

## In This Issue

### **Page 1, 5**

Rock Springs  
Business Park

### **Page 2**

From the  
Executive Director

### **Page 3**

Fastlane Grants  
Notification

### **Page 4**

Summer Intern:  
Jason Werner

### **Page 6–7**

Transportation  
Project Updates

### BHJ Promotions

### **Page 8**

Meeting Calendar

## **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BREAKS GROUND FOR NEW ROCK SPRINGS BUSINESS PARK**

**Federal, state, and local officials participate in ceremony**

Federal, State and local officials joined, together with the Business Development Corporation of the Northern Panhandle (BDC) and their honored guests, to officially break ground for the Rock Springs Business Park, formerly the Taylor, Smith & Taylor Pottery Factory site, a long-awaited, 8.5-acre business development in northern Hancock County, WV. “This development will transform a once abandoned pottery factory site into a job-creator for Hancock County and the Ohio River Valley,” said Hancock County Commission President Mike Swartzmiller. “The business park will also add much needed building inventory to our region to accommodate the economic growth in energy, transportation, and value-added metals.”

The BDC, owners of the site, announced the groundbreaking of the new industrial building located in their newly branded Rock Springs Business Park in Chester, WV. The first phase of the project includes a 30,000 square foot building, financed by the West Virginia Economic Development Authority and United Bank, with plans for an additional 70,000 square feet on the site. The groundbreaking event was held in June.

.....Continued on Page 5



BHJ METROPOLITAN  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
OFFICERS—2016

Tom Timmons, Chairman  
Linda McNeil, Vice-Chairman  
Sue Simonetti, Secretary  
Jim Andreozzi, Treasurer

STAFF

Michael Parocki  
Executive Director  
[mikepap@bhjmpc.org](mailto:mikepap@bhjmpc.org)

Rhonda Howell  
Finance Manager  
[rhowell@bhjmpc.org](mailto:rhowell@bhjmpc.org)

Mary Moore  
Receptionist  
[mmoore@bhjmpc.org](mailto:mmoore@bhjmpc.org)

Nicholas Orsay  
Transportation Engineer  
[norsay@bhjmpc.org](mailto:norsay@bhjmpc.org)

David T. Snelting  
Transportation Study Director  
[dsnelting@bhjmpc.org](mailto:dsnelting@bhjmpc.org)

Linda Taylor  
Office Manager/Rideshare  
[ltaylor@bhjmpc.org](mailto:ltaylor@bhjmpc.org)

Jason Werner  
Intern  
[jason@bhjmpc.org](mailto:jason@bhjmpc.org)

Barb Zimnoch, Sr. Community  
Development Specialist  
[bzimnoch@bhjmpc.org](mailto:bzimnoch@bhjmpc.org)

Publication of this newsletter is made possible with assistance from Federal Highway Administration, the Ohio and West Virginia Departments of Transportation, the West Virginia Development Office, the Appalachian Regional Commission, the U.S. Economic Development Administration and BHJ member governments.

BHJ Regional Review  
124 North Fourth Street  
Second Floor  
Steubenville, OH 43952  
Ohio: (740) 282-3685  
WV: (304) 797-9666  
Fax: (740) 282-1821  
Website: [www.bhjmpc.org](http://www.bhjmpc.org)

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It's been an exciting four months to say the least. Many projects that BHJ Staff have been working on for several years are coming to fruition. In June, the Business Development Corporation broke ground at the former TS&T Site in Chester signaling a new beginning in Chester, WV. What started as a \$5,000 FOCUS Grant through the Northern Brownfield Assistance Center for further site evaluation in January 2011 has matured into more \$3.3 million in investment from federal, state, private, and local government resources.

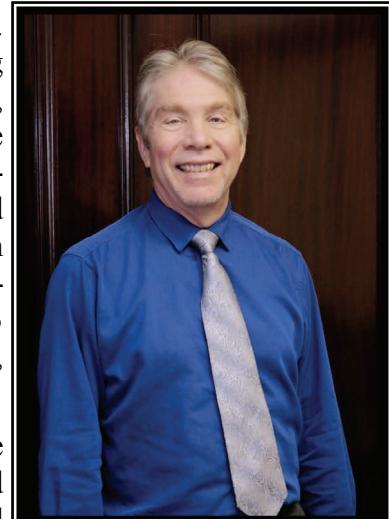
Work is well underway rebuilding access to the Veterans Memorial Bridge at University Boulevard and State Route 7 in Steubenville. Long-awaited improvements to Lovers Lane Road also in Steubenville will soon be underway after the city opened bids for the Lovers Lane Roundabout project.

After decades in the planning, the West Virginia Department of Transportation opened bids for the Wellsburg Bridge that will cross the Ohio River at Brilliant, Wells Township, Jefferson County, Ohio to WV-2 between Wellsburg and Beech Bottom, WV.

In closing, I want personally acknowledge the promotion of two staff members, David Snelting and Nick Orsay, who will continue their work at BHJ as the Transportation Study Director and Transportation Study Engineer respectively. Congratulations.

Your faithful and humble servant

*Michael J. Parocki*



## FASTLANE GRANTS NOTIFICATION

In mid-July the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and Senate Environment and Public Works Committee released the first list of grants that the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) will distribute under a new highway and freight projects program.

The Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects program — referred to as the FASTLANE program — was created as part of the federal FAST Act transportation legislation that Congress approved late last year.

The USDOT notified the committees on Monday of 18 projects selected to receive a total of \$759 million in fiscal-year 2016.

Demand for the FASTLANE grants exceeded expectations, said U.S. Rep. Bill Shuster (R-Pa.), Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.), U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) and Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) in a press release. The program received 212 applications for projects worth a total of \$10 billion — more than 10 times the available amount, the lawmakers said. "The response illustrates how critical freight and highway investments are to improving the movement of goods and reducing congestion," they said.

USDOT intends to award the projects after 60 days. Projects that include a rail element and their proposed grant amounts are:

- Port of Savannah international multimodal connector, \$44 million. The Georgia Ports Authority will receive the funds for a project to reconfigure the Savannah port's on-dock intermodal container transfer facilities to bring rail switching activity inside the port.
- Paul W. Conley Terminal intermodal improvements and modernization in the Port of Boston, \$42 million. The Massachusetts Port Authority will use the funds to deepen and strengthen repairs to the port's Berth 11; construct Berth 12 fender improvements and backland pavement; implement refrigerated container storage improvements; and build new gate facilities.
- South Lander Street grade separation and railroad safety project, \$45 million. The city of Seattle will use the dollars on a grade separation project on South Lander Street over the north/south BNSF Railway Co. line.
- Cedar Rapids Logistics Park, \$25.65 million. The Iowa Department of Transportation will use the funds to build full service intermodal facilities in Cedar Rapids. The project will feature a container intermodal terminal; rail-to-truck transload facility for bulk commodities; and a cross-dock facility for consolidating and redistributing truck loads.
- Cross Harbor freight program, \$10,672,590. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey will use the funds for intermodal rail improvements. The project includes two components: At the 65th Street Yard, extending the existing transloading dock and making other improvements; and at Port Jersey Division Second Track, double-tracking a portion of the Port Jersey Division of New York New Jersey Rail LLC.
- Strander Boulevard Extension and grade separation, phase III, \$5 million. The city of Tukwila, Wash., will be awarded the funds to construct a grade separated crossing under a freight-rail line and a 1,250-linear-foot arterial from SR 181 to SW 27th Street, turn lanes, and related facilities in the Green River Valley.

Also, the USDOT plans to award \$165 million for the Atlantic Gateway project in Virginia to improve the freight-traffic corridor across the Eastern Seaboard, and \$11 million for the Coos Bay Rail Line tunnel rehabilitation project at the Oregon International Port of Coos Bay in Oregon. Those amounts were announced earlier this week by government officials in those states.

Source: Progressive Railroading July 7, 2016 at:

[http://www.progressiverailroading.com/federal\\_legislation\\_regulation/news/USDOT-identifies-freight-projects-to-receive-FASTLANE-grants](http://www.progressiverailroading.com/federal_legislation_regulation/news/USDOT-identifies-freight-projects-to-receive-FASTLANE-grants)

## JASON WERNER—SUMMER CO-OP STUDENT

Jason Werner, a third year Urban Planning major from the University of Cincinnati, is BHJ's co-op intern for the summer. Previously, he interned with Office for Planning and Architecture in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and Perkins Township Building and Zoning Department near Sandusky, Ohio.

Jason has been heavily involved in a Central Business District traffic modeling project identifying the effectiveness of the traffic signal and stop sign locations in the downtown area. The project involved traffic counting, analysis of the counts, and creating a traffic model/forecast using those counts. In addition, Jason completed smaller GIS mapping projects and assisted with other traffic condition modeling/forecasting. The work he has done for the Central Business District traffic modeling project could make a real difference in commuters and travelers alike who traverse downtown Steubenville.

Jason was born and raised in Batesville, a small town in southeastern Indiana, where he graduated from Batesville High School. He is the oldest four children. His mother is a librarian and tax professional and his father is a manufacturing technician at Hill-Rom, a hospital bed manufacturer. When he was 15, his family moved to a farm where they grow corn, soybeans, and wheat and raise chickens, cattle, and goats.

He is well-rounded with many interests and hobbies. Jason is not afraid to admit that he is a geek and spends most of his free time indulging in video games, anime, card games, graphic novels (which he often reads during his lunch break), and hanging out with his friends. He is an artist, a writer, and loves music of all kinds, listening to it whenever he gets the chance. It may not seem like it at first, but he enjoys outdoor activities as much as indoor activities and enjoys bonfires, gardening, swimming, and helping on the farm. Other interests include history, science, engineering, military operations, and almost anything design related.

When asked what his future plans are, Jason was not entirely certain. He would like to work with urban design of some kind, whether it is urban design, transportation design, landscape architecture, a conglomeration of all three, or something else. If necessary, he would even be willing to start his own design firm to allow him to do what he wants. Jason says, "As part of my co-op experience, I am seeking to explore as many aspects of urban planning as possible. This allows me to explore my various interests, provide me with a variety of experience in the field, and build multiple network connections. BHJ has taken me one step further toward this goal by allowing me to become familiar with the transportation aspect of urban planning. My time here gave me experience with traffic counting, modeling traffic conditions and transportation related GIS mapping, all of which will benefit my future."



# GROUNDBREAKING FOR ROCK SPRINGS BUSINESS PARK

"This is the right time to construct a business park on the tail end of the announcements of the two ethane crackers in Pennsylvania and Ohio," said BDC Board Chairman William D'Alesio. "The Chester location, for the BDC's third business park, is ideally situated within close proximity to Royal Dutch Shell's ethane cracker plant, the Pittsburgh International Airport, and our region's primary transportation corridors."

Since the BDC purchased the former TS&T site in 2011, the organization has garnered almost \$3.3 million in investment to acquire, cleanup, and development the site, which was abandoned, and remained a public nuisance, for over 30 years. The \$3.3 million in funding includes: West Virginia Economic Development Authority Loan for \$2,000,000, Hancock County Commission Loan of \$500,000, USEPA grants totaling approximately \$600,000, and a variety of grants from the Benedum Foundation, Northern West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center, and the Brooke Hancock Regional Council.

Patrick Ford, Executive Director of the BDC, said that this project would not have been possible without the support and assistance of our partners; including Governor Earl Ray Tomblin, WV Secretary of Commerce Keith Burdette, Hancock County Commission, United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Northern West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center, the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, the Benedum Foundation, the Brooke-Hancock-Jefferson Metropolitan Planning Commission, the board and staff of the BDC, and the Rock Springs Riverfront Task Force.

"You don't know how much of a pleasure it is for me to be here today," said Mary Lawrence, Chair of the Rock Springs Task Force. "I've been touting the redevelopment opportunities of this site for years. We're proud that this day is finally here."



# TRANSPORTATION PROJECT UPDATES

## Lovers Lane Roundabout

Two bids - both over the engineer's estimate of \$1,103,779.91 - were received for the proposed Lovers Lane roundabout project. Shelly & Sands Corp. of Rayland had the low bid of \$1,389,945.40. James White Construction Company of Weirton submitted a bid of \$1,406,646.98. The bids will be reviewed and then a determination made on the next step. The project is expected to begin in March and completed in July 2017.

In June the preliminary work began when trees were cut and removed and utility poles moved back from the street between Teresa Drive and Bryden Road.

Lovers Lane has 12,000 vehicles a day as monitored by traffic counts. The plan now is to widen the 9 ½ foot lanes to 12-foot lanes. Later there are plans for expansion of the Lovers Lane and Sunset Boulevard intersection. That project is expected to begin in 2019 and completed in 2020.

Plans for improvements to Lovers Lane date back to 1976. The current project is a continuance of plans developed in 2008 from a concept study which included the T intersection of Lovers Lane and Fort Steuben Drive."

## University Blvd/Route 7 Intersection

Construction on the University Blvd/Route 7 Intersection Access project is in full swing. As of Monday, August 1, the eastbound on-ramp to the Veterans Memorial Bridge at University Boulevard will be closed for 20 days realignment and reconstruction. Motorists will experience delays and should plan for extra commute time.



In this phase of the project, an additional turn lane will be built on state Route 7 southbound before the University Boulevard intersection and two additional turn lanes constructed on University Boulevard up to the new ramp where there will be two lanes leading to U.S. Route 22 eastbound for the Veterans Memorial Bridge.

Traffic will be detoured north on Route 7 to merge onto U.S. Route 22 west to the John Scott Highway exit, over the highway and then back onto U.S. Route 22 eastbound.

The ramp should reopen by Aug. 21.



# TRANSPORTATION PROJECT UPDATES

## Wellsburg Bridge

The apparent low bid for the Wellsburg Bridge is Flatiron Constructors, Inc. at \$131,021,465.00.

Flatiron is a leading transportation and infrastructure contractor in North America.

With an annual construction volume of more than \$1 billion, Flatiron develops innovative solutions to build roads, bridges, highways, rail transit, runways, dams, water treatment and storage facilities, and other projects for both public and private clients. Flatiron delivers projects through a variety of contracting methods, including design-build and public private partnerships.

Delivering successful projects across North America, Flatiron is consistently ranked in the top 50 contractors, the top 10 bridge contractors and the top 10 highway contractors by Engineering News-Record.

Founded in 1947, Flatiron has grown geographically over the years and now employs more than 2,500 people in with operations across the U.S. and Canada. Flatiron is a subsidiary of German-based HOCHTIEF, one of the world's largest international construction companies. (Flatiron website: <http://www.flatironcorp.com/>)

To see the list of bidders go to [http://www.bhjmpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/apparentbids\\_JUL2616.pdf](http://www.bhjmpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/apparentbids_JUL2616.pdf).

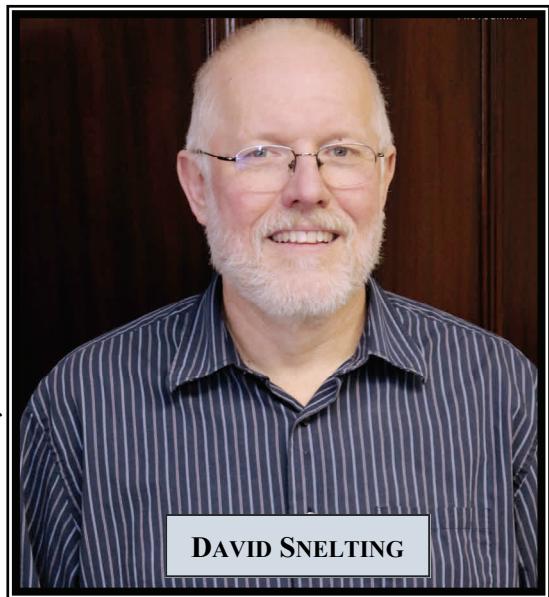
## BHJ PROMOTES TWO STAFF MEMBERS



NICK ORSAY

The Brooke-Hancock-Jefferson Metropolitan Planning Commission recently announced the promotion of two of its staff members.

Mr. Dave Snelting, BHJ's transportation engineer since February 2006, has been named Transportation Study Director. Prior to joining the agency, he was the city engineer for the City of Steubenville and served as the chairman for the BHJ Technical Advisory Committee for 18 years. In his new position, Mr. Snelting will assume the duties



DAVID SNELTING

of former Transportation Study Director Mike Paprocki who was named Executive Director in 2014.

Replacing Mr. Snelting is Mr. Nick Orsay who has been promoted from senior transportation planner to Transportation Engineer. Mr. Orsay began his career with BHJ in June 2014 upon graduating from The Catholic University of American in Washington, D.C. with a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering.

# BHJ Meeting Calendar

August 10	B-H Regional Council	4:30
September 5	Labor Day—BHJ Office Closed	
September 6	Executive Committee Meeting	Noon
September 14	Brownfield Task Force	Noon
September 28	Technical Advisory Committee Full Commission	10:30 Noon
October 3	Executive Committee	

**Appalachian Regional Commission**  
[www.arc.gov](http://www.arc.gov)

**Brooke County Economic Development Authority**  
[www.brookewv.org](http://www.brookewv.org)

**Brooke Pioneer Trail Assoc. Inc**  
[www.brookepioneertrail.org](http://www.brookepioneertrail.org)

**Business Development Corporation  
of the Northern Panhandle**  
[www.bhbdc.org](http://www.bhbdc.org)

**CHANGE, Inc.**  
[www.changeinc.org](http://www.changeinc.org)

**CommuteInfo**  
[www.commuteinfo.org](http://www.commuteinfo.org)

**Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce**  
[www.jeffersoncountychamber.com](http://www.jeffersoncountychamber.com)

**Ohio Department of Transportation**  
[www.dot.state.oh.us](http://www.dot.state.oh.us)

**State of Ohio Government Information**  
[www.ohio.gov](http://www.ohio.gov)

**State of West Virginia Government Info.**  
[www.wv.gov](http://www.wv.gov)

**Steubenville, City of**  
[www.cityofsteubenville.us](http://www.cityofsteubenville.us)

**Top of WV Convention and Visitors Bureau**  
[www.topofwv.com](http://www.topofwv.com)

**U.S. Census Bureau**  
[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

**U.S. Department of Transportation**  
[www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)

**U.S. Economic Development Administration**  
[www.commerce.gov](http://www.commerce.gov)

**Weirton Chamber of Commerce**  
[www.weirtonchamber.com](http://www.weirtonchamber.com)

**Weirton, City of**  
[www.cityofweirton.com](http://www.cityofweirton.com)

**West Virginia Department of Transportation**  
[www.transportation.wv.gov](http://www.transportation.wv.gov).

**West Virginia Development Office**  
[www.wvdo.org](http://www.wvdo.org)

**Wintersville, Village of**  
[www.wintersville.net](http://www.wintersville.net)

**WORKFORCE**  
[www.info@npworkforceww.org](mailto:www.info@npworkforceww.org)