



Progress Update

Vol. 49 No. 11-12

Nov/Dec. 2013

Governor Corbett signs transportation legislation that provides for potential Expressway funding // Progress Council annual business meeting includes election of officers, board members and approval of 2014 objectives // Planning begins on household hazardous waste collection event in 2014 // SCORE services via email -- and even SKYPE!

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

Governor Corbett signs transportation legislation that includes potential Expressway funding

Third time was the charm for a transportation bill that will address deteriorating highways and bridges, support transit, and potentially provide funding for the Mon/Fayette Expressway.

On November 21 the PA state legislature held a third vote on stalled transportation legislation that passed a bill that had been twice voted down in the House. Governor Corbett signed the transportation legislation into law on November 25 in three ceremonies held across State.



By year five, the Bill will provide \$2.3 billion annually in new transportation funding including \$86 million per year to the PA Turnpike Commission for expansion projects.

New transportation funding is largely derived from phasing in lifting the cap on the Oil Company Franchise Tax. The \$86 million set-aside to the Pa Turnpike Commission was the result of maintaining funding distribution formulas from prior State transportation legislation.

The PA Turnpike Commission used similar funding in prior transportation legislation for bond financing to finance construction of the Expressway from PA

state line near I-68 to PA Route 51 and the section of the Southern Beltway from the Greater Pittsburgh International Airport to US 22.

Passage of the 2013 state transportation legislation could pave the way for advancement of the Expressway north of PA Route 51. In 2014, the Progress Council will pursue a focused effort to ensure consideration of construction of the Expressway by the PA Turnpike Commission.

Progress Council annual business meeting includes election of officers, board members and approval of 2014 objectives

The January 10 annual business meeting included action on a number of items to guide operations in 2014. Attendees voted on a slate of officers, Executive committee members and board members elected to three-year terms of office. Action was also taken on a budget for staff and related expenses.

Executive Committee

2014

John Easoz	President
Bob Burke	Vice Pres
Brook Gardner	Treasurer
Louis Quarto	Secretary
Lou Panza	At Large
William Lee	At Large
James Protin	At Large
Dale Ruben	At Large

Board of Directors

Class of 2014 - Expires December 31, 2016

Louis Quarto	Guttman Oil
Tim Urda	Badzik Printing Inc.
Bob Burke	The Valley Independent
Joe Vesely	Vesely Moving and Storage
David Galloni	Charleroi Federal Savings Bank

Mathew Ivill	General Industries
John Michaud	United States Steel Corporation

Mon Valley Progress Council Mission

To be a highly responsive, proactive and innovative business-led organization that contributes toward the improvement of economic conditions and quality of life in the Mid Mon Valley.

Goals

Champion a local and regional transportation system that efficiently connects communities and people with employment centers and area firms with markets and supply sources

2014 objectives

- Work with corporate sponsors to identify local transportation issues that negatively impact productivity and present projects at transportation hearings and other venues
- Maintain a regional leadership role on the Expressway and Southern Beltway *with a focus on advancing the PA Route 51 North Expressway project*
- *Advance public/private partnership funding as a strategy to advance the PA 51 north Expressway project**
- *Develop and advance a strategy to seek federal legislation to advance funding for the Expressway and Southern Beltway with a focus on advancing the PA Route 51 North Expressway project**

Support the development of a diverse economic base with unemployment levels lower than the national rate

2014 objectives

- Conduct outreach efforts to identify financial or other technical needs of businesses and provide a rapid and concise response to identified issues
- Coordinate one major legislative forum of business and state and federal elected officials on issues, including regulatory relief, and coordinate legislative meetings for local firms
- Research economic development programs or projects that could provide tax credits, grants and low interest loans and communicate such information to local firms
- Work with area organizations to provide accurate and timely information to local firms as well as for business recruitment on local economic development assets and opportunities
- Administer the Progress Council Industrial Development Assistance Program seeking to close on one loan to an area firm
- Proceed with dedication of Rostraver Airport Roadway to Westmoreland County Airport Authority to enhance access and security at the airport.
- Continue to administer the Regional Enterprises Zone program and seek to complete two applications for business expansion tax credits and one Challenge Grant loan*

Provide assistance to develop a workforce that meets the requirements of local firms and is an asset for the attraction of new firms to the region

2014 objectives

- Seek to develop effective strategies and projects to promote workforce readiness
- *Seek to work with Mon Valley Career and Technology Center to implement a youth entrepreneurship program **

Foster programs that establish viable local communities that support a stable to growing population base

2014 objectives

- Engage local elected officials in efforts to promote progress in the Mid Mon Valley.

- Continue to seek local government membership in the Mid Mon Valley Regional Intermunicipal Cooperative and pursue intermunicipal cooperative projects *
- *Complete public works study of selected communities and identify potential of proceeding on an additional area of intermunicipal study of governmental functions.*

Notes

* Areas of increased focus in 2014

New areas of effort are italicized

Planning begins on household hazardous waste collection event in 2014

The Progress Council will be pursuing a cooperative venture with the Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC) to sponsor a household chemical collection event to be held in July of 2014. Please contact the Progress Council regarding sponsorship opportunities to support this first of what we hope to be an annual Mid Mon Valley event.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the average American accumulates in excess of 100 pounds of unwanted paints, cleaning products, automotive fluids, pool chemicals, pesticides and other common household chemicals. These products can include highly toxic chemicals such as mercury, DDT, cyanide, phosphorous, dioxins, arsenic, sulfuric and hydrochloric acids, and chlorinated solvents.

The PRC, the Commonwealth's oldest citizen action environmental non-profit organization, has been providing practical recycling and disposal options for over 70 years. Since 2001, PRC has coordinated safe and cost-effective collections for household chemicals throughout western Pennsylvania that have resulted in the collection, proper disposal or recycling of over 4.5 million pounds of household chemicals from more than 40,000 participants.

Details including location and date of the collection event are still in planning.

Tell us about your SCORE SKYPE and email services

As reported in prior Progress Council newsletters, SCORE sessions now include opportunities for email exchange and even SKYPE (computer-based live video communication) with SCORE volunteers from throughout the United States.

Just visit the Pittsburgh SCORE website to request services. It's free and you may find someone who can give great advice. Visit <http://pittsburgh.score.org/> and click on "Mentoring".

And please contact the Progress Council with your stories on how SKYPE based SCORE counseling has helped your firm.

The Mon Valley Progress Council

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