

Progress Update

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PROGRESS HEADLINES

PA Coal Alliance's CEO addresses attendees at the Progress Council Fall Quarterly meeting // Progress Council participates in Construction Legislative Council's transportation planning project // Allegheny Conference briefed on Expressway/Busway alternative // New food processing firm locates in Charleroi // Path to Entrepreneurship fall session underway

****PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS****

PA Coal Alliance's CEO addresses attendees at the Progress Council Fall Quarterly meeting



In his address at the Progress Council's September 26 fall quarterly luncheon meeting held at the Lombardi Education Center, former State Senator and Chief Executive Officer of the PA Coal Alliance John Pippy presented a compelling case for the need to reduce the current regulatory environment for the coal industry and its importance for our economy.

Pippy expressed significant concerns regarding the national and state regulatory environment for the coal industry stating that, "while oversight is good, overreach is bad."

Pippy also reviewed in detail the importance of coal for the economy of Pennsylvania, the nation and the world. "By 2018 coal will be the number one fuel source for producing energy in the world," Pippy said. He noted that energy production should be an "all-in" strategy that includes natural gas and alternative sources. "We need to remember that according to the EPA, implementation of the plan, as they have written, will still only reduce global carbon emissions by less than 1%."

With renewables currently accounting for only 3% of the electric market and coal accounting for 40% and providing a reliable and affordable base-load supply for Pennsylvania's ratepayers, he urged consideration of the cost versus the benefits.

The presentation was well received by attendees that included Lee Supply, Three Rivers Marine, and United States Steel. Lynn Baron with California University of PA thanked Pippy and the PA Coal Alliance for being the presenting sponsor of the annual California University Coal Bowl football game. The Coal Bowl scheduled is for October 18.

Progress Council participates in Construction Legislative Council's transportation planning project

The Progress Council has been participating in the development of the transportation plan by the Construction Legislative Council (CLC) of Western PA. It is expected that the plan will present recommendation on a number of key transportation projects in southwestern Pennsylvania including the

Progress Council-developed Expressway/Busway alternative for the Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway north of PA Route 51. The plan will be issued later this year.

The Construction Legislative Council (CLC) is a multi-discipline coalition of 14 construction-related organizations representing contractors, architects, engineers, owners, and material suppliers. For over 40 years, the CLC has been the legislative voice of these groups that represent a major portion of the infrastructure planning, design, and construction industry in Western Pennsylvania. Companies associated with the CLC employ more than 200,000 people. The Progress Council is a long term member of the CLC.

Allegheny Conference briefed on Expressway/Busway alternative



On October 30, Progress Council executive director Joe Kirk provided a briefing to Allegheny Conference CEO Dennis Yablonsky and Conference staff at their downtown Pittsburgh offices on the Progress Council-developed Expressway/Busway alternative for the Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway north of PA Route 51.

Kirk also included a review of funding available for the Expressway project through recently passed State Transportation legislation to advance the Southern Beltway and Expressway project.

Kirk noted that for almost fifty years the Progress Council has been the leading advocate for the Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway and Southern Beltway projects. He reviewed progress to date on both projects as a well as current and projected economic of the Expressway/Busway alternative. In the presentation, Kirk

emphasized that in addition to supporting economic growth in the Mon Valley corridor, the PA Route 51 to I-367 Expressway would also serve as the eastern leg of the Southern Beltway.

Kirk's presentation was intending to advance the importance of the Expressway project for the future of southwestern Pennsylvania. The Conference recently completed their strategic plan that will include a stronger emphasis on regional transportation priorities and funding strategies.

New food processing firm locates in Charleroi



Quality Pasta Company, a start-up operation in the food industry, held a grand opening on October 23 at their site in Chamber Plaza in Charleroi. The firm's president, Paul DeStefano, cited the assistance and support of the Governor's Action Team and area economic development professionals for the project.

Quality Pasta Company specializes in packaged foods with no artificial dyes and colors. Their lead product is macaroni and cheese produced in a variety of serving sizes including single servings. According to DeStefano, the firm anticipates having thirty to thirty-five employees in two or three years. They currently have fifteen full-time employees and several part-time employees.

The Progress Council participated with a number of community leaders and State Representative Pete Daley's office in meetings with representative of the firm regarding availability the of state grant and loan programs. We welcome this new addition to the Mid Mon Valley business community.

Path to Entrepreneurship Fall session underway

A dozen students at the Mon Valley Career and Technology Center signed up to participate in a 10-week program on entrepreneurship. The fall session began on October 2 and will run through early December.

The students either have to be operating a small business or plan to start one. “It’s important that the students are actively engaged in the entrepreneurial process. It could be something as simple as babysitting or washing cars. The key is that they are taking the initiative,” Progress Council president John Easoz said.

The fall session is the second of three sessions. The fall and spring session will include business mentorship. Five area business people have signed up to meet with the student to discuss their business plans. And the fall session will also include a business plan completion with the winner receiving a \$500 grant to be applied toward their business idea. In the spring 2014 session, a cosmetology student, seeking to open her own shop, was the recipient of the \$500 grant.

The Path to Entrepreneurship project is funded through a grant from the PA Department of Community Development and is a joint venture with the Mon Valley Career and Technology Center.

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