

TN government entities must adopt open records policy by July 1, 2017

Comptroller's office establishes model policy

For the first time in state history, Tennessee government entities now have a model policy to help define how public records requests are handled.

The Comptroller's Office of Open Records Counsel (OORC) established a model public records policy to assist all Tennessee government entities. The model policy was created after Sen. Richard Briggs and Rep. Bill Dunn led the passage of Public Chapter 722 during the 109th Tennessee General Assembly.

Public Chapter 722 requires every governmental entity subject to the Tennessee Public Records Act to establish a written public records policy by July 1, 2017.

The policy must be adopted by the appropriate governing authority, and the OORC model policy will serve as a helpful resource. A public records policy must cover the process for making and responding to

public records requests, redaction of records, and how fees, if any, are charged for copies. Additionally, the policy must identify who has been designated the Public Records Request Coordinator for the entity.

"This model policy will be an excellent resource for the hundreds of government entities across Tennessee," said Comptroller Justin P. Wilson. "The Comptroller's Office of Open Records Counsel stands ready to assist government employees in preparing their entities' policies."

The OORC established the model public records policy after receiving public comments, including comments from members of the Advisory Committee on Open Government.

To view the model policy online, go to: <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/openrecords/forms.asp>



Photo courtesy of the state of Tennessee photographic services

Lt. Gov. Randy McNally, Senate Speaker Pro Tem Jim Tracy, House Speaker Beth Harwell, and House Speaker Pro Tem Curtis Johnson listen as Gov. Bill Haslam delivers his seventh State of the State Address.

Haslam unveils proposed spending plan for \$37 billion state budget

BY CAROLE GRAVES
TML Communications Director

A new proposal to send adults to community college for free, an increase in the state's gas tax, and new investments in education and infrastructure were among the highlights of Gov. Bill Haslam's remarks during his seventh State of the State of address given before a joint session of the Tennessee General Assembly on Jan. 30.

If approved, the Governor's "Tennessee Reconnect Act" would make Tennessee the first state in the nation to offer all citizens – both high school students and adults – the chance to earn a postsecondary degree or certificate free of tuition and fees.

"Just as we did with Tennessee Promise, we're making a clear statement to families: wherever you might fall on life's path, education beyond high school is critical to the Tennessee we can be," Haslam said. "At the end of the day, there is no higher potential for providing more opportunity for our citizens than increasing access to high quality education. And the point is, we're doing it while maintaining discipline and responsibility to the taxpayer – keeping taxes and debt low and saving for when the economy ultimately slows."

Tennessee adults without a certificate can already attend Tennessee

Colleges of Applied Technology (TCATs) tuition-free. The governor's Tennessee Reconnect Act would add community colleges into the program.

During his speech, Haslam also unveiled his annual spending plan for fiscal year 2017-18, totaling \$37 billion, of which \$17.89 billion is state appropriations; \$13.49 billion in federal; and \$3.7 billion is from other departmental revenues, \$1.8 billion from higher education tuition and fees, and \$80 million in bonds for highway construction.

Stronger than expected revenue growth in fiscal year 2016 provided a one-time funding surplus of \$1 billion. Haslam said the non-recurring money will be allocated to "items that can save state dollars down the road, including the improvement and maintenance of our buildings, both general government and higher education, and putting \$110 million toward paying down a \$1.2 billion liability for retirees' health care."

He also proposed adding \$132

million to the Rainy Day Fund that would bring it to an all-time record high of \$800 million.

The amount of new recurring revenue is \$957 million, double the amount the state normally receives. Haslam said that a big chunk of it would go toward his proposed tax cuts (\$200 million), funding the BEP (\$180 million) and increases in TennCare (\$130 million), totaling \$510 million.

Haslam also provided an overview of his gas tax plan previously announced as part of his IMPROVE Act. His plan:

- increases the current state tax from 20 to 27 cents to generate \$138.4 million;
- increases the tax on diesel fuel from 17 cents to 29 cents (\$89.4 million);
- increases vehicle registrations fees (\$33.9 million);
- introduces a new annual fee for electric vehicles (\$250,000);
- increases taxes on natural gas by

See **BUDGET** on Page 3

NLC weighs in on unfunded mandates, regulatory reform

BY CAROLYN BERNDT
National League of Cities

At the request of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Jason Chaffetz, R-UT, NLC submitted a list of unfunded mandates on local governments and regulatory reform proposals to ease the burden that these unfunded mandates place on local communities.

Within the framework of an intergovernmental partnership, imposing unfunded mandates on local governments has implications on our core principle of federalism. NLC calls on the federal government to continue to work within the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA)

and subsequent Executive Order 13132: Federalism to ensure that local elected officials have direct input early and often into the rulemaking process.

Regulatory reform is a top priority for President Donald Trump and Congressional Republicans. Earlier this month, the House passed legislation that would significantly overhaul the federal rulemaking process. The Regulations From the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act (REINS Act, H.R. 26) would require congressional approval of federal regulations with an estimated annual economic impact of more than \$100 million. Two amendments added to the bill would require each agency

See **MANDATES** on Page 6

TML Legislative Conference set

March 20-21 in Nashville

Make plans now to attend the Tennessee Municipal League's Annual Legislative Conference, slated for March 20 - 21 at the DoubleTree Hotel Downtown Nashville.

The two-day conference provides an excellent forum for city officials to interact with their legislators and to be updated on the many legislative issues being addressed by the 110th General Assembly.

City officials are also encouraged to use their time in Nashville to attend Monday evening floor sessions and to schedule time to visit with their legislators.

The voice of Tennessee's mu-



nicipal governments must be heard in the legislative process, and the TML Legislative Conference is a key opportunity to communicate with your legislators.

To register, go to www.TML1.org. Contact the TML offices at 615-255-6416 for more information.

Deadline for hotel registration is Feb. 15. To reserve a room and to receive the group rate of \$153, contact the DoubleTree at (800) 222-8733.



Tennessee's last motor-fuel tax increase was in 1989. How does that compare to other states? Here's a look at neighboring and select states for their amount and the number of years since they last increased their state motor-fuel taxes.

	Amount (Ranking)	Year since last increase
Pennsylvania	51.5 cents (1)	2014
Washington	49.4 cents (2)	2015
Georgia	31.7 cents (19)	2015
U.S. Average	28.1 cents	2011 **
Kentucky	26 cents (30)	2014
Kansas	24 cents (31)	2003
Virginia	22.4 cents (36)	2015
Arkansas	21.8 cents (38)	2001
TENNESSEE	21.4 cents (39)	1989
Alabama	20.9 cents (40)	1992
Mississippi	18.8 cents (45)	1989
Missouri	17.3 cents (46)	1996
S. Carolina	16.8 cents (47)	1989
Alaska	12.3 cents (50)	1969

*gasoline

** 25 states have increased their motor-fuel tax since 2011
Source: The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP) and The Tennessee Road Builders Association

Three federal regulations of interest to cities targeted for elimination, rewrite

BY LISA SORONEN
Executive Director
State and Local Legal Center

President Donald Trump has repeatedly stated that one of the goals of his new administration is to get rid of federal regulations. Three on the chopping block of particular interest to state and local government include:

- the Clean Power Plan (CPP), President Barack Obama's signature climate change measure
- the regulations defining "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS), a significant term in the Clean Water Act defining the federal government's jurisdiction to regulate water, and
- the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) overtime regulations, which extend overtime pay to four million workers

Despite the fact that the new administration has a menu of options when it comes to removing final federal regulations, the most effective options are probably the most difficult for the president to achieve.



If any or all of these regulations go, it won't likely be the result of the direct efforts of the new president – the U.S. Supreme Court would likely be responsible.

What are Trump's options?

Perhaps the cleanest way to undo final regulations is to rewrite or eliminate the statutory language being interpreted in the regulation. For example, the WOTUS final rule includes eight categories of jurisdictional waters. Congress could

simply rewrite the Clean Water Act to define WOTUS differently from the final regulations. But getting such a change through Congress would probably be impossible as Senate Democrats would certainly filibuster any change they saw as offering less environmental protection than the final regulations.

The Trump Administration could also instruct federal agencies to rewrite regulations, but a number of challenges arise with this option. See **REGS** on Page 6

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BARTLETT

The city of Bartlett has received the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada's (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. The award represents a significant achievement by the city and reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meet the highest principles of government budgeting. In order to receive the award, the city had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation that assess how well the budget serves as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide and communications device. Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories and the 14 mandatory criteria within those categories to receive the award. The award was accepted by Finance Director Dick Phebus on behalf of the city.

BRISTOL

The Bristol Police Department is introducing new software developed by TriTech Software Systems to assist the agency in providing valuable information about recent crime activity in individual neighborhoods to the public. The system is an advanced mapping engine. Crime data is extracted on a regular basis from the police department's records system so that the information being viewed is the most current available. The data is always verified for accuracy, and all address information is generalized by block in order to help ensure that privacy is protected. The new program will allow the community to explore various crime information. Anyone can register for email alerts that will notify them when a crime is reported near their home. The police department will use this to measure and monitor crime trends in the city and in any particular neighborhood. This will allow the department to more accurately direct resources to problems that have been identified using the software.

BROWNSVILLE

Teknor Apex will expand in Brownsville, investing \$32.2 million and creating 50 new jobs. Teknor Apex plans to build a 200,000-square-foot distribution facility in the Brownsville-Haywood County Industrial Park. The expansion will allow Teknor Apex to grow the manufacturing units within its existing plant. Teknor Apex is one of the world's leading custom producers of compounds, composites and plastics. It currently manufactures products for five divisions at its 1-million-square-foot Brownsville facility: nylon, vinyl, chemical and garden hoses. Teknor Apex's compounds are used in various applications, ranging from wire and cable products to automotive, medical, consumer and industrial products. Teknor Apex is headquartered in Pawtucket, R.I., and has 20 facilities across the world. The company first established operations in Brownsville in 1971. Teknor Apex has continued to grow since locating in Brownsville, recently surpassing 600 employees with new hires over the past year. The company is the largest employer in Haywood County.

CELINA

The V&F Transformer Corporation is investing \$1.4 million to expand and upgrade its Celina facility, creating approximately 50 jobs in the next few years. V&F Transformer's business focus is manufacturing custom-designed transformers and reactive magnetic components. The

company's Celina plant has grown from five employees when it first began operations in 2012 to 37. V&F Transformer's Clay County facility designs, develops and produces magnetic components used in natural gas power plants, data processing plants and a variety of other high-tech power related applications. Along with its new hiring plans, V&F will expand its medium voltage transformer offerings from the Celina facility, which will create new growth opportunities. V&F Transformer supplies magnetic and transformer components to many Fortune 500 companies such as General Electric, Toshiba, Mitsubishi and others.

COLLIERVILLE

The town of Collierville has received perfect score following a recent inspection of the town's water system by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. This Sanitary Survey covers the process of water treatment to distribution with a meticulous list of documentation requirements, lab sampling and testing, and overall water management. For the last three years, the town has received a 99 percent score working toward this year's result of 100 percent. The town's Public Utilities Division of Public Services is responsible for the water treatment and distribution process for Collierville citizens. Public Utilities is also responsible for the maintenance of over 250 miles of water mains, the installation and maintenance of over 3,400 fire hydrants, and provides meter reading services for the town's utility billing.

FARRAGUT

A record number of building permits have been issued in Farragut with 1,049 permits issued in the town in 2016. This is the highest number of permits issued since the town was founded, outpacing 810 permits issued in 2015 and 764 issued in 2014. Permits are issued for commercial and residential construction as well as remodeling, gas, mechanical, plumbing, swimming pool and deck projects. The 2016 projects have an estimated construction value of \$69,811,470. A total of 2,566 inspections were performed last year, a number that's up from 2,156 in 2015 and 1,963 in 2014. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, single-family home starts in 2016 reflect an increase of 9.3 percent over 2015's total.

FRANKLIN

TierPoint is investing \$20 million to expand their Franklin data center, which will double the size of the facility to 53,000 square feet and possibly create 12 more jobs over time. St. Louis-based TierPoint LLC is partnering with Compass Data Centers of Dallas in the project, which comes a year after TierPoint inherited the data center through buying Arkansas-based Windstream Hosted Solutions for \$575 million in cash. The company said nearly 20 percent of that space has already been purchased by clients, and the expansion will include dedicated space for clients to use for their business needs. Targeted for completion by midyear, the project will bring the company's overall investment in Franklin to \$45 million. Nationwide, the 900-employee TierPoint has 5,000 clients, including Tommy Bahama, Gonzaga University, the National Aquarium in Baltimore and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

FRANKLIN

Non-residential construction investments in Franklin in 2016 were double that of the previous year, and the total investments into new construction in the city over the last five years reached \$2.57 billion, according to a recent report to the Franklin Board of Mayor and Aldermen. Large commercial projects, including four major office buildings, played a large role in the increase in business-related construction. Residential real estate construction remains strong and has been on the rise over the last three years. Median sales prices for residential properties rose from \$390,000 in 2014 to \$439,000 in 2016. Total investments into new construction in the city in 2012 and 2013 were \$392.2 million and \$523.5 million respectively and dipped to \$416.2 million in 2014, but construction investments increased

to \$468.2 in 2015 and \$774.4 million in 2016. Of the \$774.4 million invested in new construction in 2016, about \$280.3 million was in residential construction and \$494.1 million was in non-residential construction.

GALLATIN

Axem Distributing, Inc., has begun moving its corporate offices to Gallatin as part of plans to build a new 40,000-square-foot facility and expand operations. The California-based firearms components manufacturer is moving equipment from its headquarters and warehouse in San Diego to a 10,000-square-foot temporary location. The company supplies parts to Italian gun-maker Beretta, which has a plant in Gallatin. Axem expects to hire approximately 15 employees as a result of the relocation. The company also operates a manufacturing facility in Kentucky. A deal to purchase property at the Gallatin Industrial Center across from Beretta's new 156,000-square-foot U.S. manufacturing plant is in the works, according to Axem CFO and co-owner Jodi Mixa. Construction on the company's new facility is expected to begin within the first half of the year and will add as many as 50 jobs once it is complete.

KNOXVILLE

A new federally-funded \$6.4 million grant will improve traffic flow and enhance the transit experience along North Broadway between downtown and Fountain City, as well as make Knoxville's air cleaner by reducing vehicle emissions. Mayor Madeline Rogero said the city has received a new federal grant for the Accelerated Bus Corridor (ABC) project. The grant, managed by the city and the Tennessee Department of Transportation, is part of the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ). The ABC project will complement the city's ongoing \$9 million investment in an Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS), which is installing "smart" interconnected traffic control signals along Broadway, Chapman Highway and Kingston Pike. The automated system will analyze where cars are backing up and make second-by-second adjustments in the timing of the signals to best optimize traffic flow. More than \$2 million of that investment will be made along North Broadway. These upgrades represent a combined \$8.4 million investment in this corridor.

MEMPHIS

The city of Memphis is one of 10 cities nationwide selected to participate in the "Big Jump Project," an initiative of the national bicycle advocacy group PeopleForBikes. The city will receive the equivalent of \$200,000 annually in technical support and an additional \$50,000 in matching funds or commitments from local organizations to build a network of bicycle trails and lanes in South Memphis. The hope is to double or triple bike traffic in the area. The South Memphis Revitalization Action Plan, a 2009 plan produced by the University of Memphis, originally called for improved bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the area bound by Interstate 240 on the east, Trigg Avenue on the north, Person Avenue on the south and Lauderdale on the west. In particular, it says an abandoned railroad right-of-way cutting through the area could be developed into a linear park with a walking and running trail and bike lane. A total of 80 cities applied for the program, with the other winners being New York City, Baltimore, Portland, Ore.; Los Angeles, Providence, R.I.; New Orleans; Fort Collins, Colo.; Austin, Texas; and Tucson, Ariz.

MURFREESBORO

More than \$3 million has been awarded to fund the city of Murfreesboro's Rutherford Boulevard Project. The Tennessee Department of Transportation has awarded a \$3.35 million Federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality grant for an Adaptive Signal Control Technology System for seven miles of roadway. The project includes Rutherford Boulevard (Southwest Broad Street to New Lascassas Highway) and East Northfield Boulevard (New Lascassas Highway to Highland Avenue). The CMAQ Grant funds 100 percent of the ASCT project containing 14 signalized intersections. The city hopes to bid for the project sometime

Improvements to Johnson City's Founders Park nearly complete



Construction on Johnson City's Founders Park River Extension is expected to be wrapped up soon. The stone work is almost completed, finishing the current stage of work before moving onto the next. (Photo by Jason Bentley/Johnson City Press)

Spring Hill takes ownership of historic Rippavilla Plantation



The city of Spring Hill will be taking ownership of the historic Rippavilla Plantation following a unanimous vote by the town's Board of Mayor and Aldermen. The historic home will be run as a museum and park by the city and also used as a venue for festivals, weddings and other events. A non-profit named Friends of Rippavilla be set up to help with costs of maintain the structure. The property will be conveyed to the city, creating nearly 100 acres of park and green space that would ordinarily cost upwards of \$3 million. Rippavilla Plantation was built by Nathaniel Cheairs in the mid-1800s and is located off U.S. Highway 31 at the southern end of Spring Hill. Rippavilla is also a famous Civil War site having served as headquarters for both Union and Confederate generals during the war.

in 2018. According to TDOT, the Adaptive Signal Control Technology Project will help reduce mobile source emissions and improve Tennessee's air quality.

NASHVILLE

The LKQ Corporation will be expanding its regional headquarters in Nashville, creating 150 jobs during the next five years. LKQ plans to build a new approximately 100,000-square foot building in Nashville to accommodate the company's future growth. Once built, LKQ's existing approximately 400 Nashville employees will move to the new facility. LKQ Corporation is a leading provider of alternative and specialty parts and accessories to repair and accessorize automobiles and other vehicles. LKQ offers a broad range of replacement systems, components, equipment and parts to repair and accessorize automobiles, trucks, recreational and performance vehicles. The automotive equipment and accessories distributor has operations in North America, Europe and Taiwan.

NASHVILLE

AkzoNobel is planning to hire additional staff and expand production at its Nashville facility. The paint, coatings and specialty chemicals manufacturer will invest more than \$10 million over the next five years and create approximately 70 new manufacturing and professional services jobs. AkzoNobel is a leading paint, coatings and chemicals company with more than 46,000 employees worldwide and operations in 80 countries. In North America, the company employs nearly 5,000 people across 45 manufacturing and office locations. AkzoNobel has a proud heritage in Nashville. Since 1942, the company has served manufacturing and business operations from its location in South Nashville. With AkzoNobel's planned expansion in Nashville, the company will hire 40 professional service roles. The company will make significant investments to increase production capabilities, resulting in the creation of 30 new manufacturing positions.

SPRING HILL

Call 2 Answer, LLC, announced that the company will invest \$800,000 for a new medical and urgent contact center that will create 250 jobs in Spring Hill. Call 2 Answer is a 24/7 medical and urgent contact provider that primarily serves the health care industry, but also other industries in need of urgent communication support services such as HVAC, refrigeration, legal and real estate. The company's Spring Hill center will be located in the Northfield Workforce Development Training Center, the former headquarters for Saturn. Call 2 Answer will provide service for physicians, hospitals, and other health care entities as well as support for commercial industries throughout the U.S. Nashville will be an initial strategic market for Call 2 Answer's support center. However, the company plans to also target markets in major metropolitan areas as it expands service to clients nationwide.

UNION CITY

Williams Sausage Company, Inc. officials have announced the longtime Tennessee food manufacturer will build a second plant in Union City, creating 226 jobs during the next five years. Founded in 1958 by Harold and Hazel Williams, Williams Sausage produces fresh sausage, fully cooked sausage, bacon, sandwiches and other food products for wholesale to retail grocers, restaurants, whole grocery warehouses and food distributors. Williams Sausage brands are now sold in more than 4,000 retail outlets in 20 states. Williams Sausage remains a family-owned business managed by the founders' sons, David and Roger Williams. The company's Union City plant has undergone several expansions, most recently in 2012. With its existing Union City plant operating at near capacity, Williams Sausage will invest about \$37 million to construct an approximately 180,000-square-foot facility in Obion County, which will include a cold storage distribution center, truck maintenance operations, corporate offices and a new sandwich processing line.

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Urban sheep crews can offer low-impact landscaping options for hard-to-reach, overgrown areas avoiding harmful pesticides

BY TOM DOHERTY

TDEC Office of Sustainable Practices

It goes without saying that Nashville's roots run deep. Whether we are talking about its vibrant country music scene or its cultural or culinary history, Nashville keeps building on its past. Some of Nashville's roots, however, have met their match.

Meet Zach Richardson—a native of Nashville—his border collie, Duggie, security dogs, Loretta and Sturgill, and his team of 60 sheep. This team, known as the Chew Crew, has brought back some very traditional grazing methods in the heart of one of the fastest growing urban environments in the United States. You may be thinking: "Sheep, in Nashville?" Yes! This urban shepherd—or, those that use sheep to manage overgrown landscapes in an urban context—have taken sustainable landscaping to a "yew" level.

While traditional landscaping methods are tried-and-true, his 60 "four-legged lawnmowers" can navigate the steepest terrain, and tiniest nook and cranny, which a mower would never be able to touch. I met Zach and his team recently, and was immediately stunned by the connection between Duggie, Zach, and the sheep. Duggie, who is the coring-leader, obediently responded to several of Zach's whistle calls; one high pitch to flank the sheep from the left, and one low pitch from the right. (Photo 2) Zach mentioned that Duggie, is "The most important part of my business. He is more important than my truck, more important than my trailer. He's almost more important than my sheep. Duggie is my insurance policy."

After receiving a landscape architecture degree from the University of Georgia, where he spent 10 years becoming an urban shepherd, Zach started the Chew Crew. The Chew Crew offers a low-impact landscaping option using his team of sheep, to eradicate some of Nashville's burliest properties. Usually only eradicated by harmful pesticides, the Chew Crew eliminates

various native and invasive species like English ivy, privet, honeysuckle, Japanese honeysuckle, and Tree-of-Heaven like it's their job. And it is; his team works around the clock until the project is complete. Sheep have four stomachs, which they fill up, digest, and get back to work. Zach laughingly mentioned that the sheep are like "a human at a buffet," where they will eat what they want first, and leave the undesirables for later.

Together, this urban shepherd and his dog, have guided his flock of sheep to chew out the overgrown lots and invasive species in Nashville since early 2016. When I asked Zach why he chose to come back to Nashville, he began reminiscing about growing up and playing near Richland Creek—where the flock frequently visit. He then turned on his urban shepherd cap and mentioned that "there is a ton of sheep food in Nashville and urban greenspace that needs help. And, letting sheep do the job just felt right."

Not only did this feel right to Zach, it allowed him to provide a cost-effective landscaping option that eliminated the need for fertilizer, that was just "so much more interesting than traditional mowing." He mentioned that on one of his residential projects in Nashville, he set up a mowing area and the neighborhood turned into a cocktail party surrounding the perimeter. Part of this excitement comes from revitalizing underappreciated and underutilized greenspaces, where a normal hillside or residential property can get turned into a pasture.

The process is easy. Reach out to the Chew Crew, and set up a site visit. Then, once the scope of the project is determined, a solar-charged perimeter is set up. Then the Chew Crew will arrive, and, within about a week, they can chew up approximately one acre. Since the sheep are herbivores, they have no problem defoliating everything from the ground up to about 5 or 6 feet. When I checked in on Zach in December of 2016, 60 of his ewes were pregnant and—unknownst to me—will all be born with



an appetite for invasive species based on their parents' diet.

Several of the properties where the Chew Crew has been include Nashville's historic Civil War fort Fort Negley, Beaman Park, Richland Creek Greenway, Nashville City Cemetery, and several residential properties.

Zach said that his work is usually the first step in invasive species eradication because his crew can clear a section of land that a mower couldn't.

The Chew Crew offers a low-impact landscaping option using sheep, to eradicate some of Nashville's burliest properties. Usually only eradicated by harmful pesticides, the Chew Crew eliminates various native and invasive species like English ivy, privet, honeysuckle, Japanese



honeysuckle, and Tree-of-Heaven like it's their job. And it is; his

team works around the clock until the project is complete.

Technology keeps Brentwood's water safe in midst of rapid growth

BY KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

With concerns growing nationwide about the safety of public drinking water, one Middle Tennessee city is using technology to help monitor its water system.

In November 2016, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation performed a sanitary survey on the Brentwood Water System to ensure the water system produces safe drinking water. The city's water comes from the Cumberland River through Metro Water Services and the Harpeth Valley Utilities District.

In accordance with the Sanitary Survey Manual, the Brentwood Water System earned 418 points out of a possible 421 for a numerical score of 99 percent. This rating retains the Brentwood Water System in the State's "Approved" category. Water Services Director Chris Milton said this is assurance that our water program is operating the way it should be.

"It's important to our team to ensure the highest quality drinking water to protect the public's health and to provide a reliable, sustainable water system for the future," Milton said.

One of the ways the city protects its water supply is through GIS or geographic information system technology. The water department and GIS employees with the city work together to capture, store, analyze, manage and work with geographic data involving the city's water system.

Deanna Lambert, Brentwood community relations director, said Brentwood started using GIS in the water services program around 2006.

"The first few years were spent developing a digital inventory of assets," she said. "Prior to GIS, all this information was just inside people's heads. So GIS allowed us to go from paper to digital. After a few years of collecting data—like the number of water pipes in the city, their exact locations, and other information—the next step became maintaining those assets."

In the past four years, Lambert said cameras have begun to play a larger role in GIS and maintaining water and sewer systems.



Brentwood workers and meter readers are already using GIS data to keep an inventory of the city's water facilities, maintaining those assets and monitoring for potential problems. Officials attribute this technology with helping attain a 99 percent on the city's most recent sanitary survey.

"We were then updating information and around 2012 started using cameras to inspect sanitary sewer pipes," she said. "The camera data allows us to check the current condition of the pipe and determine if any future repairs might be required. The camera data can indicate things like when water pipes were installed or water pressure. So essentially, before you ever dig, you can see what's going on below."

As Brentwood continues to grow with new commercial and residential developments, being able to maintain a rapidly growing water system is a priority. Technology makes new development easier to monitor.

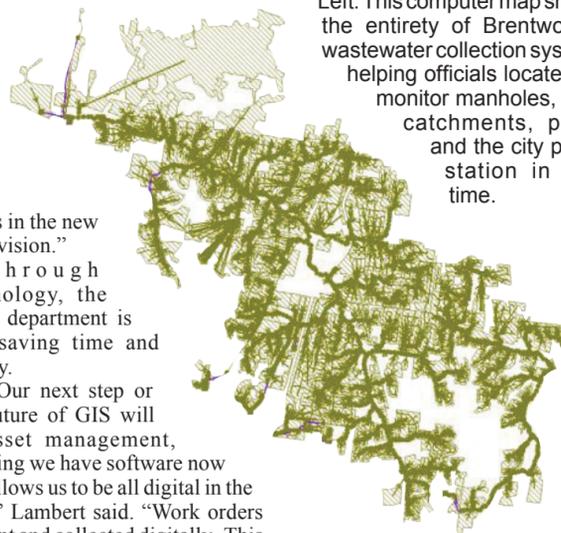
"For example with all the growth of new neighborhoods in Brentwood, with modeling software, a proposed development can be put into the model to see if our city can handle the added capacity of a new development," she said. "Right now in the Witherspoon development off Crockett Road, inspectors are using GPS devices to locate the water pipes, valves, and even fire hy-

drants in the new subdivision."

Through technology, the water department is also saving time and money.

"Our next step or the future of GIS will be asset management, meaning we have software now that allows us to be all digital in the field," Lambert said. "Work orders are sent and collected digitally. This helps manage budgeting with costs and employee work hours also, which in return makes us operate more efficiently and effectively."

Milton said modern technology is nearing the point where it can predict system issues like breaks or leaks.



Left: This computer map shows the entirety of Brentwood's wastewater collection system, helping officials locate and monitor manholes, sub-catchments, pipes and the city pump station in real time.

"We are almost there," Milton said. "With all the data collected, we are able to know which pipes are 'high risk' to possibly break or fail soon, based on actual data instead of someone's educated guess about when it may burst."

Gov. Haslam unveils \$37 billion budget

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- 15 cents (\$1.7 million), and
- increases a rental car tax rate from 3 percent to 6 percent (\$14.9 million).

The IMPROVE Act also cuts the sales tax on groceries another 0.5 percent (\$55 million) to 4.5 percent, makes Tennessee's franchise and excise tax more competitive by allowing companies to go to a "single weighted sales factor" (\$113 million); and cuts the Hall income tax 1.5 percent this year with a commitment to cut it another 1.5 percent next year (3 percent, \$102 million)—a tax that is statutorily required to be eliminated by 2022 but without a specific schedule to do so.

Some notable investments include:

- \$200 million to fund the Basic Education Program (BEP), including a \$100 million for teacher salaries and \$22 million for English Language Learners;
- \$77 million for state employee pay for performance salary increases (3 percent to state employees; 4 percent for teachers)
- \$655 million in state dollars for maintenance and new buildings across general government and higher education;
- \$135 million transferred from the General Fund to pay back the Highway Fund;
- \$78 million for higher education and the Complete College Act;
- \$15 million for career and technology education equipment;
- \$17 million for Grants and services to assist rural communities with site development, downtown revitalization, community asset improvements, and technical assistance.
- \$10.3 million to increase broadband accessibility through grants and tax credits

A complete text of the governor's speech, an archived video of his speech, and budget documents will be available at www.tn.gov/stateoffice/testate



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Danielle Whitworth Barnes has been selected as the new commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Human Services effective Feb. 6. Barnes was previously serving as the deputy commissioner and general counsel for the Tennessee Department of Human Resources (DOHR). She will return to the Department of Human Services (DHS) to lead the agency where she started her state government career in 2004. Barnes joined DOHR in 2007 as assistant general counsel, director of the Equal Employment Opportunities Division, and legislative coordinator. She previously served as the legislative coordinator and assistant general counsel for DHS and worked for a private law firm in Nashville and Memphis. Barnes earned an undergraduate degree from Spelman College and a law degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law.



Danielle Whitworth Barnes

numerous projects including the administration of more than \$2 million in grants for improvements to parks, pedestrian amenities, and worked collaboratively with the Norris Watershed Board on more than 30 miles of multi-use trails adjacent to Norris. As parks and greenways coordinator, Hester will manage Knoxville's existing 100-mile greenways network as well as oversee the most comprehensive build-out of new connective greenways in the city's history.

Leslie Hafner will be leaving the administration of Gov. Bill Haslam to serve as a senior policy advisor to House Speaker Beth Harwell. Joining the governor's Cabinet in 2011, Hafner served as director of legislation before becoming the governor's senior advisor in July 2015, serving as a top advisor and strategist for the administration and assisting the governor in day-to-day activities. Hafner is a 22-year veteran of Legislative Plaza and Tennessee politics. Prior to joining the Haslam administration, she was a principal at Hafner Alexander Government Relations, a business she co-founded after serving as director of government relations at Bass, Berry & Sims. Hafner served in the administration of former Tennessee Gov. Don Sundquist, serving on the governor's communications team and in his legislative office before moving over to the Department of Finance and Administration. In her final year with Sundquist, she worked with education and policy experts to develop the Reading Improvement Act, a \$98 million initiative to boost K-12 test scores.



Leslie Hafner

Nina Edmonds has been selected as the new human resources director for the city of Athens following the retirement of former director Rita Brown. Edmonds served for six years as a safety assistant at a Loudon-based transportation company before graduating from Pellissippi State and then the University of Tennessee-Knoxville in 2008. She has been employed by nonprofit The Arc before returning to work in the private sector as a human resources manager for Vonore-based Great Lakes Boat Top. Her duties with the city of Athens will include employee relations, payroll, benefits and compensation, city policies, and other items of benefit to all city employees.



Nina Edmonds

Goodlettsville City Manager Tim Ellis has been appointed to the Land Between the Lakes Advisory Board by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack as a USDA representative. He will be serve a five year term on the board which began in December 2016. The board consists of 17 members and is charged with providing advice to the Secretary of Agriculture on means of promoting public participation for the land and resource management plan for the recreation area and for environmental education. The Land Between the Lakes Recreation Area was created in the early 1960's by the Tennessee Valley Authority who recognized the uniqueness of the land between Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley.



Tim Ellis

Roger Fuqua, chief of the Cookeville Fire Department, has announced his plans to retire after nearly a 40-year long career with the department. Fuqua began work with the city's fire department on Oct. 1, 1978, and had reached the rank of captain when he was appointed the interim fire chief in 2011. Two months after that appointment, he was appointed fire chief, succeeding former chief John Kendrick. Fuqua's final day with the city will be June 30.



Roger Fuqua

Tim Hester has been selected as the new parks and greenways coordinator for the city of Knoxville. Before coming to Knoxville, Hester served nearly eight years as the city manager of Norris and previously worked on the Norris Planning Commission for nine years, including four years as chairman. During his work with the city of Norris, Hester oversaw



Tim Hester

partment. A graduate of Austin-East High School, Perry went on to earn a master's degree in biblical studies and theology from the Minnesota Graduate School of Theology. In 2001, he and his wife Natalia founded Word of Life Ministries, and he has served as a chaplain for the Knoxville Police Department since 2010. Perry also served in the U.S. Air Force. Under the supervision of Community Relations Senior Director Dr. Avice Reid, Perry will co-manage the Mayor's Save Our Sons (SOS) initiative.

Mike Voncannon, a more than 40-year veteran of law enforcement, has been selected as the new chief of the Pittman Center Police Department. Voncannon is taking over the position after former chief Rick Adams retired in 2014. Voncannon began his career in law enforcement in 1974 as a cadet with the Gatlinburg Police Department before joining the Sevier County Sheriff's Department in 1975. He worked with the sheriff's department until 1981, when he began as a police officer with the Titusville Police Department in Florida. He returned to the Sevier County Sheriff's Department in 1990, working his way up to sergeant. Voncannon has an associate's degree in criminal justice and political science from Walters State Community College and a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and political science from East Tennessee State University.



Mike Voncannon

Richard Parker has been selected as the new finance director for the city of Brentwood, taking over from interim finance director Karen Harper. Brentwood's previous finance director, Carson Swinford, held the position for 15 years before he passed away last year after a brave battle with cancer. Parker brings more than 20 years of experience in finance and accounting having worked primarily with Primus Financial Services and Nissan North America. He earned his bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Tennessee and graduated from Belmont University with a master's degree in business administration.



Richard Parker

Kevin Perry has been selected as the new community outreach manager for the city of Knoxville's Community Relations De-



Kevin Perry

Norris, Rowland reappointed Tenn. Advisory Committee



Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris



Cleveland Mayor Tom Rowland

Two familiar faces will continue to lead the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR).

Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris, R-Collierville, was re-elected as chairman of TACIR during the committee's January meeting.

"I appreciate the confidence that the members have placed in me to continue to lead this commission," Leader Norris said. "I look forward to continuing to build strong relationships between state, municipal and county governments and to work on solutions to the many issues that we face together in Tennessee."

Norris has served on the committee since he was a Shelby County Commissioner. He was first elected as the committee's chairman in 2009. The chairman of the commission is required to be a state legislator. Members are appointed on a rotation basis by the governor or lieutenant governor.

Cleveland Mayor and Tennessee Municipal League Past President Tom Rowland was also re-elected as vice chairman, to his seventh term on the committee.

"I feel honored to serve on this prestigious body and appreciate the

confidence of my fellow commissioners," Mayor Rowland said. "I always look forward to each meeting where a variety of issues concerning cities and counties in Tennessee are discussed.

Rowland was first appointed to the commission by Gov. Don Sundquist, and he has served as the commission's vice president since 2006. Rowland said his experience with TACIR has helped him learn more about legislation that affects municipalities and the everyday lives of citizens.

"When I was first appointed by Gov. (Don) Sunquist, I knew very little about the commission, but was quick to learn the importance of sorting out issues surrounding proposed legislation," he said. "The TACIR staff is the best in research and covers every necessary detail."

TACIR was created in 1978 as a permanent intergovernmental body to study and take action on questions of organizational patterns, powers, functions, and relationships among federal, state, and local governments. The board reviews pending legislation and advise lawmakers on its potential impact on local governments.

MTAS officials remember longtime legal consultant Sidney Hemsley

Longtime UT Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) legal consultant Sid Hemsley died in Knoxville on Jan. 31 at the age of 76.

Hemsley worked with MTAS for 31 years and retired in September 2013. He began his career as a mechanic in the U.S. Army, serving seven years in Germany, France and Vietnam before returning to the U.S. to attend college.

He later went on to receive a master's degree in public administration and a law degree from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. He was a member of the Tennessee Bar Association.

During his tenure with MTAS, Hemsley advised government officials on a wide variety of topics. For his work, the University of Tennessee-Knoxville's Institute of Public Service (IPS) lauded Hemsley with two outstanding public service professional awards and a citation from the vice president for his service.

Armintha Loveday, MTAS administrative specialist, said he would be missed by everyone at MTAS.

"Sid Hemsley was a remarkable

person. He was not just a co-worker, he was my dear friend," she said. "I cannot use enough words to describe how much he meant to MTAS and to all of us who were privileged to know him. His laughter at a funny joke or story would fill the halls and make us all smile. He took life head on and made the best of it. He taught us all how important family was and how important it was to treat everyone like a member of your family. In his role as an MTAS attorney, his legal opinions were sought after continuously. He was so intelligent yet he never let his head overrule what he knew was right in his heart."

Municipal Management Consultant Margaret Norris said Hemsley was a wealth of resources for MTAS.

"Sid Hemsley is a man I respected, admired, trusted, laughed with, esteemed, and whose company I always enjoyed," Norris said. "He was a treasure trove of information and he was almost always right. Sid was a man of integrity, honor, and principle. Besides that, he took his job seriously, but not himself."

"Sid's legal work lives on and



Sidney Hemsley

on," MTAS consultant Warren Nevad said. "He had an uncanny grasp of what cities needed and always delivered his legal advice in a very humble and caring way".

Hemsley is survived by his wife Janice Creel Hemsley, nine children and 20 grandchildren.

WAUFORD

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Water and Wastewater Systems

STATE BRIEFS



The Tennessee preliminary unemployment rate for December was 4.9 percent, increasing from the revised November rate of 4.8 percent, according to information released by Tennessee Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Burns Phillips. The U.S. preliminary rate for December was 4.7 percent, up one-tenth of a percentage point from the previous month. Over the past year, Tennessee's unemployment rate decreased from 5.6 percent to 4.9 percent. Total nonfarm employment increased 6,600 jobs from November to December. The largest increases occurred in manufacturing, mining/logging/construction and leisure/hospitality. Nonfarm employment increased 62,100 jobs. The largest increases occurred in education/health services, professional/business services and leisure/hospitality.

Unemployment rose in every county in Tennessee during December 2016, according to information recently released by the state Department of Labor. Statewide unemployment rose one-tenth to 4.9 percent. For the month of December, Davidson County has the state's lowest major metropolitan rate at 3.6 percent, increasing from 3.5 percent the previous month. Williamson County had the lowest unemployment of every county in the state at 3.5 percent while Lake County had the highest unemployment rate with 10.2 percent. The Tennessee and U.S. preliminary unemployment rates for December are 4.9 and 4.7 percent, respectively, increasing one-tenth of a percentage point from the previous month's revised rate. The state and national unemployment rates are seasonally adjusted, while the county unemployment rates are not.

Asset Enhancement Grants are now available to communities that completed the Asset-Based Planning process that was conducted last fall. To participate in this program, counties must have been designated as distressed in FY2016 or FY2017 based on the economic indicators of poverty rate, per capita income and unemployment rate. These communities are in the bottom 10 percent of the counties in the nation. TNECD worked with the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service to develop action-oriented, short-term goals based on assets in each county. The 23 participating counties are eligible for up to \$50,000 or \$100,000 for regional applications for projects

that allow the community to meet at least one of their asset-based goals and have measurable outcomes and impact on key economic indicators. The Asset Enhancement Grants are funded through the Rural Economic Opportunity Act that was passed by the state legislature in 2016 to improve the economic indicators in rural communities across Tennessee. The grant applications will be available on TNECD's website starting Feb. 15 and are due by March 31. Applications and additional information regarding the grant can be found at tn.gov/TourismGrant.

The housing market in the Tri-Cities area is on the upswing despite a steady amount of inventory, according to recent numbers released by the Northeast Tennessee Association of Realtors. The total number of pending sales in the region for December 2016 was up 32 percent from December 2015. Although the sales are brisk, prices remain steady in spite of a deficit of active listings. Eric Kistner with the organization said that is because the area is insulated from some of the trends more metropolitan areas see. Real estate development also increases with the building of new schools.

Tennessee is the fifth cheapest state for smokers, despite long-term financial and health costs. Finance website WalletHub ranked Tennessee as one of cheapest states to buy cigarettes in by calculating smoking-related expenses like the cost of a pack of cigarettes per day, additional health care, projected income loss, and increased homeowners' insurance premiums. According to the site, Tennessee's low cost can be attributed to state legislation. The current state cigarette tax is 62 cents. The state minimum price-per-pack is expected to increase to 76 cents this July, two years after an update to the "Unfair Cigarette Sales Law," which protects the profits of small retailers. However, the survey also found smoking could cost a Tennessean almost \$23,500 per year and almost \$1.2 million in a lifetime with nearly \$19,000 of that figure comes from projected income losses and financial opportunity losses had money spent on smoking been invested instead. According to its website, WalletHub conducted the survey "to encourage the estimated 36.5 million tobacco users in the U.S. to kick the dangerous habit," which costs Americans collectively more than \$300 billion per year, according to the Center for Disease Control.

Film industry generates \$228 million to state's economy, Tennessee workers



A new report from the Center for Economic Research in Tennessee (CERT), the research arm of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, analyzed the recent impact of the film and production industry on Tennessee's economy. Tennessee currently ranks No. 7 among all states in the nation for employment in the film production industry. Since 2010, employment in Tennessee's film industry has grown 8 percent. Nearly 4,400 Tennesseans work in the film industry, earning an average of nearly \$59,800 annually before benefits, a figure that is 21.3 percent higher than the average wage of all industries in Tennessee.

Whether it's motion pictures produced for the big screen or television series made to enjoy from the comfort of your living room, Tennessee's film industry is certainly staking its claim as a national leader.

Film production has casted Tennessee on to the international stage, exposing audiences from around the world to Tennesseans' artistic creativity – from Music City's iconic Bluebird Café, honky-tonks and country music scene in the television show "Nashville" to Memphis' role in the birth of rock 'n roll with CMT's upcoming "Sun Records" based on the Tony-award winning musical "Million Dollar Quartet."

In the process, the production industry plays an integral role in Tennessee's economy, employing thousands of residents with wages well above the state average and generating hundreds of millions of dollars in economic impact.

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grown 8 percent. Nearly 4,400 Tennesseans work in the film industry, earning an average of nearly \$59,800 annually before benefits, a figure that is 21.3 percent higher than the average wage of all industries in Tennessee.

Recognizing the value in attracting these types of high quality and high paying jobs, the Tennessee Entertainment Commission (TEC) has incentivized 50 production projects across Tennessee from 2007 to 2015.

CERT estimates that such projects have generated \$228.3 million in new income for Tennessee workers. These production projects have created more than 4,000 new full-time jobs and generated nearly \$371 million in economic output for the state over an eight-year span. CERT finds in the report. Additionally, TEC has supported hundreds more production projects with non-financial assistance. These production activities have created nearly 600 jobs and almost \$35 million in new incomes for Tennesseans.

The impact of the film industry is twofold. There's the immediate benefit from filming in Tennessee. CERT finds that projects TEC has incentivized have directly created just more than 2,000 jobs, which has resulted in the creation of another

2,000 indirect jobs.

But just as importantly, there's the tourism spending that comes from new visitors attracted to visit places like Nashville, Memphis and others.

"Nashville," formerly on ABC and now airing on CMT, airs in more than 80 countries around the world. In 2014, the Nashville Convention and Visitors Corporation surveyed overnight visitors to Nashville and found nearly one out of every five tourists came to visit Nashville because of the show. Not only do visitors attracted to Music City because of the show stay longer, they also spend more money while they are in Nashville – on average \$44 more per person per day than those tourists who have not seen "Nashville."

CERT estimates that tourism resulting from viewership of "Nashville" had an estimated \$486.7 million in visitor spending and \$34 million in state sales tax revenue over the three years following the show's premier.

The growth in Tennessee's motion picture and production industry also helps generate economic activity in other sectors of the economy – especially the heartbeat of Tennessee's creative economy: the music industry.

State awards tourism enhancement grants to 29 communities, 8 municipalities

Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam and Economic and outgoing Community Development Commissioner Randy Boyd announced that 29 communities will receive more than \$1 million in Tourism Enhancement Grants to assist with tourism infrastructure assets.

"We want to congratulate the 29 communities that will be receiving Tourism Enhancement Grants," Haslam said. "Tourism is an important part of our state economy, and these grants showcase how tourist development and economic development work together to make our state not only a great place to live and work, but a top tourist destination. With the assistance of these grants each community will be able to grow and enhance their local tourism assets."

Along with county partners, eight municipalities across the state were awarded grant funds, including Clifton, Dandridge, Dyersburg, Halls, Jonesborough, Lewisburg, Milan and Paris.

The grants help counties and cities improve local assets to increase the economic impact of tourism. This is second round of the Tourism Enhancement Grant program. In July, nearly \$1 million was awarded to 29 communities during the first round of tourism grants.

"I am happy to announce the 29 communities that have been awarded Tourism Enhancement Grants," Boyd said. "Tourist development and economic development have a great partnership with a common goal: making sure Tennessee and the communities across the state are able to succeed and grow. With these

The grants are used by local governments to improve local assets and increase the economic impact tourism has in their area.

grants, each participating community has shown that they are investing in economic development and the future growth in our state."

The Tourism Enhancement Grants are funded through the Rural Economic Opportunity Act, which is designed to improve the economic indicators in rural communities across Tennessee. Announcements will follow this spring for Site Development Grants, Main Street Entrepreneur Grants, and Asset-Enhancement Grants for distressed communities.

"Arguably the only thing about this program more exciting than announcing the grant recipients is the opportunity it provides these communities," Tennessee Department of Tourist Development Commissioner Kevin Triplett said. "The Tourism Enhancement Grants help enhance local tourism assets, which is an integral part of every county in Tennessee. Our partners at TNECD realize how critical these assets are

in regards to tourism and economic development and I am thankful for the commitment to helping these communities grow."

An advisory committee made up of staff from the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture selected the 29 communities from a pool of 50 grant applications.

Each application was supported by the community's senator and representative in the Tennessee General Assembly.

Municipalities including Bolivar, Brownsville, Cleveland, Etowah, Gainesboro, Henderson, Lafayette, Livingston, Manchester, McMinnville, Lynchburg, Tiptonville and Winchester received part of the \$1 million from the first round of tourism enhancement grants the state awarded in July 2016.

Community Recipient	Grant Amount
Dyersburg	\$50,000
Milan	\$50,000
Paris	\$32,900
Dandridge	\$50,000
Halls	\$50,000
Lewisburg	\$50,000
Jonesborough	\$50,000
Clifton	\$47,500

Comptroller's office creates easy-to-use BEP calculator



BEP Quick Facts

Fiscal Year 2016-17



\$6,718,191,000
state and local BEP funding



\$4,404,413,000
state BEP funding



\$2,313,778,000
local BEP funding



\$3,533,045,715
total local education budget



\$4,469,934,600
state BEP appropriation

including required BEP match plus above and beyond local funds

The Tennessee Comptroller's Office has created a method to independently calculate and verify BEP allocations for each school district.

Tennessee's K-12 public schools depend on the state's Basic Education Program (BEP) formula to distribute nearly \$4.4 billion in state funding. For years the BEP has been calculated by the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) without any way to verify the results. Now, the Tennessee Comptroller's Office has created a method to independently calculate and verify the BEP.

The Comptroller's Office of Research and Education Accountability has reconstructed the entire BEP calculation from scratch using input data for student enrollment, unit costs, and other factors.

The Comptroller is also bringing transparency to the BEP formula by making its BEP Calculator publicly available to all Tennesseans. Details and dollar amounts for every school district in Tennessee can now be downloaded from the Comptroller's website. Users can even create their own scenarios using different inputs – teacher salaries, insurance premiums, etc. – to see how changes impact BEP allocations.

The Comptroller has also created an interactive map where you can easily view of snapshot of essential BEP facts and figures for each of

Tennessee's 141 school districts.

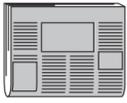
Although the BEP formula is exceedingly complex, the Comptroller's Office has made it easier to understand by explaining all 45 components in detail.

"It is in the best interest of all Tennesseans that the BEP formula be transparent, understandable, and verifiable," said Comptroller Justin P. Wilson. "This is truly a landmark achievement, and I believe it will be very useful to legislators, educators, stakeholders and citizens."

The Comptroller's independent calculation of the BEP found the Department of Education's formula for fiscal year 2016-2017 was off by less than one one-hundredth of a percent. TDOE has indicated it will address the points the Comptroller's Office identified for revision in fiscal year 2017-2018.

Comptroller Wilson demonstrated how the BEP Calculator works to the House Education Committees and to the Senate Education Committee last week.

The BEP Calculator and supporting materials are available on the Comptroller's website at <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/OREA/BEP>



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ASSISTANT AQUATICS MANAGER

PIGEON FORGE. The city of Pigeon Forge is currently accepting applications for assistant aquatics manager. Duties will include assisting the aquatics manager with all responsibilities associated with the Aquatics Department, including personnel management, public relations, facility maintenance, and other duties as required (Including Teaching Swim Lessons, Water Aerobics Classes, and Lifeguard Training) Qualifications include: high school diploma; experience as a lifeguard; some college education with two or more years of relevant experience including supervision preferred. Must possess or have the ability to obtain and maintain all applicable Red Cross certifications. Valid Tennessee Driver's License is required. Must be able to pass a water related physical abilities test. The city of Pigeon Forge offers very competitive pay, salary depends on education and experience, full-time benefits including paid medical/dental/vision insurance, vacation and sick leave, retirement plan, and other benefits. Applications can be completed online at <http://cityofpigeonforge.com> under the Human Resources Link. Applications may be picked up at City of Pigeon Forge Community Center, 170 Community Center Drive, Pigeon Forge, TN 37863. Mail applications to: City of Pigeon Forge-Human Resource Department, P.O. Box 1350, Pigeon Forge, TN 37868-1350 Applications will be accepted till position is filled. The city of Pigeon Forge is an EOE and complies with the ADA and Title VI. Applicants will be subject to a background check, driving history check, and drug testing in accordance with city policy.

AQUATICS COORDINATOR, LEVEL IV

CLINTON. This position is in a lead capacity and is responsible for the planning and organizing of the aquatic programs for a variety of age groups, including scheduling and instructing aquatic classes at a community recreation facility. The position will handle the aquatic programming, staff recruitment, training and supervision, public relations, general administration and maintenance of the recreation facility. The work schedule may require evening and weekend hours. Bachelor's degree in Health, Physical Education, Recreation, or related field from an accredited college or university, plus two years' experience teaching swimming or first-aid; OR an equivalent combination of training and experience which provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities. Preferred experience supervising a community recreation center pool. Must have valid driver's license and American Red Cross Certifications: Lifeguard training – CPR for the

Professional Rescue, Lifeguard Instructor and Water Safety Instructor. Contact Clinton Parks & Recreation Director, 101 S. Hicks St., Clinton, TN 37716, (865)457-0642 Closing Date: 02/28/17

ASSISTANT CITY ADMINISTRATOR

GERMANTOWN. The city of Germantown is seeking a qualified individual to serve as assistant city administrator (ACA). Under administrative and general policy direction, the ACA will provide highly responsible and complex professional assistance to the city administrator and Mayor & Board of Aldermen in coordinating and directing city-wide departmental activities and operations. The minimum requirements for this opportunity include: bachelor's degree in public administration or related field and at least five years of progressively responsible management experience in local government; or any combination of education, training, and experience providing the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to perform essential job functions. A master's in public administration (MPA) is preferred. The application process will close March 3, 2017 at the close of business. A letter of interest, resume, and completed application including 3 work-related references, should be sent to the City of Germantown - Human Resources Dept., 1930 S. Germantown Rd., Germantown, TN 38138 or you may apply online www.germantown-tn.gov/employment. The city of Germantown is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital or veteran status, or non-job-related medical condition or disability.

BUYER

COLLIERVILLE. The purpose of this position is to perform skilled technical work in the purchasing and procurement of a variety of materials, equipment, and supplies in accordance with prescribed purchasing regulations and procedures for the town of Collierville. Requires an Associate's Degree with major coursework in Business Administration, Public Administration or a closely related field; supplemented by two (2) years of job related experience; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Requires a valid motor vehicle operators License. SALARY RANGE \$30,899 (DOQ) with excellent benefits package. Full job descriptions are available upon request. Please call 901-457-2296. Open until filled. Apply to Human Resources Office, 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN. Please submit a new application each time you apply for a Town job. Pursuant to Tennessee open records law, applications and resumes are subject to disclosure. The town of Collierville is an Equal

Opportunity Employer and a drug free workplace.

RECREATION COORDINATOR, LEVEL IV

CLINTON. The city of Clinton Parks & Recreation Department is accepting applications for a recreation coordinator. This is responsible work in a lead capacity involving a variety of recreational activities at a community recreation complex or other recreational facility and adjacent grounds. An employee in this position independently organizes and supervises youth recreation programs and activities. Assignment requires coordination of programs for all ages. Primary function is the development and administration of a summer youth program and after school youth programs, including curriculum development, staff recruitment, training and supervision, public relations, general administration and maintenance of recreational facilities. This work schedule may require evening and weekend hours. Associates degree in Parks & Recreation, Physical Education, or closely related field. One year experience in recreational programs with emphasis on youth programs, preferred; or an equivalent combination of training and experience which provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities. Must have or be able to obtain within six months and continue through employment: CPR/First Aid, Lifeguard training and a valid Tennessee Driver's License. Contact Clinton Parks & Recreation Director, 101 S. Hicks Street, Clinton, TN 37716, (865)457-0642. Closing Date: 02/28/17

TOWN PLANNER

GREENEVILLE. The town of Greeneville is seeking a full-time planner to join our Building/Zoning/Planning team. Ideal candidate is an enthusiastic, detailed-oriented, hands-on individual with a strong knowledge of all phases of planning. Review and evaluate various types of land use applications, project designs, plans and technical documents for compliance with town standards and regulatory requirements. Assist in developing and implementing comprehensive land use plan, updating the town's zoning and subdivision regulations. Make presentations/recommendations to Planning Commission and Town Council. Additional duties include: ensuring compliance with MS4 permit (storm water presentations, public education, and responsible for storm water maintenance agreements. Proficient in Microsoft and GIS. Bachelor's degree from accredited college/university urban planning, engineering, or related; advanced degree desired. Prefer five-years' experience in municipal planning and AICP certification. Salary min. \$39K. Apply to Human Resources Department, 200 North College Street, Greeneville, TN. 37745, email pfuller@greenevilletn.gov. Deadline: Feb. 15 at 12 Noon

Federal regs targeted for elimination, rewrite

REGS from Page 1

First, the agency would have to come up with new proposed regulations – and depending on the regulation, this might take a lot of time. Take the Clean Power Plan regulations, for example; they are more than 300 pages long. In addition, once new regulations are proposed, they are subject to a public comment period of either 60 or 120 days. The agency must then consider hundreds or thousands of comments before issuing final rules. Finally, when this process is complete, the new regulations would almost certainly be subject to a court challenge. Changes to agency rules must be non-arbitrary, and supporters of any of the three regulations discussed in this post would likely be willing to sue.

Another option when it comes to dealing with disfavored regulations is to simply fail to enforce them by giving agencies inadequate funding to engage in rigorous enforcement or instructing agencies to make enforcement of particular regulations a low priority. This strategy would be more effective for some regulations than others. For example, if President Trump instructed the Department of Labor to ignore employees being classified as “white collar” when they should not be per the FLSA, employees could pursue lawsuits against their employers for this violation without Department of Labor involvement.

Agencies also have the option of issuing interpretations of regulations that can take those regulations in a different direction than originally intended. This strategy would not work well for dismantling seismic regulations like the Clean Power Plan or very simple, straightforward regulations like the FLSA overtime rules. Also, these interpretations can be subject to court challenge as arbitrary and can be overturned with the stroke of a pen by the next administration.

The CPP, the WOTUS regulations, and the FLSA regulations are all currently being challenged in court on various grounds. The Trump

administration can also refuse to defend these laws. But the lawsuits are unlikely to simply go away because interveners would probably step in to defend them. For example, states and local governments have already intervened to defend the Clean Power Plan, and the Texas AFL-CIO has sought to intervene to defend the FLSA overtime regulations.

Enter Justice Kennedy

Before President Trump was elected, all three of the cases described above were likely headed to the supreme court and will probably still end up before the high court.

It is perhaps unfair to speculate how a supreme court justice might look at these regulations (which are all being challenged on different legal grounds) based solely on whether that justice is a conservative or a liberal. Nevertheless, these labels indicate general legal philosophies and leanings.

Conservative justices – for a variety of reasons which may differ depending on the regulation – might generally be more likely to view these (and other regulations) with more hostility than liberal Justices. A conservative Justice is more likely to see any or all of these regulations as an attack on federalism or as an example of federal agency overreach. Regarding the CPP or the WOTUS rule in particular, a conservative Justice may see these measures as part of a pro-environment policy agenda rather than as a manifestation of clear law.

With the recent nomination of Justice Neil Gorsuch to fill Justice Antonin Scalia's vacancy, President Trump is nominating (and the Senate ultimately confirming) a conservative. But this nomination will not change the balance of the Supreme Court before Justice Scalia died; it would remain a 5-4 conservative Court with Justice Anthony Kennedy in the middle.

So, unless membership in the Supreme Court changes again soon, the fate of these regulations may lie in the hands of Justice Kennedy.

NLC weighs in on unfunded mandates, regulatory reform

MANDATES from Page 1

promulgating a new rule to identify and repeal an existing rule and would create a process for Congress to review all rules currently in effect for over a 10-year period.

Additionally, the Midnight Rules Relief Act (H.R. 21), which passed the House earlier this month, would authorize Congress to use the Congressional Review Act to overturn a several existing regulations with a single vote. Currently, the Congressional Review Act can be used to immediately block any single regulation finalized within the past 60 legislative days. The House is expected to begin taking up so-called “disapproval resolutions” next week on recently-finalized regulations.

With companion legislation for both pieces of legislation introduced in the Senate, S. 21 and S. 34 respectively, NLC continues to advocate for a strong intergovernmental partnership that maintains the voice of cities and local elected officials in the rulemaking process.

Upon taking office, President Trump issued a memorandum calling for a freeze on all pending rulemakings until further review.

Editor's note: See the front page article that takes a look at the options for the new Administration in rolling back three high-profile rules that are of interest to local governments: the Clean Power Plan, the Clean Water Rule (WOTUS) and the Fair Labor Standards Act overtime regulation

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NATIONAL BRIEFS



The number of U.S. households unable to pay for water might triple in the next five years if water rates continue to rise, according to a recent study conducted at Michigan State University. Within the next five years, an estimated 36 percent of American households may not be able to afford their water bill. Funded by the National Science Foundation, the study found that nationwide, rates have gone up 41 percent on average since 2010. Aging infrastructure, shrinking populations, and climate change are all reasons why water bills have skyrocketed in recent years. The study found that adapting existing systems could cost the US \$36 billion by 2050, but not updating systems could lead to ongoing conflicts with consumers.

Credit rating agency Moody's has reached a \$864 million settlement with attorneys general in 21 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Department of Justice over allegations it misled investors when it issued positive ratings for shaky mortgage-backed securities in the lead up to the 2008 financial crisis. The suit alleged Moody's acted in its own business interests rather than issuing objective ratings, helping create the 2008 subprime mortgage crisis that contributed to the Great Recession. As part of the settlement, Moody's has agreed to a set of reforms to address conflicts of interest and to protect the integrity

and transparency of rating methods to prevent similar problems. The company also "agreed to a statement of facts acknowledging conduct related to its analysis of structured finance securities." The settlement is similar to one reached against Standard & Poor's in 2015, in which the rating company was made to pay \$1.375 billion to the DOJ, 19 states and the District of Columbia.

The U.S. labor market added 227,000 jobs in January, the last month in office for former President Barack Obama. Though wage growth was slower than many expected, officials say the additional jobs indicate the economy still likely has room to grow before almost all workers who want a job can find one. President Donald Trump has inherited a relatively robust labor market, economists say. Companies are still vigorously hiring more than six years into the current economic expansion, and the unemployment rate has fallen to 4.8 percent, roughly in line with pre-financial crisis levels.

President Donald Trump has suspended a plan to reduce the Federal Housing Administration's mortgage insurance premiums that was set to go into effect on Jan. 27. The reduction had been announced on Jan. 9 by the outgoing Obama Administration and Housing and Urban Development head Julian Castro. The reduction in premiums by 25 basis points, or a quarter percentage point, "has been suspended

indefinitely," according to an FHA news release. "More analysis and research are deemed necessary to assess future adjustments," according to FHA. National Association of Realtors President William E. Brown said he was "disappointed" in the decisions. The NAR estimates that, without the cut, about 750,000 to 850,000 home buyers will face higher costs, and 30,000 to 40,000 new home buyers will be left on the sidelines in 2017. It was estimated that FHA borrowers would save an average of \$500 per year with the reductions in place.

Credit card usage has decreased sharply with consumers increasing borrowing at the slowest pace in six months in December. Total borrowing rose \$14.2 billion in December from November's increase of \$25.2 billion, according to the Federal Reserve. Borrowing in the category that covers vehicle purchases and student loans rose by \$11.8 billion, below the \$13.4 billion jump in November. However, borrowing in the category that covers credit cards slowed to a gain of just \$2.4 billion after a surge of \$11.8 billion in November. This was the weakest showing since the rate of credit card debt fell in February 2016. The December increase pushed total borrowing to a record of \$3.76 trillion. Economists think growth in consumer credit will remain strong in 2017, reflecting low unemployment and further solid gains in employment and consumer confidence.



Feb. 18: Oak Ridge International Festival. The festival will take place on Saturday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Oak Ridge Children's Museum. This annual festival showcases the world's cultures through international performances, food, crafts, children's activities, and more than two dozen booths highlighting countries and regions of the world. Admission for adults \$12, seniors \$11, children 3-18 years of age \$10, museum members discount \$1 off each ticket. More information is available at: <http://childrensmuseumofokridge.org/international-festival-2017/>

March 2-5: Memphis Elvis Presley's Memphis Grand Opening. Elvis Presley's Graceland announced the official opening date for its new, \$45 million, 200,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art entertainment complex. Located across the street from Graceland Mansion, the Grand Opening Celebration weekend of "Elvis Presley's Memphis," will welcome visitors from around the world to its largest and most significant expansion since first opening to the public in 1982. The opening four days will feature major celebration events each day, including live concerts that will celebrate Elvis' incredible life and career, and honor Memphis' rich musical legacy across genres, including Blues, Rockabilly, R&B, Soul and Rock 'n' Roll. Tickets for "Elvis Presley's Memphis" are now available for opening weekend and throughout the rest of 2017, as a combined ticket with the Graceland Mansion tour, at Graceland.com, or by calling 901-332-3322 or toll-free at 800-238-2000.



March 11-15: NLC Congress of Cities Conference, Washington, D.C. The Monday morning opening general session will be headlined by Nicolle Wallace — a best-selling author, political analyst for MSNBC, top strategist for the GOP, and the former special assistant to the president and director of communications at the White House under President George W. Bush. For more information go to <http://ccc.nlc.org/>. To register, go to <https://registration.exprientevent.com/ShowNLC17/>

March 29-31: TCMA 2017 Spring Conference, Franklin Marriott Cool Springs Conference Center. For more information, go to www.TCMA.org or contact Mike Walker at Walker@TNCMA.org

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The city of Dyersburg recently closed a \$2.8 million refunding bond issue through the TMBF loan program. It is the city's sixth loan financed through the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund.



Lenoir City and the Lenoir City Utilities Board recently closed two loans with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund – one variable rate loan in the amount of \$25 million and one fixed rate loan in the amount of \$25 million. The money will be used for a new administrative complex for the Lenoir City Utilities Board.



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Self-driving cars bringing changes to road design, usage

TDOT Commissioner John Schroer discusses how autonomous vehicles will affect state and local roadways

BY KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

With the state of Tennessee already on the forefront of the driverless car movement, transportation officials say cities may need to change the way they think about road planning.

The state's booming automotive industry means autonomous vehicles will be coming to Tennessee roadways sooner rather than later, and the state may be among the first to explore how these vehicles change the way roads are designed and utilized.

Volkswagen's Chattanooga operations are already working on developing and producing self-driving cars while General Motors is working with driving service Lyft at its Detroit facilities to produce autonomous cars. Nissan is planning to have a driverless vehicle for sale to consumers by 2020 through its luxury brand Infiniti.

Nashville will soon be testing these vehicles on its roads as part of a year-long project with Bloomberg Philanthropies and the Aspen Institute. The city's most recent 25-year transit plan included technological upgrades aimed at driverless vehicles.

Tennessee Department of Transportation Commissioner John Schroer said vehicles that fall under the "self-driving" definition are already here, and the increase in autonomy for these vehicles may change the way traffic works. The former Franklin mayor said he has attended several conferences across the country where state and federal transportation leaders have met with auto manufacturers to discuss the future of roadways with this new technology.

"You can buy autonomous vehicles right now if you want to, so this is here today," Schroer said. "Tennessee has three manufacturing facilities heavily investing in connecting autonomous vehicles. Audi, which is owned by Volkswagen, is probably the leading manufacturer today. Toyota has a car that becomes autonomous in traffic jams. What we will see is an increase in autonomy for these vehicles and their technology as each new model year comes out. This is going to change our country. Just think of the impact going from horse and carriage to automobile has done for our world. It will be that impactful, but it will be gradual."

The U.S. Department of Transportation and the National Highway Traffic Safety unveiled a federal autonomous vehicle policy in September 2016, which includes a model state policy and a 15 point safety assessment for manufacturers and developers. Officials with both departments hailed autonomous vehicles for their life-saving potential. Former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx said he foresees autonomous vehicles being ubiquitous across the country as early as 2021.

In April 2016, Gov. Bill Haslam signed Senate Bill 1561, which addresses manufacturers to test operator-required autonomous vehicles on the state's roads and in what manner they can be run as well as imposes a use tax on autonomous vehicles.

While many think of bigger cities as the initial testing grounds for these new vehicles, Schroer said autonomous vehicles might be easier

to use in more rural settings.

"You don't use cruise control driving to work because you are stopping and going," he said. "When you are on the interstate or a highway and have 300 miles to go, you use it because traffic is going pretty steadily. I think that is how autonomous vehicles will come to pass. Within urban areas, what I think you will find initially is companies like Uber, Google and Lyft will have autonomous fleets - which they are already testing in Pittsburgh right now for Uber passengers."

Rather than individuals owning cars, Schroer said the prevailing theory is that citizens will subscribe to car services owned by taxi-type companies like Lyft or Uber or by automotive manufacturers themselves. Instead of owning cars, citizens will pay monthly subscription fees and possibly additional mileage fees.

Citizens will be able to request a vehicle with a preprogrammed destination, and can also request different makes and models of vehicles such as trucks, vans, and sports cars. Schroer said the car service model may lead to the elimination of things like public parking garages in cities and personal garages in houses because vehicles will return to the service lot when their task is complete.

Schroer said he doesn't foresee a decrease in road maintenance costs associated with driverless cars.

"There won't be as many cars on the road, but there will be the same amount of miles driven," he said. "It will be more like there is a giant fleet of rental cars readily available with no drivers in them. As long as vehicles aren't flying and are driving on asphalt, we will still have to do maintenance. Driving a car may be obsolete in 30 years."

David Rouse, research director for the American Planning Association, said many communities are already asking questions about how to prepare for autonomous vehicles. Rouse cited a study from the Florida Department of Transportation and a Florida State University research team that identified six changes that may result from full adoption of the technology, ranging from the potential for narrower and more efficient rights-of-way to redevelopment opportunities resulting from reduced parking demand.

"While these changes could support more walkable, livable communities, policies and implementation strategies must be put in place to make this potential outcome a reality," Rouse said. "For example, the study notes that AVs could either help or hinder bicyclists and pedestrians. And there are many unanswered questions beyond the scope of this particular study. For example, how will AVs impact regional development patterns? Will underserved and disadvantaged populations be left behind by a technology that benefits more affluent segments of society? How will public transit be affected?"

Schroer said TDOT is one road agency that is trying to predict how road design, construction, and usage will change as the result of driverless vehicles.

"We have to make sure our investments today aren't obsolete tomorrow," he said. "It is hard because you don't know exactly what is going to look like. We do know that if vehicles are fully autonomous



Chattanooga's Volkswagen plant will be among the facilities where driverless cars, such as the VW Budd-E electric van seen here, will be developed and tested. The German-based automotive manufacturer also owns Audi, one of the top manufacturers of autonomous vehicles. Other auto manufacturers with locations in Tennessee, such as Toyota and General Motors, have also been looking into developing driverless technology at their facilities across the country.



Without the need for a driver, the interior of future vehicles may look much different than today. These self-driving cars will also include technology that can report back road conditions to highway and road departments, eliminate the need for traffic lights and signs, and allow for roads to be smaller and cover less land.

our lanes don't have to be as large as they are today. We can also get more cars on the road because they can get closer together and go faster. All autonomous vehicles are connected with each other because they know where other vehicles are on the road and where and how they are going to get off an interchange before they signal. The capacity opportunities may increase."

While there is potential for autonomous vehicles to be frequent sights on roadways in as little as a decade, Rouse said there is some time for city planners to prepare.

"The bad news is that technological change often happens more quickly than anticipated, automakers are already incorporating automated features into their current models, and long-range planning is just starting to consider the technology," he said. "Erik Guerra of the University of Pennsylvania interviewed planners at the nation's 25 largest metropolitan planning organizations on the extent to which they are preparing for

the advent of AVs. He concludes in a *Journal of Planning Education and Research* article that, while regional planners are keenly aware of the need, "uncertainties about the new technology and its relationship to daily investment decisions have kept mention of self-driving cars out of nearly all long-range transportation plans."

Schroer said he believes the change to road design and construction will be gradual.

"I believe at some point when these vehicles become more common you will need an autonomous vehicle to get on the interstate," he said. "When vehicles become fully autonomous and integrated with technology, your roads won't need traffic signals or lane markings. Ultimately, you won't need to have like a north or south bound lane on the interstate. You can have one lane and decide if you want five lanes going south and one going north and then can change that depending on where the traffic needs to go. That means we have less real estate we need to own. That might happen before you know it."

Many autonomous vehicles being tested are electric, and Schroer said that might mean roads will have equipment to charge vehicles while they operate so they can traverse longer distances. The nature of transportation work might also change dramatically.

"In Michigan, they are already testing autonomous vehicles that can report back road conditions," he said. "If the car hits a pot hole it can send back the exact location of the pot hole through GIS. A work truck will then automatically know where the pot hole has developed. These cars can pick up icing conditions. We already have several cities in Tennessee developing Smart Corridors, which have fiber optic cables connected to TDOT's systems and to signals. These signals already have the ability to talk to intelligent cars."

Autonomous vehicles may also eliminate the need for drivers' licenses and traffic tickets.

"You have a lot less expense on the state level if you don't have to have a driver's license. People will

still need a form of photo identification," Schroer said. "There is some revenue connected to traffic tickets, but it's not significant. If police officers and firefighters never have to work a wreck. Think of how many man hours they would save. It could even mean smaller police forces. There will probably be a much larger savings than any revenue they could generate from tickets."

Certain populations may also be more attracted to purchasing autonomous vehicles.

"There are a lot of populations who will benefit from this," Schroer said. "Younger people, Millennials and those prone to adopting new technology will be quicker to latch on to this than anyone else because they more readily accept change. This might also help older people who can't drive as well as they used to but want to go places and be independent. It may also help those with physical limitations such as those who have seizures and can't drive."

For Schroer, the biggest advantage to driverless cars is the amount of lives it could save.

"Last year, more than 35,000 people died in automobile wrecks in America. Worldwide, that number was 1.2 million," Schroer said. "More than 90 percent of those wrecks were driver error. These cars aren't going to make driver errors. These vehicles may come into an experience they aren't trained for, but they can compensate. We can literally save thousands of lives a year by going full autonomous. If people aren't being killed in wrecks, it will have an impact on emergency service providers, on our hospital emergency rooms, and on insurance rates."

Schroer said embracing this new technology is one way cities can build their economic future.

"We have to embrace the technology because it's already here," he said. "If you say 'we are just going to do it the same way we have always done it' you are going to find yourself left behind and it will be hard to catch up. Companies are going to embrace cities that embrace new technologies. Technology is advancing so quickly that cities who are not embracing this will see an impact on their economy."



Google cars like this one will soon be coming to the streets of Nashville as part of a year-long project through Bloomberg Philanthropies and the Aspen Institute. The city's most recent transit plan calls for special lanes for AVs until the technology is more widespread.