

Research Needs Statement

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Title:	Opioid Crisis and Transportation Investments in Tennessee
Key Words:	Opioids, epidemic, crisis, drugs, investments, infrastructure
Research Problem Statement:	Tennessee is one of the states most impacted by the opioid epidemic in the US; Tennessee has a high rate of drug overdose deaths and a high opioid prescription rate, with the prescriptions issued by medical providers outnumbering the total population of the state in recent years. As this is a multifaceted crisis facing Tennessee, we must understand the role that transportation and transportation infrastructure can play to help mitigate this epidemic within our state.
Research Objective:	Identify the types of transportation investments (transit, mobility as a service, infrastructure, etc.) Tennessee can make to help make steps to mitigate the opioid epidemic in the state. Identify where these investments are most necessary and impactful.
Related Research/Continuation of Past or Current Project:	N/A
Expected Deliverables:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identification of specific types of transportation investments necessary in Tennessee to help mitigate the opioid epidemic. 2. Identification of specific cities/regions where these investments are most necessary and impactful in terms of mitigating the opioid crisis within Tennessee.
Estimate of Problem Funding & Research Period:	\$125,000; 18 month research period
Urgency and Potential Benefits:	Drug overdose deaths have risen for six years in a row in Tennessee, finding a multifaceted approach to help fight this epidemic is necessary, with transportation playing a key role in the fight.
Implementation Planning:	TDOT, in conjunction with other state agencies, can use the recommendations of this study to make strategic investments as they relate to transportation to help mitigate the crisis in Tennessee.
Person(s) Developing the Problem Statement:	Melanie Murphy - Senior Transportation Planner Melanie.Murphy@tn.gov



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