



MVPC Newsletters

MVPC Progress Update

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Progress is ...

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PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

Governor Corbett gives signs that transportation funding legislation will be considered in early 2013 - Numerous news articles and statements by Governor Corbett, staff and state legislative leaders point towards action on transportation funding in early 2013. The Progress Council will be working in partnership with a number of regional organizations to advance transportation funding to address deficient conditions of highways and bridges as well as advancing funding for the Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway.

Naming of PA congressman Bill Schuster to head US House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee could help to advance funding for toll roads - The Progress Council is hopeful that the naming of Congressman Bill Schuster (R-PA 9) as Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee could help advance transportation funding, promote innovative financing strategies, and broaden the use of tolling. The Council has proposed tolling of interstates as a potential strategy to maintain the interstate system. Under that strategy, federal gas tax revenues would then be used exclusively to improve local transportation networks and develop and construct new highways to expand capacity.

Progress Council approves 2013 budget, objectives, Executive committee and Board members at its January 11, 2013 annual business meeting - The Progress Council sponsors held their annual business meeting and approved actions to continue Progress Council operation in 2013. "We are very excited about a number of continued actions in economic development and working with local governments," said Progress Council President John Easoz. Officers and new board members were also approved at the January 11 meeting.

Governor Corbett gives signs that transportation funding legislation will be considered in early 2013

Numerous news articles and statements by Governor Corbett, staff and state legislative leaders point towards action on transportation funding in early 2013. The Progress Council will be working in partnership with a number of regional organizations to advance transportation funding to address deficient conditions of highways and bridges as well as advancing funding for the Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway.

"This is welcome news and we will work to support actions of area legislatures to increase transportation funding," said Progress Council Executive Director Joe Kirk. Kirk is also serving as Chairman of the Construction Legislative Council of Western PA (CLC). The CLC, which represents some 13 associations of construction and related associations, is developing a legislative advocacy strategy to support increased transportation funding.

The Governor's plan will likely focus on lifting the cap on the Oil Company Franchise Tax. All funding generated through the Oil Company Franchise Tax is required to be spent on highway and bridge related work.

Fees on vehicle licenses and gas taxes were last increased in 1997. Pennsylvania's roads and bridges are ranked as some of the worst in the nation.

Progress Council approves 2013 budget, objectives, Executive committee and Board members at its January 11, 2013 annual business meeting

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"We are very excited about a number of continued actions in economic development and working with local governments," said Progress Council President John Easoz. Officers and new board members were also approved at the January 11 meeting.

Among actions at the January 11 meeting was the approval of a \$229,980 operating budget for 2013. Progress Council Treasurer Brook Gardner, with members Lou Panza and John Easoz, served on the Budget Committee.

The objectives approved continued the focus on the Expressway, economic development and working with local governments.

The Executive Committee officers were renominated with Dale Ruben of World Kitchen added as an at-large member.

Board members serve staggered three-year terms. Chairman Bill Lee and Jim Protin served on the Nominations Committee.

Naming of PA congressman Bill Schuster to head US House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee could help to advance funding for toll roads

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The Council has proposed tolling of interstates as a potential strategy to maintain the interstate system. Under the strategy, federal gas tax revenues would then be used exclusively to maintain and improve local transportation networks.

The Progress Council has good reason to be optimistic. Shuster's father Bud Shuster, was chairman of the same committee from 1995 to 2001 and was a champion of transportation funding.

Bill Schuster, whose district includes a section of the Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway in Fayette County, often quotes Adam Smith saying that transportation is one of three essential functions of government. Shuster has said that the federal government has been carrying out the task of expanding and improving the transportation network for 200 years - often under Republican presidents.



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