

Progress Update

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PROGRESS HEADLINES

April 9, 50th annual dinner features a celebration of 50 years of service to the Mid Mon Valley // Briefings provide opportunities to press for a P3 option to advance the Expressway/Busway East Extension (E/BEE) concept // March 27 Spring Quarterly Meeting features business roundtable discussion of business issues // Progress Council-administered Mid Mon Valley Intergovernmental Cooperative regional conference on governance moved to May 28 // Progress Council History Brief - Progress Council embarks on creating the Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority

April 9, annual dinner features a celebration of 50 years of service to the Mid Mon Valley



Highlights of the Progress Council 50th annual dinner included the video premier on the Progress Council's history, a keynote address of Allegheny County chief executive Rich Fitzgerald, presentation of the Frank Irey Jr. Progress Award to Lesleh Precision and presentation of proclamations by Congressman Tim Murphy and Westmoreland County Commissioner Ted Kopas. The April 9th dinner at the Willow Room

was attended by more than 150 area business leaders and elected officials.

While a severe thunderstorm storm delayed the keynote speaker, Allegheny County chief executive Rich Fitzgerald delivered a clear message of hope and progress for Allegheny County and southwestern PA. "There's this energy and ideas flowing out of the city and the university sector. We have to make sure it spreads into the Valley," said Fitzgerald.

Lesleh Precision received the 2014 Frank Irey Jr. Join in Progress Award for their decision to relocate their firm within the Mid Mon Valley. The firm moved from a building that could not accommodate their expansion to a building in the Progress Council-developed Rostraver Airport Industrial Park.

Please contact the Progress Council to receive a free copy of the California University CUTV produced DVD on the fifty year history of the Mon Valley Progress Council. You can also see the video by visiting the Progress Councils website www.monvalleyprogress.org.

Briefings provide opportunities to press for a P3 option to advance the Expressway/Busway East Extension (E/BEE) concept



Two briefings arranged by the Western Pennsylvania Construction Legislative Council (CLC) provided opportunities to advance the Progress Council-developed Expressway/Busway East Extension (E/BEE) concept. The briefing included a March 30 Harrisburg meeting held at the invitation of Speaker of the House Mike Turzai and an April 7 roundtable discussion called by Congressman Keith Rothfus.

The focus of the briefings was to present the CLC Transportation Action Plan that includes the E/BEE concept. At both meetings, the Progress Council's Executive Director pressed for consideration of a P3 to complete the Expressway project. "It's essential that every innovative financing option be explored to ensure timely completion of the Expressway project north of PA Route 51. This includes developing and issuing a request for P3 proposals," said Progress Council executive director Joe Kirk.

It was also learned through the Harrisburg briefings that based on new cost estimated developed by the PA Turnpike Commission, the cost of the E/BEE concept is in the range of \$1.7 billion which is 15% less than the original estimates.

These actions are a part of the Progress Council's long-standing commitment and leadership in advancing completion of both the Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway and Southern Beltway projects.

March 27 Spring Quarterly Meeting features business roundtable discussion of business issues

Area business leaders discussed issues ranging from potential abuse of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) to Pennsylvania's high corporate tax rate. These and other issues were discussed at the March 27 business roundtable.

The next step will be to distribute a listing of issues raised at the March 27 meeting to all Mid Mon Valley firms for comments or additions to other concerns. Please look for the listing soon. Plans are underway to present the entire listing of business issues to representatives of area state and federal elected officials.

"We are excited that area businesses will have the opportunity to present their concerns regarding state and federal regulatory and tax issues to state and federal elected officials," said Progress Council president John Easoz.

The summer quarterly meeting is currently scheduled for June 26. The date may have to be moved based on negotiations for the state fiscal year 2015-16 budget.

The Progress Council's business roundtables are held from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. at Monongahela Valley Hospital's Lombardi Education Center. Registration for the next business roundtable is \$18 and is open to all businesses located in the Mid Mon Valley. Please call the Progress Council for registration information.

Progress Council business roundtable session schedule

Noon to 1:30 p.m., Monongahela Valley Hospital Education Center

Summer business luncheon roundtable (*tentative date*)

June 26

Business and state legislators - Area legislators will be invited to participate in a presentation of key business concerns developed at the spring roundtable.

Fall business luncheon roundtable

September 25

Promoting workforce readiness - Presentation of an online workforce readiness program used by the western Pennsylvania construction industry and discussion of the potential of developing a similar online workforce readiness program for Mid Mon Valley manufacturing and related industries

Mid Mon Valley Intergovernmental Cooperative regional conference on governance moved to May 28

Due to the state primary election on May 19, A Mid Mon Valley conference on governance has been moved to May 28. The Conference will be held at the Donora Municipal Building social hall from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The title of the conference “Governance in Challenging Economic Conditions” will include presentations on the following topics:

- Best practices in municipal budgeting
- Best practices in addressing issues of community blight
- Assistance available through the PA Department of Community and Economic Development
- Top ten key responsibilities of elected officials
- Practical uses of the computer cloud in municipal management

The conference will include a buffet dinner and registration is \$25. Please call the Progress Council office for registration information.

Progress Council History Brief - Progress Council embarks on creating the Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority



The Mon Valley Progress Council proposed an eight point program that included formation of a regional transit authority at its April 21, 1972 annual dinner in the Peasant Village Restaurant.

The Progress Council went on to spearhead the formation of the Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority that began operations in 1985.

Photo key for annual dinner (Clockwise from top): Progress Council president Jon Easoz; Westmoreland County Commissioner Ted Kopas presents a County Citation of Recognition to President Easoz and Executive Director Joe Kirk; Ron Helsel, President of Lesleh Precision receiving the 2014 Frank Irey Jr. Join in Progress Award from Kirk, Easoz and MVPC board member Bob Irey; MPVC vice president Bob Burke with board member Joe Vesely and MVPC secretary Louis Quarto; MIDA president John La Carte with MVPC sponsor Don Ivill and MIDA board member Milt Kubic; MIDA general manager Lue Ann Pawlick with MVPC Executive Committee member Tim Urda, guest Steve Russell, and MIDA office manager Kelly Jo Ellin; MVPC board member Brook Gardner and Justin Brovey with Community Bank, John Easoz; Mary Lou Murt and Louis Goodman of Mon Valley Hospital with Don Good of World Kitchen; Don Donatello with Michael Baker, Inc., MVPC treasurer Jim Protin, Charleroi council president Debbie Buck and Susan Morgan with the Redevelopment Authority of Washington County; Congressman Tim Murphy presents a Congressional Citation of Recognition to Kirk and Easoz.

50th Annual Dinner, April 9, 2015 at the Willow Room

