Due diligence on Situs reports ensures cities receive tax revenues

By BRAD HARRIS
MTAS Finance Consultant

Cities and counties across Tennessee are wrestling with a shared problem: a failure to have their businesses tax receipts properly identified. Municipalities often lack information on the location of their businesses, which makes it difficult to receive their due tax revenues. But a report—a Situs report—can help.

A Situs report is essentially a profile of businesses in a city or county. It includes information like the name of the business, its address, and the tax revenue it owes to the city or county. Local governments can use this information to verify the location of their businesses and ensure they receive their due tax revenue.

If a business moves or changes its address, it is critical for the local government to recoup the loss of tax revenue. If a business is not on the Situs report, the local government can only go back one year to recoup money it did not receive. If a business is on the Situs report, the local government can go back six years.

Getting a Situs report is a proactive step for local governments. By obtaining a Situs report, they can ensure that all tax revenue due to the city or county is collected.

To obtain a Situs report, local governments should contact their state tax office or their city or county’s tax office. The report can be requested online, and it is a free service provided by the state or local government.

Situs reports are particularly important for businesses that do not have a physical office or residence in the city or county. For example, businesses that operate online or from a home office are often missed in traditional tax collections.

By having a Situs report, local governments can ensure that businesses with no physical location are still paying their fair share of taxes. This is crucial for maintaining the health of local government budgets and ensuring that resources are directed where they are needed.

It is critical for local governments to stay informed about changes in their business landscape. By obtaining a Situs report and reviewing it regularly, local governments can ensure that their tax revenue is being properly collected.

By doing so, local governments can help ensure that their cities and counties are self-sustaining and that residents and businesses receive the services and infrastructure they deserve.
The city of Bristol will soon be receiving $2 million in state roadway grants from the Tennessee Department of Transportation. The city will use the funds to improve access to the Bristol Regional Hospital, a 95-bed acute-care facility which is home to the Bristol Regional Medical Center. The project will construct a 10,000-square-foot parking garage at the north end of the hospital, providing 108 parking spaces and access to the hospital via a pedestrian bridge.

The funding is part of the state’s Roadway Infrastructure Grant Program, which provides matching funds for projects that improve access to hospitals, schools, and other essential facilities.

The city of Bristol has previously applied for similar grants to improve access to the hospital, but this is the first time the project has been successful. The city has plans to use the funds to construct a new parking garage at the south end of the hospital, providing an additional 100 parking spaces.

“This is a significant investment in our community and will greatly benefit our patrons and employees,” said Bristol Mayor, Adam Jones. “We are grateful to the Tennessee Department of Transportation for recognizing the need for this project and providing the funding to make it a reality.”

The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2022, and will include features such as accessible parking and lighting. The city of Bristol will retain ownership of the parking garage, with plans to lease the spaces to hospital staff and visitors.

The funding for this project is part of a broader effort to improve transportation infrastructure in the region. The state has provided funding for a number of transportation projects in recent years, including a $3 million grant to improve access to the Bristol Regional Medical Center and a $1.5 million grant to construct a new parking garage at the Bristol Community College.

The city of Bristol is one of many in the region that have received state funding for transportation projects. The state has provided funding for a variety of projects, including road improvements, transit projects, and pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

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**Downtown destination branding, unique street art bring visitors to Humboldt**

**BY DR. BRIDGET JONES**

The city of Humboldt is located just minutes west of Jackson and halfway between Memphis and Nashville in Gibson County. With annual festivals and fine arts, movies and music, shopping and sporting events and everything in between, Humboldt is a uniquely Tennessee community. Community leaders promote the opportunity to live the small-town life just minutes from Jackson and several other West Tennessee towns and cities.

Humboldt is the home of the West Tennessee Strawberry Festival held the first week of May. Established in 1934, it has gained national recognition featuring one of the largest Grand Float Parades in America and possibly the largest non-motorized parade in the world. City residents and visitors enjoy events and activities held during the week-long celebration. Downtown Humboldt is the heart of this community and the historic, traditional business district where it all started.

With the iconic shops and businesses, the Opera House Event Hall and the Plaza Theatre, it is easy to recognize that Downtown Humboldt is unique. The historic business district, private and civic buildings, the stories and the people of Humboldt all combine to form a place rich with character and heritage.

**TENNESSEE DOWNTOWNS DESIGNATION**

In 2016, Humboldt was selected as one of the recipients in the TNECD Tennessee Downtowns Program. The city worked with orff by downtown property owners, the City of Humboldt, and the community to improve the downtown district for residents and visitors.

As part of the selection process, a community became a Tennessee Downtown Community. Humboldt leaders formed a Steering Committee that continues to guide the community’s revitalization efforts in conjunction with chambers of commerce and city leaders. During the 18-month program, leaders participated in training sessions and received a $15,000 grant for improvements to and promotion of the downtown district.

**Tennessee Downtowns Grant Strategies for Streetscape and Storefront Improvements**

The steering committee proposed a grant project to build Humboldt’s brand, and the activities were designed to have an immediate visual impact and address some of the most noticeable negative aspects of the downtown’s appearance. Interrelated improvements highlighted the historical significance of downtown properties and Humboldt’s identity as the “Strawberry Capital of Tennessee” through the installation of public art and signage along the gateway through the downtown.

The grant project had three strategies.

**Strategy One: Building identity through historical information**

The committee proposed to design and install up to 50 individualized signs to be placed on buildings in the project area to promote their historical significance. Participants purchase Tennessee Downtowns signs for property owners in the downtown district. The historical signs would be constructed of aluminum that could easily be mounted to the buildings with a consistent color scheme and fonts and brand with the city’s logo. The signs give current and historical information about each building, including its uses and ownership through the years. The committee intended the Historic Property Signage project to provide interesting background information that people enjoy as they visit the downtown district.

**Strategy Two: Visual improvements and marketing of downtown properties**

The committee planned to design and produce 40 individually painted storefront banners with historical photos to be used in vacant storefronts. These banners would reuse positive memories of past downtown businesses and block the view of building interiors that were vacant. Each banner would be similar in color and style and would be another tool to engage visitors by providing a more positive visual than empty or decaying building interiors. As vacant buildings are occupied, these banners can be moved to different locations and used at other community functions.

**Strategy Three: Gateway and streetscape public art installations**

The committee proposed to install eight stainless-steel strawberry statues to reinforce the city’s brand identity. This public art would provide a striking visual element and serve as an interesting building for events and photographs. The strawberries would be substantial enough to be the outdoors and withstand the elements and would be installed on public rights-of-way so they could be maintained by the city. The statue bases would be 32 inches wide and 42 inches tall and would be designed and produced by a downtown artist.

**COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC IMPACT**

The overarching goal of all of Humboldt’s downtown investments is to make the city a vibrant destination that connects residents and visitors who will spend money at local businesses, events, and entertainment venues. To this end, downtown leaders successfully created destination branding through public art and historical signage that is creating increased awareness and pride.

The project also is catalyzing new businesses, retail and promotion. The local utilities employee who made the strawberries and signs is now looking for a 10,000-square-foot building to house his business. A new retail cluster around the Plaza Theater for “Dinner and a Movie” opportunities is promoting entertainment and education. A new downtown mini park with benches and solar panel chargers is creating an open-air workspace. A promotional effort by the Gibson County Chambers of Commerce is creating a list of must-visit places for visitors from across the state that hopes to posts on various social media platforms.

Additionally, the Humboldt Chamber of Commerce and downtown committee are working together to support five popular event venues within ten minutes of downtown through focused marketing efforts and exploration of the establishment of a community commercial kitchen in downtown to serve those and attract other food and event-related businesses and tourism. Increased customer traffic will provide the greatest benefit to existing local businesses and future investors that are being recruited to the community.

**PROJECT FUNDING**

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**PROJECT LEADERS AND PARTNERS**

- City of Humboldt
- Humboldt Chamber of Commerce
- Humboldt Downtown Business Association
- Main Street Program
- Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development

**For more information contact the Humboldt Chamber of Commerce**

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**Get funding to replace old diesel vehicles with cleaner, more cost-effective ones**

Two diesel vehicle replacement funding opportunities will be available in the next six months, including funds from the VW Mitigation Trust. Need information? Help. We helped fleets in Tennessee secure over $2 million in grant funding since 2015.
ATHANASIA L. HANSON of Collierville has been selected as the new assistant town administrator for the town of Atoka.

Lilly Ratledge has been selected as the new director of human resources at Birminghams GCR Tire and Service Division. She moved to Atoka in the interim until a new town administrator can be found. Prior to working for the town of Atoka, Lewis served as an assistant town manager for Collierville, as a maintenance manager with FTW, as the assistant town administrator for Collierville, as well as a director of public administration both for the University of Tennessee - Knox-

ABBY FORD, a detective with the Kingsport Police Department, has been selected as the 25th anniversary celebrant for the department 25 years ago.

MISKIP MANN has been selected as the new clerk city clerk for the town of Bartlett following the retirement of previous clerk Stefanie McGeer. Prior to her appointment, McGeer served as an administrative assistant for the Bartlett chief of police for 20 years. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Crichton College as well as a certified administrative professional designation and project management certification from the International Association of Administrative Professionals.

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BRAIANA HANSON hUpp, director for Allen Park and Recreation, recently received the Tennessee Certified Parks and Recreation Professional certification. Less than 100 people in the state of Tennessee have received this certification. Hanson has been with the city of Athens since 2016, beginning her work with the city as an assistant program coordinator. Before that, she was a childrens librarian at E.G. Fisher Public Library in Athens. She has also served as a line therapist for the Fox Valley Autism Treatment Program and as childrens librarian in Wisconsin. She holds a bachelors degree in business management from Tennessee Wesleyan College.

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Tennessee's unemployment rate was 3.4 percent in September, down 0.1 percent from the previous month. The September 2019 unemployment rate is the same as the rate for September 2018. Total nonfarm employment increased 3,700 jobs between August and September. The largest increases occurred in the leisure/hospitality sector, followed by the professional/business services, and other services sectors. In the last year, nonfarm employment across Tus- cumbia increased by 4,820 jobs. The leisure/hospitality sector experienced the largest increase, with the professional/business services and manufacturing sectors seeing the next largest increases in new jobs.

The high price of childcare is costing Tennessee taxpayers, families, and businesses a com- bined $1.54 billion annually. An overall 90 percent of Tennessee parents earning $15,000 or less, 5 or younger and that inadequate child care services hurt their work productivity or limited career opportunities. Specifically: 39 percent turned down a new job offer or promotion, 35 percent had paid less than $20,000 in annualized employment status at part time, 31 percent turned down a new educational, or training, and 32 percent had to change or move because of the survey was conducted by Tennessee Family Education and both the full-survey and regional analysis of child care costs are available at www.tn.gov/child-care-costs.

Tennessee’s incarceration rate is 10 percent above the national average despite a 14 percent decline in incarcerations in the past decade. A new report issued by the Tennessee Department of Correction. While the amount of new inmates being incarcerated has dipped by a 14 percent in the past decade, the DOC has noted that there has also risen 11 percent in that same time period by an increase of 18 months. The state now spends $3.06 billion annually with the bulk of the cost being used to incarcerate inmates who have not been convicted of violent offenses. An estimated 13 percent of the state’s prison population have been sentenced for non-violent offenses while 39 percent of those are those that have violated conditions of probation or parole. The findings are part of a study conducted by the nonprofit Community Resources for Justice on behalf of Gov. Bill Lee.

The value of Tennessee’s average weekly salary was $510.80 when compared to other states across the nation. Tennessee ranked 41 st nationwide in terms of average salary per state in a new survey by financial advisor BusinessInsider.com. The survey ranked states on how many hours a parent would need to work per week to be able to afford the average one-bedroom apartment rent in that state. Tennessee’s average sal- ary, $64,139, means a person earning the state’s average wage would have to work 72.1 hours per month to cover the average one-bedroom apartment rent. New York had the highest average rent as last place as it would take more than 136 hours per week to afford their average rent while Wyoming ranked worst.

REMINDER: The street name where TML offices are located has been changed. TML will no longer deliver mail with the old address. Please make sure your contact information is updated to reflect TML’s correct street name.

Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee and Department of Economic and Community Development Com- missioner Bob Rolfe recently approved more than $26.7 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), which assist communities with infrastructure development, have reduced delinquencies, and health and safety initiatives.

The CDBG funds are designed to help rural and smaller communities in Tennessee succeed, which aligns with the administration’s future growth plans for rural communities in the state,” Lee said. “I congratulate the 66 communities on receiving these grants and look forward to continuing what we are doing to make our rural communities the envy of the nation.

Each application was support- ed by the Tennessee Community Development Representatives in the Tennessee General Assembly.

The Community Development Block Grant program funds many of the longstanding programs adminis- tered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Established in 1974, the program funds local community development, infrastructure development, and a better living environment for residents that reside in these communities.

For more information on the programs, go to cdbg/cdbg-about.html

CDBG funds awarded to 48 municipalities

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<th>Municipality</th>
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<td>Winfield</td>
<td>Fire protection</td>
<td>$210,485</td>
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*We provide salary, workforce, compensation, and property and community development services to our partners, and we are able to provide these services on a subscription basis.

*More than 70% of our associates are members of the American Society for Public Administration.

*20% of our associates are renewed annually.
ACCOUNTANT

Required for Spring Hill: Full-time, low stress environment in a growing, dynamic company. This position is responsible for preparing and analyzing financial reports and statements, including cash flow forecasts. Must have at least 2 years of experience in a similar role. Must have strong communication skills and be able to work independently. Requires a Bachelor’s degree in Accounting or related field. Experience with QuickBooks and Excel is highly desirable. This position is located in the Spring Hill area. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Must submit resume and cover letter.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT COORDINATOR

The Town of Collierville has an opening for a full-time Annual Financial Report Coordinator. This position oversees the preparation of the Annual Financial Report (AFR) and all related tasks. Responsibilities include coordinating the work of City staff, leaders, and outside firms in preparation of the AFR, and ensuring that the report meets all legal requirements and is submitted on time. This position requires a Bachelor’s degree in accounting or related field. Experience with local government financial reporting is preferred. This position is located in the Town of Collierville and reports to the Director of Finance.

FLD/COMMUNICATIONS RESEARCHER

The City of Collierville has an opening for an FLDC/Communications Researcher. This position is responsible for conducting research and analysis related to community development, including demographic, economic, and social trends. Must have a Bachelor’s degree in a related field, and at least 1-3 years of experience strongly preferred. Bachelor’s degree in engineering required. E.I. Closed until filled. EOE

FINANCE DIRECTOR - CITY CLERK

The City of Collierville is seeking a full-time Finance Director/City Clerk. This position is responsible for the administration and management of the city’s financial operations and records. Must have a Bachelor’s degree in business administration or a related field. Must have at least 10 years of relevant experience or training and one year of supervisory experience. Must be highly organized and have excellent communication and problem-solving skills. Must have the ability to balance multiple tasks and deadlines, and to remain calm and professional with tight deadlines, and to maintain confidentiality. Must have the ability to work with a high degree of accuracy and attention to detail. This position is located in the Town of Collierville and reports to the City Manager.

FINANCIAL PLANNER

The City of Collierville is seeking a full-time Financial Planner. This position is responsible for the administration and management of the city’s financial operations and records. Must have a Bachelor’s degree in business administration or a related field. Must have at least 10 years of relevant experience or training and one year of supervisory experience. Must be highly organized and have excellent communication and problem-solving skills. Must have the ability to balance multiple tasks and deadlines, and to remain calm and professional with tight deadlines, and to maintain confidentiality. Must have the ability to work with a high degree of accuracy and attention to detail. This position is located in the Town of Collierville and reports to the City Manager.

HR DIRECTOR

The City of Collierville is seeking a full-time HR Director. This position is responsible for the administration and management of the city’s human resource programs and services. Must have a Bachelor’s degree in human resources or a related field. Must have at least 10 years of relevant experience or training and one year of supervisory experience. Must be highly organized and have excellent communication and problem-solving skills. Must have the ability to balance multiple tasks and deadlines, and to remain calm and professional with tight deadlines, and to maintain confidentiality. Must have the ability to work with a high degree of accuracy and attention to detail. This position is located in the Town of Collierville and reports to the City Manager.

POLICE OFFICER

The City of Collierville has an immediate opening for a police officer. This position is responsible for the administration and management of the city’s human resource programs and services. Must have a Bachelor’s degree in human resources or a related field. Must have at least 10 years of relevant experience or training and one year of supervisory experience. Must be highly organized and have excellent communication and problem-solving skills. Must have the ability to balance multiple tasks and deadlines, and to remain calm and professional with tight deadlines, and to maintain confidentiality. Must have the ability to work with a high degree of accuracy and attention to detail. This position is located in the Town of Collierville and reports to the City Manager.

STORMWATER MANAGER

The City of Collierville is currently seeking a full-time stormwater manager. This position is responsible for the administration and management of the city’s stormwater programs and services. Must have a Bachelor’s degree in environmental science or a related field. Must have at least 10 years of relevant experience or training and one year of supervisory experience. Must be highly organized and have excellent communication and problem-solving skills. Must have the ability to balance multiple tasks and deadlines, and to remain calm and professional with tight deadlines, and to maintain confidentiality. Must have the ability to work with a high degree of accuracy and attention to detail. This position is located in the Town of Collierville and reports to the City Manager.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

The City of Collierville has an opening for a full-time Public Works Director. This position is responsible for the administration and management of the city’s public works programs and services. Must have a Bachelor’s degree in civil engineering or a related field. Must have at least 10 years of relevant experience or training and one year of supervisory experience. Must be highly organized and have excellent communication and problem-solving skills. Must have the ability to balance multiple tasks and deadlines, and to remain calm and professional with tight deadlines, and to maintain confidentiality. Must have the ability to work with a high degree of accuracy and attention to detail. This position is located in the Town of Collierville and reports to the City Manager.
REAL ID from Page 1
This matters because it feels like a clock is ticking. And you don’t want to be caught up in the mass of people pushing and shoving as time draws near.

Here’s why it’s sensible to prepare for a Real ID:

You need to ensure that this wasn’t a tip. You need to understand what will happen if you don’t get your Real ID.

There have been cases where people have had to delay their travel plans because they didn’t have a Real ID. A Real ID is not as easy to get as you might think. It requires you to go through a number of steps, including:

1. Getting the federal ID
2. Getting the state ID
3. Getting the Real ID

Violent crime was down 3.3 percent nationwide last year, according to data recently released by the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Violent crime is down in every region of the country. The Southeast saw the greatest decline in violent crimes per capita. All regions saw a drop in violent crime per capita with Maine having the highest decrease.

Younger Americans are eating plant-based meat products

More Americans are eating plant-based meat products with younger Americans more likely to choose these products. A recent study from The NPD Group shows that 25-34 year-olds have been the biggest users of plant-based meat. They are looking for healthier options and are more interested in the green economy. However, China is closing in on America's 4 percent share of the green economy, only 9 million Americans – roughly 4 percent generate $1.31 trillion in annual revenue for the U.S. or 4 percent generates $1.31 trillion in annual revenue for the U.S. But China is catching up. 

American’s green economy is growing

American’s green economy is growing, according to a new analysis by University of New Hampshire. The study found that American’s green economy is the second largest in the world. Currently, it is the second largest in the world. However, China is catching up. The study predicts that America's green economy will grow 16.5 percent by 2026, while China's green economy will grow 16.5 percent by 2026.

Real ID deadline looms

Go where travelers are. If you want to let people know about your travel website, go to travel websites, hotels, travel agents and those who work with business travelers and ask for their help in communicating. Said Kevin O'Malley, chair and chief executive officer of TSA. Go to travel websites, hotels, travel agents and those who work with business travelers and ask for their help in communicating.

Torture and kidnaping

Torture and kidnaping are the most difficult for China to solve. O’Malley said, especially if they are involved in human trafficking and fraud, a large corporate travel agency.

Go where travelers aren’t. This may be the most difficult group to target. O’Malley said, especially if they are involved in human trafficking and fraud, a large corporate travel agency.

Emotional support

Emotional support is key. Employees and clients need to know you have a Real ID. They need to know you are prepared. They need to know you have the materials to help them understand.

Use every tool in the communications toolbox. “It’s time for the us to get serious about making sure that people know about Real ID,” he said. “People do want to get their Real ID, but they don’t understand what their options are. They don’t know how to get it. People don’t know how to use it. People don’t know how to use the Real ID system. They don’t know how to use the Real ID system.

Sadvertising

Sadvertising, a term with which I am familiar, is a term with which I am familiar. I’ve been using it for a number of years. It’s a great term, especially when it comes to using social media. "Sadvertising" is the art of using social media to reach people who are grieving or in distress. "Sadvertising" is the art of using social media to reach people who are grieving or in distress.

Real ID is a journey

Retirement is a journey. The Private Retirement Plan Services for the State of Tennessee is a journey. The Private Retirement Plan Services for the State of Tennessee is a journey. It’s important to use all the communications tools and channels that you have to communicate the message.

• Sadvertising. The first time you talk to someone who has lost a loved one, they may be caught in the mass of people pushing and shoving as time draws near. This is a good time to talk to them about Real ID.

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Placement of funds through the ICS or CDARS service is subject to the terms, conditions, and disclosures in the service agreements, including the Deposit Placement Agreement ("DPA"). Limits apply and customer eligibility criteria may apply. In the ICS or CDARS savings option, destination banks are limited to total amounts that do not exceed the FDIC standard maximum deposit insurance amount ("SMDIA") on a per-depositor basis for the depositor's deposits placed through the DPA, but may exceed the SMDIA for the relationship institution that places the funds. As stated in the DPA, the depositor is responsible for making any necessary arrangements to protect their balances. If the depositor is subject to restrictions on placement of their funds, the depositor is responsible for determining whether their use of ICS or CDARS satisfies those restrictions. When deposited funds are exchanged on a dollar-for-dollar basis with other banks in the network, the relationship institution can use the net amount of its deposit placed through ICS or CDARS for local lending, satisfying some depositors' local investment goals/mandates. Alternatively, with a depositor's consent, and in states where it is allowed by law, the relationship institution may choose to receive fee income instead of deposits from other banks. Under these circumstances, deposited funds would not be available for local lending. ICS, Insured Cash Sweep, and CDARS® are registered service marks of Promontory Interfinancial Network, LLC.

Safe, Smart, Flexible Solutions for Managing Public Funds.

Across the United States, thousands of local and state governmental organizations use the Insured Cash Sweep®, or ICS®, and CDARS® services to access multi-million-dollar FDIC insurance through a single bank relationship, safeguard taxpayer money, keep the amount of their deposit in the community to support local lending, and eliminate the burden of ongoing collateral tracking.

What could be easier? See if your bank offers ICS and/or CDARS, or find one of the thousands that do.