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# 'Safety Pilot' Program Puts UMTRI in National Spotlight

One of the reasons that metro Detroit and Southeast Michigan cling to the old Motor City title is that there is more to these parts than just final assembly plants.

Indeed, there is plenty of auto-focused brainpower on top of the Motor City's traditional muscle power for this region to continue to hold onto its global auto capital mantle.

This came into focus last week in Ann Arbor, where the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI) came into the spotlight as the site host for the U.S. Department of Transportation's new Safety Pilot program.

Safety Pilot Model Deployment, a \$25 million partnership between UMTRI and USDOT, part of a joint research initiative led by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to see how well wireless communication technology

works in the real world. It is described as the largest connected-vehicle, street-level pilot project ever conducted.

UMTRI will install wireless communications devices on nearly 3,000 vehicles that will let passenger cars, commercial trucks and transit buses "talk" to each other, as well as to traffic lights and other road signals located at intersections, curves and highway sites throughout a test-pilot area in northeast Ann Arbor proper.

The connected vehicle technology involves both vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure communications that transmit and receive vehicle data such as position, speed and direction. Drivers are alerted to a potential crash situation – such as a nearby vehicle unexpectedly braking, a sudden lane change, merging traffic, etc. – by a visual or audible warning inside their vehicles.

"This is a game-changer for transportation. There are many safety and convenience applications to this, as well as applications related to mobility and sustainability," said program manager Jim Sayer, an associate research scientist at UMTRI.

"This is a tremendous opportunity, and we are very excited to support the USDOT's demonstration of cutting-edge transportation technologies in our community."

UMTRI Director Peter Sweatman said the project is emblematic of the work being done at the institute today and into the future.

"The University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute is playing a key role in the reduction of negative societal impacts associated with transportation around the world," he said. "UMTRI's expertise is in delivering high-quality research and deploying solutions to critical transportation issues."

# Former GM Factory in Ohio Is Set for Redevelopment

ONTARIO, Ohio – Three real estate and development firms have reached an agreement with The RACER (Revitalizing Auto Communities Environmental Response) Trust to purchase and develop the former GM Mansfield Stamping Plant.

At a briefing held at the massive former GM plant, Jeffery B. Heckman, CEO of Hilco Trading, said, "Hilco is proud to be a partner in this deal and we're delighted to serve as a catalyst for an economic revitalization of the entire region."

The RACER Trust said that it has already identified two tenants who are interested in occupying much of the 2.5 million-square-foot building that sits on

266 acres just west of Mansfield in Richland County.

The GM facility served as an economic engine for the community for 55 years but was closed in 2010 during GM's post-bankruptcy shakeout.

Said a RACER trustee, "We envision the creation of 1,100 new jobs as a transformative event for the entire region."

The Mansfield - Ontario Stamping Plant is actually the 17th former General Motors location to be sold since the RACER Trust was established in March, 2011.

Today, RACER is one of the largest holders of industrial property in the U.S. and also the largest remediation trust established in U.S. history.

# Warner Bros. Films on Oakland Campus

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cars that had been tipped over, burned and heavily damaged, but Warner Bros. asked visiting media not to photograph them so as not to undercut the visuals once the movie has a trailer or theater cards made to promote it. No release date has been set yet.

Also according to Warner Bros., the film "Black Sky's" plot is as follows:

"In the span of a single day, the town of Silverton is ravaged by an unprecedented onslaught of tornadoes. The entire town is at the mercy of the erratic and deadly cyclones, even as storm trackers predict the worst is yet to come," the plot summary reads.

"Told through the eyes and lenses of professional storm chasers, thrill-seeking amateurs and courageous town-people, the film throws you directly into the eye of the storm to experience Mother Nature at her most extreme."

The film stars Richard Armitage ("Captain America," "MI5," and the upcoming "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey"), Sarah Wayne Callies, Matt Walsh, Nathan Cress, Arlen Es-



Getting ready for the next day on set of "Black Sky."

carpeta and Jeremy Sumpter.

Also, Steven Quale ("Final Destination 5" is directing the film from a screenplay by John Swetnam. The film is produced by Todd Garner while the executive producers are Dave Neustadter

Warner Bros. further said that filming began in Michigan, where the entire movie will be shot on location, with some scenes accomplished on local sound stages.

A New Line Cinema produc-

tion, the film will be distributed by Warner Bros.

Finally, an Oakland University spokesman said that "Black Sky" was the first movie to be filmed on the OU campus since "Transformers 3" a few years ago.

Michigan, of course, was a hotbed for Hollywood film companies a few years ago when a larger tax credit was in force, so a bid production like this has become much rarer of late.

# Chrysler Scores High in C-R Rating

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

character and helps it score near the top of its category."

The full report and road test results on *Consumer Reports'* latest tests are available on [ConsumerReports.org](http://ConsumerReports.org) on Aug. 22 and in the October issue of *Con-*

*sumer Reports* on newsstands Sept. 4.

Updated daily, [ConsumerReports.org](http://ConsumerReports.org) is the go-to Website for the latest auto reviews, product news, blogs on breaking news and car buying information. Check out CR's ongoing Twitter feed at @CRCars.

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