**PURPOSE:** Fort Campbell supports the third largest military population in the Department of Defense. Considering the number of soldiers currently serving at Fort Campbell who retire and continue to reside in the

Clarksville-Montgomery County area, having a Veterans' Nursing Home in Montgomery County would be an extraordinary benefit. Veterans living in this area enjoy the convenience of shopping in one of the largest commissaries on a military installation, as well as receiving excellent medical attention on Fort Campbell. A Veterans' Nursing Home would be an enormous advantage to those retired veterans. A Veterans' Nursing Home in Montgomery County would have a huge impact on the overall quality of life for our Veterans and would support our community as an even more desirable choice for retirement living.

For more detailed information, please contact the following individuals:

Commissioner J.M. Genis  
Sydney Brown, chairman, Veterans' Nursing Home Committee

**V. SUPPORT THE TENNESSEE COUNTY SERVICES ASSOCIATION'S 2009 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM (SEE ATTACHED INFORMATION).**

