TECH PATHWAYS

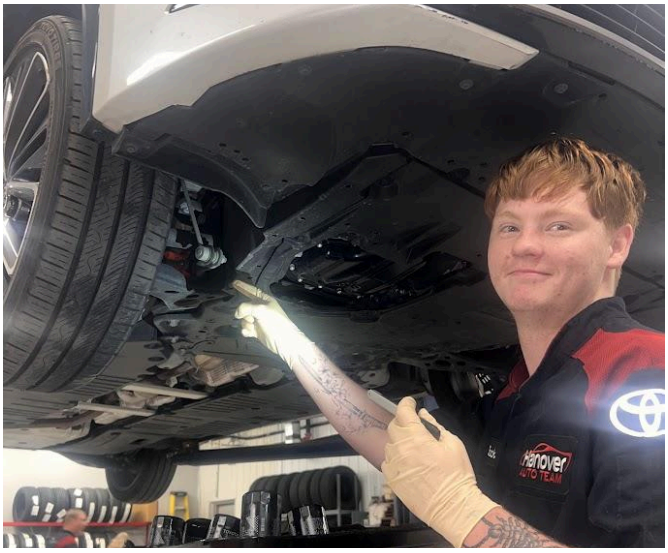
Under the Hood Journal

July 2026

More Than Just a Link: Understanding Sway Bar End Links

One of the repairs our apprentices recently performed was replacing the sway bar end links on a Toyota. While these parts are relatively small, they play an important role in how a vehicle handles and feels on the road.

The sway bar, also known as an anti-roll bar, helps reduce body roll when a vehicle corners or makes sudden steering maneuvers. The end links connect the sway bar to the suspension, allowing it to transfer force from one side of the vehicle to the other and improve stability.



Over time, the ball joints or bushings inside the end links can wear out, leading to clunking noises over bumps, reduced handling performance, or excessive body lean during turns. Replacing worn end links restores the sway bar's ability to do its job and helps the vehicle feel more stable and predictable.

At Tech Pathways, repairs like this give apprentices more than hands-on experience. They help students understand why a component exists, how it works within the larger suspension system, and what symptoms indicate it's time for replacement. Understanding the "why" behind every repair is what transforms someone from simply replacing parts into becoming a skilled automotive technician.

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Someone Is Counting on You:

One of the most important lessons we teach at Tech Pathways has nothing to do with engines, brakes, or electrical systems. It has to do with showing up.

The purpose of every business is to solve someone's problem. For automotive professionals, that means keeping our customers' vehicles safe and reliable so they can confidently go about their daily lives. Every repair we perform helps someone get to work, care for their family, or keep an important commitment.

When we're absent or consistently late, those problems don't disappear. Instead, they become someone else's responsibility. A mentor technician picks up the work. A teammate adjusts their schedule. A service advisor has a more difficult conversation with a waiting customer. The load doesn't get lighter, it simply shifts to the rest of the team.

That's why attendance and punctuality are much more than workplace expectations. They are acts of service. Showing up on time says, "You can count on me." It communicates respect for your teammates, your customers, and the mission you share together.

Technical skills may earn you a job, but reliability earns trust. And in every successful shop, trust is one of the most valuable tools anyone can bring to work.

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What Our Current Apprentices Are Up To:

This summer, our apprentices have devoted a lot of energy and planning to a special project, and in July we witnessed those efforts come to fruition.

Hanover Auto Team is honored to partner with the **Hanover Area Council of Churches and the Changing Lives Shelter**. Together, we helped provide a van dedicated to transporting clients to important appointments and job interviews. This vehicle will also serve to collect donations and food, supporting the facility in numerous ways that simplify daily operations for everyone involved.

We take great pride in our apprentices and the dedication they have shown in serving and strengthening their local community!

In the TP Shop:

Our Apprentices are also working on another engaging summer initiative. This Mazda Tribute, originally sold here when the building was Champion Mazda, has returned to where its story began through a generous donation to our program. In order to transform it into a hands-on learning tool, our students are meticulously color-coding various components to develop a living diagram. This vehicle will serve as a vital educational resource, guiding future classes as they embark on their professional paths as automotive technicians.

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Exciting Upcoming Dates

- **Tech Pathways Closed:** May 14 - September 1
- **Welcome to Tech Pathways Event Night:** August 28

Stay Connected

Feel Free to send this to friends and family, and encourage them to sign up to stay informed: FOLLOW THIS LINK

For any questions or further information, please contact us at futureofauto@hanoverautoteam.com.

We look forward to another fantastic year of learning and growth together!