

Michigan Township **INSIGHTS**

Weekly News and Information from the Michigan Townships Association | Sept. 2, 2016

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Take MTA's advocacy survey

There's still time to share your thoughts on advocacy with MTA! We're conducting a short survey to learn about our members' interest and activity in advocacy on behalf of township government. To participate, please take a few moments to complete the online survey. You may access it here:



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/mtaadvocacy>. Please complete the survey as soon as possible, but no later than **Monday, Sept. 12.**

Documentary brings light to 'dark store' issue

A new documentary on the "dark store" issue is helping to shed light on this growing problem for townships. Called "Boxed In," the 25-minute movie created by Northern Michigan University students includes interviews with multiple townships, including **Marquette Charter Township** (Marquette Co.), **Grand Blanc Charter Township** (Genesee Co.) and **Meridian Charter Township** (Ingham Co.). The film dives into why the problem exists, the impact it's having on local government and what the business community believes about the issue. MTA encourages all members to view this documentary and to contact their state senator for action on the legislative fix--HB 5578--which passed the House overwhelmingly in June. We hope anyone who watches this documentary and learns about the drastic cuts to big box stores' property tax assessments and the negative impact it is having on local government will be motivated to action.

PPT worksheet now available



Treasury has released a draft of the detailed 2016 personal property tax (PPT) reimbursement spreadsheet providing an example for calculating PPT loss and estimating reimbursement. The draft form was presented by Treasury staff during regional meetings in an attempt to provide local township officials with

MTA QUICK LINKS

[Members-only Website](#)
[Training](#)
[Answer Center](#)
[Advocacy](#)
[MTA Store](#)
[Township Governance Academy](#)
[Allied Service Providers](#)
[Classified Ads](#)
[NATaT](#)
[MTA Webcasts](#)
[MTA Publications Catalog](#)

UPCOMING MTA EVENTS

**[MTA On the Road Regional Meetings](#)

ALLIED SERVICE PROVIDERS



www.mersofmich.com



www.hartlebagency.com

* [Asphalt Materials, Inc.](#)

answers on the implementation and reimbursement of the PPT reform. Other documents (previously provided by MTA) included an [overview](#) of PPT reform and the [forms](#) local units are required to submit.

Autonomous vehicle bills subject of testimony

Autonomous vehicles could be tested on Michigan roads under a package of bills that would update guidelines for driverless vehicle research. This week, the Senate Economic Development and International Investment Committee held its first hearing on SBs [995](#), [996](#), [997](#) and [998](#), under lead sponsor Sen. Mike Kowall (R-White Lake Chtr. Twp.). The bills were reported by the committee and could see action as soon as next week in the Senate. If enacted, the bills would allow testing of autonomous vehicles on certain Michigan roads and allow the Willow Run manufacturing complex to be used as a test facility. While MTA has not taken a position on the bills, one concern we are working on with legislators is notification to local jurisdictions where pilots will be conducted. As written, the bills do not provide any notification requirement to the local units when or where autonomous vehicles will be tested in their jurisdiction. MTA will continue to provide members with the latest updates regarding action on this package of bills.

* [Bauckham, Sparks, Thall, Seiber & Kaufman, PC](#)

* [Consumers Energy](#)

* [Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC](#)

* [Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C.](#)

* [ITC Holdings Corp.](#)

* [Mika Meyers, PLC](#)

* [Ted Hartleb Agency](#)



Municipal finance summit coming next week

Your next opportunity to learn about pressing policy issues in municipal finance is scheduled for next week. The latest Investing in Michigan Communities Summit will be held from 9-11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 7. The summit will be the fourth event held across the state and will take place in Lansing at the Christman University Conference Room (located in the basement) of the Christman Building, 208 N. Capitol Avenue. RSVP by emailing ceo@waynecounty.com.



MTA office closed for Labor Day

The MTA office will be closed Monday, Sept. 5, in observance of the Labor Day holiday. We will resume normal business hours on Tuesday, Sept. 6.

Federal update for week of Aug. 29

Check out the National Association of Towns and Townships' [e-newsletter](#) for an update of federal actions impacting townships.

Additional news you can use

Grants to offer relief for financial distress

Townships in financial distress can apply now for state relief. The Michigan Department of Treasury is accepting applications for [2017 Financially Distressed Cities, Villages and Townships](#) grants to pay for projects, services or strategies that help move the municipality toward

financial stability. Townships that apply must meet one or more condition that indicates probable financial distress as determined by Treasury. Applications are due by Oct. 17, 2016.

Mobile-friendly road and bridge map available

Road and bridge conditions are now easy to view on your smart phone. The Michigan Transportation Asset Management Council (TAMC) recently released a mobile version of its [interactive map](#) featuring road and bridge conditions. The application allows your mobile device's location to identify nearby past and current road and bridge conditions, as well as search across other areas of Michigan. The Interactive Map will take you to the mobile version when you click on it from your phone.