



## Progress Update

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### **PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **Governor-elect Tom Corbett recognizes importance of transportation and funding challenges**

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#### **October 18 meeting of the Smart Government Initiative focuses on practice cooperative measures**

The October 18 meeting included a wide range of presentations including a model ordinance for equipment sharing, regional policing models and scheduling the first meeting of a municipal secretaries forum.

#### **Workforce readiness course still seeking firms**

A joint project of the Mon Valley Progress Council and Mon Valley Career and Technology Center is still seeking partnership with area firms to deliver a six-week, thirty-six hour program focusing on three core areas of workforce readiness: technical math and measurements, technical reading, and work ethic and business awareness. Registration is \$100 per student.

#### **Final report of the Regional Enterprise Zone Cluster Analysis recommends linking firms for new products and local supply chains**

The final report of Progress Council consultant, GSP Consulting Inc., on the Mid Mon Valley Regional Enterprise Zone cluster analysis project recommends working directly with area firms to develop new products and seeking to replace out-of-region supply chains with local suppliers. A map and details of local manufacturers will be placed on the Progress Council website to support the initiative.

### **Governor-elect Tom Corbett recognizes importance of transportation and funding Challenges**

It is often said that the first step in solving a problem is recognizing that one exists. The transportation policy statement of governor-elect Tom Corbett cites a \$ 2.9 billion dollar annual deficit in meeting transportation needs.

Progress Council's president is looking forward to working with the Governor-elect on transportation and business issues " We see the fact that Governor-elect Corbett recognizes the critical nature of our transportation needs as an important first step in setting the priorities and seeking funding to address these challenges. It's also clear he sees the importance of improving the business climate in Pennsylvania."

A major point in funding for the next administration will be seeking public/private partnerships. Several years ago the Progress Council secured letters of interest from a number of private parties noting the potential of developing the Expressway project as a public/ private partnership.

## **October 18 meeting of the Smart Government Initiative focuses on practice cooperative measures**

The October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Smart Government Initiative included a wide range of presentations including a model ordinance for equipment sharing, regional policing models and scheduling the first meeting of a municipal secretaries forum.

Presentations on practical short-term measures to more regional strategies for delivery of police services at the October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting set the stage for action.

George Dougherty of the University of Pittsburgh GSPIA Innovation Clinic outlined data on potential cost savings for two options of regional policing. The first option would build on multi-community service delivery systems in place including: City of Monongahela's contracting arrangement with New Eagle and Finleyville; Charleroi's current regional policing study with Speers and North Charleroi; and the regional RESA policing program for the communities of Roscoe, Elco, Stockdale and Allenport. In each case Dougherty's report called for expansion of these services areas.

The draft report cited up to \$1.7 million dollar annual savings on a regional model based on the expansion of current multi-community policing initiatives. He also presented a Mid Mon Valley regional policing model that could save up to \$2.4 million.

The presentation on cooperative policing models was for discussion purposes with the Smart Government Steering Committee providing input to refine the initial findings.

Alan Kugler of PA Futures presented resolutions and a model ordinance for equipment sharing. The ordinance emphasized the need for verification of insurance and workmen's compensation for when sharing equipment and employees. "Equipment sharing is a great idea but communities should be careful to insure that the agreement addresses issues of liability and worker's compensation," Kirk added. Local officials in attendance agreed that a legal review of the ordinance should be undertaken by the next meeting.

Kugler also presented the idea of a Mid Mon Valley Municipal Secretaries and Administrator's forum to discuss issues of mutual assistance and to pursue training. "A regional forum has the potential of improving the professionalism of municipal secretaries and administrators," Kugler added. The first meeting of the forum is scheduled for November 16<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 am at the Mon Valley Career and Technology Center.

The next meeting of the Smart Government Initiative is scheduled for November 16<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm at the Mon Valley health Center in Monessen. Please contact the Progress Council if you would like to attend.

## **Workforce readiness course still seeking partnerships with local firms**

A joint project of the Mon Valley Progress Council and Mon Valley Career and Technology Center is still seeking partnership with area firms to deliver a six-week, thirty-six hour program focusing on three core areas of workforce readiness: technical math and measurements, technical reading, and work ethic and business awareness. Registration is \$100 per student.

“We are ready to customize the course to meet the needs of a particular employer or groups of employers,” said John Easoz President of the Mon Valley Progress Council.

Classes would be held at the Mon Valley Career and Technology Center Tech Access Room. The room includes a twelve-foot video screen, web-based videoconferencing capabilities and high-speed wireless internet access.

Please call the Mon Valley Progress Council at 724-694-3381 to learn more about how workforce readiness training can improve the productivity of your firm.

### **Final report of the Regional Enterprise Zone Cluster Analysis recommends linking firms for new products and local supply chains**

The final report of Progress Council consultant GSP Consulting Inc. on the Mid Mon Valley Regional Enterprise Zone cluster analysis project recommends working directly with area firms to develop new products and seeking to replace out-of-region supply chains with local suppliers.

A map and details of local manufacturers will be placed on the Progress Council website to support the initiative. The Progress Council is also pursuing funding to create an interactive map of local firms.

Ongoing efforts of the Progress Council will also focus on matching up companies to develop new products. “We see the development of new products through the matching of local firms a unique way of creating jobs and promoting innovation in the Mid Mon Valley”, said John Easoz President of the Mon Valley Progress Council.

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

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