



MVPC Newsletters

MVPC Progress Update

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Progress is ...

Robert Johnson of Governor's Southwestern PA office speaks at the September 21 quarterly meeting // Ranking Republican member of the House Transportation Committee says "everything is on the table" in term of transportation funding // The Mid Mon Valley Intergovernmental Cooperative takes more steps forward // KEYTEX ENERGY is a new Progress Council corporate sponsor

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

Representative of Governor's office speaks at the September 21 quarterly meeting - Robert Johnson of the Governor's southwestern PA office spoke on a range of issues and responded to questions at the Progress Council's fall quarterly meeting.

Ranking Republican member of the House Transportation Committee says "everything is on the table" in term of transportation funding - Construction Legislative Council meeting, State Representative Jeff Pyle, a ranking member of the House Transportation Committee, expressed strong support for transportation funding legislation consistent with the recommendations of a Governor's Commission report on transportation issues and funding.

The Mid Mon Valley Intermunicipal Cooperative takes more steps forward - The Progress Council coordinated Mid Mon Valley Intermunicipal Cooperative took more steps forward with completion of a mark-up of bylaws, Borough of Stockdale joins as the eighth member, and a September training session for local municipal staff focused on best practices for budgeting. The goal of the Cooperative is to explore and implement cooperative strategies among Mid Mon Valley local governments.

KEYTEX ENERGY is a new Progress Council corporate sponsor - President John Easoz is pleased to announce that Greensburg based KEYTEX ENERGY, a full service energy and consulting company, is a Progress Council sponsor.

Representative of Governor's office speaks at September 21 quarterly meeting

Robert Johnson of the Governor's southwestern PA office spoke on a range of issues and responded to questions at the Progress Council's fall quarterly meeting. Johnson, whose career has included work with a North Carolina government relations consultant to serving as executive assistance to past State Senate Majority Whip Mike Fisher, provided an overview of the Governor's leadership on a number of issues.

Johnson noted in the beginning of his remarks that, on the issue of education, the Governor did not cut funding. Instead reductions in the education budget were due to the end of the Federal Stimulus program. He also stated the challenges the Governor faced in balancing the budget and ongoing efforts to promote jobs.

Question raised by local business people in attendance included challenges in securing financing for businesses, the need to address issues of finding qualified employees, the impact of drug use on workforce readiness.

Ranking Republican member of the House Transportation Committee says, "everything is on the table" in term of transportation funding

Speaking at a recent Western PA Construction Legislative Council meeting, State Representative Jeff Pyle, a ranking member of the House Transportation Committee, expressed strong support for transportation funding legislation consistent with the recommendations of a Governor's Commission report on transportation issues and funding.

Speaking at the October 19 meeting of the Western Pennsylvania Construction Legislative Council meeting in Pittsburgh, Representative Pyle, 60th Legislative District, Armstrong and Indiana Counties, concurred with the findings of the Transportation Funding Advisory Commission report and noted that action is needed to meet major highway and bridge needs throughout the state. He was more skeptical of funding for transit noting, among other items, the need to address legacy costs in the Port Authority of Allegheny County.

In August 2011, The Governor's Transportation Funding Advisory Commission issued a report documenting \$3.5 billion dollars in annual unmet transportation needs in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. To date, the Governor has yet to take a formal position on the report.

Progress Council executive director Joe Kirk is

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Archive (PDF)

[Vol. 49 No. 07-08
July/August 2012](#)

[Vol. 48 No. 05-06
May/June 2012](#)

[Vol. 48 No. 03-04
March/April 2012](#)

[Vol. 48 No. 01-02
January/February 2012](#)

[Vol. 47 No. 11-12
November/December 2011](#)

[Vol. 47 No. 03-04
March/April 2011](#)

[Vol. 47 No. 01-02
January/February 2011](#)

[Vol. 47 No. 09-10
September/October 2010](#)

[Vol. 46 No. 03-04
March/April 2010](#)

[Vol. 46 No. 01-02
January/February 2010](#)

[Vol. 45 No. 11-12
November/December 2009](#)

[Vol. 45 No. 09-10
September/October 2009](#)

[Vol. 45 No. 07-08
July/August 2009](#)

[Vol. 45 No. 05-06
May/June 2009](#)

[Vol. 45 No. 03-04](#)

currently serving a one-year term as chairman of the Construction Legislative Council.

The Mid Mon Valley Intermunicipal Cooperative takes more steps forward

The Progress Council coordinated Mid Mon Valley Cooperative took more steps forward with completion of a mark-up of bylaws, Borough of Stockdale joined as the eighth member, and a September training session for local municipal staff focused on best practices for budgeting.

The September Cooperative board meeting included a review of proposals submitted to the PA Department of Community and Economic Development and the Washington County LSA program for general support for operation of the Cooperative and future training sessions for Mid Mon Valley municipal staff.

With the joining of the Borough of Stockdale, The Cooperative now has eight members. Membership of the Cooperative includes: North Belle Vernon, Donora, Allenport, Charleroi, Dunlevy, Speers, City of Monongahela, and Stockdale.

The October 30 Cooperative meeting will focus on a final review and adoption of bylaws, in addition to beginning the process for election of officers.

The Goal of the Cooperative is to explore and implement cooperative strategies among Mid Mon Valley local governments.

[March/April 2009](#)

[Vol. 45 No. 01-02](#)
[January/February 2009](#)

[Vol. 44 No. 11-12](#)
[November/December 2008](#)

[Vol. 44 No. 09-10](#)
[September/October 2008](#)

[Vol. 44 No. 07-08](#)
[July/August 2008](#)

[Vol. 44 No. 03-04](#)
[March/April 2008](#)

[Vol. 44 No. 01-02](#)
[January/February 2008](#)

[Vol. 43 No. 11-12](#)
[November/December 2007](#)

[Vol. 43 No. 9-10](#)
[September/October 2007](#)

[Vol. 43 No. 7-8](#)
[July/August 2007](#)

[Vol. 43 No. 5-6](#)
[May/June 2007](#)

The Mon Valley Progress Council

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