



## **Progress Update**

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### **PROGRESS HEADLINES**

**More area communities pass resolution calling for advancement of the Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway north of PA Route 51 // Briefings continue on Expressway/Busway concept // Progress Council's Mid Mon Valley Regional Enterprise Zone Program assists local firms in seeking more than one million dollars in tax credits for development projects // Progress Council partners with SMC Business Councils to provide discount on compensation survey // Planning underway for fall conference on local government issues and challenges**

### **PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **More area communities pass resolution calling for advancement of the Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway north of PA Route 51**

Mid Mon Valley communities are now joining with those in the Expressway corridor in Allegheny County from PA Route 51 to I-376 in taking action on a resolution of support and call-to-action on the Expressway project. The resolution calls for the PA Turnpike Commission to develop a financing plan by the end of 2014 to advance key sections on the northern-most, uncompleted section of the Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway. Provided below is a listing of communities that have thus far taken action on the Expressway resolution.

#### **Communities that have passed the Expressway support resolution PA Route 51 to I-376 Expressway corridor**

Penn Hills	Monroeville	McKeesport
Turtle Creek	North Versailles	East Pittsburgh
Duquesne	Dravosburg	West Mifflin
Whitaker		

#### **Mid Mon Valley communities**

Monessen	Charleroi	Fallowfield
Bentleyville	Centerville	Carroll

The Progress Council acted on the Expressway resolution at the Spring March 28 meeting of the Board of Directors.

## **Briefings continue on Expressway/Busway concept**

The Progress Council continues to provide briefings and follow-up information on the Progress Council-developed Mon Valley-Fayette Expressway/Martin Luther King Jr. Busway Extension concept (Expressway/Busway concept for short). Meetings have been held with a number of area elected officials and information has been forwarded to others. The alternative continues to gain traction with little objection.

The Expressway/Busway concept is expected to cut the estimated four-billion-dollar cost for the original 24-mile Expressway project north of PA Route 51 by one-half.

The Progress Council has also proposed a financing plan that would rely on a combination of potential state and federal public funding sources and a public/private partnership (P3). Based on combination of factors the Expressway/Busway concept should be very competitive in securing demonstration funding. The primary factors of the Expressway/Busway concept that would improve funding opportunities include the multi-modal aspect of the project and that it would serve the economically distressed Allegheny County Mon Valley area,

There has been a particularly positive reception for the Expressway/Busway concept that would use a short extension of the Busway East from the Swissvale Busway terminus to the proposed Expressway alignment in East Pittsburgh. The Busway extension would reduce traffic congestion on the Parkway East and would include a park-and-ride facility adjacent to the Expressway.

## **Progress Council's Mid Mon Valley Regional Enterprise Zone Program assists local firms**

This year was the shortest notification period to date for applications under the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Neighborhood Assistance Program / Enterprise Zone tax credit program. There was less than a month notice with a deadline of June 13. But that didn't stop the Progress Council from working with three firms seeking a total of more than \$1.1 million in EZ tax credits. The Progress Council only releases the names of firms if they are successful in seeking tax credits.

EZ tax credits provide for up to a 25% tax credit on a broad range of Pennsylvania business taxes for qualified businesses in enterprise zones that acquire buildings and land, build a new building, or expand/improve an existing building.

The Progress Council administers the Mid Mon Valley Regional Enterprise Zone program that includes Enterprise Zone target areas in the following communities: Brownsville, Belle Vernon, California, Charleroi, Donora, Monongahela, Monessen, North Charleroi, Speers

## **Progress Council partners with SMC Business Councils to provide discount on compensation survey**

**... 2014 SMC Compensation Survey....Opens June 16, 2014**

Participate in SMC's Survey to get the right answers for your business. You will have access to local and regional data on over 200 positions from managers to production workers. Don't miss your chance to get the compensation planning tools for budgeting, recruiting, and rewarding your workforce. The cost for Mon Valley Progress Council participants is \$195.00. (It's normally \$895 for a non-member, non-participant).

SMC Business Councils and EH Research Data Services are the only organizations in western PA to pull together this information in one place. To get started contact Rosann Linza, HR Mgr., Member Services with SMC at 412.371.1500 ext. 1604 or email at [rosann@smc.org](mailto:rosann@smc.org).

## **Planning underway for fall conference on local government issues and challenges**

The Mid Mon Valley Intergovernmental Cooperative (The Cooperative) has initiated plans for a fall conference for area elected officials and professional staff. Conference planning included conducting a survey of area elected officials regarding interest on receiving training on specific areas. Respondents indicated a preference for a weekday evening event.

Based on the survey results the fall conference on local government issues and challenges will focus on the following areas:

- Budgeting
- Revenue collection strategies
- Responsibilities of elected officials
- Code enforcement programs

It is also anticipated that the conference will feature a demonstration of how to use computer cloud technology in records management and for sharing information in public meetings. Please look for additional details in future newsletters.

### **The Mon Valley Progress Council**

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