



MVPC Newsletters

MVPC Progress Update

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Progress Council meets with ArcelorMittal to review project // Meetings continue on the Progress Council new concept for Pittsburgh leg of the PA Route 51 to I-376 Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway // State transportation legislation still in play // Cooperative initiates study of local public works departments // SCORE services via email – and even SKYPE!

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

Progress Council meets with ArcelorMittal to review project

A September 5 tour of the Monessen ArcelorMittal coke plant provided Progress Council executive director Joe Kirk a first hand look at construction activity underway in the \$50 million dollar plant renovation. The plant is scheduled to begin operation in April 2014 and will create or retain a total of 200 jobs.



The Progress Council is aiding in efforts to assist ArcelorMittal in securing \$500,000 in tax credits available through the State Enterprise Zone program. Monessen is one of nine local communities participating in the local Mid Mon Regional Enterprise Zone.

ArcelorMittal's regional engineering manager Joe Magni and Susan Zljajic, State & Local Tax/Government Affairs arranged the tour for the Progress Council and Albert D'Alessandro, Director Southwestern Regional Office, PA Department of Community and Economic Development.

Meetings continue on the Progress Council new concept for Pittsburgh leg of the PA Route 51 to I-376 Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway

The Progress Council has provided briefings to state officials on the Expressway/Busway alternative for the PA Route 51 to I-376 Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway.

The goal of the effort is to advance the 24-mile, four-billion-dollar PA Route 51 to I-376 Expressway project. The last section of the Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway has been on hold for years due to a lack of funding and ongoing community and political controversy.

State transportation legislation still in play

News reports and discussions with legislative and the Governor's office point to the strong potential of action of state transportation legislation. Not only would legislation provide funding for needed highway and bridge maintenance and construction, legislation under consideration would include funding to the PA Turnpike Commission that could advance the PA Route 51 to I-376 Expressway project.

Assuming passage of the legislation, Progress Council executive director Joe Kirk is planning to work with a number of individuals and groups on a strategy meeting with area elected officials to press for advancement of the remaining Expressway section.

Local support for the PA Route 51 to I-376 Expressway is essential. The PA Turnpike Commission will face considerable pressure to fund other projects.

Cooperative initiates study of local public works departments

The Mid Mon Valley Intergovernmental Cooperative is working with PA Department of the Community and Economic Development on a study of public works functions in six local municipalities. The DCED Peer Review project will include municipalities of Speers, Dunlevy, Allenport, California, Monongahela and California.

In addition to reviewing and providing recommendations for local public works departments, the study will also recommend opportunities for intergovernmental cooperation in the area of public works of all Mid Mon Valley municipalities. Cooperative chairman Dennis Martinak is encouraged by the interest of local communities participating in the study, "I see this as a real opportunity to improve a core function of local government and seek ways to promote intergovernmental cooperation."

SCORE services via email -- and even SKYPE!

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

You might have heard of SCORE (Service Core of



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The alternative would involve constructing the 13-mile leg of the Expressway project from PA Route 51 to I-376 in Monroeville and constructing a 2.8-mile extension of the Martin Luther King Jr. East Busway from the current busway terminus in Swissvale to the proposed Expressway alignment in East Pittsburgh near the Keystone Commons complex.

The proposed alternative would meet core economic development objectives to improve access to industrial brownfield sites in the Allegheny County section of the Mon Valley and would improve traffic congestion in the Parkway East corridor. The Progress Council is scheduling meetings and will continue to monitor feedback on the concept.

Retired Executives). It's now known as "SCORE, Counselors to America's Small Business". SCORE, supported by the SBA, provides free counseling for those seeking to go into business as well as established businesses.

Until recently, counseling has been through one-to-one in person counseling sessions provided by local SCORE volunteers.

Now SCORE can link you up with anyone in the United States through their national database of counselors on a broad range of technical business issues. Need help on logistics? There are SCORE volunteers in Buffalo, Minneapolis and other cities ready to talk with you about how to improve the logistics operations of your firm.

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

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