

Who We Are

Forward Sumner Economic Partnership Board of Directors - 2017

Chairman Susan Peach, Highpoint Health Systems/Sumner Regional · Incoming Chairman Tim Ellis, City of Goodlettsville  
Secretary Treasurer Rick Turner, Rogers Group · President/CEO Jimmy Johnston  
Past Chairman John Puryear, Puryear Farms & Landscaping · Tom Atchley, Hendersonville Utility District  
Regina Bartlett, Hendersonville Medical Center · Jimmy Batten, Batten & Shaw, Inc.  
Jeff Bond, Reliant Bank · Hillary Bonham, Goodall Homes & Communities  
Daisy Casey, First Tennessee Bank · J.R. Ernst, Ernst Western Corporation  
Mike Fussell, Hendersonville IDB · Johnny Garrett, Bone McAllester Norton, PLLC  
Amanda Hite, STR · Mack Hodges, Hodges Group  
Anthony Holt, Sumner County Executive · Mike Incorvaia, Novita/An OSRAM Company  
Bryan Ledford, Rogers Group · Scott Perry, The Memorial Foundation · John Zobl, Betty Machine

What We Do

Strategic Initiatives

Community Development & Infrastructure • Workforce Development • Economic Development  
Retire Sumner • Investor Relations & Marketing

How We Do It

CONNECT – COLLABORATE – DEVELOP – COMPLETE



Johnston Appointed to THEC

Jimmy Johnston, President/CEO of the Forward Sumner Economic Partnership was appointed to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) by Governor Haslam in June 2017. THEC serves as the coordinating body for Tennessee’s 51 public colleges and universities, which collectively educate nearly 250,000 students. The Commission coordinates the state’s six locally-governed universities and the two systems of public higher education, the University of Tennessee system, and the Tennessee Board of Regents. The Commission is composed of nine voting members appointed from the public representing the Grand Divisions of the State equally, together with the three state Constitutional Officers, two ex-officio student members, and the Executive Director of the State Board of Education.



SUMNER COUNTY  
Tennessee



Nashville’s North Shore  
FY 2017 Annual Report to Membership



2017 Chairman Susan Peach

Message from Chairman Peach:

During my tenure we have diligently worked to update our strategic plan. The work was data driven and we created a specific Sumner County data set. The research provided the guideposts that informed our strategic initiatives and allowed us a deeper drive to assure the strategic initiatives are merited and right-sized for Sumner County. The six year plan includes a three year tactical plan which is refreshed annually. I have always found the adage of plan the work and work the plan to be an approach and direction that brings focus to the mission.

The Forward Sumner mission as a nonprofit public private partnership is to provide the collaborative platform to advance the ultimate goal of economic growth throughout Sumner County. The mission is on display daily and I ask that you join us and be a leader.

Community Development & Infrastructure

It started as a collaborative discussion between the local governments and Forward Sumner leadership. It moved to a ‘corridor concept’. We presented it to the MPO, a regional planning body for roads and transportation corridors. We huddled with the C-Suite of the TN Department of Transportation. Both entities told us to name the ‘corridor concept’ and the Northeast Transportation Corridor, or **NETcorridor** was born. The **NETcorridor** links ten distinct road projects and is a 25-year \$1B project which runs from I-65 at the entrance onto Vietnam Veterans (SR 386) through Gallatin onto State Route 109 and new road over to Highway 31E (SR 6) and then to the state line through Westmoreland. An ambitious vision that provides a new transportation corridor within Sumner County and intersects with State Route 109, the major freight and movement corridor.

The MPO regional planning body designated the **NETcorridor** as a 5 Star headline priority project and promoted it as a regional best practice. TDOT embraced it and it was added to the Governors list of projects in the IMPROVE Act.



And, in July 2017 - Phase 1 of the NETcorridor, the first ten miles, was funded at \$200M. From concept to funding in less than four years...unprecedented, unheard of, and the envy of all the counties in the Nashville market.

**State Route 109—Transportation Corridor -**  
SR 109 is the major freight and goods movement corridor for Sumner County.

In December 2017, TDOT let bids for the last 7.5 miles of State Route 109 to be widened to a four lane divided highway. Although the road work is in Wilson County, it is the last section that will connect I-65 from Portland through Gallatin to I-40/840 in Wilson County. This new road widening construction project begins south of the Cumberland River Bridge in Gallatin to north of U.S. 70 (SR 24) in Lebanon. The project will begin in the Spring of 2018, and completed in 2021.



Nashville’s North Shore

Visit us at [www.forwardsumner.org](http://www.forwardsumner.org)

2310 Nashville Pike • Gallatin, Tennessee 37066 • 615.822.7610



Northeast Transportation Corridor (NETcorridor)

The **NETcorridor** is a 25 year vision of a new and improved transportation corridor through Sumner County. Upon completion, the **NETcorridor** will be a \$1 Billion public infrastructure investment. In July 2017, Phase 1 (\$200M) was funded for environmental and planning and design. The gestation of a road project can take from 8-12 years which includes the environmental review, planning, design, right of way acquisition and construction. It will be paramount that Forward Sumner work with and through the local government officials that offer a unified vision for the **NETcorridor**.

*Managed Transit Lines*  
The **NETcorridor** vision adopted the 2011 MPO Northeast Corridor Mobility study. In 2017 the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) adopted the nMotion plan which largely incorporated the preferred routes and options from the earlier study. The **NETcorridor** will increase the capacity of Vietnam Veterans Boulevard (SR 386) from 4 to 6 lanes. Phase 1 funding includes the new and unique language, managed transit lines. This will be the first time TDOT will plan and design for potential managed transit lanes within a road widening project. TDOT will not fund nor operate a ‘transportation authority’ with state road funds. Sumner County will be required to pass a referendum sometime in the future if the citizens choose to authorize a funding formula for a transportation authority. In present time, Forward Sumner will work with TDOT to define the types of managed transit lanes that make the most sense for SR 386 and our local communities. The managed lane concept is designed to be technology driven. Flexibility and adaptability is essential when planning for a full return on investment of a newly designed transportation corridor. Options might include active traffic management, ramp metering, hard shoulder running, express and reversible lanes, and bus rapid transit busways. The transportation world is undergoing rapid innovation and attainable adjustments built into future plans will be of utmost importance.

Retire Sumner

The Sumner County program is part of the award winning Retire TN program, a marketing program to intentionally attract retirees that will settle and help diversify and grow the economy. The individuals and families living an active retirement life form an outstanding volunteer core for Sumner County. The chart shows the marketing activity for 2017.

FY 2017	
Inquiries	6,869
Responses	4,896
Website Hits	1,636
Unique Website Visitors	1,568

Population / In-Migration / Commuting



Sumner County continues to average an annual population growth of 1.8-2.0%. The rate of growth has been very consistent over the last 20 years. Sumner County’s in-migration is driven by our quality of life and the many excellent education opportunities including our K-12 system and the post-secondary options including Volunteer State Community College, TN College of Applied Technology in Portland (TCAT-Portland), Union University in Hendersonville, and Welch College in Gallatin.

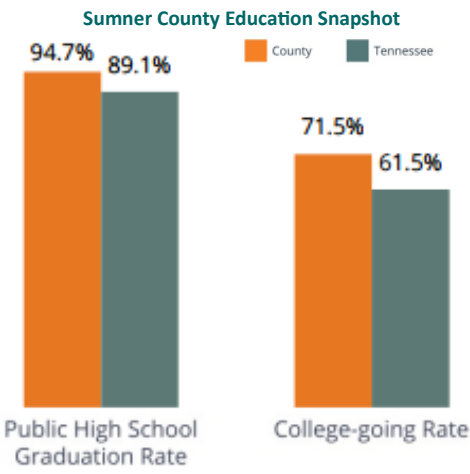
**Commuting Patterns** - 21,000 or 47% of our labor force commutes into Sumner County to work. The 21,000 commuters come from:

29%  
Davidson County

44%  
Robertson • Wilson • Macon  
Rutherford • Williamson  
Trousdale • Montgomery  
Simpson, KY

27%  
All other locations

Workforce Development



Education = Workforce = Jobs has always been the ‘working’ formula. The state of Tennessee and Governor Bill Haslam are leading the United States in aligning the education pathways to a career. The TN Higher Education Commission’s Drive to 55 programs include TN Promise (free tuition for high schools students entering community or technical college) TN Reconnect (free tuition for adults without a degree at a community or technical college), tnAchieves (mentoring services for high school students entering college) and LEAP- Labor & Education Alignment Program (grants to build capacity for college curriculum, i.e. Mechatronics at Volunteer State, or Advanced Manufacturing at TCAT-Portland). The Drive to 55 programs signify the need for 55% of the Tennessee adult population to hold a postsecondary credential , a degree, diploma, or certification by 2025. These programs which entered the third year in the fall of 2017 promote college availability for everyone, and the importance of college credentials. College is for everyone and most jobs will require college level training; not all students have to attend a 4-year university for their career training. The TN complete college initiative creates the pathways and articulation agreements for a student to matriculate through a technical or community college to a university degree.

Forward Sumner worked with the Sumner County schools and the Career & Technical Education division to submit a \$25,000 Work Based Learning grant application to the TNECD. Notification of approval will be in early 2018.

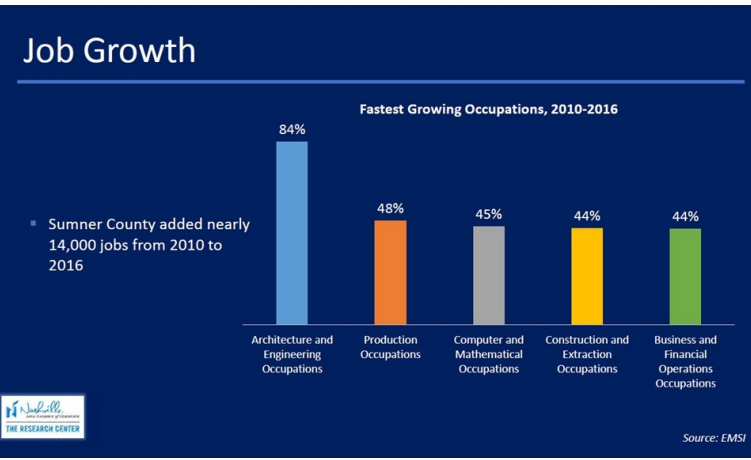
Forward Sumner will continue to administer a high school job shadow program, chair the schools career and technical education initiative, and support and sponsor the 8th grade career fair.

A major program focus in 2018 will be the sourcing of work based learning opportunities including internships, co-ops, pre-apprenticeships, incumbent worker training, and on the job training, for the mutual benefit of students and business and industry.

*Wage & Benefit Survey*  
Middle TN Industrial Development Association (MTIDA), together with its funding partners including USDA-Rural Development, GNRC, and TN Central Economic Alliance contracted with MTSU to provide the 2017 Middle TN Wage & Benefit survey. The survey, available in early 2018, will provide subsets by development districts and region 4 which consists of Sumner, Robertson, and Montgomery counties.

Top Colleges Selected by 2016 High School Graduates	
Volunteer State Community College - 614 • University of Tennessee, Knoxville - 106 • University of Tennessee, Chattanooga - 104	Western Kentucky University - 77 • Austin Peay State University - 61

Economic Development



Sumner County	Industry Sector	Wages
Manufacturing	16.4%	Above Average
Retail Trade	15.4%	Below Average
Healthcare	12.1%	Above Average
Accommodation & Food Services	11.5%	Below Average
Real Estate	8.6%	Average
Business Services	6.3%	Above Average
Professional, Scientific, Technical	4.5%	Above Average
Administrative Services	4.2%	Below Average

Sumner County is averaging a solid and healthy 2,000 jobs annually since 2010. The jobs are spread across the local communities of Hendersonville, Gallatin, Portland, Goodlettsville, White House, Millersville, and Westmoreland. Manufacturing remains the largest business and industry sector at over 16%, followed closely by Healthcare at 12%. Both sectors pay above average wages.

There are 45,000 Sumner County jobs and 24,000 or 53% of our workforce live and work in the county. The 2017 unemployment rate (January - November) was 3.1%, which is a historic low, and while it is a cause for celebration, it also brings a note of caution. The workforce pipeline is both compressed and requires the right skills. Labor force availability and the upward pressure on wages is the number one issue in the attraction and expansion of economic development projects. Project flow is solid, interest is high, and Sumner County and all of the local communities are a desired location for both business and families. We benefit from being the *north shore* of the Nashville market while retaining our individuality and charm. On any given day, 75% of our jobs will come from our existing business and industry.