

Congress debates solutions for Highway Trust Fund

Approves \$11 billion, 10-month extension

BY CAROLE GRAVES
TML Communications Director

Working to avoid a “highway cliff,” Congress passed a 10-month extension and a \$11 billion dollar infusion to the Federal Highway Trust Fund.

Approval of the temporary fix came only hours before the federal government was set to reduce payments to states for road projects.

The showdown in Congress was over how to shore-up the fund, set to go broke by the summer’s end.

Earlier this month, the U.S. House passed a \$10.8 billion short-term extension of federal transportation dollars and extended MAP-21, the authorization spending bill, to May 2015.

However, the Senate rejected the House plan and instead approved an amendment (79 - 18) offered by Sens. Bob Corker (R-Tennessee), Tom Carper (D-Delaware), and Barbara Boxer (D-California) that would only provide \$8 billion to reimburse states for highway projects through December 2014. It also stripped out a funding mechanism called “pension smoothing,” and sunsets MAP-21 on Dec. 19, 2014, forcing Congress to find a long-term solution for highway funding.

“The Senate overwhelmingly supported our effort to improve the legislation by stripping out an egregious budget gimmick, and I urge

short of its obligations next year and \$160 billion short over the next 10 years.

Created in 1956 to finance the new interstate highway system, the Highway Trust Fund relies on a federal gasoline tax of 18.4 cents per gallon and a diesel tax of 24.4 cents per gallon. The taxes have not been raised since 1993, and inflation has eroded their value. Increased fuel efficiency, decreased driving, and the recession have also helped to deplete the trust fund.

“In Washington, far too often, we huff and puff about paying for proposals that are unpopular, yet throw future generations under the bus when public pressure mounts on popular proposals that have broad support,” said Sen. Corker. “Congress should be embarrassed that it has played chicken with the Highway Trust Fund and allowed it to become one of the largest budgeting failures in the federal government. If Americans feel that having modern roads and bridges are important, then Congress should have the courage to pay for it.”

“Growing up in Tennessee as a conservative, I learned that if something was important enough to have, it was important enough to pay for,” Corker continued. “That’s how we’ve governed in the Volunteer State, which has resulted in the second best transportation system in the country without having one penny of



With an \$8.5 billion backlog in projects, TDOT’s three-year plan does not include any engineering work on any new projects. TDOT receives approximately half of its funding from the Federal Highway Trust Fund.

the House to pass our more fiscally conservative bill so we can ensure Congress will be forced to find a sustainable solution to our nation’s highway funding by year end,” said Corker, following the Senate vote.

But the House rejected the Senate amendments in a 272-150, somewhat heated debate, and sent the bill back to the Senate stripped of the Senate change. In the end, the original House version prevailed.

Last week’s vote represents the 10th short-term extension of the program in the past half-decade and what Sen. Corker and others were fighting to avoid – another short-term fix.

Corker, along with Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) have proposed legislation to raise the gas tax by 12 cents a gallon over two years, and then index the tax level to inflation. The bipartisan proposal would help refurbish gas tax revenues that have eroded over the past two decades and prevent inflation from eating into gas tax receipts in the future.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, at current gas tax levels, the trust fund will fall \$13 billion

road debt.”

But in Tennessee, transportation officials are also feeling the effects the Federal Highway Trust Funds uncertainty and have scaled back on any future projects. With an \$8.5 billion backlog in projects, the Tennessee Department of Transportation’s (TDOT) three-year plan released earlier this spring, does not include any engineering work on any new projects.

Tennessee is on a pay-as-you-go plan for transportation projects and carries no debt for transportation purposes. TDOT receives approximately half of its funding from the Federal Highway Trust Fund – some \$1.8 billion. States were told to expect an average reduction of 28 percent in federal payments if Congress does not act to shore up the fund before the Sept. 30 deadline.

“We are at a critical point in federal transportation funding and without action, there will be major impacts to TDOT programs,” TDOT Commissioner John Schroer said. “We would be forced to develop an alternate program that reflects the See FUNDING on Page 3

Are you ready to compete?

Site selectors provide recruiting tips during TML Annual Conference



Photos by Victoria South

Pictured left to right: Kingsley Brock, executive director of Jackson Regional Partnership, moderates a panel discussion between national site selector experts Mark Williams, president, Strategic Development Group and Mike Mullis, president, J. M. Mullis, Inc., at the recent TML Annual Conference in Chattanooga.

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

Ambiance isn’t just a fancy word for surroundings, it’s a connection—that imperceptible vibe site selectors and their clients pick up on whenever they stop by to visit your community. It can make or break the deal, and it might not hinge on what you think, according to two of the nation’s leading site selecting experts Mike Mullis, president, J. M. Mullis, Inc., and Mark Williams, president, Strategic Development Group out of South Carolina.

The pair sat down in a recent panel discussion and question/answer session at the TML Annual Conference in Chattanooga, providing firsthand knowledge to city leaders about the secrets used by top site selectors, changes in state and federal regulations, and what it really takes to land a project.

Moderated by Kingsley Brock, executive director of Jackson Regional Partnership, the two professionals agreed on the delicate balance between business and government, and how business climate is at the forefront of every deal.

“It may not seem that apparent to you, but one of the things I think we have a real sense for is how you’ll get along and how you’ll deal with issues together in the future,” said Williams.

“These are very challenging times and everything in so many capacities of economic development depends upon the people in this room,” Mullis added.

“The whole issue of business climate is a critical one in all (site) searches,” Williams continued. “It’s important that our clients are comfortable with how business is conducted in communities. They long for a sense of how nice things are when you recruit them, they also know that they’re going to experience emergencies and calamities in the future. They want to know how you will support them and how you will react.”

Both men swapped war stories about first impressions, and how clients, who after shortlisting a site, would decide to take their projects elsewhere, if they picked up on conflict or that ‘not on the same page’ feeling in an initial meeting with local governments—and in one case, strife between a mayor and city manager.

“When you go into those closed door meetings, if you aren’t taking



Mark Williams chats one-on-one with Franklin Mayor Ken Moore.

it very seriously, with just a touch of fun, companies will realize that and many times retreat,” cautioned Mullis. “One of our key successes has been matching personalities to those of companies. And personality cannot be measured in just the current mayor or city manager, city council or county commission, it’s got to be measured over a period of 20 years.”

“There will always be struggles in Tennessee between cities and counties,” he continued. “The government is structured in a manner that allows that to happen. But if a cooperative working spirit is not there, why would a company want to invest \$500 million?”

In the same vein, Williams labled the role of mayors and city and county administrators as ‘critical’ in supporting economic development officials in the recruitment of new industry. “I’ve often said that the role of the economic developer is to market and bring business opportunities to a given location,” Mullis responded. “That responsibility really depends on the business environment, local leadership, and local political environment, as to whether or not that deal can be consummated.”

Brock, former senior advisor and lead project manager for the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, commented that things have changed in the past 12 years since he started in the economic development field. He inquired about new “out of the box” creative approaches to incentive offerings on the local side.

“In states like Tennessee, the bag of tricks are limited,” said Mullis, “At least on the local level. We don’t have that large cabri of resources like many other states.” Citing Louisiana

as an example, he said “with the vast money that they generate from gas and oil, they can pass a \$100 million bond on any given day to close a deal.”

“Tennessee has always been gifted on the side of what we would term pilots,” he continued. “Pilots are necessary in Tennessee, due to what I would call our antiquated tax system in business today.”

“I think it’s important for you all to realize that property taxes under the pilot are very competitive with some of your neighbors,” Williams added, stressing that in overall incentive strategies, the key lies in flexibility.

“Each company has a very unique culture of what’s important to them based on their mental and business perspective. It’s so important for all of you and your economic development teams to take that time to try to understand what drives a decision and drives needs for those companies.”

“I would also say in terms of your perspectives, don’t do dumb deals,” he continued. “You need to do deals that work for the clients we represent and that your economic development teams have looked at and are good for you.”

Mullis and Williams noted that in 2014 more emphasis has been placed on permitting of major projects and on having a trained workforce than any period in history.

“We’re in an all-out battle in permitting now for major projects, particularly on the federal level,” Mullis said. “We deal with the Corp. of Engineers more than I ever imagined we would. In one of our recent considerations in Tennessee, I can’t tell you the amount of times we spent See SITE SELECTORS on Page 3

Grants, technical assistance available to expand afterschool, summer meal programs

NLC’s Institute for Youth, Education and Families (YEF Institute) invites cities to apply for grant awards of up to \$50,000 to raise awareness of and increase participation in the federal Afterschool and Summer Meal Programs.

Through the Cities Combating Hunger through Afterschool and Summer Meals (CHAMPS) initiative, mayors and other city officials can ensure that children in their communities have access to nutritious meals by promoting and supporting these vital federal nutrition programs.

Since 2012, NLC has provided grants and technical assistance to 26 cities to help expand participation

in these nutrition programs. Over the last two years, NLC has reached more than 29,000 children with nutritious meals through the grants provided to selected cities as part of the CHAMPS project.

City Leaders Make a Difference

Through the CHAMPS initiative, cities have been able to increase the visibility of the meal programs through increased partnerships with elected officials and by developing comprehensive marketing campaigns to increase awareness of the programs.

City leaders have an important role to play in supporting these programs and can help to build strong partnerships with a range of stake-

holders to implement meal programs that maximize and connect existing local resources. City leaders can take steps to promote meal programs in several ways, including: using city leaders’ high visibility to promote programs, sponsoring a meal program, incorporating child nutrition into a broader city-wide initiative or establishing a local out-of-school time meals workgroup.

The Time to Act is Now

Last year, devastating cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) decreased monthly food budgets for many families across the country. Currently, more than 21 million children receive free See GRANT on Page 5



The deadline for submitting proposals is Aug. 15, 2014.

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



CHATTANOOGA

Volkswagen plans to build a new seven-passenger SUV, adding about 2,000 factory jobs as it tries to reverse U.S. sales that have fallen for the past two years. The German automaker announced that it will invest \$600 million to expand the factory and set up a new research center that will employ about 200 engineers. The research facility will coordinate products for North America to quickly include customer feedback into planned and existing models. The announcement comes after months of political wrangling over the role of organized labor at the factory, which now employs about 1,500 workers and makes only one model, the Passat midsize car.

CLARKSVILLE

Site preparation and grading are now underway for Hankook Tire. By October, Hankook expects to begin the two-phase construction process for their 1.5 million square foot, \$800 million tire plant at the Clarksville Corporate Business Park. Hankook Tire will invest \$800 million in a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility and create 1,800 new jobs. Tire production is expected to begin at this new facility by 2016.

CLARKSVILLE

A ribbon cutting ceremony was recently held at the small Spur Line Trailhead Park. The park celebrates the history of the community's interior railroad and serves as another key tie-in to the Cumberland Riverwalk. The nearly \$670,000 park was paid for by a Federal Enhancement matching grant. The newly constructed trail, is heavily landscaped and includes public benches, a pavilion and some 20 different tree and plant species incorporated throughout the park. Still to come, are a historical marker under the pavilion and a water fountain that will be completed and funded by a local Boy Scout for his Eagle Scout project.

CLINTON

Automotive parts manufacturer SL Tennessee LLC, which now employs 750 workers, will invest \$80.5 million and create 1,000 area jobs. The South Korean company will construct a new 250,000-square-foot building to join its two existing facilities in the Clinton I-75 Industrial Park.

FAYETTEVILLE

The city is now rated Class 3 on the ISO scale, thanks to the efforts of the fire department and public utilities. The city was rated as a Class 4.

FRANKLIN

The Tennessee Wars Commission, a branch of the Tennessee Historical Commission, announced two grants totaling \$40,000 have been awarded to Franklin's Charge, Inc., in support of Civil War-related sites. The first grant, for \$20,000, will fund an archaeological survey consisting of a phase one investigation and report of the findings at the "Cotton Gin Site" on Carter Hill, now owned by the city. The investigations will concentrate on locating the possible stone foundations and/or site of the original Carter family Cotton Gin and cotton press structures that played an important role during the Nov. 30, 1864, Battle of Franklin.

FRANKLIN

Family Circle magazine announced the results of its exclusive survey to identify America's 10 Best Towns for Families. The brand's eighth annual list reveals the country's top towns that provide affordable housing options, strong sense of community and exemplary school systems. Known for its outdoor events and involved community, Franklin made this year's 10 Best Towns for Families list and is featured in the August 2014 issue and online at FamilyCircle.com/besttowns.

GALLATIN

ABC Group Inc. officials announced the company will add an additional 180,000 square feet to its existing facility in response to increased demand for automotive related products. ABC Group will invest \$25.5 million in land, infrastructure and equipment and create 230 new jobs over the next five years. The expansion will increase production capacity of console, interior trim and load floors for the new GMC and Cadillac vehicles produced at the General Motors plant in Spring Hill.

GALLATIN

The city has been named one of the most exciting places in Tennessee by the online real estate brokerage site *Movoto.com*. Out of 59 cities statewide with populations of 10,000 or more, Gallatin was ranked as No. 9. Knoxville, Chattanooga and Nashville were among the top three. The San Mateo, Calif.-based company used data from 2010 U.S. Census and business listings to rank the qualifying cities based on eight criteria — nightlife per capita, live music venues per capita, active life options per capita, arts and entertainment per capita, fast food restaurants per capita, percentage of restaurants that are not fast food, percentage of residents 18-34, and population density. For a city its size, Gallatin was noted for having a high number of arts and entertainment venues per capita, and for a number of international dining options. Other Sumner County cities included in the top 50 include Hendersonville at 17, Portland at 32 and White House at 42.

GALLATIN

Gun-maker Beretta will be moving all of its manufacturing to Tennessee. Earlier this year, the Italian company announced plans to open a research and development facility and new production lines in Gallatin. Now, the company says it will move the Maryland production lines in their entirety to the new Tennessee facility. James Fenton, executive director of Gallatin's Economic Development Agency, said the gun maker was worried some of its products would be confiscated under Maryland's new gun control law. The Gallatin plant is expected to open next summer.

GOODLETTSVILLE

The city has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. An Award of Financial Reporting Achievement is awarded to the individual agency designated by the government as primarily responsible for preparing the award-winning CAFR. The award was presented to Goodlettsville's Assistant City Manager Julie High.

JOHNSON CITY

See a problem. Report a problem. It's the simple tagline behind 311 GIS, the citizen reporting software recently implemented by the city. 311GIS offers citizens a convenient and immediate solution for submitting non-emergency requests to the appropriate city department. It's available as a free app on smartphones and tablets and as a website on personal computers. When requests are submitted, authorized administrators can approve the requests, make comments, and provide status updates about how the issues are being resolved. Another unique feature of 311GIS is the ability to follow other users' requests, allowing anyone interested in a particular issue to track its progress.

KNOXVILLE

The city's Parks and Recreation Department has released the new edition of its city greenways map, featuring 86 miles of the city's greenways and trails. The maps will be distributed for free through city recreation centers, Outdoor Knoxville, Knox County libraries and Visit Knoxville. City residents may also call 311 to have a copy of the

map mailed to their home for free. For more information on city greenways, visit www.cityofknoxville.org/greenways

MORRISTOWN

Wellco Enterprises, a company that produces footwear for the military, will cease operations, eliminating 46 jobs. Wellco officials noted that business with the federal government has been drying up, as the military winds down its involvement in Afghanistan.

MT. JULIET

The city's Police Department has opened a new headquarters on Charlie Daniels Parkway. As the fastest growing city in the state, the city ranked sixth in the state as the safest city, according to Mayor Ed Hagerly. Since 1972, the department has shared a building with city hall and a bank. The \$2 million free-standing headquarters provides three times the space of the old location.

MURFREESBORO

Road crews will soon add bike lanes along both sides of the north end of Memorial Boulevard. City officials worked with TDOT on the bike-lane plans that are a part of a \$1 million road milling and repaving project that stretches 3.44 miles from Clark Boulevard to Thompson Lane. This work complements the city's master plan to add bikeways, greenways and blueways. The plans call for reducing the ample center turn lane space to create the bike lanes.

NASHVILLE

UBS held a ribbon cutting ceremony in downtown to celebrate the grand opening of its new Business Solutions Center. The global financial services company announced new community partnerships with Launch Tennessee (LaunchTN), a public-private partnership focused on supporting the development of high-growth companies in Tennessee, and Nashville-based Tennessee Access and Success Network (TCASN), an organization that seeks to remove higher education barriers, promote college persistence, and increase postsecondary completion rates. UBS revealed plans for the center last August including an investment of \$36.5 million and the creation of 1,000 new jobs over the next five years. The Center will offer expanded business services in support of the firm's Wealth Management and Investment Banking divisions.

NASHVILLE

Amazon.com is expanding its operations with plans for a new sorting center in the airport area that will create 100 jobs. The online retail giant has leased a 214,000-square-foot warehouse at 50 Airways Blvd. off Briley Parkway for the operation. Roughly \$3.25 million in renovations and upgrades are underway at the building. The sorting center would be the first in Tennessee for Amazon.com, which has more than 2,000 Nashville area employees and more than 5,000 statewide. Those include workers at fulfillment centers in Lebanon and Murfreesboro. The retailer hasn't announced when the sorting center will open but expects to move quickly.

PLEASANT VIEW

The city's volunteer fire department announced that they have received a new ISO grade, from a 5 to a 4. Rural areas of the fire district will see the greatest benefit in savings. Commercial businesses should also see a reduction in insurance premiums. The department now holds the lowest ISO grading in Cheatham County.

SPRINGFIELD

Schrader Electronics held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate a new manufacturing line expansion and the addition of 50 more jobs. The company currently employs approximately 230 people.

Franklin establishes new sanitation routing system



Beginning in July, about 6,200 Franklin residents in 41 subdivisions across the city now have a new trash day due to a new cost saving routing system being utilized by the city's Sanitation and Environmental Services Department. The city will only collect four days a week, for 10 hours each day. This new routing system, using Route Smart software, will save the city about \$380,000 per year by reducing the number of vehicles used each day. The new routing system will allow for the Sanitation and Environmental Services Department to accommodate future growth of the community.

Kingsport launches KLOUD sustainability program

Small steps can add up to a huge difference over time, both personally and collectively as a community, and Kingsport embarks on the first steps toward encouraging a more sustainable city with the launch of KLOUD -- Keeping Livable Our Urban Destinations.

Administered by the Development Services Department, KLOUD will start by logging the city's sustainability efforts and promoting best practices to raise awareness of the importance of creating a sustainable community, preserving the environment and natural resources as much as possible. "Air quality, water quality, farm to table and fresh food, these are all sustainability issues. But it also includes healthier lifestyles, a more walkable community less reliant on automobiles, and perceived safety," said Development Services Coordinator Rack Cross.

"These factors all have an impact on job retention and job creation in a community. A healthier workforce with less lost time to health concerns is more valuable to current and potential employers while also bringing a higher quality of life to the individual."

Kingsport's city government currently offers a number of programs aimed at long-term sustainability, including curbside recycling, developing a fleet of alternative fuel

vehicles including all-electric, hybrid and propane powered vehicles as well as offering electric vehicle chargers as the city's downtown parking garage.

The introduction of KLOUD is intended as a strong signal to the region that Kingsport is interested in becoming a more sustainable community, and is doing so with some recognition from the state via Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation's participation in Kingsport's recent sustainability events, including providing radon detection kits.

Some of the city's KLOUD efforts so far this year have included hosting the 13th annual Tennessee Environmental Conference in conjunction with TDEC, conducting an Earth Day celebration including events on the Kingsport Birding Trail, greenbelt and downtown cleanup events with Keep Kingsport Beautiful, and a music and environmental festival at Bays Mountain Park, plus hosting the first ever Zero Emissions Day as a way to recognize residents who are working to reduce fossil fuel emissions on the daily commute.

The activities transitioned into a bicycle month celebration in May, with a number of city employees using bicycles instead of cars as transportation wherever possible.

Mayors Rogero, Burchett recognized for Let's Move!

The National League of Cities has recognized Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero and Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett for recent completion of key health and wellness goals for Let's Move! Cities, Towns and Counties (LMCTC).

Both governments rank No. 1 in the nation among 440 cities, towns and counties participating in the initiative.

LMCTC is a major component of First Lady Michelle Obama's comprehensive Let's Move! initiative, which is dedicated to solving the childhood obesity epidemic within a generation. LMCTC calls upon local elected officials to adopt sustainable and holistic policies that improve communities' access to healthy, affordable food and opportunities for physical activity through five goal areas.

Knoxville and Knox County are currently tied in the LMCTC No. 1 national ranking with four other cities: Beaumont, Texas; Columbia, S.C.; Fontana, Calif.; and Orlando, Fla.



J.R. Wauford & Company

Consulting Engineers, Inc.

Water and Wastewater Systems

Home Office:
2835 Lebanon Road
P.O. Box 140350
Nashville, TN 37214
(615) 883-3243

www.jrwauford.com

Branch Offices:
Maryville, TN 37801
(865) 984-9638
Jackson, TN 38305
(731) 668-1953

Site selectors provide tips

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with TDEC, TDOT, and the Corp. of Engineers. It's something we haven't seen before in this magnitude of complication."

"As we automate and get a lot more sophisticated in what we do, the level and consistency of workforce availability is really a challenge," Mullis continued. "For the first time in 20 years, we're beginning to see state government go back to the concept of what I would term the vocational technical training program— where we realize now that not every child can go to college, nor should they, in terms of four or six years."

Williams agreed. "Twenty years ago, it might have been fine to have a high school degree, but that's not the case anymore. "Over the last two to three years, we are asked to probe further, not only in the state program, but also in terms of how we analyze workforces in communities."

According to Mullis, his company routinely goes into middle schools, high schools, vocational technical schools and junior colleges within a 30-40 mile radius of the new company to recruit workers.

"We work with the state entity to help formulate programs as to what those companies can offer in terms of jobs—then we start writing programs off the STEM program, where we are implementing new programs for vocational tech training, or whatever the industry might be," he said. "It is one of the biggest inducements a state and community can offer, skillset transferability. You've got to start what skill sets can be transferred to meet the new technology of today and get it implemented in your local school programs."

"We are consistently asked to look into the viability of the school systems K-12," Williams added. "There are questions such as 'what's the future look like? What's the infrastructure look like? What's the teacher pool look like? For employees involved in high capital/high training, it isn't learning how to use a drill press like it was 30 years ago. These employees are going to have to make decisions, they're going to be trained throughout the facility. It requires students with STEM skills in particular. There are many training programs at a state level, related to recruiting, screening, etc. Those programs are very important but in terms of trends, I find companies talking more about what's feeding these systems. Employees need to know much more than the basic skill, they need to know how to think and make decisions."

More stringent permitting processes have also altered the site prep process, as Williams advised city leaders to lean on the side of due

diligence.

"The site location business means how do you minimize risk for your clients," he said. "The more due diligence that's been done on a site, the better, especially if your timing is short. To have that record of environmental and technical work, is very important. If the community has a sound record of due diligence conducted on the site, it's helpful in the selection process."

"In terms of site prep, if you're developing a million square feet, it's hard to find yourself a pad ready situation," he continued. "What we don't want to find is when we have to do the work or other issues. It takes time for the issues to be worked out, and we don't want to short list a site that might have problems."

"States get very caught up in what we term mega sites, two to three thousand acres offered which sits there for a very long time," said Mullis. "Again, if the community doesn't fit—the project and site doesn't matter. In today's environment, by core standards, you can't pad ready a site if you have any wetlands or streams on it. I've been going through this every year for about five years. I'm looking at a site right now—a \$2 billion project they promoted as pad ready. We just analyzed it last week for the second time and it shows \$32 million in work that needs to be done."

"Out of 87 responses, 22 were kicked out because they (the community) didn't control the property," he added. "They had no idea of price or even if it was available. Yet they spent a week to prepare the documents. Now, how can we take a risk like that in our 90-120 day gap to find out that the site's not available. Control is critical."

"If this state really wants to do some interesting things on a local level, work with the organizations of ECD, TVA and your regional groups," Mullis continued. "You don't have to hire third party consultants like us. If you'll do that, you'll see so much phenomenal growth opportunity."

Brock directed attendees to Tennessee's Certified Site program. "It really forces communities to get prepared for Mike and Mark to visit," he said. "The program will make you reach the phase one, cover your founders survey, the ownership documentation and a host of other things."

Mullis and Williams listed top growth industries for the next 14-15 years in this part of the country as: metal fabrication processing, moving from steel to aluminum in the automotive and aerospace industry; food processing, particularly in organic farming and high-quality distribution centers.

cessity for a short-term fix, but it is past time for the nation to have a real and robust, long-term plan for the nation's transportation systems."

House and Senate members have now left Washington for a five-week August recess. City officials can support the effort for a long-term transportation solution by contacting your congressional delegation during the August recess.

For talking points, access NLC's transportation advocacy toolkit, <http://www.nlc.org/influence-federal-policy/advocacy/federal-advocacy-priorities/invest-in-local-transportation-priorities/transportation-funding-advocacy-toolkit>.

White Pine celebrates mayor's 25-year tenure

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

A cake, some well-wishers and fond memories of community progress overflowed recently at White Pine Town Hall in East Tennessee, as the town's staff, family and friends turned out for a surprise celebration honoring long-time Mayor Stanley Wilder.

What started with a flat out refusal, has evolved into 25-years of continuous service for the soft-spoken 72-year-old mayor, who in 1989, was in the midst of his 46-year career with a local hardware wholesaler when duty called.

"I said absolutely not," Wilder recalled, noting how a burgeoning number of supporters, including the town's former mayor, encouraged him to run.

Wilder continued to protest right up until his former boss joined the ranks. "He called me into his office and said 'Wilder, I'm going to order you to do this because I'm getting too many calls from people wanting me to convince you,'" he chuckled.

At last, committing to one two-year term, Wilder quickly became immersed in local projects— good initiatives he wanted to see completed for the quaint mountain town he had called home since 1942.

"Our little town had a lot of problems before we started this journey," he confided. "All they ever did was argue and we didn't get a lot accomplished. At my first meeting, I made a little speech saying it's not going to be like this anymore. We're going to get along and do what's good for the town."

Today, as a community on the cusp of its 100th year anniversary next year, there's just as much on the line when it comes to White Pine's economic growth and potential. The state's planned Appalachian Crossings Scenic By-Way from Cumberland Gap to Newport, which could extend through the Cherokee National Forest, is set to pass directly through the town. Likewise, the picturesque community, located just 30-minutes outside Pigeon Forge and Knoxville, has invested hopes in future development around nearby exits No. 4 and No. 8.

"Ten or 11 years ago, we incorporated exit No. 4 off Interstate 81," with a complete revamp of that exit, but the economy stabbed us in the back," explained Wilder. "Now, we have a new corridor road being built from Morristown that will empty into exit No. 4. We think there will be a lot of growth there, when that road opens. Morristown also has an industrial park on the line between Hamblen and Jefferson Counties. We would not be opposed to working with Morristown in the future."

A town committee has started a downtown revitalization effort, in hope of attracting additional retail business. Cleanup and beautification efforts are underway, with an ultimate goal of building a replica of the town's old train depot complete with a stationary caboose, where downtown events can be centered. Another major goal is to obtain a Tennessee Main Street Community Certification.

Town leaders' choice to build a new town hall in 2001, is clearly a decision Wilder can say he's proud of. "I can't imagine where we'd be if we hadn't done it," he said. "You can't get anywhere unless you take a step like this."

There was additional support for the project from the community, who were involved in the planning



White Pine Mayor Stanley Wilder and his wife Janice enjoy a surprise celebration at Town Hall in honor of Wilder's 25 years of service.



Mayor Wilder with the Town of White Pine's Board of Aldermen.

process of the new facility. The town planned and implemented the project within four years, "right before the economy went sour," notes Wilder. The two-story building houses the town's eight-man police department on the main level with other space for town offices. The community received \$1 million in financing for the project from the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund.

"It's the only way we could have afforded to do the project," adds Wilder. "They worked with us to consolidate other loans and we didn't have to raise taxes."

By 2004, White Pine had a Tennessee Municipal League Small Town Progress Award under its belt and was working through a broad set of strategic goals developed by the board and key staff members.

Through the years, the community also added a post office and has seen its one-bay fire department grow to eight bays. The volunteer department has a No. 4 ISO rating, Wilder enthused. "It's a little unheard of in the state for a volunteer department. There may be six or seven others in the whole state," he said.

The community's ample recreational offerings include two parks with facilities for football, baseball, softball and most recently, a new splash pad.

"We have a four-phase grant," Wilder explained. "The first is to redo the walking track, the second is for the basketball courts—we have those completed—and the next, is a regulation tennis court other towns can use. We are very proud of it. The last phase is the new restrooms."

The community is currently working on a half million dollar up-

grade to its wastewater facility and an additional water well. White Pine currently pulls its water from three wells.

"What started as a promise to run for mayor for one term has now turned into 24 more years, and we are so glad it has," Alyson Susong, town attorney and municipal recorder spoke before the crowd. "Our town has grown tremendously over the last 25 years. We have seen risks taken and decisions made by our mayor in order to make it a town that we want to call home."

Wilder retired from his job at the hardware supplier back in 2007 and his wife Janice retired from her position as a parent coordinator at Douglas Cherokee Headstart in 2009. Both are heavily involved in church work, but circumstances dictated that Wilder run for mayor two more times.

"His love for his community and its citizens and his willingness to place his concern for the public good ahead of his personal interests are to be commended," said Susong. "His care and concern flows over to his employees and fellow board members as well. It is a rare individual these days who will give tirelessly of their time and energy without desire for recognition or personal gain."

"I was going to hang it up," Wilder confessed. "But if I start something, I'm not one to move around. I've been fortunate through the years to have good council people and we all work together. But now I'm going to try to find somebody who has the town at heart and let them have it."

Wilder's term as mayor officially ends in November 2016.

Congress extends Highway Trust Fund

FUNDING from Page 1

loss of federal dollars, and focuses exclusively on the maintenance of our existing pavement and bridges rather than new projects."

The National League of Cities is also calling on Congress to address the long-term challenges facing the federal transportation program and highway funding.

"A long-term bill would provide much needed stability by providing longer time frames that allow for certainty in the planning process necessary for good projects that contribute to local economies," said NLC Executive Director Clarence Anthony. "We understand the ne-

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Lt. Gov. **Ron Ramsey**, Blountville, received the UWC UI Integrity Award recently for his work on unemployment insurance reform. The award was presented at the National Foundation for Unemployment Compensation and Workers' Compensation 33rd Annual National UI Issues conference in Savannah, Ga. Ramsey made unemployment reform a priority after hearing numerous employer complaints on his statewide Red Tape Tour in late 2011.



Ramsey

State Sen. **Low Finney** was honored by the Southwest Tennessee Development District for his work for the economic and community development of West Tennessee. Finney was lauded by Joe W. Barker, SWTDD executive director, for being a tireless advocate for West Tennessee communities, with a focus on jobs and education. He also passed landmark legislation to improve care for senior citizens. As state Senator for District 27, which includes Madison County, Finney served on the board, alongside local mayors and representatives from local industries.



Finney

Longtime firefighter **Terry Hood** is now at the helm of the Spring Hill Fire Department. Hood served 25 years as a Franklin firefighter and, after retiring four years ago as a lieutenant, he headed up fire investigations for insurance companies before taking Spring Hill's top fire post. Hood and his brothers have carried on a family tradition of firefighting. Hood is entering the job as a new Fire Station 2 is being built at Port Royal Park.



Hood

Recently retired Kingsport City Manager **John Campbell** was presented an honorary membership in the Tennessee City Managers Association for his outstanding service in local government in northeast Tennessee and his dedication and support for TCMA and the city management profession. Campbell is only the seventh TCMA member in the association's 50-year history to receive an honorary membership.



Campbell

Hardie Stulce has resigned as Soddy Daisy city manager resulting in a subsequent resignation of Mayor **Janice Cagle**, who will return to the city manager spot. Stulce, who Cagle said is leaving on good terms with the city, said he plans on resuming his career with the railroad. He had taken a year-to-year leave of absence from the railroad to work as the city manager. Cagle has tendered her resignation as both mayor and commissioner. She served as city manager for nine years prior to Stulce's appointment.



Cagle

Jessica Snell Frye has joined the city of Lakeland staff as finance director. Frye will serve as general accountant and auditor of the city and will oversee preparation of the annual budget and capital budget for all funds. She will also help assure that all financial operations are performed in compliance with applicable local, state, and federal laws. Frye previously served as Brownsville city clerk for nearly four years.



Frye

Former Murfreesboro Mayor **Tommy Bragg** was recently recognized with a resolution for 10 years of meritorious service to TACIR. TACIR commended Bragg for his countless contributions to the Commission, his honorable and distinguished service to the citizens of Tennessee, and his dedication to improving the quality of life in his community and the state.

Chip Moore has been named as Hendersonville's interim public works director. Moore has held the title of city design engineer for more than a decade.

Kyle Hamill, 29, son of Springfield Fire Chief Jimmy Hamill, has been appointed as Greenbrier's new fire chief. A full-time firefighter and engineer with the Gallatin Fire Department, Hamill has been a volunteer with Greenbrier since September 2005. Hamill will continue to work full-time for the Gallatin FD, in addition to serving Greenbrier part-time. He's been with Gallatin since 2008.

Longtime Ashland City fire chief **Chuck Walker** was named the 2014 Fire Chief of the Year by the Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association. The award was presented on July 15 during the association's annual conference in Nashville. Walker entered into the fire service at the age of 17 in 1981. He was promoted to the rank of chief in 1994 and became the first career firefighter in Ashland City.



Walker

LGC president Mickey Wilson retires

Local Government Corporation (LGC) President Mickey Wilson has retired after 37 years of service to local governments. Wilson has been with LGC for 29 years. His last nine years were as LGC president. A reception was held June 20 in his honor at the corporate headquarters.

(former director of Customer Service) Thomas has worked for LGC for 21 years and has served as vice-president for nine. Jim Gilbert has been at LGC for 21 years. The Executive Management team also promoted Lisa Carter as the new director of Customer Service. Prior to this, Carter served as



Mickey Wilson

MTAS staff receive awards at IPS Annual Conference in Gatlinburg

The UT Institute for Public Service (IPS) annual awards were presented at the IPS conference held Aug. 9-11 in Gatlinburg. In addition, the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) recognized the work of its staff members with the annual MTAS achievement awards.

Al Major, MTAS finance and accounting consultant, received the coveted Victor Hobday Award. Established in 1988 in honor of Vic Hobday, long time MTAS executive director. The award celebrates individuals who best display outstanding dedication and service to the agency.

Other MTAS presentations included a pair of Customer Service Awards presented to **Doug Brown**, MTAS administrative specialist II in training and **Michelle Terry**, MTAS administrative support assistant III in the Nashville Office.

MTAS Municipal Management Consultant **Jeff Broughton** was also recognized with the MTAS Trailblazer Award.

Dennis Wolf, MTAS fire consultant received the IPS Horizon Award. The award is presented to a regular full-time or part-time non-exempt employee with less than three years of service with an IPS agency. The recipient must demonstrate a positive attitude, show initiative, be a team player and exemplify excellence in performance.

Lisa Shipley, MTAS information and technology manager, was awarded the IPS Five Franklins Award, which is presented to an individual who has made a significant contribution on at least one major project during the last year, resulting in high customer impact and high customer value.

Sherri Brown, MTAS Administrative specialist II in administration, received the IPS Beacon Award,



Al Major, Hobday Award

which recognizes an individual, either non-exempt or exempt employee, who has demonstrated a continued capacity for providing top-notch services behind the scenes, by having first-hand knowledge of projects and by helping support agency outcomes.



Jeff Broughton



Michelle Terry

Doug Brown also received IPS' Tom and Diane Ballard Award of Excellence in Public Service, presented to a full-time, non-exempt employee who has demonstrated and sustained high-quality job performance, initiative, good communication skills, flexibility and commitment to the institute.



Doug Brown



Sherri Brown



Lisa Shipley



Dennis Wolf



Jim Gilbert, Bruce Collier and David Thomas

following executive management team:

- Bruce Collier as president (former executive vice-president)
- David Thomas as executive vice-president, (former vice-president)
- Jim Gilbert as vice-president,

the County Help Desk manager. The agency notes that despite the changes in management, the mission and vision of LGC will stay the same and be dedicated to providing customers with the highest quality; most cost effective computer related products and services available.

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STATE BRIEFS



Dept. of Labor adds more improvements to streamline process
The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development has rolled out more improvements to the state's unemployment system. Frustrated job seekers have contacted the station to describe problems getting through to the claims center. State officials have said the problem is too many calls coming in and not enough people to answer all of them. The state is relying on improved technology to make filing easier and reduce call volume. Earlier this year, a new Telephone Certification System was implemented. It allows claimants to self-correct their answers to the weekly certifications they do online and reset their PIN. Since the implementation, the state says the call volume has dropped significantly. On July 7, the department included new online status tracker. Claimants can go online, enter their name and social security number and a tool shows them where their claim is in the process. The department is also currently training 10 new employees who will be dedicated to a live chat system.

New signs welcome low emission vehicles to HOV lanes
High occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes were put in place to help reduce traffic, and even reduce emissions. In Tennessee, many know the requirement to drive in these lanes is that a car must have at least two people inside. However, low emission vehicles are also allowed to travel in HOV lanes, courtesy of a federal law put into place in 2005 to help lower emissions. "New signs were posted to put the state in line with new federal guidelines and will likely go up throughout Middle Tennessee," said Heather Jensen with the Tennessee Department of Transportation. Those who travel in low emission vehicles can drive with ease and help law enforcement by signing up for an HOV Smart Pass, which can be found on TDOT's web site. The decal shows everyone your vehicle qualifies to drive in the designated HOV lane.

Fatal non-interstate accident study cites TN among top 15
A study of America's non-interstate rural roads ranks Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama among the top 15 states for fatal accidents and suggests a major overhaul of the states' rural transportation systems. The connecting routes in rural Southeast Tennessee—and other states—sometimes are winding, often shoulderless stretches of blacktop lacking modern safety features such as turn lanes, highly reflective pavement markings and rumble strips at the centerline and edges of the road, according to the study, "Rural Connections: Challenges and Opportunities in America's Heartland." The study, released by the Washington, D.C., based transportation research group TRIP, looks at the condition, use and safety of the rural transportation system in the face of federal highway funding that is "expected to be cut by almost 100 percent from the current investment level" for fiscal year starting Oct. 1, 2014, if more revenue is not approved by Congress. The number of traffic deaths in Tennessee was noted as 521. And of the three states, Tennessee is the only one ranked in the top 20, number six in the fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled.

State's food stamp program recognized nationally
Tennessee's food stamp program has gained national recognition and a federal funding bonus of about \$5 million. A federal review found that the state's Department of Human Services had improved the management of its Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) more than any other state. Formerly known as food stamps, the SNAP program helps about 1.3 million low-income Tennesseans pay for groceries. The agency said the award is a first for Tennessee. The state's procedural error rate, a measurement that captures customer service problems, has now fallen below the national average. Tennessee also ranked sixth in the nation for the accuracy of its SNAP payments. The state reduced overpayments and underpayments to

eligible households. The \$5 million bonus from the U.S. Department of Agriculture must be put into the technology and administration that helps run SNAP. Nationally and in Tennessee, the use of food stamps has declined. Although the dip in Tennessee has been more modest than the national trend, the state still ranks among the highest in the nation for reliance on food assistance, with almost one in five Tennesseans receiving the aid.

New map says Tennessee in top 16 for earthquake activity
The U.S. Geological Survey released a new earthquake hazard map, which included Tennessee in the top 16 states most likely to experience a rumble. USGS notes that "while all states have some potential for earthquakes, 42 out of the 50 states have a reasonable chance of experiencing damaging ground shaking from an earthquake in 50 years." However, the majority of the states affected by earthquakes are on the West Coast. The last survey map was released in 2008, and since then, earthquake experts have expanded risk zones in areas other than the ones more closely associated with tremors.

Tourists bring \$734 M to Smokies
A new National Park Service report shows that visitors to the Smokies in 2013 pumped more than \$734 million into the local economy while supporting 10,734 jobs. In 2013 the park drew 9,354,695 visitors to retain its title as the most-visited national park in the U.S. The 2013 economic benefit figures are slightly below the 2012 results that reported \$741 million spent by park visitors in local communities. The report attributed the decline to the 16-day government shutdown in October 2013. It also cited inflation adjustments for differences between visitation and visitor spending, jobs supported, and overall effects on the U.S. economy.

Career Coach offers new High School Equivalency Test
The Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development is offering a new service, via the department's three "Career Coach" vehicles, to Tennesseans lacking a high school diploma. The mobile centers have become certified testing sites for the new High School Equivalency Test (HiSET), an alternative to the recently revised General Educational Development (GED) exam. Passing either test earns the test-taker a state-issued high school equivalency diploma; no distinction is made between the tests when the credential is issued.

State celebrates completion of Mack Hatcher Parkway project



Hatcher Parkway in Franklin. Gov. Haslam and state Transportation Commissioner John Schroer were among those on hand to cut the ribbon. The project, stretching from south of State Route 96 to State Route 6, was completed and opened to traffic in May. Since then, crews have been striping, landscaping, adding signage and other incidental work. Construction began in September 2011 on the nearly three-mile section of Mack Hatcher. The \$23.4 million dollar project widened the route from two to four lanes, added double left turn lanes at major intersections and an adjacent pathway for pedestrians and bicyclists.

June unemployment rate increases

Tennessee Labor & Workforce Development released the Tennessee preliminary unemployment rate for June was 6.6 percent, two tenths of one percentage point higher than the 6.4 May revised rate. The U.S. preliminary rate for June was 6.1 percent, down from 6.3 percent in May. Over the past year, Tennessee's unemployment rate decreased from 8.4 percent to 6.6 percent while the national rate decreased from 7.5

percent to 6.1 percent. Total nonfarm employment decreased 2,600 jobs from May to June. The largest decreases occurred in mining/logging/construction, government, and other services. Over the year, nonfarm employment increased 53,600 jobs. The largest increases occurred in professional/business services, leisure/hospitality, and trade/transportation/utilities.

Grants to expand afterschool and summer meal programs

GRANT from Page 1
and reduced-price meals through the School Breakfast Program (SBP) and National School Lunch Programs (NSLP). But summer meals currently only reach about 15 percent of the children that are eligible, and many of these low-income children that rely on these meals during the school year go hungry during the summer months and after school.

The USDA provides federally funded meals through the afterschool and summer meal programs, including the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the NSLP Seamless Summer Option, to help fill this gap. Because this funding is guaranteed year to year as part of a federal entitlement program, the organizations operating these programs are fully reimbursed for the cost of the meals.

these grant funds include those that have a strong commitment to launching or expanding local efforts to provide afterschool and summer meals utilizing the federal programs resulting in year-round feeding opportunities. Based on the proposals submitted, up to 8 cities will be selected through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process to receive grant funding along with customized technical assistance, access to best practices and national experts and opportunities for peer learning and exchange as they develop strategic approaches for increasing utilization of the Afterschool and Summer Meal Programs. **The grant period runs from September 2014 to December 2015.**

For more information, contact: Jamie Nash at nash@nlc.org or (202) 626-3160. The deadline for submitting proposals is Aug. 15, 2014.

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The Tennessee Drug Card has now saved the residents of the state more than \$30 million on prescription medications since inception - keeping in mind that a 2012 Consumer Reports survey found that 45 percent of Americans who are under 65 and who lack drug prescription benefits say they fail to fill their prescriptions because of the cost.

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into any CVS/Pharmacy in Tennessee and request to use the Tennessee Drug Card program. For questions or more information contact Program Director Natalie Meyer at Natalie@Tennesseedrugguard.com or 1-888-987-0688

TREEDC Inaugural International Conference

The University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service and 96 TREEDC Mayors are proud to announce the Inaugural International Renewable Energy & Economic Development (TREEDC) - Tennessee Tech University Conference in Cookeville to be held Oct. 12- 14.

This conference will feature a wide selection of renewable energy approaches and dialogue for networking and fellowship among supporters in Tennessee and the rest of the world.

The International Renewable Energy Conference will showcase Tennessee and Philippine renewable energy technologies, leaders and local government and university best practices to state, national and international members of TREEDC Ten Philippine universities and eight cities that are members of TREEDC will be present.

Attendees will hear about:

- Small Town Renewable Energy Programs
- To Net Zero Energy Manufacturing
- Chattanooga Best Practices
- Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Tennessee Renewable Energy Economic Council

Initiatives

- Building Out Wind Energy Transmission Lines
- Jobs Outlook and Training from the University Perspective
- TVA Valley Sustainable Communities Program Overview
- Georgia Power and 525 MW of Solar Capacity

Register Online at https://epay.tntech.edu/C20205_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=610&SINGLESTORE=true

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Additional Events and Scholarship Fundraisers include: A golf outing for \$25 on Oct. 12, Nine holes of golf—prizes awarded and a guided Westside walk | \$10, Oct. 13, at 6 pm.

For organizations interested in becoming a sponsor for this historic event, let TREEDC know at (865) 974-9839 or www.treedc.us.

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NATIONAL BRIEFS

As the United States continues to get grayer around the ears due to the aging Baby Boom generation, a few states have gotten younger as a result of oil production. Nationally, the median age in the United States rose slightly from 2012 to 2013, from 37.5 years to 37.6 years, according to new figures released by the Census Bureau. Baby boomers were responsible for this shift, pushing the size of the senior population up by 3.6 percent last year. There are now 44.7 million Americans 65 and older. Meanwhile, seven states experienced a drop in their median age during the same span. Some of this decline was attributed to the oil and gas rush that's been taking place in the Dakotas, Montana, Wyoming and Oklahoma since hydraulic fracturing opened up previously untapped reserves. Demand for drillers and other industry workers has prompted many younger Americans, mostly men, to relocate to these states for employment. North Dakota, home to the Bakken shale oil boom, witnessed the largest drop in average age by 0.6 years between 2012 and 2013. Similar, though smaller declines also occurred in Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota and Oklahoma. Alaska and Hawaii also got younger. "We're seeing the demographic impact of two booms,"

John Thompson, director of the Census Bureau, "The population in the Great Plains energy boom states is becoming younger and more male as workers move in seeking employment in the oil and gas industry, while the U.S. as a whole continues to age as the youngest of the baby boom generation enters their 50s."

Employers added 288,000 jobs in June, the U.S. Labor Department said, the fifth month in a row that hiring has topped the 200,000 mark. The unemployment rate dipped to 6.1 percent last month, the best reading since September 2008. Since then, many segments of the economy have rebounded — including corporate profits, Wall Street and the housing market — even as payrolls inched higher at a grindingly slow rate. Now, these broader economic gains are prompting businesses to actually hire significantly more workers in response to growing demand, rather than taking half steps, like adding hours to stretch existing work forces. Despite the broad gains, the economy is still a long way from its peak before the housing bubble burst and the recession began at the end of 2007. The broadest measure of unemployment, which includes people who are working part time because full-time positions are not



available, stands at 12.1 percent. And the proportion of Americans in the labor force has been stuck for three straight months at 62.8 percent, a 36-year low, and is down sharply from 66 percent in 2008.

State and local governments are hiring again, but they're having difficulty finding — and retaining — the right people. In the Center for State and Local Government Excellence's workforce survey, government human-resources managers cite staff development, succession planning, employee morale and retaining staff for core services as their top issues. Those issues were rated as greater concerns than compensation and health-care and retirement-plan costs. Some of the problem is the mismatch between the skills of people looking for work and the jobs that need filling. Governments face stiff competition from the private sector and more local and state workers are heading for the exits as they become eligible for retirement. The center's survey finds that 22 percent of retirement-eligible employees accelerated their retirement date in 2013. For more information, visit <http://www.governing.com/columns/smart-mgmt/col-challenge-building-workforce-government-needs.html>

**TENNESSEE FESTIVALS****Aug. 14: Gallatin***Music at the Market*

The Todd London Jazz Trio will be performing from 6:30 to 8 pm at the Farmer's Market, 160 Franklin Street (next to the Gallatin Police Department). Refreshments available.

Sept. 1: Harrogate*Annual Labor Day Celebration*

Harrogate City Park at 3 pm with kids' games, live bands, food, crafts and business fair. Spectacular fireworks display at 9 pm. For more information, call Harrogate City Hall at 423-869-0211.

Aug. 28-Sept. 6: Martin*25th Annual TN Soybean Festival*

A huge tribute to agriculture and one of the country's biggest cash crops with food, concerts, fireworks, street carnival, beauty pageant, golf tournament, Soybean Parade and so much more! For the complete festival lineup, visit www.tnsoybeanfestival.org or call 731-588-1263.

Sept. 5-7: Pikeville*Mountaineer Folk Festival*

Village Green Area. A display of the Cumberland Plateau's rich cultural heritage and talents. Two music stages with authentic local music and demonstrations in molasses making, quilting, brooms, musical instruments and blacksmithing, food, arts & crafts, storytelling, and more.

Sept 12-13: Greeneville*Grills Gone Wild BBQ Festival*

Held at Tusculum College. A fun-filled weekend of entertainment, contest, 5K Night Race, car show and much more. For more information, call 615-476-6397.

Sept. 15-20: Westmoreland*Fifth Annual Mule Day*

Westmoreland Expo Center, 4011 Fleetwood Drive. Wagon Train, donkey basketball, mule rodeo, log loading/pulling, clogging and music, parade. Visit www.westmorelandexpo.com.

Sept. 20: Pittman Center*Pittman Center Heritage Day*

Held from 9am-4pm. features heritage-type crafts, food, music, clogging, genealogy, children's activities, dog show, and auction. Mayor Glenn Cardwell will be on hand to sign purchased copies of "A Dream Fulfilled," a story about the community and town, and "The Greenbrier Cove Story," stories and photos reflecting on when Greenbrier Cove was first settled and where people lived until the land became part of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Vendor applicants call 865-436-5945, weekdays from 8 am to 4 pm.

Sept. 20 - Morristown*Arts In The Park*

Celebrating visual and performing arts from 10 am to 4 pm at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Park, 350 West Ninth North Street. Free admission. For information, contact Peggy Brewer at 423-312-8325.

UT MTAS Sept./Oct. Classes**Customer Service for Front Line Employees**

MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICE

This course is tailored to front line customer service staff and managers of customer service areas. Participants will learn the components of good customer service and how to achieve a positive outcome even in an emotionally negative situation.

Learners will be shown tips on how to diffuse a customer's emotions and how to address customers in many different circumstances is also covered. The course concentrates on face-to-face customer service but

much of the material is applicable to telephone situations

Time: All courses begin at 8:30 am and end at 12:30 pm EST and CST.

Schedule of Sessions

Sept. 24- Kingsport

Sept. 25- Knoxville

Sept. 30- Jackson

Oct. 1- Franklin

Locations:**Knoxville**, University of Tennessee Conference Center**Jackson**, Univ of Tenn - West Tenn Research & Education Center**Kingsport**, Kingsport Center for Higher Education**Franklin**, Williamson County Ag Expo Park

Cost: Tennessee Municipal Employees- \$50/person/class. A fee of \$65 is charged for non-city officials.

4 CPE/CMFO (Financial)

To register for a course, go to www.mtas.tennessee.edu Or fax to 865.974.0423. Credit card payments must register online with the Solution Point System: <http://www.solutionpoint.tennessee.edu/MTAS> or by invoice. MTAS will need to receive payment in order to confirm attendance.

For registration assistance, call 865-974-0411 or for more information, contact Kurt Frederick at 615-253-6385 or kurt.frederick@tennessee.edu.

UT MTAS Sept./Oct. Classes

MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICE

There is a lot more to good records management than pulling and replacing files. For those who organize, file or retrieve records and information, you know there's a lot more to making a filing system work for you and your municipality. You need a solid knowledge of the basics — and smart ideas and solutions that meet unique needs and challenges.

This course will cover the basics of records management including filing arrangements or systems, inventory methods, open records law, and management retention schedules. Know what to keep and how, what to toss — and when.

Records Management

Time: All courses begin at 8:30 am and end at 12:30 pm EST and CST.

Schedule of Sessions

Sept. 23- Bartlett

Sept. 24- Jackson

Sept. 25- Franklin

Sept. 30- Collegedale

Oct. 1- Knoxville

Oct. 2- Johnson City

Locations:**Bartlett**, Bartlett Station Municipal Center**Collegedale**, Collegedale City Hall**Franklin**, Franklin Police Department**Knoxville**, Univ. of Tenn. Conference Center**Jackson**, Univ of Tenn - West Tenn Research & Education Center**Johnson City**, Johnson City Municipal Center

Cost: Tennessee Municipal Employees- \$50/person/class. A fee of \$65 is charged for non-city officials.

4 CPE/CMFO (Financial)

To register for a course, go to www.mtas.tennessee.edu Or fax to 865.974.0423. Credit card payments must register online with the Solution Point System: <http://www.solutionpoint.tennessee.edu/MTAS> or by invoice. MTAS will need to receive payment in order to confirm attendance.

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No loan is too large or too small

The city of Morristown closed a \$20 million loan for sewer system upgrades.



The city of Ripley closed a \$1 million loan for a new fire hall and equipment.



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TML salutes longtime support from Conference Exhibitors

As the Tennessee Municipal League celebrates its 75th Annual Conference, the League is proud to recognize several vendors and conference sponsors who have been involved with the League for more than 25 years.

During a special ceremony in the Exhibit Hall at the recent Annual Conference in Chattanooga, the League recognized eight companies and state agencies for their continued partnership with the League and for their commitment to serve Tennessee cities and towns.



UT - Municipal Technical Advisory Service has been a vendor at the TML conference since 1976 for a total of 38 years.



Utility Service Co., Inc. has been with TML for 36 years – since 1978.



Local Government Corporation first began exhibiting in 1983 for a total of 31 years



Barge, Waggoner, Sumner, and Cannon began as an exhibitor in 1985 for a total of 29 years.



CMI Equipment began as an exhibitor in 1985 for a total of 29 years.



J.R. Wauford & Company began as an exhibitor in 1985 for a total of 29 years



Waste Management began as an exhibitor in 1985 for a total of 29 years



Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations who began exhibiting at the TML conference in 1986 for a total of 28 years.

Photos by Victoria South



CLASSIFIED ADS

Advertising: \$9.25 per column inch. No charge to TML members. Send advertising to: TT&C Classified Ads, Mona Lawrence, 226 Capitol Blvd, Suite 710, Nashville TN 37219; e-mail: mlawrence@TML1.org; or fax: 615-255-4752.

FIRE CHIEF

ATOKA. Dynamic, growing community seeks an experienced, innovative, and professional Fire Chief to lead in the creation of the Atoka Fire Department. This will be the first fire chief position for the stand-alone fire department. Five+ years of significant and progressively responsible experience as a fire chief or member of a departmental command staff in a community of comparable size and complexity is preferred. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, ability to initiate efficient operations, budget/fiscal management, employee recruitment and team building, employee management skills required. Residency is required within agreed upon time of appointment. Appointed by Board of Mayor and Aldermen. Starting salary \$51,842 - \$53,398, depending on qualifications and experience. For a complete job description, visit www.TownofAtoka.com/jobs. Apply by Aug. 8, 2014. The town of Atoka is EOE and a Drug-Free Workplace.

POLICE OFFICER

FAYETTEVILLE. The city is accepting applications for the position of Police Officer. Applicants must successfully complete the following: interview, background investigation, physical, psychological and drug screen. Applications are available at the Fayetteville Municipal Building at 110 Elk Avenue South, Fayetteville, Tennessee, 37334, between the hours of 7:30 am and 4 pm, Mon.-through Fri., or the application can be obtained through the city's website at www.fayettevilletn.com. Application deadline is 4 pm., Sept. 3, 2014. A complete job description, including the essential functions required to perform this job, is also available and will be distributed with each application. The City of Fayetteville is EOE.

FIREFIGHTER

COLLIERVILLE. The city is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Firefighter. This position is to perform entry level firefighting and basic level emergency medical assistance work in combating, extinguishing, and preventing fires, and in responding to medical emergencies that is designed to help the town of Collierville's Fire Department respond effectively to fires, medical emergencies, natural disasters, and man-made emergency situations.

Requires a High School diploma or GED with course concentration in the physical sciences or industrial arts; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience, which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Must possess and maintain a valid driver's license. Must possess a valid Emergency Medical Technician license with IV endorsement (up to Dec. 31, 2016) or Advanced EMT license as outlined in the rules and regulations by the Tennessee Department of Health and Environment and maintain license throughout employment. Must possess a Firefighter I certification, as outlined in the rules and regulations by the Tennessee Commission on Firefighter Standards and Education. Education and/or training cannot be substituted for the required years of experience. Must be 21 years of age at time of hire. Incumbents must satisfactorily complete a one year probationary period. Incumbents must establish and maintain their actual bona fide residence within a distance no greater than 30 miles from a firehouse within the town's corporate limits. If qualified, a firefighter may ride out-of-rank in the driver's position and perform such duties and responsibilities. Applicants must not have been convicted of a felony or any misdemeanor that involved force, liquor, or drug laws. Applicants who have military service must possess an "Honorable" discharge. Salary: \$31,389.00 annually with excellent benefits package. Apply to: Human Resources Office, 500 Poplar

View Parkway, Collierville, TN 38017. The Town of Collierville is EOE.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

NOLENSVILLE. The town is seeking an energetic, proactive, local government professional to be their first town administrator. The town, comprising an area of 9.5 square miles, is located 18 miles southeast of downtown Nashville in high growth Williamson County. The town administrator is appointed by and reports to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen comprised of a mayor and four aldermen elected at-large to staggered, four-year terms of office. Nolensville has a \$3.5M budget with 19 full-time employees serving the community. Candidates should possess a bachelor's degree in public administration, business administration, or a field closely related to municipal management, with a master's degree in a related field preferred; and a minimum of 5 years of progressively increasing professional experience with a municipality. Salary is negotiable. This is an exceptional opportunity to guide the future of a growing community while retaining the small town character, scenic value, and ecological quality of the community. Position profile is available at www.nolensvilletn.gov. Send cover letter and resume by electronic mail to the University of Tennessee, Municipal Technical Advisory Service, attention Jeff Broughton. Initial review of applications will occur Aug. 15, 2014. Please direct questions to Jeff Broughton at jeff.broughton@tennessee.edu.

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TML 2014 Annual Conference spotlights this year's exhibitors



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Phillips Lighting



Pittsburg Tank & Tower Co.



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The Retail Coach



Rhodes Car International



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Waste Connections



Waste Industries



Waste Pro

Photos by Victoria South

Have you visited the TML Marketplace lately?



The TML Marketplace features an online guide of municipal products and services. This easily accessible index hosted on TML's website is a one-stop reference tool of goods and services. City decision makers can seek and find products they want on their own time through the convenience of using the online Marketplace that's open 24/7. Companies that participate in the Marketplace are listed alphabetically and categorically by the types of products and services they provide.

Visit www.tml1.org for more information or contact Debbie Kluth (615) 425-3908, dkluth@tml1.org

Germantown's Wolf River Boulevard extension is multimodal with sustainable features

BY HAROLD W. MADISON
TDEC Office of Sustainable Practice

After years of planning and a special partnership for funding, the award-winning Wolf River Boulevard Extension project in Germantown is providing traffic relief and multi-modal travel options while incorporating sustainable features, environmental protection and a greenway for active lifestyles in the area.

Nearly 20 years of planning, negotiating and even land swapping, brought the project to completion in August 2013. The city applied for and obtained applicable state issued permits to construct the roadway. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's Division of Water Resources issued coverage under Tennessee's Construction General Permit in the spring of 2010.

The project extends approximately two-miles and is a four lane bi-directional roadway through an environmentally sensitive area. The project included adding LED traffic signals to two intersections at Kimbrough Road and Farmington Boulevard. The cross-section is comprised of a four lane roadway, a 12 foot median containing a variety of native plants, and dedicated bike lanes for each direction.

The constructed roadway project further enhances Germantown's Greenway by adding bike lanes, walkways, two pedestrian bridges with lookouts and a pedestrian tunnel that runs beneath the roadway. The project also represents a major step in constructing a greenway that will ultimately run all the way from the Mississippi River through Germantown to the city of Collierville.

Sustainable features include educational signage and use of solar powered LED lighting in the pedestrian tunnel. The project was constructed with minimal impacts to mature trees and used drought tolerant native plants. Special measures were put in place to provide buffer for the Wolf River and sensitive wetland areas supporting the use of native species along the corridor to help protect the integrity of Riverwoods State Natural Area.

City officials worked through multiple environmental design and construction challenges on the project with planners, designers and community groups. W. H. Porter with input from Audubon International designed the project and Smith, Seckman, Reid, Inc. (SSR) along with city staff provided site inspections during construction.

The project was designed and constructed with matching funds from the Surface Transportation Program (STP) providing 80 percent (Federal and State) and 20 percent by the city of Germantown. Although \$25 million was budgeted for the project, it was completed about \$2 million under budget.

Since the initial route of the road infringed upon Riverwoods State Natural Area and would clear a swath of Wolf River bottomland hardwoods, the Memphis Garden Club, Wolf River Conservancy and other advocates negotiated with Germantown to secure a land swap. The land swap, though difficult, was a preferred solution that yielded benefits for the environment and the community. The approved plan was mutually beneficial and resulted in the preservation of a 318 acre tract

of land on the north side of the river that is now owned by the Wolf River Conservancy. A conservation easement is held by Ducks Unlimited and the remaining corridor of bottomland hardwoods between the boulevard and the river will be kept in a natural state with recreational opportunities.

Germantown, located in the central part of Shelby County, has significantly improved its cross regional traffic flow with the opening of the Wolf River Boulevard connector. Traffic volume in the area historically caused significant commuting on an overburdened Popular Avenue. City officials estimate that up to 24,000 cars use the new roadway daily. With the connector opened, the city has experienced improved traffic flow in diverting traffic from Farmington Boulevard and now allows motorists to travel east and west from I-240 at Walnut Grove to eastern Shelby County. In addition to enhancing traffic flow for the northern perimeter of the city, the multimodal roadway also accommodates greenway uses like biking, walking and other activities.

In completing the roadway project under budget, the city plans to use the balance to further expand the Germantown Greenway. Tim Gwaltney, Germantown city engineer, said the design of the greenway is complete and he anticipates construction bids in early summer. The greenway project is expected to take 12 months to complete.

According to W. Ryan Hall, land protection associate with the Wolf River Conservancy, the city's build-out of this section of the greenway paralleling the Wolf River Boulevard helps to advance the Wolf River Conservancy's grand vision of the Wolf River Greenway. The grand vision includes a 10 foot wide paved path following the meanders of the Wolf River east from the Mississippi River to the Fayette County line.

"This major green infrastructure project will connect many neighborhoods and three municipalities, allowing alternative transportation options from downtown Memphis to suburban areas," Hall said. "The project is pivotal for connecting the outer-lying areas with the Wolf River Greenway network, in addition to expanding the corridor of protected lands along the Wolf River."

The Wolf River Boulevard Extension project was nominated for the 2014 Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award. It gained even more recognition by designation as a certified Silver Audubon International Signature Sanctuary, the first such honor in the world. It was selected for the ACEC 2014 Engineering Excellence Grand Award and the project was also recognized by the Tennessee Concrete Association for the 2014 Non-Building Structure Award for Architect / Engineer.

"Because the roadway corridor edged the Wolf River and the bottomland, floodway and floodplain of our northern city boundary, we always knew these two miles would be challenging," said Germantown Mayor Sharon Goldsworthy. "When we began serious planning for its design and construction a dozen years ago, we recognized the sensitivity of the natural environment to the intrusion of a roadway. We also needed to address the routing that crossed a State Natural Area. Through extensive conversation



In addition to enhancing traffic flow for the northern perimeter of the city, the multimodal roadway also accommodates greenway uses like biking, walking and other activities

and negotiation over three years, we were able to arrive at agreements to reconfigure the natural area and place more than 300 acres across the river into permanent conservancy as floodway and floodplain. Engaging Audubon International provided us with enormous guidance from start to finish, as well as credibility, as we developed a roadway unlike any other in the region. The boulevard is a remarkable experience, whether driving, biking or walking. It exemplifies what can happen when people rethink traditional road design, in a river's edge woodland or anywhere."

After extensive planning, addressing design and construction challenges, and making use of partnerships, Germantown's award-winning project is providing benefits to the community and the environment. With residents using the new roadway, traffic impacts have lessened and multi-modal travel options have increased.

The city's ability to go beyond routine road building standards led to a successful project that could become a model for other communities by using sustainable features, ensuring environmental protection for sensitive areas, and increasing quality of life choices as afforded by the Germantown Greenway.



Nominated for the 2014 Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award, Germantown's Wolf River Boulevard Extension project was designated as a certified Silver Audubon International Signature Sanctuary, the first such honor in the world.

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