# Choose SUMNER

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## FY 2020 Annual Report to Membership

FORWARD SUMNER



2020 Chair Jim Harrison

#### Message from 2020 Chair Jim Harrison:

Workforce development is an integral part of economic development in ensuring a pipeline of skilled labor as a tool for job creation. Workforce development aims to address the need for employment and advancement in the labor market through services, programs, systems and networks that provide individuals with education, skill development and access to jobs. Easy, right? Forward Sumner's work is foundational in promoting systems awareness, cooperation, and applications.

My personal desire is to offer systems change that allow students to find their purpose and passion though experiential learning or work-based learning experiences. Most of our professional tests measure personality traits or interests which identify our comfort zones or suggest areas for which we are not suited. How can we encourage people to try work outside their comfort level where they often find their joy? Turns out we have guideposts but not the answers. Forward Sumner is engaged in systems change work with the service providers, North Middle Workforce Board and Workforce Essentials, and with the education partners by aligning the pathways from learning to work. We offer the connectivity, the collaborative space, and the awareness. Systems change and system adaptability requires trust and diligence.

**Collaboration requires trust and Forward Sumner is where words, trust and actions align.** My engineering skills provide a livelihood and career but it is that counselor and maybe a bit of a ministry role that brings me peace. We all understand the greater purpose of helping others and the happiness it provides. I so enjoyed my year at the helm of this organization. The opportunity to work with captains of industry side by side with public servants to leave our Sumner County a bit better than we found it, that is a purpose I will continue as long as they will have me.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE**

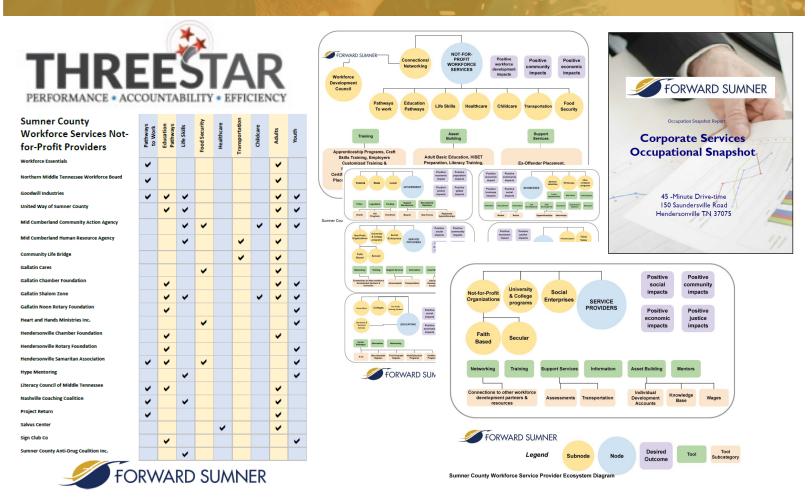
Forward Sumner provides the collaborative platform to study and bring focus to Sumner County 'transportation corridors'. Working through the direction of the local cities and the county, Forward Sumner brings a unified voice to the principals including GNRC/MPO and TDOT. Our priority corridors include:

- Completion of SR 109 including the northern and southern section of the Portland Bypass.
- NETcorridor the expansion of SR 386 Vietnam Veterans Boulevard to six general purpose lanes, extension of the auxiliary/safety lanes between exits, and two bus on shoulder lanes. TDOT has plans to bring the project to construction in 2024.
- I-65 expansion to six lanes from Goodlettsville to Portland, some 25 miles broken out into four project segments. The first segment is
  projected for construction in the next couple of years.

Sumner County is the benchmark in the Middle TN region relative to 'transportation corridor' improvements.



## **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**



Forward Sumner worked through County Mayor Holts office and with the County's ThreeStar coordinator Jaime Muncy to deliver an 'ecoscan' of the non-profits delivering workforce services in Sumner County.

As illustrated by the graphs, the University of Tennessee-Center for Industrial Services (UT-CIS) was a contractor for this work and provided research in relation to the holistic workforce development community. Another part of the grant work will provide workforce information to the local development officials throughout Sumner County relative to regional clusters such as corporate services.

TCAT-Portland took innovative safety measures to provide in-person classes in May. The college and Middle College Technical High School are growing, even in the pandemic. The college now offers 8 technology pathways with site plans to add more in 2021 and the high schools enrollment is the highest since opening.



#### Westmoreland High School Receives \$175,000 Grant

Mr. Johnston continues to chair the Sumner County Schools CTE Advisory Council. Forward Sumner assisted the Central Office in the application for the competitive Perkins Pathway grant for Westmoreland High School.



CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Even in a COVID pandemic the basic components of an economic development deal remain the same including access to land, allowable use of the land, investment capital, and a workforce. Congratulations to the incredible work of the City of Gallatin - Mayor Paige Brown and the Gallatin Economic Development Agency - James Fenton and his team. Professionalism, persistence, and fortitude over a mere three years resulted in the largest economic development location in Sumner County history. The Facebook facility will drive information technology jobs in and around Gallatin.

The Westmoreland community and the recent project locations, both Clayton Supply and Wilson Lumber are in production, hiring employees, and getting their product into the marketplace.

Forward Sumner continues to support the local economic development officials as needed and requested.

#### Economic Impacts in the Nashville MSA and Sumner County:

The COVID economy, while sharp and sudden, is not anticipated to be sustained, but locally it has caused significant disruptions. Until the coronavirus is mitigated through healthy preventive habits, vaccines and herd immunity, the economic disruptions will remain.

- Net loss of 130,000 jobs, 12.1% of current labor force, a 9.6% change, annualized level to 7.7% from a peak of 15.2%
- Loss of \$10.4 billion from Real GDP and \$18.8 billion of output
- Loss of \$7.8 billion in Personal Income
- Loss of \$6.2 billion in Real Disposable Personal Income (income available to persons for spending or saving) or a net loss of \$2,000 Real Disposable Income per capita
- Pre-COVID-19 economic activity to return by Q2 (April-June) with sector returns being staggered. This projection excludes hospitality and leisure

Net New Jobs - Nashville MSA	Nov	Oct	Sept	August	July	June	May	April
	9,000	12,000	9,000	17,000	-8,500	33,000	25 <mark>,000</mark>	-140,000

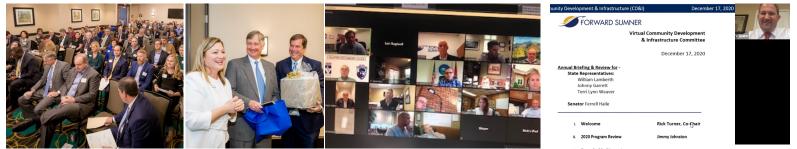
Unemployment Rates	Nov	Oct	Sept	August	July	June	May	April	March
Sumner County	4.1	5.8	5.5	7.5	9.0	9.2	10.5	14.8	3.0
Tennessee	5.3	7.3	6.4	8.6	9.7	10.1	11.0	15.0	3.7

# INVESTORS

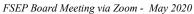
The Forward Sumner Economic Partnership is the public-private non-profit structured to stimulate economic growth, job creation, and infrastructure improvements. Whether in-person or virtual, the work carried on.

Our core values of being relationship based and outward facing were challenged in ways we never envisioned. The accompanying pictures tell the story, including the one from January 2020 as the board, membership, and guest speaker TDOT Commissioner Clay Bright are poised in prayerful reflection.

Forward Sumner is only as effective as its investors and stakeholders. Thank you.



FSEP Annual Meeting - January 2020





Facebook Data Center/Gallatin



Clayton Supply / Goodall - Westmoreland

FSEP CD&I Meeting via Zoom - December 2020

### INVESTORS

#### The Year of COVID-19

Forward Sumner worked closely with County Mayor Anthony Holt's office and state officials to help provide the guidance and education of the Tennessee Pledge and the Guidelines to Reopen the Local Economy, including the Sumner County Pledge.

Governor Bill Lee's first emergency executive order was issued on March 30th and called for a Stay at Home/ Shelter at Home. While Governor Lee did not mandate a statewide directive on masking or face coverings, his order did offer the authority to county mayors to do so. Face masks, physical distancing, and limiting time to less than 10 minutes in a group gathering proved to be the best defenses against the deadly virus.



Forward Sumner produced a weekly 'keymail' and an ongoing dashboard relative to school openings, emergency orders, policies and statistical impacts.

Beginning in March the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluations (IHME) at the University of Washington provided projections of the pandemic effects, unfortunately many of their projections came true. By the end of the calendar year Tennessee had suffered 6,907 deaths from COVID with 206 in Sumner County. John's Hopkins University had the go-to database, and the Tennessee Department of Health and Governor Lee's Task Force has an excellent information site and dashboard at https://covid19.tn.gov/.

At years end, using a denominator of 100,000, Sumner County's case and death rates were 6,909 and 87 respectively, compared to the state at 6,902 and 82 and the United States at 5,123 and 93.

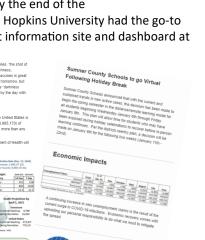
The positivity rate of confirmed cases, infection rates, and deaths were surging from the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. While vaccines had been approved the rollout was just beginning. Hospital capacity was limited and stretched. A surge into the new year was a great concern.

We go to work knowing we are essential to our jobs, and during COVID many were officially deemed to be 'essential' like grocery store workers, office cleaning services, drive through fast food workers, contact tracers,



staff within nursing homes and congregate housing, and those taking temperatures and asking questions to determine if one could enter a space open to the public.

Of course our everyday 'front-line' healthcare and emergency services workers, teachers and parents took the everyday (24/7 and now 365) brute force. The pandemic is not over. We have a ways to go. It has taken a heavy and lasting toll. Be blessed and patient and kind, especially to the essential and frontline workers, as we work with each other to end the pandemic.



Tennessee

FORWARD SUMNE

Pledge

Visit us at www.forwardsumner.org

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