



# REGIONAL REVIEW

**Volume 1, Issue 3**

**Brooke-Hancock-Jefferson  
Metropolitan Planning Commission**

**Summer 2004**

## DI DONATO, SCHWERTFEGER AND PROVENZANO HONORED AT SIXTH ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

The BHI annual awards this year were presented to Gregory L. DiDonato, Norman Schwertfeger and posthumously to Dewey Provenzano. The event, now in its sixth year, was changed to a luncheon format and held at The Rose by Clara's Catering in Steubenville.



State Senator Gregory DiDonato received the 2004 Public Service Award. The Senator began his life of public service in 1987 when as a senior in high school he was ap-

pointed to the Dennison, OH Village Council. At the age of 21, he was elected mayor of Dennison. By 1990, he was elected to the first of two terms as the Ohio State Representative serving the 97th district. In 1996, he was elected as state senator for the 30th district and re-elected in 2000. He presently serves as the Minority Leader and sits on several Senate committees including the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee and the Legislative Service Commission.

He is active in community affairs. He is a member of the Tuscarawas County Chamber of Commerce, Tuscarawas County Farm Bureau, Italian-American Festival Foundation, Dennison Knights of Columbus and several others.

He also has experience as a business manager in the private sector. For eight years he was

employed by Aberth's Bakery, working three years as a baker while attending college and five years in charge of accounts and delivery. Prior to being elected to the Ohio General Assembly, DiDonato was also in charge of Quality Inventory Control for Associated Grocers and worked as a substance abuse case manager for Self-Help, Inc., a non-profit drug and alcohol treatment program serving Tuscarawas and Carroll counties.

The Senator has been recognized by several organizations for his achievements. He was named Tuscarawas County Young Democrat of the Year in 1984 and the Twin City Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year in 1985. He received the Department of Ohio Disabled American Veterans Special Recognition Award in 1997 and the Ohio Academy of Trial Lawyers Outstanding Legislator Award in 1998. The Ohio Association of Professional Firefighters honored him as the Legislator of the Year in 2000.

The 2004 Special Volunteer Award went to Norman Schwertfeger, Brooke County Commissioner. He is well-known in the tri-county area not only as a public figure, but also as a man who gives of himself.

As a Brooke County Commissioner, he has displayed a vision and commitment to create regional opportunity. He has taken that commitment even farther to pilot community projects from funding inception to project construction. Searching for information, finding funding sources and enlisting workers aren't the only contributions he makes for community projects. He is "hands on" often donning work clothes and physically pitching in. As stated by one of those who nominated him, he is there for the people.

He has an interest in children and youth. Through his church and previous employ-

ment, he has worked extensively with them.

Mr. Schwertfeger has been a committed leader of the BHI Executive Committee and Full Commission. He served as the BHI Chairman in 1991, 1997 and 2003, and has held various offices through the years.

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**FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**B**HJ provides a variety of quality regional planning services. The unfortunate fact is many of our regional customers do not understand who we are and how we are able to help their community.

The reason why communities need to know who we are and how we may help is we make sound economic sense for a county commission and a village or town council. Your investment in BHJ provides a strong rate of return for the following reasons.

**BHJ can help communities prepare infrastructure and improvement grants.** We know grant programs and their accessibility.

**BHJ is a clearinghouse of facts and information.** Through this information, BHJ can help you substantiate a problem and make a potential funding source better understand a need. We have a state of the art mapping system and have recently purchased new aerial photographs for the three county areas. We have an extensive library of income and population figures.

**BHJ and its commission is a collaborative agency.** The experience and solutions of our members are an underutilized resource for decision-making.

The explanation of who we are is confusing because we wear two hats.

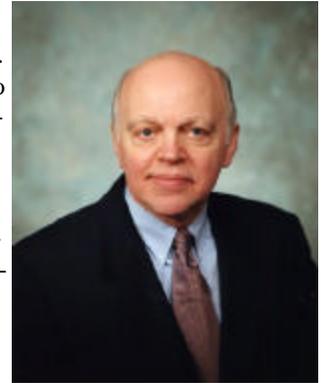
For the three-county area, we are the federally recognized regional agency for transportation decision-making. Through the consensus of our 72 member commission, we prioritize projects and work to make these priorities a reality. Usually, these priority projects are long-range and high cost items. They require substantial regional consensus and demand a realistic but aggressive staff to capture adequate project funding.

If you're a village council member in a smaller community, it may be hard to visualize how a big, high cost item like a new bridge crossing over the Ohio River may directly impact your community. Citizens at your bi-weekly village council meeting speak to legitimate daily projects like sidewalks, pot holes, trash pick-up, etc. However, projects like a new bridge crossing are a life-line for employment, emergency access, and buying. They impact a region and each community in that region.

For Brooke and Hancock County area, we wear an additional hat. We are a federally recognized regional planning and development council. This designation which provides assistance funds for water and sewer planning. It has also allowed us to initiate programs to return our older industrial sites into active job creation sites through the federal brownfields program. Also, we've started an entrepreneurship program to diversify the regional company.

So, next time you hear about BHJ, think strong rate of return and two hats. We look forward to serving you in the future.

John C. Brown, AICP  
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## THE CHAIRMAN'S PERSPECTIVE

It is hard to believe that almost half of 2004 is gone. To borrow an old saying and change it slightly, "time flies when you are busy." And that is certainly the case at BHJ. Dr. Brown and the staff do an amazing job of coordinating so many projects and activities. The three counties are fortunate to have such a dedicated staff working for their best interests.

One of the premier events of the year is the Annual Awards Banquet, the purpose of which is to recognize outstanding efforts to advance regional planning. In keeping with tradition, this year's recipients are well deserving of recognition. Congratulations to Ohio Senator Gregory L. DiDonato, Public Service Award, to Commissioner Norman Schwertfeger, Volunteer Award, and to the family of Mr. Dewey Provenzano who receives the Special Recognition Award posthumously. These recipients were chosen from an outstanding list of nominees. As committee chair, I want to thank the committee members, which consisted of Mr. Jeff Davis, Dr. Thomas Graham, and Mrs. Norma Tarr, for



serving and making these difficult choices. Dr. Brown's choice of speakers for the banquet was excellent and very pertinent to our area. Denise K. Chamberlain is a Principal and Senior Environment Advisor at SRA International, Inc., where she provides advice to the public and private sector on environmental issues, including remediation and economic development. Her extensive background will be of great interest to all BHJ members.

Two issues that need constant attention are support of the Bridge Study findings and support of the U.S. 22 Corridor to Columbus, Ohio. Both of these projects are vital to the transportation system in the BHJ three-county area as well as the impact they have on economic development. Each and every governmental entity located in the bridge study area is encouraged to contact their respective legislators and urge their support of the rapid completion of the three-pronged recommendation that resulted from the first phase of the study. The same philosophy applies to the U.S. 22 Corridor. Let them know how important both of these issues are to the three-county area.

I hope you all enjoy the remainder of the summer and I look forward to seeing you at the BHJ meetings and activities.

*Gary R. Folden*

## SUMMER 2004 EVENTS

August 6-8	Mingo Community Days (Mingo Junction, OH)	
August 6-8	Follansbee Garibaldi Days (Follansbee, WV)	
August 7	Quaker Village Tour (Mt. Pleasant, OH)	
August 17-22	Jefferson County Fair (Smithfield, OH)	
September 6	Labor Day	BHJ Office Closed
September 7	Executive Committee—BHJ Office	12:00
September 9-11	Brooke County Fair	
September 15	Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (BHJ Office)	10:30
	Full Commission	12:00

## AWARDS LUNCHEON

Mrs. Norma Provenzano accepted the 2004 Special Recognition Award for her husband, Dewey. The award was presented by Dave Cross, Brooke County prosecutor and family friend.

Dewey Provenzano was committed and dedicated to the region. He had a vision and



worked tirelessly for the betterment of the tri-county area.

Due to his long-time employment as the supervisor

at the Weirton Steel River docking facility, he foresaw a regional port facility in Weirton. He was an original member of the West Virginia Route 2/I-68 Authority. In the case of West Virginia Route 2, his dream will become a reality in November when the four-lane widening between US 22 and Follansbee opens. In the case of port development, the work continues.

Efforts like the Brooke County Economic Development Authority, the Brooke-Hancock Community Development Coalition, and the Weirton Port Authority contain the echo of Dewey's passion.

For over ten years he was an active BHJ Board member. The BHJ staff will miss his smiling face and positive attitude. He was an inspiration and motivator to all of us.

The speaker for the luncheon was Ms. Denise Chamberlain, a Principal and Senior Environmental Advisor at SRA International, Inc., a \$400 million professional services firm. She provides advice to the public and private sectors on environmental issues, including remediation and economic development.

During the Ridge Administration, Denise served as the Deputy Secretary of Air, Recycling and Radiation Protection for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). Prior to joining the PA

DEP, Denise was an Associate Counsel & Vice President at Mellon Bank, N.A. practicing in the areas of brownfields and environmental law, corporate lending, bankruptcy, and foreclosure.



Mrs. Norma Provenzano accepts the 2004 Special Recognition Award honoring her husband from Dave Cross.

During her tenure at PA DEP, she worked to develop and advance the Pennsylvania Land Recycling Program, a comprehensive brownfields program, honored by the Ford Foundation and Harvard University, Kennedy School of Govern-



ment as the Top Ten Innovations in Government Award Winner, 1997, and recognized, in April 2002, as one of the best fifteen programs honored since the award program's creation in 1986.

Denise advised many participants in the Pennsylvania Land Recycling Program so they could benefit as much as possible using the program's elements of funding, tax incentives, buyer/seller agreements, public outreach, structured phases of remediation, non-use aquifer designations and other financial and technical mechanisms to redevelop their properties.

Most notably, Denise worked with Bethlehem Steel and local community representatives to

redevelop the nation's largest brownfield site, a 1,800-acre site, into a multi-purpose development.

Ms. Chamberlain co-founded the Environmental Bankers Association, a national group of bankers who are responsible for their institutions' environmental credit policies and programs. In 1997, Denise developed *The Phoenix Awards*, international awards honoring excellence in brownfield redevelopment, and showcasing significant brownfield redevelopment projects as models at the annual U.S. EPA National Brownfields Conference.

At the close of the luncheon, members of the BHJ Executive Committee, Bob Riccelli and Gary Folden, surprised Dr. Brown with a plaque in appreciation for his leadership role in advancing brownfield development.



(l-r) Dr. Brown, Bob Riccelli and Gary Folden



(l-r) Dr. John Brown, State Senator Gregory L. DiDonato, Norma Provenzano, Norm Schwertfeger and Gary Folden, BHJ chairman.

## MIKE JACOBY AND BRUCE WILLIAMS AMONG MANY NEW ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS

There have been several changes in administrative positions over the past several months. The cities of Steubenville and Follansbee have new city managers. The Village of Wintersville has a new administrator. Progress Alliance and the Weirton Transit Corporation have new directors. This issue of the *Regional Review* will focus on two of these new leaders, with the remainder featured in future issues.



Mike Jacoby

Mike Jacoby assumed the executive director position of Progress Alliance on May 10, 2004. Progress Alliance, as a subsidiary of the Jefferson County Community Improvement Corporation, is a public-private partnership formed to stimulate economic development in Jefferson County. Progress Alliance is responsible for business retention and expansion efforts, business attraction, marketing Jefferson County, and managing a 93-acre industrial park as well as a 35,000-square-foot speculative building.

Prior to accepting the position with Progress Alliance, Mike served as Governor Bob Taft's Regional Economic Development Representative for eight counties in southeast Ohio. Mike has also been a business development specialist with the Ohio Department of Development and the development director for a two-county venture in Jackson and Vinton counties in Ohio.

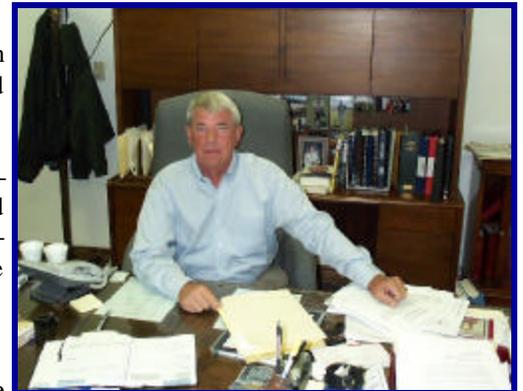
Mike has a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism from Kent State and a Masters of Public Administration degree from Ohio University. He is a Certified Economic Developer (CEd) recognized by the International Economic Development Council, a graduate of the Economic Development Institute, and a certified Economic Development Finance Professional as recognized by the National Development Council.

Mike and his wife, Amy, and son, Benjamin, will reside in Steubenville.

Mr. Bruce Williams, City Manager for the City of Steubenville from 1987-1990, is back on the job after 14 years. As of May 4, Mr. Williams assumed the position vacated by Fred Hays in January.

Mr. Williams' city management career began in 1977 when he was the Assistant City Manager in Helena, Montana. He was then the Assistant City Manager in Twin Falls, Idaho and from 1982 until 1987 was the City Manager in Cottage Grove Oregon. Upon leaving Steubenville in 1990, he was the City Manager in Kalispell, Montana and recently retired as the City Manager for Lake Havasu City, Arizona.

The father of five grown children, he is a Vietnam veteran having served in the Marine Corps. He enjoys golf, meeting people and "what I can contribute to the community." He was born in California and raised in Montana. Mr. Williams said, "It really is great to be back in Steubenville. I am committed to assisting the city council with their very aggressive agenda to redevelop and reenergize our community."



Bruce Williams

## TORONTO SITE NOMINATED FOR NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

On June 29, the City of Toronto was notified that the World War I Monument located at 208 Market Street is being considered by the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, the Federal government's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation.

In order to be considered for inclusion, evaluation standards must be met. The property must be at least 50 years old, retain its basic historic integrity and meet one of the four established National Register criteria. According to the National Register of Historic Places, this means that the property must have significance for its association with broad patterns of history, have association with the lives of persons significant in our past, have architectural merit or have the potential to yield information important in history or archaeology.

A listing in the National Register provides recognition of the property's historic importance. If the property is listed, the City may be eligible for certain Federal investment tax credits for rehabilitation.

A review will be held on August 6, 2004 in Columbus.

## THE NEXT GENERATION OF FEDERAL AIR QUALITY RULES IS UNVEILED

In April, thirty-two governors were told by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that areas of their states do not meet health standards for ground-level ozone or smog. All three counties in the BBJ region were classified as non-attainment, or areas that contribute to ozone levels higher than allowed under EPA's air quality test, .08 parts per million averaged over eight hours. This classification became official on June 15<sup>th</sup>, and all three counties will have to demonstrate "conformity" to the new attainment standard by mid 2009.

Ground-level ozone causes respiratory and immune problems. It forms when nitrogen oxides released primarily by vehicles and coal-burning power plants interact in the sun with volatile organic compounds. Because its formation is sun-dependent, ground level ozone is worse in the warmer months: April through October.

Solving the problem of poor air quality has been placed in the hands of states and cooperative regional governments like BBJ. Each state is

required to submit a final State Implementation Plan or SIP no later than June 2007. Both the Ohio and West Virginia SIP must explain how the new ozone standards will be attained by June 2009. The SIP will include an inventory of emission sources, a methodology to calculate or model ozone emission reductions, as well as the adoption of other appropriate regulations. Each plan may also include appropriate Transportation Control Measures called TCMs such as distribution of cleaner fuels, gasoline vapor recovery systems and vehicle tailpipe inspections. Each "non-attainment" region will also be required to adopt contingency plans if air quality standards are exceeded once "attainment" is achieved.

The U.S. EPA can only provide punitive sanctions if a state fails to develop and implement a plan to improve air quality. Exactly what compliance measures will be needed nationally or in the BBJ region is not yet certain. The U. S. EPA will provide a more specific statement of measures in a guidance document due in late 2004.

## 2025 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN COMPLETED

The BBJ 2025 Regional Transportation Plan was approved by the Full Commission at the May 19 meeting. As required by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) this comprehensive transportation plan for the region is updated every three years. BBJ staff spent well over a year researching and analyzing to ensure TEA-21 and Clean Air Act regulations were met.

As explained by Mike Paprocki, BBJ transportation study director, the Plan recognizes the relationship between transportation facilities, employment, population, goods movement, land use and air quality. It addresses the regional implication of local transportation system decision.

Mr. Paprocki further explained the Plan emphasizes maintaining and increasing the operating efficiency of the existing system before expensive new facilities are considered. It recognizes that improvement to river, rail, air, trail and transit systems are equally important as improvement to the highway system.

The 2025 Regional Transportation Plan is available for review or purchase at the BBJ office. Copies are also available at local libraries.



## BBJ REGIONAL BRIDGE SYSTEM STUDY—WHERE ARE WE NOW?

It has been more than six months since the Phase 2 Bridge Study was released. During this time, BBJ has been in meetings with both the Ohio and West Virginia Departments of Transportation to discuss project and funding needs.

On February 9, BBJ staff submitted to both DOTs a draft scope of work, a sample request for proposal and a proposed cost of sharing agreement for the location study and environmental impact statement. In early March, WVDOT agreed to consider programming funds for the study in 2005. Also in March, ODOT District 11 suggested Ohio's share be solicited through the Ohio Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC).

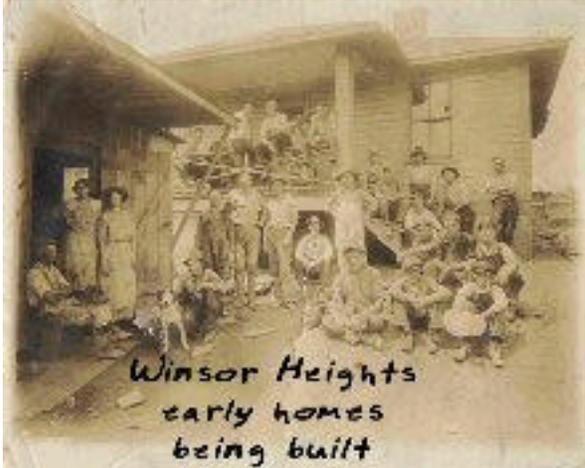
An April 14 public meeting informed participants of how Ohio and West Virginia access to the Veteran's Memorial Bridge will be enhanced, reviewed the proposed approach to finalize a bridge location south of Wellsburg and overviewed how funds will be found to complete the local environmental studies.

Dr. Brown says that "we are on course to complete a crucial location and environmental impact study for a new bridge. The study, estimated at \$1.2 million will advance the project to a Record of Decision (ROD). This U.S. Federal Highway's designation would allow detailed design work to begin. The ROD is the final study in the project's environmental review process and represents the FHA's final decision on where and what to build, based on recommendations from the Ohio and West Virginia Departments of Transportation.

Funding is targeted for the study in the upcoming fiscal year to begin work in 2005. It is possible the selected consultant could finish the ROD by the end of 2007. As funding becomes available, the final design, construction drawings and right-of-way acquisition could be finished in another four to six years.

## COMMUNITY PROFILE: WINDSOR HEIGHTS, WV

**B**ack in the early 1900s coal mining towns were springing up all over West Virginia. Windsor Heights was one such town. On just 0.1 square miles of land, the Windsor Power House Coal Company constructed most of the homes still in existence today between 1920 and 1924.



The two-story homes were occupied by mining supervisors and community doctors. The smaller one-story structures were the homes of the labor force. Unlike most mining companies, Windsor Power did not operate a company store. However, there were two privately owned general stores.

An important part of the community was St. Therese Catholic Church. It was originally started as a mission station in 1912 and formally dedicated in 1925. Twenty-two nationalities: Americans, English, Scotch, Welsh, Irish, German, Austrian, Bohemian, Slovak, Polish, Slovene, Croation, Lithuanian, Italian, Hungarian, French, Belgian, Spanish, Greek, Lebanese, Uhranian and Russian were represented among the parishioners with Croatian being prominent and Polish second. The Church closed in 1995.

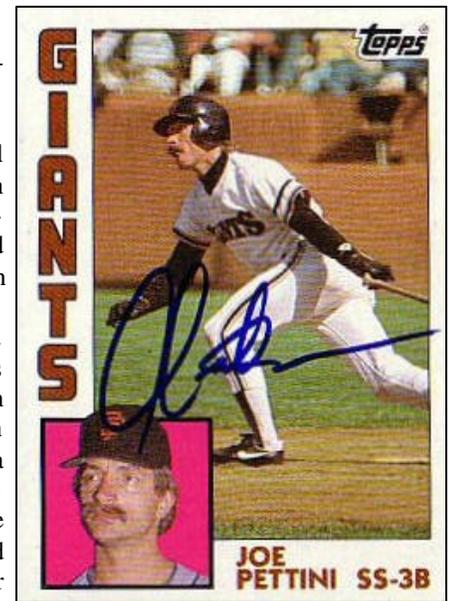


The demand for coal was so great during World War II that many of the miners were given exemptions. Four of those who did serve never made it home. In their honor, four streets – Sarko, Francis, Toat and Diotti – were named as a reminder of those young men who gave their lives.



Two miners getting ready to undercut the coal face in preparation for blasting the coal down for hand loading. Cutter probably Jeffrey or Sullivan machine.

In more recent times, Windsor Heights can boast of being the hometown of a Major League baseball player. Joe Pettini was born January 26, 1955, in Wheeling, W.V., and graduated from Brooke High School in Wellsburg, W.V., in 1973. After college, he pursued a career in baseball. Pettini's playing career began in 1977, when he signed with the Montreal Expos as a nondrafted free agent. In 1980, he signed with the San Francisco Giants and played shortstop for four seasons.



The Village is currently in the process of obtaining funding for a \$592,000 storm sewer project. Heavy rains and melting snow cause basements and garages to flood and sidewalks to deteriorate. Barb Zimnox, BHJ community development specialist, is working with Mayor Bill Liposchak on an application for a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant and the remainder from Legislative Digest funds. This funding will help alleviate a financial hardship on the village and residents.

Once before Windsor Heights faced a hardship of a little different nature. In 1928, not one house had indoor plumbing. Instead, people got their water from four or five pumps located throughout the town. In the winter, the pipes would freeze and someone would have to light a fire to get them thawed. Indoor plumbing didn't arrive until the mid-1930's. Windsor Power provided the lines and equipment, but the work had to be done by the individual residents.

Maybe applying for grant money is a little easier!!



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**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

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## Related Web Sites

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

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)

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

Hancock County Convention and Visitors Bureau  
[www.hancockcvb.com](http://www.hancockcvb.com)

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)

Progress Alliance  
[www.progressalliance.com](http://www.progressalliance.com)

State of Ohio Government Information  
[www.state.oh.us](http://www.state.oh.us)

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

State Route 2 & Interstate 68 Authority  
[www.route2andi68.com](http://www.route2andi68.com)

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

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

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

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

West Virginia Department of Transportation  
[www.wvdot.com](http://www.wvdot.com)

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