

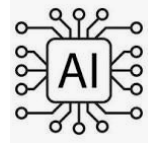


THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**TENNESSEE**  
KNOXVILLE

FLEET MANAGEMENT

## State of the UTK Fleet – January 2024

A new year brings optimism to new and existing challenges in the fleet industry. Unemployment continues to drop which is great for employees but a challenge to find quality employees for employers. New and used vehicle prices may have plateaued with a hint towards decreasing as demand slows and production starts to catch up. EV demand seems to be wavering a bit with a surplus of used EVs entering the market. US fuel prices are also seeing a decrease. AI is the buzzword of the fleet industry as well as most other industries. Stay tuned to see how this technology will impact how you get from place to place.



It's winter driving season. Keep those tires properly inflated and inspect them for replacement or repair. Battery replacement is normally the topic of the day when cold weather blows in as it can be the death knell for a battery toward the end of its life. Feel free to stop by and let us check your battery health on your UT vehicle. Don't forget about inspecting your windshield wipers. You won't appreciate them until you need them, and they can't fully do their job. Keep that fuel tank above the halfway mark. Finally, it's always a good idea to have an emergency kit for your vehicle including extra clothing or blankets and water. During a breakdown, it can keep you comfortable and safe.



### Pro Tips:

#### Tip 1 – Keep your eyes on the prize

Tennessee just increased the penalties for those of us driving while distracted. Keep those eyes on the road, folks! [WBIR](#)



#### Tip 2 – Show me the money



We're halfway through the fiscal year, and it is a great time to review those budgets to see if you are on the way to having some leeway at the end of the year to purchase a new sedan, SUV or golf cart, refurbish an existing vehicle, or upfit your vehicle with shelving or a lift gate. Assets, parts, and upfitters aren't readily available. If the money must be spent by the end of the fiscal year – start the conversation today! The odds of ordering, receiving, and paying for a vehicle in the last month or two of the year is not a reassuring number. We're still estimating up to 12 months for some vehicle purchases.

#### Tip 3 – Saving trees and improving processes

UT Risk Management has moved into the digital realm with their new online reporting site. This looks to greatly improve the flow of information and can be completed anywhere with internet access. No paper forms are required (or accepted)! Keep in mind this replaces the UT accident reporting process – not the State process if a 3<sup>rd</sup> party vehicle or person is involved. [UT Risk Management – Auto Accident](#)

