



Commission Advances Trenton-Dade Animal Center Planning, Approves Intergovernmental Agreement

Posted on September 8, 2025 by Carey Fauscett-Anderson



TRENTON, Ga. (Sept. 8, 2025) — The Dade County Commission moved planning forward for the Trenton-Dade Animal Center (TDAC) by approving architectural drawings and formalizing an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the City of Trenton.

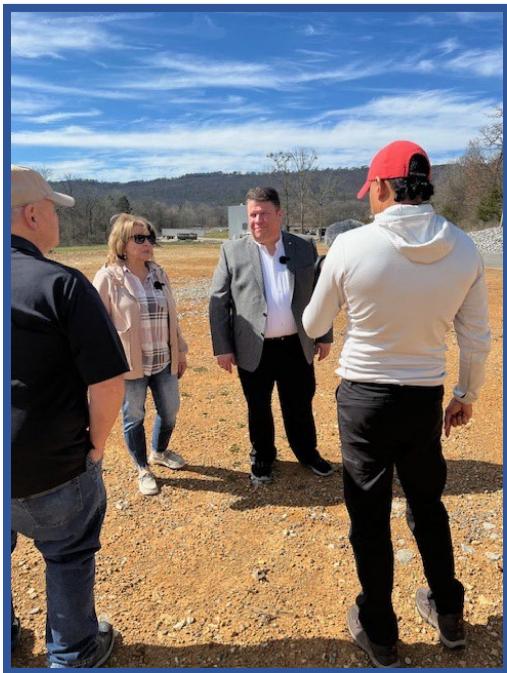
At the TDAC Committee meeting on September 2, the City of Trenton confirmed they had approved the proposed Animal Center drawings. The County Commission unanimously adopted the same plans at their regular meeting on September 4. These approvals pave the way for a Request for Proposal (RFP), public input, and cost estimation—without committing to construction.

Under the IGA, Dade County will provide land and the building's shell on five acres near the Transfer Station, equipped with water, sewer, and power access. The City will fund and manage the interior build-out and handle daily operations. Operating expenses—including animal care, maintenance, and utilities—will be split 50/50, with annual

adjustments based on actual costs. The agreement runs for three years, shortened from ten years following a request by Commissioner Phillip Hartline. County Attorney Robin Rogers clarified that legal responsibility for the center rests with the City—answering Commissioner Dr. Bill Pullen's direct question about accountability.

A seven-member TDAC Advisory Board will provide oversight and strategic policy recommendations. It will consist of three City appointees (one a community member), three County appointees (one a community member), and one member from the Friends of the Trenton-Dade Animal Center (501(c)(3)). The board will meet every six months, next on September 16 at 10 a.m. in the Commission Meeting Room.

Commissioners emphasized that the approvals are procedural—gearing up for planning, not construction. Commissioner Melissa Bradford said she is “ready to move forward.” Commissioner Phillip Hartline stressed that agreeing on the MEP phase doesn’t equate to approving construction until a budget is in place. Mayor Alex Case affirmed this distinction, and Commissioner Bob Woods cautioned that “we can make adjustments along the way.” County Executive Don Townsend highlighted the spirit of cooperation, stating, “*We’re...trying to share the cost the best way we can.*”



The agreement aligns with Georgia’s constitutional provisions and service delivery laws that support efficient, cooperative local government services. For example, the Georgia Constitution allows counties and cities to share facilities and services through IGAs for up to 50 years, and the state’s Service Delivery Strategy law encourages such collaboration for improved efficiency and coordination.

