

Progress Update

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PROGRESS HEADLINES

PA Turnpike expects EIS update for Expressway to begin by the end of the year // Join us on October 2nd for a roundtable discussion with the State legislative delegation // Progress Council participates in legislative tour of community blight and roundtable discussion // Marcellus Shale industry supplier MRC Global locates in Monessen // Manufacturers in Pennsylvania can use free services provided by the Steel Valley Authority

PA Turnpike expects EIS update for Expressway to begin by the end of the year



The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC) expects to begin work on an update for the environmental impact statement (EIS) by the end of the year. Completion of the EIS update is an essential step in restarting design and ultimately construction of the Expressway project.

Public support during the EIS process will be key to keeping the Expressway project on target. The Progress Council will continue its long-term engagement and leadership on the Expressway project that will include rallying area business support for this crucial economic development project.

Funding to restart the Expressway project is provided through State Act 89 that includes annual funding to the PTC that will be support bond funding for the Expressway and Southern Beltway projects. Act 89 was strongly supported by the Progress Council as well as other business and economic development groups across the Commonwealth.

Join us for an October 2 roundtable discussion with State legislators



The election of a new governor and a number of new state legislators from the area provides a great opportunity to develop recommendations for reforms in business regulations and programs.

We hope that you will join us at noon on October 2nd at Monongahela Valley Hospital's Lombardy Education Center for the Progress Council's Fall Business Roundtable. This is your opportunity to participate in a candid and open discussion with area State legislators.

A list of business issues developed from the Progress Council's Spring Business Roundtable will be presented to area legislators for comment. The meeting is open to all Mid Mon Valley businesses. And please feel free to extend an invitation to your business associates.

The opportunity for reform of state business regulations has never been better. Do not miss this unique opportunity to make your concerns known.

Give us a call to register for this event. Registration is just \$18. Please call by September 28.

Progress Council participates in legislative tour of community blight and roundtable discussion



The Progress Council was invited to join state legislators for an August 11 tour and roundtable discussion on issues of community blight in the Mid Mon Valley. The event was held by the Senate Housing and Urban Affairs Committee to learn from area officials and community leadership on ways to combat blight in the Mid Mon Valley.

Stops were made in Monongahela, Donora and Monessen with a roundtable session held at the Carrol Township municipal building.

Area legislators participating in the event included: Senator Scott Wagner (Chairman, Senate Housing and Urban Affairs Committee), Senator Camera Bartolotta, Senator Pat Stefano and State Representative Rick Saccone. Mayors Louis Mavrikakis of Monessen and Don Pavelko of Donora provided commentary on their community tours.

The Progress Council's Executive Director provided comments at the roundtable discussion regarding the need to ensure that business tax credits to promote community revitalization are available to smaller communities such as those found in the Mid Mon Valley.

Research conducted by the Progress Council determined that over the past five years more than eighty percent of tax credits under a state program called Neighborhood Program Partnership (NPP) were extended to neighborhood realization programs in the City of Pittsburgh. And more than 94% of the NPP tax credits were used within Allegheny County. The Progress Council has called for increasing the amount of NPP tax credits statewide and including language in program guidelines to target a portion of the tax credits for multi-community neighborhood revitalization projects in smaller communities.

Marcellus Shale industry supplier MRC Global locates in Monessen



MRC Global, a Houston Texas based global distributor of pipe, valve and fitting products and services to the energy and services industrial market, has located a major distribution facility in the former Maronda Homes building in the Monessen Riverfront Industrial Park.

The 163,200-square-foot building is the largest of their distribution facilities in the United States. MRC Global operates more than 400 service locations throughout the world.

The Monessen site currently has twenty-seven employees and is expect to increase to more than forty in the future.

Mayor Lou Mavrakis and State Representative Ted Harhai and Westmoreland County Commissioner Chairman Charles Anderson welcomed MRC Global to the community. Congratulations to MRC Global and welcome to the Mid Mon Valley.

We would like to thank Mayor Mavrakis for extending the Progress Council an invitation to the ribbon cutting ceremony. Congratulations to building owner Farnham Pfile for recruiting the firm to our area.

Manufacturers in Pennsylvania can use free services provided by the Steel Valley Authority's Strategic Early Warning Network (SEWN) program to help them solve difficult business problems!



The Steel Valley Authority's SEWN program helps manufacturers solve financial, operating, marketing, and ownership problems in partnership with the PA Department of Labor and Industry.

In Delaware County, for example, Union Packaging (<http://unionpkg.com>) is working with SEWN's staff to help it lower its manufacturing costs and improve the management of its financial resources in response to declining sales and demands from its largest customers for price reductions.

With SEWN's help Union Packaging's president, Mike Pearson, is creating a new financial platform to rebuild his business after a major drop in sales volume. SEWN also worked with Pearson to create a new pricing model, refine the flow of work through the shop, and restructure its supply chain to take advantage of rapidly changing market conditions.

You can learn more about the SEWN program at www.steelvalley.org or by calling Jim Crawford, the Manufacturing Director for the SW PA region, at 412-342-0534

Caption: US Senator Pat Toomey and Mike Pearson discuss how difficult it is to maintain profitability when customers continually demand price reductions.

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