



STATE OF TENNESSEE
EXECUTIVE ORDER
BY THE GOVERNOR

No. 15

AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE FASTTRACK INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, businesses having to compete in today's fast paced global marketplace are calling on state governments to be responsive to their inquiries and needs in a more timely manner; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to meet the needs of businesses that are looking to expand existing operations or to locate new operations that will result in job growth, Tennessee must be competitive with other states vying for the same investments; and

WHEREAS, in order for Tennessee to be competitive it must revamp its current programs, incentives and processes designed to support businesses to ensure that their needs are met in a more timely manner; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 6 established the Jobs Cabinet for the purpose of assembling the resources of Tennessee state government and higher education in part to provide a more timely and effective response to the needs of businesses in the areas of job growth and job retention.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Phil Bredesen, Governor of the State of Tennessee, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Tennessee Constitution and law, do hereby order and direct that:

1. The FastTrack Initiative is hereby established, under the direction of the Department of Economic and Community Development.
2. The Department of Economic and Community Development shall coordinate with the other members of the Jobs Cabinet and the Department of Revenue to insure that Tennessee remains competitive with other states in attracting and retaining new and existing businesses by continually evaluating current programs, incentives and processes designed to support business and recommending necessary rule revisions or statutory changes.
3. The objective of the FastTrack Initiative is to reduce the response time by Tennessee state agencies to specific inquiries, requests and demands from businesses interested in making an investment in job growth by using the Jobs Cabinet as an inter-agency channel of communications.

4. Agencies of the Jobs Cabinet, in addition to the Department of Revenue, shall each designate a FastTrack representative who will work closely with the Department of Economic and Community Development to ensure that all inquiries, requests and demands of businesses are handled in a timely manner.
5. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall establish a FastTrack Approval Committee within ECD consisting of the Commissioner and the Department's Deputy and Assistant Commissioners to provide initial responses to requests for technical assistance, tax credits and incentives within seventy-two (72) business hours after receiving all information necessary to evaluate such requests.
6. The Department of Economic and Community Development will reorganize its current Industrial Training Service as the FastTrack Job Training Assistance Program with a goal of creating job training programs that can be tailored to meet the needs of prospective industry within five (5) business days of a written commitment of jobs investment.
7. The Department of Economic and Community Development will also reorganize its current Tennessee Industrial Infrastructure Program as the FastTrack Infrastructure Development Program with a goal of providing a more efficient approval process for infrastructure applications from communities that are seeking to support prospective industry jobs investment in Tennessee.
8. All Executive branch departments, agencies, boards and commissions and any other divisions of the Executive Branch of state government shall fully cooperate with the Department of Economic and Community Development in carrying out the mandates of this Executive Order establishing the FastTrack Initiative.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have subscribed my signature and caused the Great Seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed this 15th day of December, 2003.



GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE