

## INVESTORS

### WE ARE:

Business and local government advocates working together across jurisdictional boundaries that create a powerful force for economic and workforce development.

The investors in Forward Sumner further the **MISSION** to “*unite business, community and government to promote and foster the economic development and prosperity of Sumner County for the benefit of all citizens*”.



### WE DELIVER:

## Choose SUMNER

A new website was launched in October at [www.forwardsumner.org](http://www.forwardsumner.org). We intend for the site to be an information and data center, and look for your feedback!



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

1598 Green Lea Boulevard • Gallatin, TN 37066 • 615-206-6624

## Choose SUMNER

See why North of Nashville is the place to be.

### FY 2019 Annual Report to Membership



#### Message from 2019 Chair Daisy Casey:

Forward Sumner’s work is foundational, collaborative and efficient. Foundational in the sense of setting the base for economic growth and a higher quality of life. Collaborative in the context of building interrelated community structures and partnerships that benefit all. Efficient outcomes due to our public-private structure.

A good example of foundational work is the new Forward Sumner website which serves as an introduction, a front door to Sumner County, and a business resource.

The private sector which I represent seeks out entities that provide the opportunity to support businesses and the communities that we serve. Forward Sumner does that through initiatives related to Infrastructure, Workforce, and Economic Development.

I believe the Forward Sumner collaborative platform is where trust and words align. We are the voice that crosses the jurisdictional boundaries through organized business, education, and government advocates.

Forward Sumner is here and working for you. I am excited for the future and economic growth opportunities in Sumner County and the local cities, and I am grateful for all the incredible community leaders that we work with.



2019 Chair Daisey Casey

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

### INVESTORS

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

Forward Sumner’s leadership together with the local elected officials and administrators are working to advance key infrastructure projects. Governor Bill Lee took office in January 2019 and appointed Commissioner Clay Bright to the Department of Transportation. The Sumner County delegation, using the Forward Sumner collaborative platform has been able to work with the new state leadership through the ‘one unified voice’ approach to prioritizing road projects.

**State Route 109** - is the primary freight and goods movement transportation corridor in Sumner County. The ongoing project is a 4-lane divided highway from Portland through Gallatin and onto I-40/840 in Wilson County. The new I-65 exchange or exit 1 opened in November and the \$90M Portland Bypass/Connector will begin right-of-way acquisition in late spring of 2020. The final 7.5 miles of 4-lanes in Wilson County is on track to be completed in Spring of 2021.

**I-65 widening from Goodlettsville to the state line** - TDOT is planning the job in four segments and the plan is to hire out for design and engineering services in early 2020. I-65 will be 3-lane from Goodlettsville, Millersville, White House, and Portland to the state line.

**State Route 386-Vietnam Veterans Blvd** - *NETcorridor- Phase 1*- the pre-engineering conceptual study is scheduled to be completed in the early summer of 2020; the pre-engineering is for the first 10 miles from I-65 to exit 8-Saundersville Road and will address adding a general purpose lane in addition to a managed transit lane and new auxiliary lanes. The NETcorridor is the first state road project to incorporate a transit component. Forward Sumner serves on TDOT’s contractor scoping team at the behest of the local governments, a first for a TDOT project.

The Sumner County projects have a very high profile within TDOT thanks to all the cities and the county working as a team and representing the collective interests to the Greater Nashville Transportation Policy Board and to TDOT. The secret sauce is the unified approach, something these entities have not witnessed before.



# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Workforce Development is the number one issue in all economic development projects. The workforce development ecosystem is quite large and involves large bureaucracies, i.e. multi-national corporations and local business and industry, K-12 school systems, technical and community colleges, and universities, federal and state departments of education and workforce development, not-for-profit entities and foundations, and that is just a few of the participants!

We desire to have a skilled workforce for the benefit of the employees and employers. We are helping to align the educational systems to meet the needs of the future of work. Technology, e.g. automation and artificial intelligence, is both a threat and an opportunity. We have learned or are relearning that experiential learning or work- based learning such as internships, apprenticeships, co-ops, are foundational to alignment.

## Current Initiatives

### Career and Technical Education (CTE)

Co-chair the Sumner County Schools Career & Technical Education (CTE) Advisory Council which promotes workforce alignment and work-based-learning. The Council was very fortunate to have Governor Lee speak at CTE Celebration where he received the Forward Sumner CTE award. The CTE program had ten designated TN Department of Education Certified Pathways, the best in the mid-state. Dual Enrollment/ Dual Credit and Industry Certifications have increased exponentially and work-based -learning career awareness and exploration are exemplified by the 8th grade career fair, the CTE pathway guide and the job shadow program.



February 2019



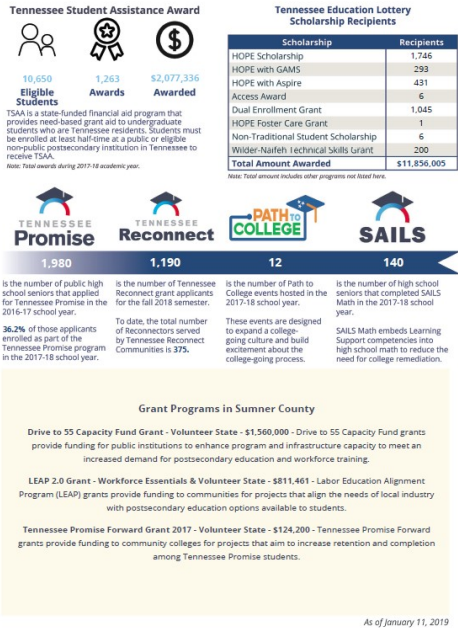
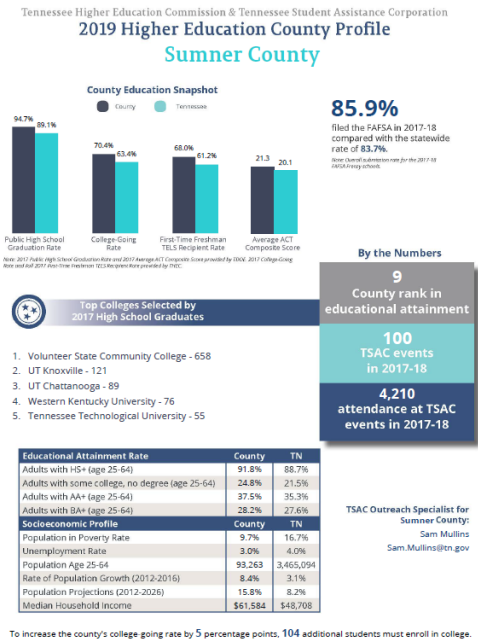
### TN ECD ThreeStar Workforce Development Grant

FSEP worked with the County Mayor's office, local community leaders, and the local economic development officials to develop and submit the grant application. The ThreeStar coordinator in the County Mayor's office was awarded the \$50,000 grant in November. Forward Sumner will work with the coordinator to produce a workforce development 'request for information library/clearinghouse template' and conduct an ecosystem/universe scan to identify a systemic workforce collaborative.

TCAT-Portland and the Middle College Technical High School continue to grow and added new courses including cosmetology and building construction technology.

Volunteer State Community College is our anchor college and opened the beautiful new Mechatronics building and is leading the way in work-based learning opportunities.

Union University-Hendersonville and Welch College in Gallatin offer faith-based learning in multiple curriculum and enrich the fabric of our community daily. In Sumner County we are blessed to have the opportunity to start kindergarten and receive a doctorate right here at home.



Economic Development requires strategies and processes to recruit, expand, and retain local jobs, grow the tax base, and increase the standard of living.

Economic Development done well is always a team effort, both locally and regionally. Our regional partners include TN ECD, TVA, MTIDA, TN Central Economic Authority, USDA, and the local partners are the economic development officials in our cities.

Local economic development requires roads, accessibility, and utilities, land and buildings, a workforce, and of course capital investment. National annual surveys from project leads/site selectors or corporate executives have remained consistent through the years. The top four considerations will include, highway accessibility, availability of a skilled workforce, available land, and quality of life. Available and affordable housing is often on the list.

Forward Sumner and Sumner County along with the local communities are very intentional in their methods and as a result have had many successes as the unemployment rate stays between 2% - 3%.

One success in 2019 was the location of Clayton Supply in Westmoreland. Announced by Governor Lee in April with ample support from TVA, the company is repurposing 120,000sf of manufacturing space to house over 100 employees to make modular roof and wall trusses. Clayton Supply plans an onsite innovation design and training center that will be a centerpiece for the entire Clayton Homes Corporation. Scheduled to open in Summer 2020, the project is truly a generational opportunity for the City of Westmoreland.

Forward Sumner added a Sumner County commercial property database to its website and partnered with the Cities of Gallatin and Hendersonville to develop the advertisement below for the TN ECD Guide.

In July, Mr. Johnston was honored to receive the Professional of the Year award from the TN Central Economic Authority, a five-county regional partner.

## GALLATIN HENDERSONVILLE

You have better things to do than sit in traffic. Put your corporate home minutes from Nashville's north shore. Imagine what you can do with the extra time.

**CORPORATE SITES AVAILABLE. SKILLED & READY WORKFORCE. EASY REVERSE COMMUTE.**

**ALL WE NEED IS YOU.**

**GALLATIN, TN**  
Gallatin@tscs.com

**HENDERSONVILLE, TN**  
HvilleTN.org

**FORWARD SUMNER**  
ForwardSumner.org

Joint advertisement for TN ECD Guide.



Clayton Supply in Westmoreland

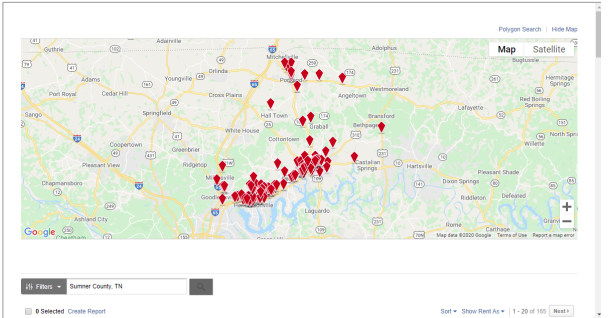


## INDUSTRIAL SITES AND PROPERTIES

Interactive Map for industrial sites and properties (by Atlas)

## COMMERCIAL SITES AND PROPERTIES

Interactive Map for commercial properties (by LoopNet)



www.forwardsumner.org/site-selection/



Pictured are State of Tennessee ECD Commissioner Bob Rolfe, Kelsy Dansby (TCEA), Jimmy Johnston, Wilson County Mayor Randall Hutto, Sumner County Mayor Anthony Holt, and Charly Lyons (TCEA).