

## A decade in the making, U.S. Congress strikes deal on transportation funding

Here's how the new bill would impact states and localities

BY DANIEL C. VOCK  
Governing Magazine

Congress passed its first major transportation bill in a decade, after House and Senate negotiators brought out a five-year, \$305 billion package. The so-called FAST Act includes a 15 percent increase in highway spending and an 18 percent boost in transit spending.

The agreement irons out the

differences between bills passed previously by the House and Senate.

"From a state DOT perspective, we're really excited about the prospects of having five years of predictability at the federal level. That's something we haven't had in 10 years, since 2005," said Jim Tymon, the director of policy and management at the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO).

For years, Congress avoided long-term commitments to transportation funding because it could not agree on how to pay for the improvements.

In the current deal, Congress still couldn't agree to a long-term plan for paying for infrastructure. It left federal fuel taxes untouched at 1993 levels (18.4 cents per gallon of gasoline), even though the per-gallon fees don't keep up with inflation and have generated less money as vehicles improve their fuel efficiency. But this time Congress found money to boost funding for several years. The cash comes from selling oil from the Strategic Reserve, raiding reserves held by the Federal Reserves and cutting bank dividends from the Fed.

Many transportation advocates are uneasy because the bill still would rely on one-time money, instead of finding a long-term funding source for transportation.

"We've unhinged the idea of users of the [transportation] system paying for it," said Stephen Davis, the director of communications for Transportation for America, a group that emphasizes "smart" transportation projects and local control. "All of us will be paying for Congress' refusal to have an adult conversation about revenue this time around. It also means, that in five years, we will have a big hole to dig out of."

The new agreement could settle long-simmering policy disputes for the next five years. The proposal avoids big, controversial new initiatives, offering even more certainty. But it came as a let-down for reformers who wanted to see a bigger share of money go to local entities rather than the states, as well as to some safety advocates who wanted more aggressive measures.

"If you like what we're doing with how we invest in transportation, how the decisions are made and where the money goes, you will probably be excited today," Davis **See ROADS on Page 6**



The new federal transportation act that won Congressional approval will send an additional \$300 million to \$400 million to Tennessee over the next five years. However, state officials say it won't relieve the need for new state transportation funding. The new five-year act provides stability with Federal funding but does not help with the state's \$6.1 billion "backlog" of highway and bridge projects in Tennessee plus another \$5.3 billion in needed but unscheduled projects.

## New UT report finds quality roads in Tennessee at risk without new funding source

Tennessee spends less on a per capita basis than almost any other state on its highways and roads yet enjoys roadways that are better than those in most states. But according to a new paper produced by researchers at UT's Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy, roadway quality is now at risk unless new funding is found.

Fuel tax rates are among the lowest in the nation, yet Tennessee boasts a roadway network that has better pavement, better bridges, and less congestion than most comparable state systems. Concerns are mounting that these benefits are at risk due to a funding outlook that continues to deteriorate.

The state's gasoline tax was last raised—from 16 to 20 cents a gallon—more than 25 years ago, in 1989.

Currently, the state's gasoline tax of 21.4 cents a gallon (which includes a special petroleum products tax) ranks 12th lowest in the US, and Tennessee is one of only five states that are free of highway-related debt. Gasoline and diesel tax revenues not only support state roadways but are shared with cities and counties across the state.

According to the report's authors, although Congress provides some stability through the passage of a federal transportation bill that will provide five years of funding, there are concerns over the adequacy of the proposed funding streams from the

federal government that will flow to the states.

Diesel tax revenues will continue to grow in the years ahead, though growth rates will decline as heavy trucks become more fuel efficient. Heavy trucks are the major source of wear and tear on the state's roads and bridges.

The report concludes that the greatest threat to Tennessee's roadway finances is the state's low gasoline tax, which accounts for nearly 50 percent of all Tennessee highway trust fund revenues, the source of state funds for roads.

Additionally, since road funding is dependent on residents buying large amounts of gas, as the fuel efficiency of cars improves there will be even fewer dollars to fund roads. These trends will continue as the state's population grows.

The report suggests that Tennessee has a variety of options to enhance gasoline and diesel tax collections: a hypothetical five-cent increase, indexing the current gasoline tax rate to meet inflation, or a combination of an inflation-indexed rate along with a five-cent increase. The authors argue that the best path for the state to pursue to raise funds is to increase the gas tax and adjust it for inflation and improved fuel economy over time.

The authors claim that unless one of these options is implemented, Tennessee will be challenged to maintain the quality of its roadways.

## Cities celebrate with yuletide events



Tennessee towns and cities are getting in the holiday spirit. Christmas parades, tree lighting ceremonies, and visits with Santa are among the many yuletide events planned in communities across the state.

## "Waters of the U.S." sees Senate action, but rule remains in limbo

BY CAROLYN BERNDT  
National League of Cities

Earlier this month, the Senate fell three votes short of the 60 needed to approve a procedural motion to move to consider the Federal Water Quality Protection Act (S. 1140).

Sponsored by Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) and Joe Donnelly (D-IN), the bill directs the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to issue a revised "Waters of the U.S." proposal that adheres to a set of principles, including what types of waterbodies a "waters of the U.S." should and should not include, as well as a process by which the agencies should use to develop the proposal.

After the motion failed, the Senate passed a resolution (SJ Res 22) under the Congressional Review

Act to nullify the "Waters of the U.S." rule by a vote of 53-44. Under the resolution, the agencies would be barred from revisiting the matter or attempting to revise the rule that became final in August but is on hold under a court-ordered nationwide stay. President Obama has threatened to veto both the legislation and the resolution of disapproval.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit issued the temporary nationwide stay of the rule last month in a decision questioning not only the substantive nature of the rule but also the rulemaking process.

The decision blocks implementation of the rule while the litigation over the rule proceeds.

The nationwide stay follows a preliminary injunction of the rule in the 13 states that a U.S. District Court judge issued in August.

## Herb Byrd selected as new IPS vice president

Herb Byrd III has been selected to serve as the next University of Tennessee vice president for public service and to lead UT's statewide Institute for Public Service. UT President Joe DiPietro made the announcement recently, following an internal search launched in August.

"Herb Byrd is a recognized and respected University leader who brings 30 years of service to UT and a thorough understanding of the University's statewide contributions

and constituencies," DiPietro said. "I have every confidence he is the right person to oversee the Institute for Public Service and advance our outreach mission. I'm grateful for his continued dedication and believe the institute will thrive under his leadership."

Byrd served as interim vice president for public service following the retirement of longtime administrator Mary Jinks in August 2014. **Pre-See BYRD on Page 3**



Herb Byrd

## CMA Foundation donates \$1 million music education grant to Metro Nashville Schools



Country star Darius Rucker and the CMA Foundation celebrated a decade-long commitment to Metro Nashville Public Schools, awarding a \$1 million grant to support initiatives aimed at strengthening teacher talent in music classrooms across the city. The extraordinary public-private partnership received national attention as a centerpiece of the National League of Cities annual conference recently held in Nashville. **See Page 2 for the story.**



### FACT:

A new Vanderbilt University poll finds voters are willing to pay more to improve roads and bridges. The findings: 66 percent were willing to pay 2 cents more per gallon; 54 percent were willing to pay 8 cents more; 46 percent said they were willing to pay 15 cents more.

## NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



### DANDRIDGE

Construction will begin in the spring on a \$29.1 million bridge project in Dandridge aimed at replacing the structure across Douglas Lake. The Tennessee Department of Transportation said construction is set to begin in April and they will keep city officials apprised of the project's progress through regular meetings. The bridge will have one 10-foot lane and one 10-foot shoulder before the old bridge is torn down and then the remaining lane and shoulder will be constructed. The new bridge will be 52-feet wide and have a sidewalk on the west side with a barrier wall between it and the traffic lanes. The new bridge will also extend 26 feet farther west than the present structure. Work is already underway for the first part of the bridge project, which includes a new parking area at the Tennessee Wildlife Resources lake access area. The present TWRA lot is being used as a staging area for heavy equipment, and the new lot is slated to be complete before bridge construction commences April 1.

### DAYTON

The city of Dayton has purchased a nearly 100-acre parcel of property in the hopes of attracting new industry to the area. The property is located on Back Valley Road near the current city industrial park and could be made accessible to Highway 27 in the future. The property was purchased for nearly \$420,000 from the RII Holding Company. City officials decided to purchase the property after state officials said the site is prime for industrial growth. The purchase of the land through the holding company allowed the city to buy the land for around \$3,800 per acre in an area where land typically costs nearly \$12,000 per acre. City officials said the property was originally listed at \$3,800, but as prices on land in the area started to increase, the city found a holding company to take the property for six months to keep the property at its original rate while funds were raised.

### KINGSTON SPRINGS

The city of Kingston Springs is applying for a state grant to make pedestrian-friendly improvements along Luyben Hills Road. The city commission approved a resolution allowing the town to apply for a Tennessee Department of Transportation Multimodal Access Grant, which allows communities to enhance transportation concerns. Improvements proposed include sidewalks, a crosswalk, a bike lane, curbs, gutters, drainage improvements and landscaping. The project would be implemented in three phases. The first phase would span from Kingston Springs Road to the Interstate 40 Bridge, the second phase runs along the interstate bridge, and phase three is from the south end of the bridge to Petro Road. Officials said only phase one is included in the approved application. If approved, the cost for phase one is \$474,684.80. The state's portion would be \$450,950.56, while the town would pay \$23,734.24.

### KNOXVILLE

Lifetime Products, Inc. will be opening a new manufacturing and distribution operation at the Eastbridge Business Park located in the community of Mascot in northeastern Knox County. A leader in blow-molded plastic products, the Utah-based company will invest

\$115 million and create 500 jobs in the greater Knoxville area. The company's products range from plastic folding tables and chairs, basketball hoops and outdoor sheds to kayaks and paddleboards. Lifetime was started in 1986 with 15 employees and now employs more than 2,700 people worldwide. Lifetime's new manufacturing and distribution operations will be located in the former GE building in Knox County. The existing building is 360,000 square feet and the company plans to double the size by adding a new building to the existing structure. The facility will produce Lifetime's water sports line that includes kayaks and paddleboards as well as its outdoor children's playset line. With this new facility, the company will meet its customers' increased demand for Lifetime's products. Lifetime plans to have the facility operational by summer 2017.

### LEBANON

Lebanon will soon be home to a new community center that will include permanent homes for those with special needs. The Empower Me Day Camp has operated at the Wilson County Fairgrounds for 17 years, and recently contracted to use more than 16 acres of land on Carver Lane to expand its popular youth summer day camp as well as build an assistant living residential complex for higher functioning adults. The Lebanon Planning Commission approved plans for \$15 million project, which calls for 12 cottages that can accommodate four individuals and one live-in staffer. The new campus will enable Empower Me to create and enhance recreation, adult and educational programs throughout the year. The group has raised \$500,000 of the \$3 million needed to purchase the property

### NASHVILLE

Approximately \$15 million in funding will help sidewalk and street-paving projects in Nashville. Mayor Megan Barry said her administration identified funding for the new infrastructure projects after researching Metro's outstanding bonds, including about \$30 million in unused authorized bond money from past projects that either never materialized or cost less than was originally expected. Barry reallocated around half that sum to sidewalks and street paving projects, which Barry has said are her top priorities as far as the city's infrastructure. Nashville already has \$20 million earmarked for street paving in its current capital budget and \$25 million already committed to sidewalks. The latter is a sidewalk-spending record for Nashville. More funding comes after Barry last month announced that she plans to update the city's strategic plan for sidewalks and bikeways, which hasn't been revised since 2008.

### PULASKI

The Valley Packaging Corporation will open a new state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Pulaski, investing more than \$30 million and creating 75 jobs over the next five years. The company plans to manufacture corrugated containers at its new 301,000 square foot facility. The food and beverage industry has become a major component of company's business, which has required a food and safety certification. With this new facility, the company will

better meet the current food safety standards. Valley Packaging Corp. is a solely owned subsidiary of Green Bay Packaging, Inc. The company is the leading supplier and manufacturing of corrugated containers and related products.

### SPRING HILL

The Columbia-based Mule Town Trolley is expanding to include four new routes in Mule Town as part of a new service being rolled out by the South Central Tennessee Development District Public Transportation. The expansion of services will include regular routes that extend from the Columbia metro area to Mt. Pleasant and Spring Hill. In addition, two routes inside the downtown Columbia area will be integrated. The Mule Town Trolley is a deviated fixed route service where trolleys are scheduled to arrive at certain destinations along a route at a fixed time of day. As the new routes begin services, riders will not be charged any fares between Nov. 25 and Dec. 31. The new routes run every hour and provide an interconnect at the new interchange of Riverwalk Park in downtown Columbia. A new app for iPhone and Android, TSO SCATS, allows users to track shuttle times, schedules and routes. It is currently available for free download, but the app's functionality with the Mule Town Trolley is coming soon.

## TODAY Show broadcasts from Union City's Discovery Park

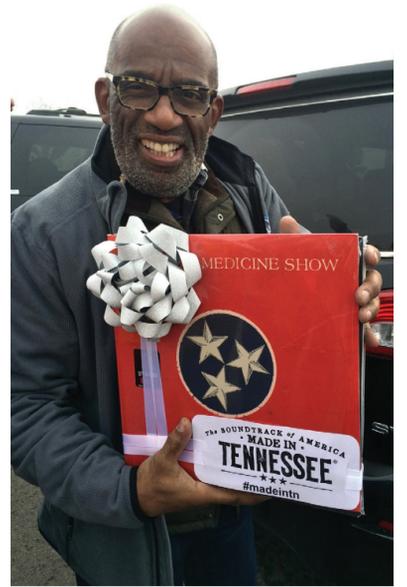
NBC's Al Roker highlighted one of Tennessee's most dynamic attractions during a live TODAY Show broadcast from Discovery Park of America in Union City, during "Rokerthon 2, Taking America By Storm."

Roker is making history by broadcasting weather from 50 states in one week in an attempt for The Guinness World Records. He traveled by planes, trains and automobiles and ended his tour Nov. 13 on Rockefeller Plaza.

During his appearance at Discovery Park, Roker was welcomed by more than 300 friends of The Park who gathered at the 70,000 sq. ft. museum wearing their Tennessee volunteer colors, orange and white. In signature Tennessee style, Roker was offered a musical welcome as the Union City Tornados, a local 130-piece marching band from Union City High School, performed in his honor. Continuing the musical hospitality, the Tennessee Department of

Tourist Development presented Roker with a bundle of vinyl records representing each genre of music born in Tennessee: blues, bluegrass, country, gospel, rockabilly, rock 'n' roll, and soul.

"Each album was recorded in Tennessee, pressed in Tennessee, and purchased in Tennessee," said Tennessee Tourism Commissioner Kevin Triplett. "We wanted to pro-



The TODAY Show's Al Roker poses with his "Soundtrack of America. Made in Tennessee." gift during Rokerthon 2 at Discovery Park of America in Union City, Tenn.

vide a gift truly symbolizing what our state is: the 'Soundtrack of America. Made in Tennessee.'"

Throughout Rokerthon 2, Roker's weather reports aired across additional NBC platforms including NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt, MSNBC, The Weather Channel, NBC's local affiliate newscasts, and other programming.

## Nashville's school program "Music Make Us" aspires to be national model

Country star Darius Rucker and the CMA Foundation celebrated a decade-long commitment to Metro Nashville Public Schools, awarding a \$1 million grant to support initiatives aimed at strengthening teacher talent in music classrooms across the city. The extraordinary public-private partnership received national attention as a centerpiece of the National League of Cities annual conference recently held in Nashville.

In partnership with MNPS and the Nashville Public Education Foundation, the CMA grant goes directly toward providing instruments and music education for more than 85,000 local students.

"Having access to an instrument in an environment that encourages creative expression is such a powerful thing," said Rucker. "A defining moment in my life was when my mother gave me my first guitar - I can honestly say it completely changed my life. In that moment, a newfound passion and creativity were born where skills like writing and poetry took on a new role. So, to know that we, as artists with CMA, are helping kids get the option for that kind of discovery is really incredible."

Since 2006, CMA and the CMA Foundation have understood that, for Nashville to continue being Music City, Metro Schools require and deserve robust music education programs. CMA and the CMA Foundation have invested \$10 million in 10 years in an unprecedented public-private partnership to strengthen and improve music education in Nashville schools.

Past funds were used to stabilize programs by purchasing instruments and equipment, and to create a repair shop for the district. This year's \$1 million gift continues that tradition, while also providing substantial resources for educators based on feedback from our district's music teachers.

"When this program began, it was important to fund the purchase of instruments, which hadn't been purchased in decades," said Joe Galante, vice chairman of the CMA Foundation and a member of the CMA board of directors. "Now that we have instruments in every Metro school, the CMA Foundation has expanded its support to include teacher education, which is critical in developing and maintaining strong, sustainable music programs."

The 2015 grant will go beyond instrument support and will benefit music educators throughout Davidson County. Supported teacher initiatives include:

1. Music Teachers at the Core, which will recognize up to 50 of Metro Nashville Public Schools' most exceptional music teachers with a \$2,000 cash award.
2. Side-by-side coaching and ex-



Nashville School of the Arts' Bluegrass Band performs "Wagon Wheel" in honor of Darius Rucker and the Country Music Association's announcement of a \$1 million gift to support music programs in Metro Nashville Public Schools.

panded professional development opportunities to strengthen and support music education teachers throughout Davidson County.

Studies indicate students who participate in music and the arts are more likely to graduate, have better attendance rates and earn higher GPAs than those not enrolled in arts classes. The CMA Foundation recognizes the benefits of music education in keeping kids engaged and the importance of supporting local music educators.

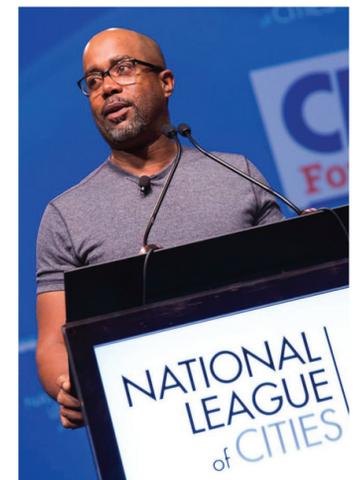
Nashville Mayor Megan Barry, who spoke at the announcement, lauded the partnership as an example of what cities across the country must do to have a real impact in public education.

"I am grateful for the CMA Foundation's deep commitment to our city," Barry said. "It is a shining example of what is possible through strong public-private partnerships, and it is showing the country the value and importance of music education. Nashville is proud to be Music City, and we are incredibly fortunate to have such a strong investment from the music industry."

Funds for the 2015 grant were raised through CMA's annual CMA Music Festival, held in Nashville each June. In 2016, the CMA Foundation has earmarked a record \$2.6 million to in- and after-school music education programs across the country, bringing the Foundation's total contributions to date to \$13.6 million (includes the Metro grants).

The mayor, Vice Mayor David Briley, and other city and school leaders joined music industry executives and CMA Award winner Rucker in announcing the new grant. Students from the Nashville School of the Arts, Hume-Fogg Magnet High School and the W.O. Smith Music School performed as well.

"CMA's 10-year commitment to our students and schools has transformed Nashville's music education programs," said Chris Henson, MNPS interim director of schools.



Darius Rucker

"We are thankful for its continued support and for the role it plays in our schools and in our community. Its gift is an integral part of the Music Makes Us program's success and ultimately the lifelong success of our students."

### About the CMA Foundation

CMA created the nonprofit 501(c)(3) CMA Foundation in 2011. Guided by the generosity of the Country Music community, the CMA Foundation focuses on improving and sustaining music education programs everywhere while supporting worthwhile causes important to the Country Music Association.

### About MNPS and Music Makes Us

A joint effort of Metro Nashville Public Schools, Mayor Megan Barry, and music industry and community leaders, the Music Makes Us initiative aspires to be a national model for high-quality music education. With a focus on music literacy and student participation, Music Makes Us is strengthening traditional school music while adding a contemporary curriculum that embraces new technologies and reflects a diverse student population. Learn more at [www.musicmakesus.org](http://www.musicmakesus.org).

### Tullahoma Fire Department purchases toys for Toys for Tots



The Tullahoma Fire Department B-shift wants to thank the community for all the donations and support to make this another successful year. With the help of community organizations and individuals donations, the fire department helped to provide toys to 240 families and nearly 600 children. Pictured (L to R): Engineer Jeremy Taylor, Engineer Zach Smith, Engineer David Huskey, Engineer Casie Gilliland, Captain Ed Host and Lieutenant Ricky Prince

## Municipalities hold elections

Cities and town across the state have held municipal elections, putting a variety of new and old faces on city councils and boards.

**Ashland City's** incumbent mayor Richard "Rick" Johnson narrowly defeated Gary Norwood, another former mayor who stepped down in 2011.

Incumbent Ashland City Councilman Chris LaCrosse also held on to his Ward 3 seat while Ward 1 Councilwoman Lisa Walker and Ward 2 Councilman Steve Allen ran unopposed.

In **Knoxville**, two incumbents defeated challengers to retain their seats on the city council. Finbarr Saunders, Mark Campen and Marshall Stair all retained their at-large council seats. George Wallace, who ran unopposed for his at-large seat, was also re-elected.

In **Memphis**, four newcomers and one incumbent were selected in the Nov. 19 run-off election. Frank Colvett, Jr., a 46-year-old small business owner, defeated another newcomer, Rachel Knox, as the councilmember from District 2. Current District 2 Council Member William C. Boyd decided not to run for re-election.

Worth Morgan, a 28-year-old insurance executive, is now the youngest member of the council, defeating – for the District 5 seat. Current District 5 Council Member Jim Strickland was elected mayor of Memphis on Oct. 8 and will begin his term on Jan. 1.

Patrice Robinson, a 60-year-old former school board member, was selected as the District 3 and will fill the spot vacated by Council member Harold Collins, who left to run for mayor. Jamita Swearingen, a 51-year-old Shelby County Schools employee, was elected to the District 4 seat, and will replace current Council Member Wanda Halbert, who ran for city court clerk earlier this year.

Incumbent council member

Berlin Boyd, 38, retained his District 7 seat after serving as an interim member of the council since January. He was appointed to the post following the resignation from council of state Sen. Lee Harris, D-Memphis.

In **Milan**, Bill Warren "B.W." Beasley was selected as the new mayor for the city and will begin his term on Jan 1. Current Mayor Chris Crider did not seek re-election. Jack Cunningham narrowly defeated rivals for the city's Ward 1 Alderman seat and was also elected as the City Court Clerk, a position he ran for unopposed.

Howell "Hal" Scott Holmes, Sr., was elected to the Ward 2 Alderman seat and Jeffery P. Lifsey was selected as the city's Ward 3 Alderman. Richard Adkisson ran unopposed for the Ward 4 Alderman seat.

Milan residents also voted to allow retail package stores within the city limits and to allow grocery stores to sell wine.

Voters in the city of **Selmer** also approved referendums to allow package stores and the sale of liquor by the drink.

**Oneida** Mayor Jack E. Lay was elected to an unprecedented sixth term, having served the city since 1995. Oneida voters also selected four candidates for at-large aldermen seats. Incumbent Linda Lay was re-elected while voters also selected newcomers Mark Byrd, town employee Bruce Mays and Jeff Tibbals, who is a former alderman and former Scott County mayor.

Philip W. Cagle was elected as mayor of **Pikeville** during municipal elections. Cagle had been appointed to serve the remaining term of former Mayor Greg Johnson in 2012.

Voters also chose four aldermen for the city board. Incumbents William A. "Bill" Swearingen and Walter Reed Sells retained their seats while newcomers Jane R. Humble and Ronald Dale Wheeler were also elected.

## Herb Byrd new IPS vice president

**BYRD** from Page 1

ously, he was director of Extension Evaluation and Staff Development for UT's statewide Institute of Agriculture.

Byrd has served UT in a variety of roles since joining the University in 1984, including as a Monroe County agent with UT Extension and as McMinn County director for UT Adult Agriculture and Resource Development. He joined UT Extension's state office in 1998, where his responsibilities included recruitment, personnel and civil rights, and service as Extension's affirmative action and EEO officer. He has served on the staff of the UT Leadership Institute since 1999. Byrd has a doctoral degree in educational administration and policy studies from UT Knoxville.

Byrd assumes the new role effective Jan. 1, 2016.

"Serving with such an outstanding group of educators and public servants over the past year has been a great privilege," Byrd said. "Stakeholders and clientele all over the state have expressed to me how important our work is to their effective performance. They are also quick to praise our highly competent

staff and the professional manner in which service is rendered. I am eager to work, from the momentum we've gained in IPS during the past year, for a better Tennessee."

IPS was created by action of the UT Board of Trustees in 1971 upon the recommendation of the late Ed Boling, then president of the University. Upon its creation, IPS also became the umbrella organization for the Municipal Technical Advisory Service, which had helped Tennessee cities since its creation by the state legislature in 1949. Other agencies currently within the organization are the County Technical Assistance Service, the Center for Industrial Services, the Law Enforcement Innovation Center and the Naifeh Center for Effective Leadership.

IPS has a statewide presence and a key role in fulfilling the University's public service mission, providing university expertise to communities and workplaces by consulting with and training city and county governments, law enforcement personnel and industry leaders, as well as state employees and legislators. IPS also helps Tennessee manufacturers cut costs, grow revenue and increase efficiency.

## Athens' Lynn Perkinson uses own diagnoses to advocate for MS research, more funding

BY KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

In her day-to-day life in Athens, Lynn Perkinson wears many hats.

She is a former school teacher, a member of the McMinn County Library Board, an active church member, and the wife of Athens Vice-Mayor Bo Perkinson. She has volunteered at the TML annual conference for several years and was selected as Spouse of the Year in 2010 for her support of her husband, a TML board member and chairman of the NLC Small Cities Council Steering Committee.

One of the role's Perkinson is most passionate about is her serving as the chairwoman for the governmental relations committee of the Mid-South Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. While based in Brentwood, the Mid-South Chapter raises awareness, holds fundraisers, and lobbies for MS sufferers in Tennessee, North Georgia, North Mississippi, and Eastern Arkansas.

Perkinson said she experienced symptoms of MS dating back to her childhood, but she wasn't diagnosed with MS until later on in life. Four years ago, her benign case was upgraded to relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS) where symptoms flare up during periods called "relapses" and are then followed by periods where few or no symptoms are exhibited. While Perkinson had been anticipating the diagnoses, she said it shocked her husband.

"I looked at him and said, 'Don't worry honey, I have the good kind,'" Perkinson said. "The doctor's jaw just dropped because she was shocked I had said that. What I meant was that I had two more stages. When you get to the end stage there is no treatment. I had been dealing with it for so long, and it was getting worse. It was kind of a relief to know that now we have a plan, now we are to a point we can do something significant."

Symptoms including tremors, fatigue, lack of balance, loss of fine motor skills, and lack of focus led Perkinson to leave her job as a school teacher in Athens the Friday before school started in the fall. When her MS flares up, she said a scan of her brain resembles that of a person having a stroke. Every 28 days, Perkinson goes for drug therapy and while the treatment is not ideal, she said there wasn't really any treatment available in the early 1990s.

"No two MS patients are the same," she said. "MS can mean lesions on your brain or up and down your spinal column. It can affect any function of your body."

While most people think of MS as a disease mainly affecting white women in their 20s and 30s, Perkinson said the disease is not so discerning. MS affects many races and both genders. While most women are diagnosed in the early stages, Perkinson said the average male with the disease isn't diagnosed until the last stage when treatment is no longer viable. Recent research has linked a chemical



Lynn Perkinson and husband Bo Perkinson, Athens vice mayor, pictured at a TML Conference. Lynn was named TML Spouse of the Year in 2010.

used by the military in battle to MS. A large number of current and former military personnel have been diagnosed with MS in recent decades.

In these final stages, patients often can't move, have trouble eating or swallowing, can no longer speak, and often have to be put on feeding and breathing tubes. Regardless, they can live in this condition until they are in their eighties, Perkinson said.

"When I went to my first treatment, I saw how many young mothers were there with their children," she said. "Their children had to come sit with them while they underwent treatment. Young men were coming in on canes and gurneys for treatment, and their elderly fathers were having to help them. I just thought 'this is not OK; this is a solvable problem.'"

Her own experiences and seeing others with MS prompted Perkinson to become involved in advocacy for the disease. She soon found there was no reliable way of tracking how many cases of MS have been diagnosed in Tennessee.

"They collected a number in the 1970s, and they have not extrapolated on that," she said. "By this formula, there should be 3.5-4.5 people in McMinn County with MS because our population is a little over 50,000. When I got involved with the support group, I looked at the list and saw there were 35 people with MS in McMinn County. The more I started making contacts, I have found more than 70 people who have MS or have a family member with it. MS is not a disease doctors are required to report. When diseases are accurately reported, it helps get funding for research and treatment."

Because MS is so expensive to treat and patients can live a long time in deteriorated condition, Perkinson said many people are afraid to disclose they or a loved one have the disease for fear of being fired or dropped from their insurance. As a result, people with MS in Tennessee can lose their livelihood and insurance when they need it the most. Perkinson said her main drug treatments run between \$5,400 and \$6,400 a year, which is about average. The rest of the drugs she has to take are the same cost of her entire pension check.

In addition to the cost of the disease, many families have to consider

travel expenses as community hospitals across the state close down. Additionally, there are only three neurologists in East Tennessee who specialize in MS. One will be retiring soon, making it more difficult for patients to find a doctor who understands their complex condition. The next closest places for treatment in East Tennessee are in Nashville and Atlanta, some three hours away.

In addition to working with the Mid-South Chapter of the MS Society, Perkinson has worked with hospitals and medical organizations across the state to raise funds for research and push initiatives. Not only would research help find a cure, but Perkinson said data from the Tennessee Hospital Association indicates the jobs created by this research would be a considerable economic boon. As it stands, Perkinson said those with MS are costing the federal and state government money each year they go untreated.

Perkinson has even taken her fight to Washington, D.C., advocating for the 21st Century Cures Act in Congress. The bill would help expedite research and development on debilitating diseases like MS, Alzheimer's, Crohn's, Parkinson's, lupus and arthritis. After sailing through committee with a 51-0 vote, the bill was passed in the House by a 344-77 vote.

However, it was shelved by the Senate in the fall. The Obama administration expressed some concerns with the bill, but the president said in July he would sign it if passed the Senate. Perkinson is one of many advocates working to keep the bill alive and has met with U.S. Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker.

Locally, Perkinson said anyone can help advocate for friends and loved ones with MS by helping with fundraisers and talking to their state and federal lawmakers.

"Voters do have power," she said. "They have to let their lawmakers know that this is important. They need to become informed and express to legislatures how they feel. The most important thing is that people with neurological diseases speak to their lawmakers and say that better access to long-term care is important. We have to fight for what we need."

# MEMBER FOCUSED



THE  
TML  
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# PEOPLE



Murfreesboro Police Chief **Glenn Chrisman** will begin his retirement from the city on Dec. 31 after serving 40 years in law enforcement. Chrisman has served with the Murfreesboro Police Department for 39 years and spent 12 of those as chief. Before coming to the Murfreesboro Police Department, Chrisman served with the Rutherford County Sheriff's Department. He received an associates and a bachelor's degree from MTSU in 1992, and earned his master's degree in criminal justice administration from MTSU in 2001. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and Leadership Rutherford. He has served as chairman of the Rutherford County Emergency Communications District Board of Directors and as a member of the Chairman of the Tennessee Peace Officers and Standards Commission and Board of Directors for the Rutherford County Child Advocacy Center.



Glen Chrisman

**Fred Colvert** has been hired as the new city planning director for Springfield. With decades of experience in administration, community development and urban planning, he has worked in the private sector during the past 20 years for urban planning and management with companies based in Brentwood and Hollywood Beach, Fla. Before that, Colvert worked from 1983 to 1995 as the head of the Rutherford County Economic and Community Development Department. A graduate of Middle Tennessee State University, he has served as an adjunct professor there for nearly a decade. Colvert replaces Springfield Planning Director Addam McCormick, who resigned his position in August to become Goodlettsville's director of planning and development services.

**Monica Clayton Fawknoson** has been appointed as the new executive director of the Metro Nashville Sports Authority. She was voted to head the authority unanimously by the authority board and has been serving as interim director since the September departure of previous executive director Toby Compton. Fawknoson joined the sports authority as an administrative director in March 2005, and served in that role before accepting the interim director role. She is the first African-American woman to serve as executive director of the Metro Nashville Sports Authority and was one of four finalists interviewed for the position. The sports authority is the Metro government agency tasked with managing Nashville's city-owned sports facilities, which includes Nissan Stadium, Bridgestone Arena and First Tennessee Park. One of its most recent major decisions was floating some \$15 million in bonds for the replacement of seats and other upgrades at Nissan Stadium, home of the NFL's Tennessee Titans.



Monica Clayton Fawknoson

**Greg Hinote**, the former deputy under Nashville Mayor Karl Dean, has joined the Nashville-based lobbying and consulting firm The Ingram Group. In addition to offices in Nashville, The Ingram Group also has an office in Washington, D.C., and has been known in the past as The First Group. Hinote brings extensive experience in both business and politics to the group, beginning his political career at 22 with Nashville Mayor Richard Fulton and later serving two stints as Chief of Staff to Congressman Jim Cooper. A graduate of the business school at Vanderbilt University, Hinote also has an impressive business background, both internationally and domestically.



Greg Hinote

Tennessee State Treasurer **David Lillard** has been appointed to the Governmental Accounting Standards Advisory Council (GASAC) by the Board of Trustees of the Financial Accounting Foundation (FAF). Lillard is representing the National Association of State Treasurers (NAST), which joins the GASAC as a member organization in 2016. Lillard will serve two-year terms beginning Jan. 1, and is eligible to be reappointed for up to two additional consecutive terms. The GASAC is responsible for advising the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) on technical issues, project priorities, and other matters that affect standards setting for accounting and financial reporting by state and local governments. Members of the GASAC represent a cross-section of the GASB's state and local government stakeholders, including users, preparers, and auditors of financial information. GASAC members are selected on the basis of their professional expertise and the depth and variety of experience they bring to their work on the Council.



David Lillard

**Julie Mix McPeak**, Tennessee Department of Commerce & Insurance (TDCI) Commissioner, has been elected secretary-treasurer of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC). An active NAIC participant for nearly 20 years, McPeak has served on the NAIC's Executive Committee since 2013. McPeak, who was formerly Kentucky's lead insurance regulator, was appointed as the Department's Commissioner by Gov. Bill Haslam in 2011. She was reappointed to her post in 2015. McPeak is the first woman to serve as chief insurance regulator in more than one state. As TDCI Commissioner, McPeak is the chief regulator of the insurance and securities industries in Tennessee as well as the Tennessee State Fire Marshal's Office. She has spent most of her career in insurance regulation. McPeak is a 1994 graduate of the Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville where she earned a juris doctor. She earned a bachelor's degree, with distinction, in marketing from the University of Kentucky in 1990.



Julie Mix McPeak

**Anthony L. Pelham** has been selected as the director of the water and sewer department for the city of McMinnville and will begin his duties Jan. 4. Born and raised in Warren County, Pelham is a licensed professional engineer and is a member of several professional organizations. He has served on the city's planning commission since 2012. He holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and a master's degree in civil engineering, both from Tennessee Technological University. He will be leaving the Engineering Consulting Firm of James C. Hailey & Company of Nashville, where he has been employed since April 2004 as a consulting engineer to numerous cities and utility districts, specializing in water and wastewater systems design and operations.

Murfreesboro Transportation Director **Dana Richardson** has announced he will retire effective Jan. 14 after 31 years of service to the city. Richardson has been with the transportation department since 1985, was selected as director in 2010, and has served under four mayors and three city managers. During his tenure with the city, he has helped design and implement major thoroughfare plans, been involved with more than 100 newly constructed projects or improvements totaling more than \$600 million, helped implement the



Dana Richardson

city transportation service Rover, and has served on numerous boards and committees. He is currently a board member of the Metropolitan Planning Organization where he previously served as the Technical Coordinating Committee chairman. He is also a member of the Transportation Engineers and American Public Works Association. Richardson currently serves as a board member to the Regional Transportation Authority. He attended Nashville State Technical Institute and Middle Tennessee State University where he received a degree in Electronic Engineering Technology in 1987.

**State Rep. Leigh Wilburn, R-Somerville**, has announced she is resigning from the Tennessee General Assembly effective Dec. 31. In a letter to House Speaker Beth Harwell, the freshman representative said she is resigning "due to unforeseen circumstances involving my immediate and extended family and my business." Wilburn is an attorney and succeeded state Rep. Barrett Rich after he retired in 2014. The Fayette County Commission will appoint a temporary successor as Wilburn's resignation has fallen within a year of the next election. Somerville has only served one year of her term.



State Rep. Leigh Wilburn

**Joseph Woodson** has been appointed by Nashville Mayor Megan Barry to serve as the Metro Council liaison for the mayor's office. Woodson has previously served as the director of legislation for the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury. In that position, Woodson assisted the comptroller and chief of staff in developing the office's legislative package and leading the Comptroller's Legislative Team in informing the Tennessee General Assembly on any policy issues related to the Office. Woodson has worked with the comptroller's office since 2007. He has a bachelor's degree in history with a minor in political science from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and an associate's degree from Pellissippi State Community College.



Joseph Woodson

## TML announces staff changes

The Tennessee Municipal League will be wishing a fond farewell to a familiar face and welcoming a new one this month.

TML Administrative Assistant **Mona Lawrence** will be retiring this December after 14-and-a-half years of service.

Before coming to work for TML, Lawrence was semi-retired from her employment as a district sales manager in the collectible cards department for the Knoxville-based Anderson News Company, now the Anderson Media Corporation.

During her retirement, Lawrence said she and her husband plan to travel to Louisiana, Florida and out west after spending time with their family and grandchildren.

Lawrence said she is looking forward to retirement but will miss the many friends she has made during her years of service to TML.

"I have loved every minute of working here," Lawrence said. "TML has the most wonderful people in the world, and the best I've ever worked with. I love all the board members through the years. It has been a wonderful, wonderful experience."

TML's new administrative assistant, **Jackie Gupton**, began work on Dec. 1 after 11 years in the Tennessee State Comptroller's Office. During her tenure with the comptroller's office, Gupton served as an assistant to Comptroller John Morgan, worked as an assistant to



Mona Lawrence



Jackie Gupton

Tennessee General Counsel **Bobby Lee** and then worked in management services in the fiscal section of the comptroller's office.

Before working in the comptroller's office, Gupton was employed with the Sunday School Publishing Board in Nashville. A native of Springfield, Gupton still lives there and has two children, ages 27 and 24.

"I'm very excited and eager to learn about this area of government," Gupton said.

## Seivers Clinton parade grand marshal



Charles "Bones" Seivers, CEO and president of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund, recently served as the grand marshal of Clinton's Christmas Parade held Dec. 5. Seivers is a former mayor and city manager of Clinton. He first entered public office in 1962, when he ran for an open alderman seat. He continued to serve the citizens as an elected official for 13 years.

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## STATE BRIEFS



The State Funding Board has issued its official revenue projections for the current and next budget years that fall below the estimates presented by experts earlier this month. The panel predicted that this year's surplus will be up to \$353 million, while next year's revenues could grow by up to \$348 million. The experts had estimated a range of \$340 million to \$422 million for the surplus; and next year's growth was pegged at \$376 million to \$525 million. Members of the funding board said they wanted to be conservative in the estimates and to treat a combined \$350 million in corporate taxes as one-time revenue.

The state of Tennessee has earned top marks for efforts to teach financial literacy to high school

students. The Center for Financial Literacy at Champlain College graded all 50 states on their efforts and awarded Tennessee with an A. Tennessee was one of only five states nationwide to attain this grade along with Alabama, Missouri, Utah and Virginia. The study reviewed each state's graduation requirements, educational standards and assessment policies. To earn an A, states must have a personal finance course that lasts about one semester as a graduation requirement. Tennessee students are required to take a half-year standalone personal finance course, which covers many financial concepts, including taxes, credit, savings, insurance and student loan debt. Students also draft long-term and short-term financial goals in the course.

### Deadlines approaching

## Grant funding opportunities available for your community

#### TDOT Multimodal Access Grant

In 2013, TDOT set aside state funds in the 2013-2015 Three-Year Work Program to create a Multimodal Access Grant. This will support the transportation needs of transit users, pedestrians, and bicyclists through infrastructure projects that address existing gaps along state routes and access at transit hubs. Total project costs for a Multimodal Access project may not exceed \$1 million dollars. Projects larger than \$1 million dollars should be separated into phases. Applicants may apply for additional grant funding for future phases. Successful applicants may receive up to 95 percent in State grant funds. Applicants are responsible for a minimum 5 percent local match.

- Applications must be received by **Jan. 15, 2016**, at 4 PM (Central).

For the grant application and additional grant details, visit TDOT's website, <https://tn.gov/tdot/topic/multimodal-multimodal-access-grant>.

#### TDOT Community Transportation Planning Grant

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) Long Range Planning Division is accepting applications for the Community Transportation Planning Grant (CTPG) funding for the 2015-2016 grant cycle. The CTPG program provides resources that assist Tennessee communities develop transportation and land use plans for preparation of future transportation, land use, and growth management issues.

The CTPG program will provide transportation planning services to non-MPO municipalities that are awarded through the grant application process. The transportation planning services will be conducted by consultants and TDOT staff. Consultant firms are selected by the awarded municipality from a provided list.

The maximum cost of planning services shall not exceed \$250,000. A minimum 10 percent local match is required. All awarded grants have a preferred completion period of 12 months from time of the Grant Agreement.

- Applications must be received by **Jan. 29, 2016**, at 4 PM (Central).

For the grant application and additional grant details, visit TDOT's website, <https://www.tn.gov/tdot/article/longrange-planning-grant>

#### Federal Preservation Grants

The Tennessee Historical Commission is accepting grant applications for historic preservation projects beginning Nov. 1, 2015. The exact amount of available funds is not known but it is expected to be in the range of \$250,000. The selection process will emphasize projects such as architectural and archaeological surveys, design guidelines for historic districts, and restoration of historic buildings that are listed in the National Register and have a public use. Priorities for grants will be based on the state's preservation plan.

Federal preservation grants will reimburse up to 60 percent of the costs of approved project work. The remaining 40 percent must be provided by the grantee as matching funds.

- Applications must be received by **Jan. 29, 2016**.

For the grant application and additional grant details visit the Tennessee Historic Commission's website, <https://www.tn.gov/environment/article/the-federal-preservation-grants>

#### Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup Grants

These brownfields grants may be used to address sites contaminated by petroleum and hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants (including hazardous substances co-mingled with petroleum). Opportunities for funding are as follows: Brownfields Assessment Grants (each funded up to \$200,000 over three years; Assessment Coalitions are funded up to \$600,000 over three years), Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund Grants (each funded up to \$1,000,000 over five years), and Brownfields Cleanup Grants (each funded up to \$200,000 over three years).

- Applications must be received by **Dec. 18, 2015**.

For the grant applications and additional grant details visit EPA's website, <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/apply-brownfields-grant-funding>



The site of the former North Elementary School has recently been creatively redeveloped as the Tennessee Street Park, located at 200 Tennessee Street. The park is equipped with a walking track, two playgrounds, splash pads, pavilions, gazebos, and a butterfly garden.

## Savannah mixes its fascinating history with modern innovation

BY TOM DOHERTY  
TDEC Office of Sustainable Practices

Spend a day in Savannah, Tenn., learning about Civil War history, eating catfish in the Catfish Capital of the World, and walking along part of the historic Trail of Tears. Originally named Rudd's Ferry after James Rudd who settled there nearly 200 years ago, Savannah took on its current name after Rudd's wife's hometown of Savannah, Ga.

Visitors to Savannah are greeted with scenic views of the meandering Tennessee River, limestone bluffs, and dozens of historic landmarks. On the eastern bank of the Tennessee River, remnants of James Rudd's ferry landing, dating to the 1820s, can still be seen. Rudd's ferry crossing benefited from an increasing number of settlers moving west, and thousands of people were carried across the river during its more than 40 years of operation.

In addition to settlers exploring western opportunity, the Indian Removal Act of the mid-1830s forced thousands of Cherokee Indians to move west. Of the nearly 16,000 Cherokee Indians who were forced westward, several parties opted for the Tennessee River water route, instead of traveling across dry land. Some 2,500 Cherokee floated down the river by steamboat and barge in the summer of 1838, floating directly through Savannah.

Savannah's involvement in this westward movement is well preserved. Visitors can see the numerous Trail of Tears Water Routes signs lining the Tennessee River. For the more adventurous travelers with watercraft, there is a well-placed water access point at Wayne Jerrolds Park located a quarter of a mile downriver from the Rudd's Ferry site. Here, boaters and paddlers can explore the exact same route as the Cherokee, and have an opportunity to see Savannah's high bluffs and scenic riverfront.

These same bluffs provided Union General Ulysses S. Grant with an ideal lookout point during the Civil War. High on the east bank of the Tennessee River, Cherry Mansion – named after William Cherry, son-in-law of one of Hardin County's earliest settlers – served as Grant's post from March through April of 1862, during the Battle of Shiloh. Cherry Mansion, now privately owned, is on the National Register of Historic

Places and is open to visitors by appointment.

Savannah's dry land also has a lot to offer. Wayne Jerrolds Park, named after a Savannah native and early member of the bluegrass group, Mr. Bill Monroe and His Bluegrass Boys, was founded through assistance from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's (TDEC) Local Parks and Recreation Fund grants. For the past the 37 years, hundreds of attendees and musicians travel to Savannah each July for the famous Savannah Bluegrass Festival at Wayne Jerrolds Park.

A few blocks away from the park is the Tennessee River Museum. Upon entering the historic 1939 post office turned museum, visitors step back in time nearly 350 million years.



Visitors can see the numerous Trail of Tears water Route signs lining the Tennessee River.



Visitors step back in time nearly 350 million years at Cherry Mansion, which is chock-full of Hardin County geologic and fossil history.

The museum is chock-full of Hardin County geologic and fossil history and claims the distinction of possessing the first insect to be found preserved in amber in North America. Downtown Savannah also offers a look into some of Savannah's early industry, which included musseling and button making.

While remaining connected to its roots, Savannah has also implemented innovative modern design in recent construction. The site of the former North Elementary School has recently been creatively redeveloped as the Tennessee Street Park, located at 200 Tennessee Street. The park is equipped with a walking track, two playgrounds, splash pads, pavilions, gazebos, and a butterfly garden. The park also includes unique solar trash

compactors and solar arrays on pavilions to power LED lighting fixtures. Other sustainable projects include Clean Tennessee Energy Grant-funded projects to update the City Hall and the Hardin County fairgrounds site. The projects include upgraded insulation, drop ceilings, new highly efficient HVAC units, and other various thermal upgrades partially funded through TDEC's Clean Tennessee Energy Grant.

Visitors can also eat local in Savannah, which is the Catfish Capital of the World. Whether you're interested in having a delicious fried catfish meal, learning about Civil War History, studying Tennessee geology, or taking a walk in a park, Savannah offers something for everyone.

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### CITY ATTORNEY

MASON. The town of Mason is seeking individuals interested in the position of city attorney. Applicants must have municipal experience. Please send resume to: Town of Mason, Attn: Gwendolyn Kilpatrick, Mayor, 12157 Main Street, Mason, Tennessee 38049

### FIRE CHIEF

HARRIMAN. The city of Harriman is currently accepting applications for fire chief. The fire department operates two stations staffed full-time, and also provides Emergency Medical Response. The department employs 14 full-time staff members who work 24/48 shifts. The department operates with an annual operating budget of approximately \$700,000. The fire chief reports to the city manager and is responsible for providing direction and leadership for the department. The successful candidate will have experience with budgeting, policy development and implementation, human resources, and be able to build relationships with other departments of the city and other nearby fire departments. The ideal candidate should be fair, reasonable, and approachable with a team approach to decision making. They should also have in-depth knowledge and experience in the management of fire departments with operational experience at various ranks. It is also important for the candidate to possess good communication and presentation skills. A minimum of 10 years of progressively responsible experience in firefighting services, five years of which at a level of captain or higher, and an associate's degree in fire sciences or a related field. The candidate should also possess a combination of the following: Fire Instructor 1, Fire Instructor 2, Fire Officer 1, Fire Officer 2, Fire Officer 3, Fire Inspector 1, Emergen-

cy Medical Responder, Fire Chief Orientation Series, and/or a B.A or B.S. For those certifications not currently held, the successful candidate must have the ability to obtain these within a reasonable timeframe. The salary for this position is dependent upon experience and qualifications. Starting salary range is \$45,000 to \$49,000. Benefits include health, vision, and life insurance. Retirement is provided through the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System. Pre-employment, post offer drug screen and physical examination required. Certain residency requirements apply due to the need for this person to respond quickly in emergency situations. The city of Harriman is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer. Applicants should submit a resume with cover letter and salary history to: Kevin L. Helms, City Manager, P.O. Box 433, Harriman, TN, 37748. Applications must be received by close of business on Jan. 8, 2016.

### POLICE CHIEF

LEBANON. The city of Lebanon is currently accepting applications for chief of police. This position is responsible for the overall strategic planning, direction, leadership and activities of the department. Minimum qualifications include graduation from an accredited institution with a bachelor's degree in criminology, criminal science, law enforcement, political science, criminal justice, public administration or related field; plus, 15 years law enforcement experience with 10 years recent managerial experience which shall include 5 years' experience at a rank level of captain or above. Must be currently Tennessee P.O.S.T. Certified or, if certified in another state, complete Tennessee P.O.S.T. transition academy within 6 months of hire date. Valid Tennessee Driver's License required with clean driving record. Successful report from physical examination including drug screening. Candidates interested in this position should present a completed employment application along with a detailed resume with cover letter and salary history to the Human Resources Director at Sylvia.Reichle@lebanontn.org. Applications may also be downloaded here <http://www.lebanontn.org/images/global/departments/personnel/application.pdf> and returned to Human Resources at City Hall, 200 North Castle Heights Avenue, Lebanon, TN, 37087 or by FAX 615-443-2844. The city of Lebanon does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, handicap, or veteran status in provision of employment opportunities and benefits

### PUBLIC WORKS CREW LEADER

PIPERTON. This position requires considerable independent judgment in supervising work crews in the maintenance, construction and repair of streets, water and sewer distribution/collection systems, buildings, rights-of-way, and other public works facilities. Work is performed under the general supervision of the public works director and is reviewed through results achieved. Minimum qualifications include: graduation from an accredited high school or

equivalent GED supplemented by minimum five years of experience in water and sewer system operations. A combination of training and experience may qualify an applicant for consideration. Valid Tennessee driver's license, with an acceptable driving record. Water distribution and/or wastewater collection certification possession or obtain. Considerable knowledge of the principles and practices of street maintenance and repair; considerable knowledge of water systems, including placement of service and distribution lines; considerable knowledge of sewage collection systems, including placement of lines; considerable knowledge of and the ability to make re-pairs to water/sewer systems under both emergency/non-emergency conditions. Knowledge of the occupational hazards associated with the work, safety precautions, and the ability to communicate such knowledge to those under his supervision. Ability to supervise work crews and assist in the installation, maintenance and repair of municipal water lines, water meters, hydrants, sewer lines, grounds and building maintenance, and street repairs; ability to plan, schedule and coordinate the activities of employees; ability to establish and maintain professional working relationships with the general public, fellow employees, and outside professional associates; ability to understand and carry out oral and written instructions; ability to communicate effectively; ability to perform manual labor; ability and skill in operating a wide range of construction and maintenance equipment. The city of Pierson is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a Drug-Free Workplace. Certain positions require pre-employment drug testing. Please e-mail resume to TPARKER@PIPERTONTN.COM

### SUBDIVISION ENGINEER

BARTLETT. The city of Bartlett is currently accepting applications for subdivision engineer. This employee will perform responsible technical engineering work involving original designs, as well as determining the conformance of designs prepared by other licensed PE's to pertinent standards and regulations. Employee will coordinate outside engineering design contracts for all types of municipal projects, including contact with private engineers, developers and the public; aid the city engineer in design and project management of municipal CIP projects. Requires a bachelor's degree in civil or structural engineering from an accredited college or university and five years of experience in the field of civil engineering with project management design essential. Requires a PE license in the state of Tennessee, and if not licensed in the state, the ability to acquire one within one year of employment is a requirement for continued employment; erosion control certification Level 1 and 2 is preferred, but not required. Must pass a background and driver's license check and a physical exam, including a drug screen. Salary is \$60,544 annually \$29.11 hourly. This is a full-time position with excellent benefits such as health and life insurance, pension and social security. Apply by Dec. 17, 2015. Apply to the Personnel Department, Bartlett City Hall, 6400 Stage Road, Bartlett, TN 38134, or on-line at [www.cityofbartlett.org](http://www.cityofbartlett.org) EOE

## U.S. Congress strikes deal on transportation funding

### ROADS from Page 1

said, "because we've essentially doubled down on the status quo."

Here's how the proposal would handle several key issues.

### Loans for complex projects

The proposal scales back a popular federal lending program, created under Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA). Initial estimates are that the \$1 billion program could be reduced to \$250 million. TIFIA loans are common in large projects, especially those involving public-private partnerships. They've gone toward transit expansions, construction of toll lanes on highways, airport parking facilities, bridge replacements and the construction of the Chicago Riverwalk.

"It's probably right to say that a \$1 billion-a-year TIFIA program was a little ambitious," said AASHTO's Tymon. "But we're a little concerned that a \$250 million to \$300 million TIFIA program may not be big enough."

The proposal would make other changes within the program as well. Significantly, it would allow smaller projects — with a minimum cost of \$10 million, rather than the current minimum of \$50 million — to qualify for the loans. The agreement would also let public transportation-oriented-development projects, which have become a popular economic development tool, qualify for the financing as well.

### State vs. Local control of funding

Localities have long bristled at the fact that federal transportation funds are distributed largely through the states, especially because states and cities are often at odds politically and philosophically over how best to use that money. The current proposal, though, would channel 93 percent of federal highway funding through states. But the proposal also increases the share of money from the Surface Transportation Program (the biggest pot of money in the transportation bill) that is dedicated to specific metropolitan regions from 50 percent to 55 percent. Metropolitan areas with more than 200,000

residents can help steer that money toward projects they choose, but in smaller areas, the state decides how the money is spent in those communities.

### Transit

Along with the overall increase in transit funding, the proposal would make it easier for agencies buying buses or building bus facilities to apply for one-time grants. Currently, the money is distributed more evenly through formulas, but agencies tend to need money in spurts — when they want to upgrade their fleets or build a new depot, Tymon said.

### Positive train control

The proposal allocates \$199 million for competitive grants to commuter railroads to help them install positive train control systems, which are designed to prevent derailments and train-to-train collisions. Congress recently extended the deadline for railroads to install PTC from the end of 2015 to the end of 2018, after both freight and passenger railroads said they would not be able to meet the earlier deadline.

### Other Ssafety measures

The proposal would allow states that use programs to crack down on repeat drunk drivers to qualify for federal money previously set aside only for states that require all drunk driver offenders to install breath-testing devices in their vehicles. The measure allows military veterans younger than 21 to drive trucks and buses across state lines. It would also prevent states from using federal money to set up checkpoints to ensure motorcyclists were wearing helmets.

### Tolling existing interstates

Federal law generally prohibits states from adding tolls to existing interstates. The proposal would extend a pilot program that lets as many as three states toll existing interstates, even though the three states with permission — Missouri, North Carolina and Virginia — have no plans to do so. The agreement, though, would add a three-year deadline for states to use their authority to toll interstates, or else that permission could be given to another state instead.

## Join MTAS' Certified Municipal Finance Officer Program in 2016

The Certified Municipal Finance Officer (CMFO) Program will start new classes in January 2016. Classes will be taught in Knoxville, Nashville, and Jackson. This program has graduated over 450 people across the state. During the life of the CMFO program MTAS has received numerous accolades about the quality of the program.

Peter Colin, a CMFO graduate and City Manager of Munford says "I thoroughly enjoyed the CMFO program. It focuses on the legal and financial "rules of the road" for Tennessee local government. The program provides an important foundation for municipal finance directors and administrators. The content is well structured and very "real world". The instructors brought their extensive experience in finance, audit and regulatory matters and kept the sessions lively and engaging."

Annie Hand is financial director/city recorder for the town of Bruceton and has this to say about the program. "As a recent graduate and a novice financial manager, I found the MTAS CMFO program an outstanding experience. The CMFO trainers, Sharee Brewer and

Kay Stegall as well as others, were able to impart a wealth of knowledge and information that I could directly apply to my everyday work with the financial management of the small city of Bruceton, Tennessee."

The program consists of topics as specified by the state Comptroller's office and MTAS delivers the topics in eleven classes. They are:

1. The Government Environment
2. Municipal Budgeting
3. Internal Controls and Auditing
4. Government Accounting I
5. Government Accounting II
6. Financial Reporting I
7. Financial Reporting II
8. Cash Management
9. Debt Management
10. Payroll Personnel and Pensions
11. Purchasing Risk Management and Enterprise Resource Planning.

For more information on this great program, contact Michelle Buckner at [michelle.buckner@tennessee.edu](mailto:michelle.buckner@tennessee.edu), P.J. Snodgrass at [pj@utk.edu](mailto:pj@utk.edu) or your MTAS finance consultant. There is also a wealth of information on the MTAS website at <http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/web2012.nsf/Web/Certified+Municipal+Finance+Officer>

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**NATIONAL BRIEFS**

**Robust online sales late in the day helped push Cyber Monday revenues to more than \$3 billion for the first time**, setting a record for a single day of online sales that also topped expectations. According to the Adobe's Digital Index, total online sales on Cyber Monday rose 16 percent from last year, to \$3.07 billion. The software company had predicted the sales event, which is traditionally the largest online selling day of the year, would rise just 12 percent, to right around \$3 billion. Sales for the five-day period starting on Thanksgiving totaled \$11.11 billion, 2.4 percent more than the expected \$10.85 billion and 17 percent more than last year. Mobile sales also reached a sales volume record, with \$799 million of online spending coming from a smartphone or tablet. The results serve as further evidence that shoppers are increasingly favoring their digital devices over physical stores, even as the majority of purchases continue to take place in bricks-and-mortar locations.

After decades of relentless rise, the **number of new cases of diabetes in the United States has finally started to decline**. The rate of new cases

fell by about a fifth from 2008 to 2014, according to researchers at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the first sustained decline since the disease started to explode in this country about 25 years ago. The drop has been gradual and for a number of years was not big enough to be statistically meaningful. But new data for 2014 serves as a robust confirmation that the decline is real, officials said. There were 1.4 million new cases of diabetes in 2014, down from 1.7 million in 2008. Experts say they do not know whether efforts to prevent diabetes have finally started to work, or if the disease has simply peaked in the population. But they say the shift tracks with the nascent progress that has been reported recently in the health of Americans.

**Volkswagen's emissions scandal crushed the brand's U.S. sales in November**, despite heavy discounts and a strong month for the overall auto industry. Sales plunged 25 percent to 23,882 units for the Volkswagen brand, compared to the same period a year earlier. "It looks like this was the month that it finally caught up to them on the sales side," AutoTrader.com analyst

Michelle Krebs said. The hardest-hit vehicles are the small cars involved in the scandal. For example, sales of the Passat sedan plunged 60 percent, while sales of the Beetle car fell 39 percent for the month. The company has admitted to fitting up to 11 million diesel cars worldwide with software that cheats emissions standards.

**U.S. new-car sales in November continued to run at a blistering pace**, putting the auto industry on track to challenge the 17.35 million sales peak reached in 2000. A spate of Black Friday deals coupled with cheap gasoline and low financing costs helped auto makers overall deliver a 1.4 percent increase over the same month last year, offsetting what historically is a sluggish sales month. The tally brings the industry this year to 15.82 million vehicles through November. The results continued an annual sales pace that is tracking to be among the best in U.S. history, and raised industry optimism for a new annual record, barring a string of bad weather or other unexpected woes. Ford Motor Co. said it would spend \$1.3 billion, about a fifth of its typical annual capital-expenditure budget, to upgrade a pickup truck plant in Kentucky. "Right now, I don't see any signs of [demand] letting up," said Ernie Boch Jr., chief executive of Boch Automotive, a Norwood, Mass., dealership.



**TENNESSEE FESTIVALS**

**Now - Jan. 2, 2016. Bristol**

*Bristol Speedway in Lights* at Bristol Motor Speedway. Four miles and two million lights captivate visitors. New this year is the BMS Express, a version of the Polar Express complete with hot chocolate and cookies that presents. Visitors can also take an open air tram ride on Santa's Speedway Sleigh that makes a 30-minute stop in Christmas Village and includes blankets for cozying up and marshmallows for roasting.

**Dec. 19: Jonesborough**

*Christmas Church Tour*. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., churches in the historic district invite visitors to see decorated sanctuaries with sights and sounds of the season. Guides are available with an inside look at the history. Churches will also offer music and refreshments. Contact 423-913-8212, [historicjonesborough.com](http://historicjonesborough.com).

**Dec. 19: Bell Buckle**

*Old Fashioned Christmas* from 10 am - 4 pm. Enjoy the lights and shopping plus sleigh rides with Santa. Contact Bell Buckle Chamber for more information, [bellbuckle-chamber.com](http://bellbuckle-chamber.com)

**Dec. 31: Greeneville**

*Midnight On Main*. The New Year's Eve party will bring the community together for live music, dancing on Main Street, food, drinks, and fireworks. Three main music venues - General Morgan Inn, Catalyst Coffee Company, and the Capitol Theatre. Main Street will bustle with activity as family friendly entertainment is presented. Beginning at 7 p.m., the crowd can dance to upbeat hits and watch a giant screen featuring video feed from various locations. For more information on Midnight on Main, please visit [www.facebook.com/TownofGreeneville](http://www.facebook.com/TownofGreeneville).

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The town of Livingston closed a loan through the TMBF loan program in the amount of \$1.1 million for a capital outlay note to finance parks and recreational facilities.



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## Smooth as Tennessee whiskey and sweet as strawberry wine

# Tennessee communities reap the economic benefits with alcohol-based industries

BY KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

From sweet wines to smooth whiskeys to the emerging legal moonshine industry, municipalities across Tennessee are getting into the spirit as alcohol-based industries like wineries, microbreweries and distilleries bring in new jobs, small businesses and tourist dollars.

Whiskey, bourbon and legal moonshine have become big earners for communities across the state. Historic distilleries like Jack Daniels and George Dickel's have been in operation since the 1800s, and helped make Lynchburg and Tullahoma household names.

A new law in 2009 allowed 41 counties to permit distillery operations. To date, Tennessee is home to 25 distilleries, one under construction in Clarksville and four distilling companies without brick-and-mortar buildings of their own.

Tammy Algood, a marketing specialist with the Tennessee Department of Tourism, said many of these distilleries are using locally-grown Tennessee products ranging from corn to apples, peaches and berries to flavor their alcohol.

A Whiskey Trail promoted by Tennessee Whiskey takes visitors to the state's distilleries, and more stops will be added in the future as other distilleries are planned. Those taking a tour of the state's distilleries will find themselves in places like Fayetteville, Hartford, Jonesborough, Kelso, Kodak, Lewisburg, Lynnville, Newport Piney Flats, Pigeon Forge, Sevierville, Trimble, and Woodbury, in addition to the state's larger cities.

As distilleries take a long time to establish, the industry is still somewhat in its infancy in the state. However, the whiskey industry is in for a meteoric rise if it manages to duplicate the success of another made in Tennessee product: wine.

### THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

Of the 62 licensed wineries and farm wineries in the state, the Tennessee Farm Winegrowers Alliance has a membership including 48 wineries across the state and promotes five wine trails for tourists in various regions. Created in 1982, the TFWA partners with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture to promote both wineries and vineyards that produce grapes instead of wine.

The move to allow wine sales in grocery stores beginning in July 2016 will also be a boon to wineries located around the state. The first referendums allowing municipalities to choose if they wanted wine to be sold in their grocery stores were placed on the ballot in July 2014, and since then, nearly 100 municipalities across the state have voted for the measure.

Algood said the wine industry has helped diversify economies – particularly for smaller communities – and has helped keep agricultural land growing products. Tennessee's climate and soil make it ideal for growing grapes and producing wine, she said.

"What vineyards and wineries have provided to our state is a great opportunity for rural revitalization," she said. "These are long-term investments because they are inherently-tied to a place. Unlike a manufacturing or even a service enterprise, vineyards once they are planted cannot get up and move to another area that offers cheaper labor, a better business climate or event tax incentives. Once they are in place, they are in place."

The Department of Agriculture reports that grapes are the most widely-produced fruit in Tennessee behind apples, and Algood said the wine industry has also led to the production of other grape-related products in the state, such



An employee at the Keg Springs Winery in Hampshire oversees the bottling of the winery's product. While Hampshire only has around 1,400 residents, the small community off the Natchez Trace is home to three wineries, which have brought in a considerable amount of revenue to the surrounding area.

as grape leaves and grape oil. Grapes are not the only agricultural products that go into the wine industry. Algood said the wine industry is a large purchaser of strawberries, blackberries, blueberries, apples and peaches grown in the state, and often purchase the fruits that don't sell as easily in grocery stores.

Wineries allow visitors to see the product being made from the grapes growing in the field to the bottling of the final product. Algood said only five wineries in the state do not have vineyards attached to them, but even those wineries purchase grapes grown in Tennessee.

Wineries also appeal to a wide variety of demographics. Younger visitors, like Millennials and Generation X, often come for family picnics, to hear music or attend weddings at wineries, while Baby Boomers are there for day events such as wine tastings, tours and shopping excursions.

Wineries are mainly family-run businesses, but they still manage to rake in big bucks. Algood said the wine industry in Tennessee has a \$881 million economic impact on the state, which has proven great for more rural communities.

"Of that \$881 million economic impact, \$299 million is tourism-related expenditures," she said. "The wine industry is directly boosting rural economies from a tourism standpoint. We registered more than 20 million winery visits in one year, so you have a lot of people getting out into areas they perhaps would normally not visit. They are going there to see and experience the wines."

The wine industry is also hopeful that the sale of locally-produced wine in grocery stores will prompt customers to see where and how the product is made.

### ON TAP

Another alcohol-based business growing by leaps and bounds are craft and micro-brewed beers, which are often sold in the state by restaurants. A study released in 2014 by the Brewers Association, a national organization promoting independent brewing, found beer sales from independent, locally-owned companies are outpacing the sales of larger companies like Pabst, Yeungling, and Anheuser Busch, which recently



Grapes grow in the vineyard at the Amber Falls Winery and Cellars in Hampshire. When they are harvested, they will make wine that is not only available for sale at the winery but at nearly 90 stores across the state. Many winery owners are hoping the addition of wine to grocery stores in Tennessee in 2016 will not only help promote their products but also bring more visitors to see it being made.

acquired rival SABMiller.

Formed in 2011, the Tennessee Craft Brewers Guild boasts 28 microbreweries and breweries as members while 39 craft breweries are located within the state, according to the Brewers Association. In fact, the state went from 24 breweries in 2011 to 39 in 2014. Craft beer has an economic impact of \$753 million to the state per year.

While many of these breweries are located in larger cities like Chattanooga, Memphis, Murfreesboro, Nashville, and Knoxville, others have branched out to smaller communities like Cottonwood, Jonesborough, Sparta, and Walland. Many more breweries are slated to open across the state in the coming year.

Jud Teague, executive director of the Kingsport Convention and Visitors Bureau, said the craft brewery industry has been good business for the Tri-Cities region.

"We have in the Tri-Cities area somewhere between 13 and 15 craft breweries and southwest Virginia has several more," Teague said. "We have three or four wineries in our area, and I know of two or three distilleries. This is an industry that is going to grow because of the demographic that supports it. Craft breweries have really started to take off in the past 18 months to two years."

Cities in northeast Tennessee have teamed up with others across the state line in Virginia to form the Brewly Noted Beer Trail, the first

multi-state beer trail in the country. Tourists can pick up a trail log and have it stamped by participating breweries in Johnson City, Jonesborough, Kingsport and Bristol.

"We launched our own craft beer trail about a month ago," Teague said. "The Kingsport, Johnson City and Bristol CVBs all went in together to market this trail. Asheville, N.C., has a craft brew scene, and it has been very good economic driver for their community. We felt we could enhance what we have already. We wanted to build a brand for this type of experience."

The trail brings in a wide variety of tourists. "There is a certain demographic that will come and do the trail over several days," he said. "It also lends itself to someone who is coming to visit here and wants something else to do. It allows us to sell this trail to potential groups and visitors that are thinking about bringing their meeting or convention to the area."

The craft brewing industry in Kingsport and surrounding areas mainly consists of Mom-and-Pop shops, but there is room for these small businesses to grow.

"The industry is still in its infancy, and we are supposed to have – just in northeast Tennessee – three to five additional breweries coming into the area to open up businesses," Teague said. "A lot of the ones currently here employ mainly family and three or so employee. You also have larger breweries like Yee Haw that employ 50 to 60 people."



Craft beers, like those made at the Yee-Haw Brewing Company in Johnson City, are now on tap in restaurants across the state. The popularity of these locally-brewed beers prompted cities in northeastern Tennessee to create the Brewly Noted Beer Trail, which allows visitors to explore a variety of microbreweries in the Tri-Cities region.



Distilleries across the state use copper pots, like these at Prichard's Distillery in Kelso, to make a wide variety of products including legal moonshine, whiskey and bourbon. Like many in the business, the owners of Prichard's began their distillery using recipes and equipment left behind by ancestors who produced liquor by less than legal means.