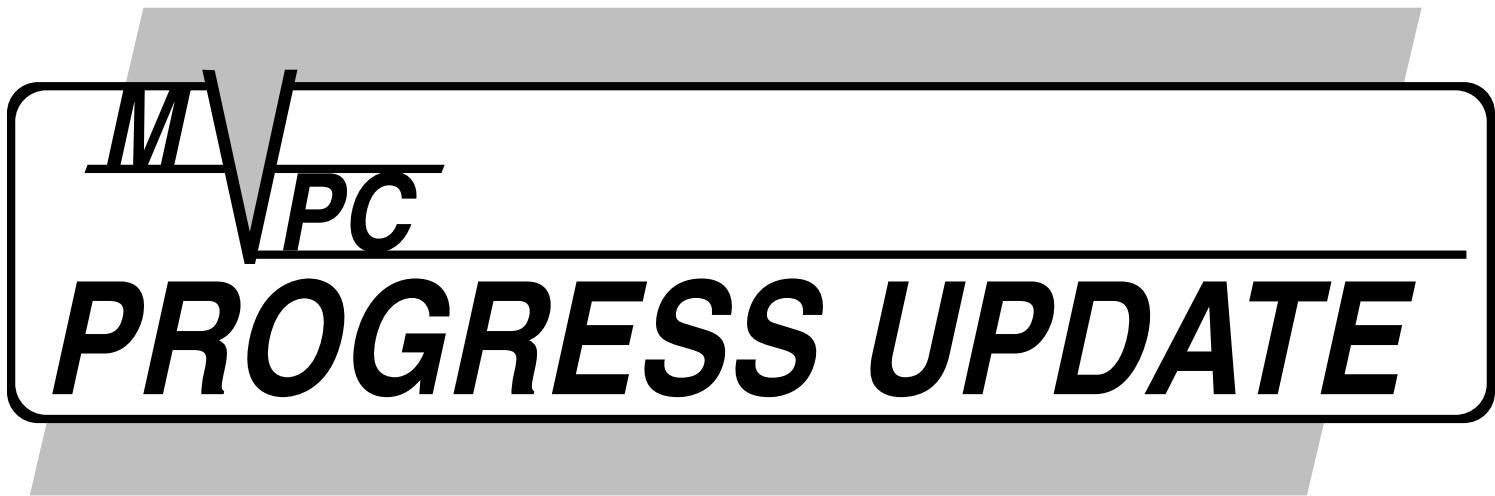


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**Progress is ...**

The Progress Council's new annual "Celebration of Progress" is set for March 27, the keynote speaker will be Jon Delano KDKA's political reporter who will speak on "The First 100 Days of Barack Obama – Success or Failure?" // The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission receives three responses from their request for concepts and solutions to complete the Expressway and Southern Beltway // Representative Daley announces the next step and a major funding boost for the Smart Government Initiative // The Speers-based Westmoreland County Community College Technical College Program begins the second round of an electronics technician program//

**PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS**

**Progress Council's annual event set** – Look for your invitation to the March 27 Progress Council new networking-based "Celebration of Progress" with a jazz theme, live music and food from jazz cities. Keynote speaker, Jon Delano KDKA's political reporter will speak on "The First 100 Days of Barack Obama – Success or Failure?" You can call the Progress Council office to make reservations (724-684-3381), \$55 per reservation.

**The PA Turnpike Commission receives responses for plans to complete the Expressway and Southern Beltway** - Three proposals from area and international firms were received by the PA Turnpike Commission in response to their request for concepts and solutions. Local engineering firms and financial institutions were among the respondents to the PTC public/private partnership initiative.

**Representative Daley announces the next step and a major funding boost for the Smart Government Initiative** - State Representative Peter J. Daley held a meeting with local elected officials on February 25 to discuss the next steps on the Smart Government Initiative. The meeting included presentations by the University of Pittsburgh, the Mon Valley Progress Council and governmental consultant PA Future. Daley announced that he has secured a \$200,000 grant for the project to be administered by the Progress Council.

**The Speers-based Westmoreland County Community Technical College Program continues** - Efforts to expand technical-based education opportunities in the Mid Mon Valley continue. The WCCC's technical college program began its second round of courses on January 8.

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## Progress Council's annual Celebration of Progress set, Delano to speak on Obama administration



Look for your invitation to the March 27 Progress Council new networking-based "Celebration of Progress" with a jazz theme, live music, and food from major jazz cities. Keynote speaker, KDKA's Money and Politics Editor Jon Delano, will speak on "The First 100 Days of Barack Obama – Success or Failure?"

Jon Delano interviewed President Obama six times last year, more than any reporter in the Pittsburgh area. His unique access will provide timely insights into the new Obama administration. The presentation will also include a question and answer opportunity to gain more understanding on how the new administration will impact your business and our economy.

After forty-three years of a dinner format the Progress Council is changing the format to a more informational networking event. "We saw that many other organizations going in the direction of networking events and believe it will be a positive move," said Progress Council president John Easoz. The jazz theme for the March 27 "Celebration of Progress" will include tables featuring foods from cities that played a major role in the advancement of jazz including: Chicago, New Orleans, New York, and Pittsburgh. And just as important, the speeches will be short and the live music will be great. Join us as we celebrate another year of progress.

## The PA Turnpike Commission receives responses for P3 plan

Three proposals from area and international firms were received by the PA Turnpike Commission in response to their request for concepts and solutions. Local engineering firms and financial institutions were among the respondents to the PTC public/private partnership initiative to complete the Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway and Southern Beltway.

Responses to the request for concepts and solutions were described in a January 16 PA Turnpike Commission press release.

### January 16, 2009 PA Turnpike Commission news release -- responses to requests for concepts and solutions

One response came from a team of familiar regional companies, and the others were from two of the top transportation developers in the world. All teams comprise capabilities to design, construct, finance, operate, and maintain the new roads. Each proposal indicated that further analysis is necessary before providing dollar estimates. Respondents noted that additional team members might be needed to advance certain aspects of the projects. The next step is to carefully analyze the documents provided by responding consortiums.

### Submission #1 – "MVP3" (Mon Valley Public Private Partners)

- o HDR Inc./Kimball Corp./Gannett Fleming Inc./Figg Engineering Group -- Design
- o The Walsh Group -- Construction
- o PNC Capital Markets -- Finance
- o Wilbur Smith Associates -- Traffic & Revenue
- o Transfield Services North America -- Operations/Maintenance

### Submission #2 – Global Via Infraestructuras and URS Corp.

- o Global Via (Madrid; Houston, Miami, and N.Y.) -- Construction and Equity Investment
- o URS Corp. -- Design, Technical Services, Construction Services

- o ACS Infrastructure Development and Dragados USA
- o ACS Infrastructure (Madrid, Coral Gables, Fla.) -- Construction, Equity Investment
- o Dragados USA -- Design/Build Contractor, Joint Venture Leader

Progress Council president John Easoz saw the responses received by the PA Turnpike Commission as a positive step forward; "We applaud the PA Turnpike Commission for making good on their commitment to explore public/private partnership options for the Expressway and Southern Beltway project." The Progress Council stands ready to assist the PA Turnpike Commission in anyway possible to aid in securing a private funding and development partner for these crucial projects.

## Daley announces next step and funding boost for the Smart Government Initiative



State Representative Peter J. Daley held a meeting with more than forty Mid Mon Valley elected officials on February 25 at the Mon Valley Career and Technology Center Tech Access Room to discuss the next steps on the Smart Government Initiative. The meeting also included presentations by the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs and governmental consultant Alan Kugler of PA Futures.

Daley announced that he has secured a \$200,000 grant for the second phase of the Smart Government Initiative. The Progress Council will administer the project. He thanked local officials for their dedication at a time of economic adversity emphasizing that the success of the project would be dependent of the involvement of local elected officials. "We have an opportunity to develop a new model for local government," Daley said. The goal of the Smart Government Initiative is to explore more regionally based solutions for the delivery of local governmental services in the Mid Mon Valley.

Dr. David Miller, Director of the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA) Innovations Clinic introduced the project team from Pitt. He noted that the GSPIA Innovations Clinic would be researching models of local government from throughout the United States and the world. Mon Valley Progress Council's executive director Joe Kirk outlined the results of the Smart Government Phase one report and the role of the Council in phase two. Alan Kugler reviewed the next steps in the process including the formation of a regional steering committee of local officials. Local governments throughout the Mid Mon Valley will soon receive a letter further detailing the project and an invitation to join in the project.

Progress Council president John Easoz said, "The February 25 meeting was a very good start for an important project. It was great to see the interest by local governmental officials."

## Westmoreland County Community Technical College Program continues

Efforts to expand technical-based education opportunities in the Mid Mon Valley continue. The WCCC technical college program began its second round of courses on January 8. The WCCC program is located at the Mon Valley Career and Technology Center in Speers.

The Progress Council-administered Mon Valley Community Education Council provided funding support for initial marketing efforts of WCCC's technical college program. State Representative Peter J. Daley led the effort to secure funding for the technical college program as a demonstration program to support the use of high school technical schools throughout the commonwealth.