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A UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE-LED consortium focused on growing automotive manufacturing and other advanced industries in a four-state region hosted a roundtable discussion with U.S. Transportation Deputy Secretary Victor Mendez in Nashville in August.

Consortium members are partners in the “DRIVE!” IMCP initiative, 14 organizations with research and innovation assets covering Middle and East Tennessee, South Central Kentucky, North Alabama and North Georgia. DRIVE!,

DOT Deputy Secretary Victor Mendez (far right) listens to an update on the DRIVE! partnership from CIS Executive Director Dr. Paul Jennings. Beth Phillips of CIS is also pictured.
a participate in the federal government’s Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership program, is one of the first 24 such partnerships in the nation and is led by UT’s Institute for Public Service. Key partners include Tennessee Economic and Community Development, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the UT Center for Industrial Services, other UT campuses and institutes, the Tennessee Automotive Manufacturers Association, Pathway Lending, the Tennessee Board of Regents, Alabama Automotive Manufacturers Association, Bluegrass Automotive Manufacturers Association, Georgia Automotive Manufacturers Association, Southern Middle Tennessee Entrepreneur Centers, Tech 20/20, The Enterprise Center, Tennessee Valley Authority and Southeast Tennessee Development District.

Mendez updated the group on the status of federal funding to support transportation infrastructure throughout the United States and on new research and development opportunities in the transportation industry. Following the roundtable discussion, Mendez visited Pathway Women’s Business Center in Nashville to hear from officials there about how federal support is enabling a greater presence of women entrepreneurs in the automotive supply-chain economy.

“Drive partners identified new ways to leverage federal Department of Transportation funding opportunities to further improve area infrastructure and grow new business opportunities in the automotive sector of the Tennessee Valley economy,” said Chuck Shoopman, UT Institute for Public Service assistant vice president and chairman of the DRIVE! executive committee.

“The opportunity to be joined face-to-face by Secretary Mendez helps us understand, firsthand, the priorities and needs of the U.S. Department of Transportation and helps a key leader in the federal government hear directly from people involved about the community and business needs.”

Participants updated Mendez on the growing automotive industry presence in the Tennessee Valley and about progress achieved to date by the year-old collaboration. Among highlights shared:

• Automotive manufacturing accounts for more than a third of advanced industry employment in Tennessee.

• The Tennessee Valley region is the nation’s fifth-largest for automotive industry employment, where six major automotive manufacturers and 582 automotive supply-chain manufacturers employ more than 90,000 people.

• 151 manufacturers have announced expansions or new locations in the DRIVE! Region in the last 24 months.
DURING HIS TRIP TO NASHVILLE, U.S. Department of Transportation Deputy Secretary Victor Mendez received a tour of the new Pathway Women’s Business Center. The center is an offshoot of DRIVE Partner Pathway Lending, and is the result of a grant from the Small Business Association. The center’s mission is to provide entrepreneurs throughout Middle Tennessee with education, counseling and mentoring services to help them start, expand or better manage their businesses.

Because the center’s service territory is part of the DRIVE! region, programming will be targeted specifically to assisting women business owners who are in the automotive supply chain or are looking for ways to enter the market. Just recently, the center hosted the Women’s Automotive Academy, a day-long course focused on entering or expanding within the automotive industry.

The DRIVE! consortium provides resources and technical assistance to expand the role of automotive associations as advocates, conveners, and connectors across the automotive supply chain. DRIVE! partners also are engaged in workforce development and education, and in facilitating operational improvements, supply chain enhancement, and infrastructure and site development.

From June 2014 to May 2015, the automotive cluster within the DRIVE! region has produced economic and jobs impacts of:

- $1,846,868,233 new automotive capital investments in the DRIVE! region
- $1,444,172,482 foreign direct investment by non-US automotive firms
- $24,930,502 economic impact from outreach and technical assistance projects
- 9,129 new automotive and advanced industry jobs created
- $2,821,124 federal investments in DRIVE! region
- $39,003,813 non-federal funds leveraged to support DRIVE! strategy
- 77 percent Increase in Automotive Exports with $5.9 Billion Combined Value

The Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) initiative was developed by the U.S. Commerce Department to revolutionize how federal agencies leverage economic development funds. The DRIVE! IMCP partnership was designated in June 2014 as one of the nation’s first 12 IMCP communities and continues its work on behalf of the automotive cluster within a combined 69 counties in Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama and Georgia.

Women’s Business Center Among Nashville Stops

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GOVERNOR HASLAM, COMMISSIONER BOYD ANNOUNCE CREATION OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

TENNESSEE GOV. BILL HASLAM and Economic and Community Development Commissioner Randy Boyd announced the creation of a Rural Development Task Force that will bring resources together from a wide range of organizations to advance rural communities and economic development throughout Tennessee. UT Institute for Public Service Interim Vice President of Public Service Dr. Herb Byrd III will serve on the task force.

“Tennessee’s rural communities are the heart of our state in so many ways, whether it’s our main streets, longstanding companies or as world-class tourist attractions, and we want to continue helping them thrive and grow,” Haslam said. “We’re pleased to announce this Rural Development Task Force, which will build on the work we’ve already been doing to create a measured, thoughtful approach to supporting economic development in our rural communities.”

“Tennessee is experiencing tremendous economic momentum, but unfortunately our success is not shared in many of our rural communities,” Boyd said. “Many are still suffering and our state can only be great if all communities share in the success. At the Department of Economic and Community Development, we are doubling down on rural development efforts. However, to make a transformative difference, we need a holistic solution.”

The Rural Development Task Force will develop and adopt an initial three to four year strategic plan that will include a comprehensive vision for rural development. In order to do this, the taskforce will convene issues forums, identify and engage stakeholder groups and look to the successful ThreeStar program as a way to identify gaps, challenges and opportunities.

The Rural Development Task Force is comprised of:

- Gov.’s Office: Will Cromer, Special Assistant for Strategy and Policy Director
- Dolores Gresham: State Senator, Somerville
- Ryan Williams: State Representative, Cookeville
- Dept. of Agriculture: Commissioner Julius Johnson (Co-Chair)
- Dept. of Tourist Development: Commissioner Kevin Triplett (Co-Chair)
- Dept. of Economic & Community Development: Commissioner Randy Boyd (Co-Chair)
- Dept. of Economic & Community Development: Amy New, Assistant Commissioner, Rural Development
- Dept. of Transportation: Toks Omishakin, Deputy Commissioner
- Dept. of Environment & Conservation: Dr. Shari Meghreblian, Deputy Commissioner
- Dept. of Labor & Workforce Development: Commissioner Burns Phillips
- Dept. of Education: Jayme Place, Chief of Staff
- Dept. of Health: Commissioner John Dreyzehner
- Dept. of Financial Institutions: Commissioner Greg Gonzales
- USDA RD: Bobby Goode, State Director
- TVA: John Bradley, Senior Vice President of Economic Development
- Federal Grant Programs: Brooxie Carlton, TNECD Community Programs Director
- University of Tennessee Public Service: Dr. Herb Byrd, Interim Vice President
- Farm Bureau: Lacy Upchurch, President
- University of Tennessee Ag Extension: Dean Tim Cross
- Tennessee Development District Association: Beth Jones, Chair

The taskforce will conduct its first meeting in September 2015.
County Officials Complete Certification Training Program

MORE THAN 50 EMPLOYEES from counties across the state recently completed their capstone project as part of the UT County Technical Assistance Service’s (CTAS) County Officials Certification Training Program.

COCTP is designed to provide specialized, technical and managerial training to elected officials and their employees in order to help them run their office more effectively. It also offers a comprehensive knowledge of the inner workings of county government. 

Employees who completed the program in 2015 are:
- Camby Akers, Hamilton County
- Kimberly Bivens, Monroe County
- Paul Braden, Lincoln County
- Amber Cavness, Henderson County
- Joseph Coleman, Williamson County
- Marti Crabtree, Lincoln County
- Karrie Davis, Hamilton County
- Melanie Glenn, Williamson County
- Laurie Gulan, Williamson County
- Gaye Hasty, Blount County
- Lisa Jackson, Williamson County
- Julie Kleinschmidt, Loudon County
- Byron Maxedon, McNairy County
- Pam McKenzie, Coffee County
- Amanda Miller, McNairy County
- Erin Perkins, Williamson County
- Jimmy Poss, DeKalb County
- Kerri Pridemore, Williamson County
- Marsha Raper, Monroe County
- Ashley Sabo, Hamilton County
- Kendra Shelton, Robertson County
- Jim Snowden, Knox County
- Brenda Wynn, Davidson County
- Walter Yearwood, Crockett County
- Perrin Anderson, Sevier County
- Eddie Bray, Henderson County
- Debbie Byrd, Rhea County
- Penny Carter, Knox County
- Jeffery Chumley, Tipton County
- Sharon Connor, Chester County
- Karen Cotter, Sevier County
- Ben Danner, Overton County
- William Daugherty, Tipton County
- Rita Ellison, Sevier County
- Amy England, Union County
- Angela Ervin, Madison County
- Sherrie Fenner, Johnson County
- Randi French, Henry County
- Rena Greer, Grainger County
- Molly Hartup, Roane County
- Teresa Henderson, Lincoln County
- Connie Holt, Sevier County
- Cyndi Loveday, Sevier County
- John Matthews, Sevier County
- Tammy Painter, Lincoln County
- Candy Patterson, Lincoln County
- Greg Patterson, Sevier County
- Katherine Priester, Sullivan County
- Trina Quinn, Henderson County
- Susan Sanders, Lincoln County
- Ashley Seratt, Gibson County
- Dwight Van deVate, Knox County
- Candice Vickers, Union County
- Steve Walker, Dyer County
- Kiley Weathers, Lawrence County
- Carol Williams, Union County

UT Institute Launching Certified Public Manager Program

THE UT INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE’S Naifeh Center for Effective Leadership is now accepting applications for the state’s first Certified Public Manager (CPM) program, which will hold its first cohort of classes in January 2016.

The Tennessee CPM program is a project-based, 18-month series of courses for all levels of public service employees across the state. The program will host classes, each limited to 25 participants, in East, Middle and West Tennessee.

Program participants will be able to sharpen their personal and professional leadership styles and develop the knowledge and skills needed to manage and inspire positive change in their workplaces and communities. Participants will meet for a total of eight weekends over a period of 18 months. The competency-based instruction comprised of our modules will take place in class sessions and online exercises. After the modules, students will have six months to complete a guided capstone project before obtaining the public manager certification.

The Tennessee Certified Public Manager (CPM) program, which consists of 300 total hours of training, is designed in conformance with the requirements of the National Certified Public Manager® Consortium.

For more information on the Tennessee CPM program contact Dr. Gary Peevely at (865) 974-6628 or gpeevely@tennessee.edu.
NEW LEGISLATION PASSED by the Tennessee Legislature in 2015 addressed every corner of municipal administration. Whether individuals represented law enforcement, finance and budgets or were elected officials, there was legislative updates that pertained to Tennessee cities.

The UT Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS), in cooperation with the Tennessee Municipal League (TML), facilitated training on the 2015 Tennessee State Legislature’s session. With more than 170 participants, these sessions were conducted in Kingsport, Knoxville, Franklin, Collegedale and Jackson. These interactive classes covered 35 areas and over 230 individual legislative acts. Areas of interest included: alcoholic beverages, animals, authorities, boards, commissions, codes enforcement, contracts, crime and criminal procedure, economic development, education, elections, environment, finance, fire, firearms, general government, land use, planning and zoning, landlords and tenants, law enforcement, motor vehicles and traffic, personnel, records, state government, taxation, tort liability, transportation, and utilities. The intended purpose of these sessions was to educate municipal officials regarding changes in laws impacting Tennessee cities.

Municipal employees across the state discovered what impact recent state legislation will have on their respective communities with the assistance of these sessions, led by MTAS Legal Consultant Elisha Hodge.

Some city officials attending the sessions provided comments such as “Very informative and time relevant!” “All the laws in four hours - Impressive” and “Quality speaker - hit the high key points of law, with fun slides to entertain the class.” Participants also commented they valued the presentation with the summary of the public law changes. These summaries were categorized as precise, objective and informative.

Hodge has summarized the information she covered in the sessions and that information is posted in an online version of the courses. The online version is titled Summary of 2015 Public Acts and is available at www.mtas.tennessee.edu under the headline Municipal Legislation 2015 online course.
**CTAS Launches Informational Briefs on Website**

IN ORDER TO KEEP UP with the growing trend of people wanting their information in bits in pieces, the UT County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS) has rolled out the InfoBytes feature on its website.

With InfoBytes, CTAS presents timely information for customers regarding various areas of county government operations. The information is summarized for easy reading. The first two featured a 2015 legislative update and information on property taxes.

Visit [www.ctas.tennessee.edu](http://www.ctas.tennessee.edu) for more InfoByte features.  

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**anniversaries**

These dates reflect what is referred to in IRIS as the Current Hire Date.

Doug Bodary, CTAS, 9 years  
Kurt Frederick, MTAS, 16 years  
Nancy Gibson, MTAS, 9 years  
Liz Gossett, CTAS, 3 years  
Jennifer Hagan-Dier, CIS, 2 years  
Walter Idol, CIS, 10 years  
Gary Jaeckel, MTAS, 16 years  
Paul Jennings, CIS, 6 years  
Mike Meyers, CTAS, 16 years  
Chris Shults, MTAS, 1 year  
Brian Spears, CTAS, 20 years  
Marty Spears, CTAS, 8 years  
Steve Wyatt, MTAS, 17 years

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**recruitments**

CIS  IT Administrator (Nashville)  
CIS  Solutions Program Manager (internal department search)  
CIS  Accounting Specialist (Nashville)  
LEIC  Program Manager (Oak Ridge)  
CIS  Technology Accelerator Consultant  
CIS  Resource Program Manager  
MTAS  Specialist, Courts
CIS
Sept. 8 OSHA 10-Hour General Industry, Nashville
Sept. 8 Lean Introduction & Value Stream Mapping, Greeneville
Sept. 8 8-Hour Site Worker Refresher, Nashville
Sept. 9 Lean Introduction & Value Stream Mapping, Knoxville
Sept. 9 8-Hour DOT Refresher, Nashville
Sept. 10 16-Hour DOT, Nashville
Sept. 15 OSHA501 Trainer Course in Standards for General Industry, Memphis
Sept. 15 Four Generations in the Workplace, Jackson
Sept. 15 Standardized Work & Mistake-Proofing, Greeneville
Sept. 16 Standardized Work & Mistake-Proofing, Knoxville
Sept. 21 UPF Supply Chair Collaboration Forum, Oak Ridge
Sept. 22 5S Workplace Organization & Visual Management, Greeneville
Sept. 22 40-Hour HAZWOPER, Hazardous Waste Site Worker, Knoxville
Sept. 22 How to Do Business with UPF, Oak Ridge
Sept. 22 Planning & Zoning, Johnson City
Sept. 23 Planning & Zoning, Knoxville
Sept. 24 Planning & Zoning, Murfreesboro
Sept. 25 Planning & Zoning, Jackson
Sept. 25 Planning & Zoning, Buchanan
Sept. 26 Planning & Zoning, Baxter

CTAS
Sept. 1 Tennessee County Commissioners Association (TCCA) Regional Meeting, Knoxville
Sept. 3 TCCA Regional Meeting, Springfield
Sept. 10 TCCA Regional Meeting, Johnson City
Sept. 10 TCCA Regional Meeting, Jackson
Sept. 11 Planning & Zoning, Knoxville
Sept. 14 Planning & Zoning, Murfreesboro
Sept. 15 Planning & Zoning, Jackson
Sept. 15 TCCA Regional Meeting, Buchanan
Sept. 17 TCCA Regional Meeting, Baxter

LEIC
Sept. 14 – Nov. 20 NFA Session 39, Oak Ridge

MTAS
Sept. 4 Municipal Management Academy - (MMA) Planning & Organizing, Athens
Sept. 10 MMA - Communication Skills, Harriman
Sept. 10 MMA - Communicating, Coaching & Counseling, Morristown
Sept. 18 MMA - Human Resource Overview, Athens
Sept. 22 Reflective Practices in the Workplace, Jackson
Sept. 23 Certified Municipal Finance Manager (CMFO) – Debt Management, Memphis
Sept. 23 Reflective Practices in the Workplace, Franklin
Sept. 25 Reflective Practices in the Workplace, Franklin
Sept. 25 Bridging the Generational Gap in the Workplace: Smoky Mountain Paralegal Association, Knoxville
Sept. 25 MMA – Performance Management & Positive Discipline, Athens
Sept. 29 Reflective Practices in the Workplace, Knoxville
Sept. 29 Municipal Court Clerk Class, Smyrna
Sept. 30 CMFO – Debt Management, Collegedale
Sept. 30 CMFO – Debt Management, Nashville

NAIFEH CENTER
Sept. 14 – 18 Tennessee Government Executive Institute, Knoxville