



REGIONAL REVIEW

Volume 7, Issue 1

Brooke-Hancock-Jefferson
Metropolitan Planning Commission

Winter 2006

TAC/FULL COMMISSION JANUARY ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

On January 18 both the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Full Commission elected officers for 2006.



Jim Branagan and Will Allison

Jim Branagan, Jefferson County Engineer, will assume the chairmanship for the TAC. He previously was vice-chairman and interim chairman since Dave Snelting retired from his position as the city engineer for the City of Steubenville. Will Allison, Hancock County representative to BHI, accepted the role of vice-chairman. Mr. Allison is also an officer for Full Commission and serves on the Executive Committee.



Will Allison, Ruby Greathouse, Norma Tarr and Gary Folden (l-r)

secretary – Will Allison (Hancock County Commission citizen representative) and treasurer – Ruby Greathouse (Brooke County Commission citizen representative).



For the second time, the BHI Full Commission will be chaired by Mr. Gary Folden, Jefferson County's citizen representative. Other officers elected were: vice-chairman – Norma Tarr (Brooke County Commissioner);

Outgoing chairman, Danny Greathouse (Hancock County Commissioner) was presented a plaque of appreciation. The Commission also passed a resolution of appreciation for his service to BHI.



January Full Commission Meeting

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**BHJ METROPOLITAN
PLANNING COMMISSION
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Norma Tarr, Vice Chairman
Will Allison, Secretary
Ruby Greathouse, Treasurer

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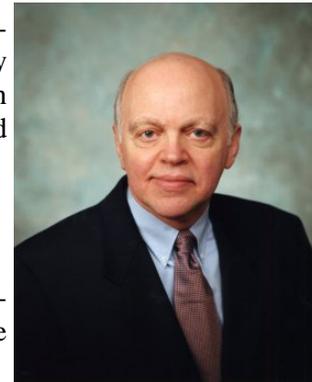
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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As a regional service provider to Brooke, Hancock and Jefferson Counties, our goal is to provide and maintain quality services to our customers. In 2005, we were successful in achieving this goal. Take a look at our services provided and hopeful impact on the regional future.



Transportation. 65% of budget.

✦ Regional Transit Study. In December 05, an interim transit study, coordinated by BHJ, proposed options to reduce cost and expand the transit service area.

✦ Ohio River Bridge Crossing. In mid-05, the West Virginia Department of Transportation solicited consultant interest in a \$1.2 million location study for a new Ohio River bridge south of Wellsburg.

✦ Contingency/Access Planning for Declining Ohio River Bridge System. On a quarterly basis, a working group of customers and state transportation planners met at Half-Moon Industrial Park to create improvements at Birch Drive and Freedom Way in Weirton and University Drive in Steubenville. The response is driven by the programmed demolition of the Ft. Steuben Bridge in 2009.

✦ Traffic Counting and Monitoring. For safety and traffic flow improvement, BHJ completed traffic counts at 68 locations in 2005.

Infrastructure Investment. 15% of budget.

BHJ retains a full-time Community Development Specialist to administer and coordinate grants for water and sewer projects in Brooke and Hancock Counties. In 2005, the design and revenue plans for two key sewer line projects, Mahan's Lane in Brooke and Route 8 in Hancock, are near completion. Estimated at \$14 million and \$20 million, these projects will enhance the quality of living and job creation in the area.

Entrepreneurial Development. 5% of budget.

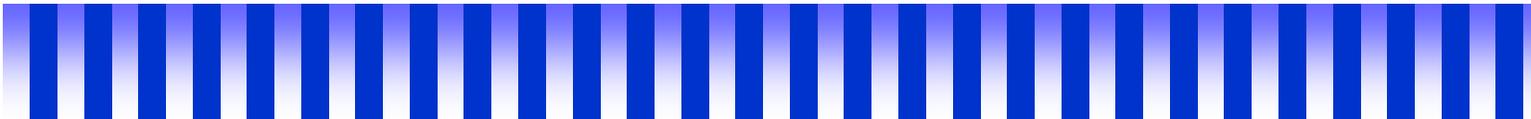
In 2005, through the coordination of BHJ and the services of a consultant, an entrepreneurial strategic plan and action plan was completed. Funded through US Economic Development Administration funds, this program creates further opportunity for small business development, the genesis of 70% of all new jobs in the US.

Brownfield Development. 5% of budget.

In early 2005, through a US Environmental Protection Agency grant, key brownfield sites were targeted and preferred development briefs were prepared for these sites.

We look forward to serving our regional customers in 2006. Through your help, support and collaboration, our region will respond to the challenges in front of us.

John Brown, AICP
jbrown@bhjmpc.org



THE CHAIRMAN'S PERSPECTIVE

GARY FOLDEN

First, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for your support and confidence in my abilities by electing me to serve as the 2006 BHI Chair. I will do my best to live up to those expectations.

The Commission has many major issues on which it must focus its attention. Of those issues, the most important continues to be the push to implement the recommendations of the Bridge Study Committee. It is extremely important that each and every political entity garner the support of their Federal and state legislators to provide the necessary funding to see these recommendations to fruition.

The Ohio Department of Transportation has made it known that the Fort Steuben Bridge is scheduled for demolition in 2009 and the West Virginia Department of Transportation indicates that the Market Street Bridge does not have much time remaining

on its life span. This puts our area in a very precarious position. The loss of the Ft. Steuben Bridge will have a serious impact on the Valley's transportation system; and without improvements to the accesses to the Veteran's Bridge, that impact will be devastating. Your influence is needed to help BHI successfully lobby for funding to upgrade the Veteran's Bridge accesses on both sides of the river. It is never too early to begin lobbying your congressmen for their help.

A second major transportation issue for our area is the U.S. Route 22 Corridor from Pittsburgh, PA to Columbus, OH. Even though that project is just beginning to appear on the extended studies, we need to keep that vital project on the radar screen. After all, we all know how quickly 20 years pass and the need for the improvements will be upon us before we realize it.

Another vital issue facing the constituents of the tri-county area is the need to foster a culture that encourages entrepreneurship throughout the area. I believe that smaller businesses are our future and we need to support the local efforts that are taking place at BHI

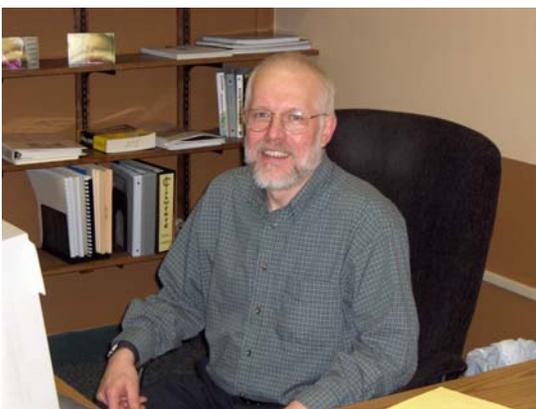
and at Progress Alliance to bring this issue to the forefront. While we cannot stop trying to attract the larger businesses, we need to realize that the local business person constitutes a vast majority of the commercial ventures in our area. If you are called upon to assist with any of these programs, I encourage you to give whatever time you can spare.

One of the duties that I feel is incumbent upon the BHI Chairman is to accompany the Executive Director to meetings with our legislators. With that in mind, Dr. John Brown and I have met with Ohio State Senator Charlie Wilson and Ohio State Representative John Domenick to discuss the vital issues with them. We have requested their support in the State House of our local funding needs. I encourage you to make contact with your legislators and Dr. Brown and I will be happy to meet with them and discuss the needs of the BHI area.

I look forward to, again, working with each of you to promote the BHI agenda in the tri-county region.

Gary R. Folden

HELLO—AGAIN



In the last issue of the *Regional Review*, we congratulated Mr. Dave Sneltling on his retirement as the city engineer for the City of Steubenville—and we said good-bye to him as the chairman for the Technical Advisory Committee for the past 18 years. In this issue we get to say hello and welcome to the BHI staff.

In late January he accepted the transportation engineer position with the agency and began work on February 7. His many years of working with transportation issues with ODOT and WVDOT is a plus for BHI.

We look forward to working with you, Dave. Welcome Aboard!

ODOT ANNOUNCES PROGRAM FOR DISADVANTAGE BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

Sharon Bennett, ODOT District 11 capital programs manager, presented a new Jobs and Progress Initiative to the BHI Full Commission that will benefit disadvantaged business enterprises (DBE). A DBE is defined by the Small Business Administration as

- ◆ A firm that is at least 51 percent owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals
- ◆ Gross receipts may not exceed \$17.4 million a year for heavy construction companies and \$4 million for consulting engineering.
- ◆ An economically disadvantaged person's net worth is no more than \$750,000, not including ownership in the company or the value of their primary personal residence.

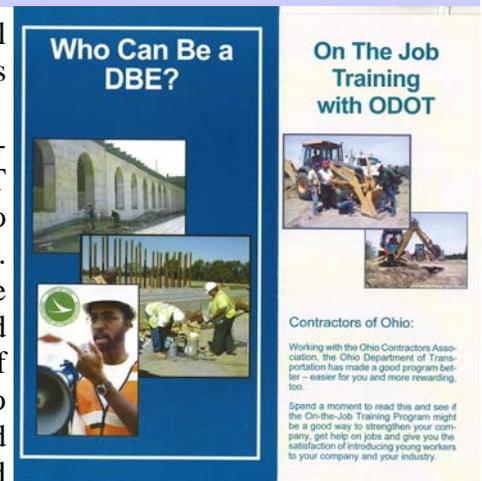
Governor Taft has set a goal of adding an additional \$5 billion to the regular construction dollars over the next ten years to improve traffic congestion, improve safety, complete major routes and reconstruct aging interstates. However, the program faces two major problems: (1) There are not enough pre-qualified disadvantaged business DBE contractors to fulfill federal requirements and (2) An ag-

ing workforce will leave contractors short of employees.

DBE is a Federal program that ODOT must participate in to receive federal funds. Currently, there are only 44 pre-qualified DBEs in the state of Ohio. In order to meet the expected demand for certified DBE contractors

needed for these projects, ODOT's is actively promoting their On the Job Trainees (OJT) Program. They are working with unions (Cement Masons, Teamsters, Laborers and Operators) as well as making presentations to high schools, trade schools and community colleges to recruit young trainees into the construction field.

For further information, contact the District 11 office at 2201 Reiser Avenue, New Philadelphia, OH 44663-3333 or call (330) 308-7856. There are also two brochures, *Who Can Be a DBE* and *On The Job Training with ODOT*, that are available to further explain the program.



Ohio Transportation Network Facts

- Ohio is 35th in geographical size, yet:**
- has 7th largest highway system
 - has 2nd largest inventory of bridges
 - has 4th largest interstate network
 - has 5th largest volume of traffic (overall)
 - has 5th largest volume of truck traffic
 - has 3rd highest in value of truck freight
 - is 4th in amount of out-bound freight
 - is 4th in amount of in-bound freight
 - 13% by value of all freight traveling in the United States has touched Ohio's transportation system

WV DOT Roadways

- Traversing mountains, valleys, wild rivers and rolling countryside, the roadways maintained by WV DOT include:**
- 37,370 miles of public roads
 - 34,610 miles of state highway
 - 88 miles of the West Virginia Turnpike
 - 549 miles of Interstate highway (out of the nation's 46,068)
 - 1,736 miles of the National Highway System (out of the nation's 158,920)
 - 6,343 bridges, of which 32 percent are more than 100 feet in length
 - 2 national and 8 state scenic byways

BHJ ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

BHJ staff welcomed members of the board and associates to the annual open house on January 27. The event was held at the BHJ office and catered by Froehlich's Classic Corner of Steubenville, OH.

Those who attended had the opportunity to network and socialize in an informal setting. It was also a chance to meet ODOT District 11 Deputy Director Jim Spain who made his first visit to BHJ



GOING BACK HOME.....



Mike Jacoby is going back home. The executive director for Progress Alliance since 2004 will be leaving his post in March to return to his hometown of Marietta. There he will assume the role of director of the Southeaster Port Authority in Washington County on March 13. He previously worked in Washington County economic development as a representative to the Ohio Department of Development

His expertise in economic development is evident especially in the Jefferson County Industrial Park. Hi influence helped put together a real-estate deal that kept 66 jobs at JBS Technologies from leaving the industrial park for Pennsylvania. The Wildfire Motors built a motor scooter and motorcycle assembly

plant that will provide approximately 50 jobs. A trucking company from the Dallas Pike area, R-Way Transport, has plans to build a new service facility and terminal. The six-year-old county industrial shell "spec" building will soon be home to QPI Tools of Cheswick, Pa.

The BHJ staff and Full Commission congratulates Mr. Jacoby on a job well done and thanks him for his accomplishments while in Jefferson County.

AREA BANKERS RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR REVITALIZATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

by Tom Timmons, Commercial Loan Officer
Sky Bank



Sky Bank increase our community commitments and involvement. We will continue to remain focused on and committed to our communities. We will continue to help the Ohio Valley benefit through our growing presence and contributions.

Sky Bank was formed in 1998 by a merger of equals between MidAm, Inc. and Citizens Bancshares. Since then, we have grown to be one of the 40 largest publicly-held bank holding companies in the nation, growing tremendously through acquisitions and organic growth.

We pride ourselves on our regional structure as a way to deliver our commitment toward partnering with the communities where we exist and supporting decision-making at the local level.

We show our dedication to the communities we serve by sponsoring many community events. We will continue to

We are focused on the future – and on helping the people and businesses in the Ohio Valley. We are actively involved in promoting economic growth in our area. We have bank officers serving on many boards and in many economic-related organizations including the Jefferson County CIC, The OMEGA Revolving Loan Board, the Jefferson County Revolving Loan Board, the Steubenville Community Reinvestment Council and Valley Ventures.

We offer commercial products which are conducive to start-up businesses as well as existing businesses including lines of credit, guidance lines of credit, letters of credit, equipment loans, equipment leases, construction loans and real estate purchase loans. We have a department which specializes solely in SBAN loans so we are committed to help all businesses with their financing needs.



WINTER 2006 EVENTS

March 7	BHJ Executive Committee Meeting	Noon
March 13-15	ARC Conference Washington DC	
March 22	TAC Full Commission	10:30 a.m. Noon
April 14	Good Friday—Office Closed	Noon
May 2	BHJ Executive Committee	Noon
May 17	TAC Full Commission	10:30 a.m. Noon
June 14	Annual Awards Luncheon Froehlich's Classic Corner	Noon—2:00

COMMUNITY PROFILE

June 4 is a significant date for one community nestled along the banks of the Ohio River. It was on that date in 1906 an application for a charter was granted, and the City of Follansbee was born.

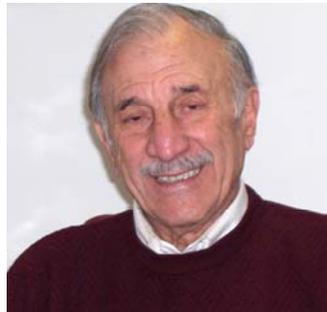
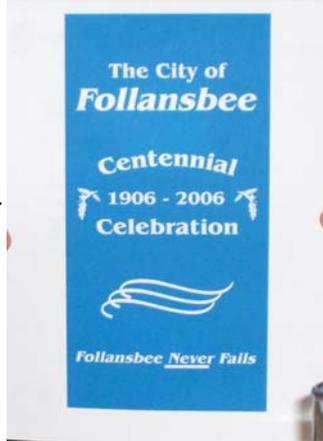
Originally called “Old Mingo Bottom,” it was inhabited by the Mingo Indians until 1768 when under the terms of a treaty signed between the Six Great Nations of Indians and the English settlers, they were forced to move across the Ohio River to what is now known as Mingo Junction.

The English settlers who had been forced out during the French and Indian War were now able to return. One settler, Isaac Cox, made “formal entry” on the land, but later transferred all of his rights to John Decker. In 1774, the Indian massacres were numerous and many of the forts along the river fell into their hands. Mr. Decker built a fort constructed of logs and stone which was the site of many Indian conflicts. A plaque denoting the area can be found on Main Street.

In 1903, T.J. and H.B. Mahan were the owners of an orchard located between the areas of Wellsburg and Steubenville (on the Ohio side) and across the river from Mingo Junction. Located in the bottom lands, it attracted the attention of the Follansbee Brothers. They were searching for a site for a tin mill and steel plant, and so they bought three hundred acres of the orchard, known as “Mahan’s Station.” Skilled workers, many of whom were of Welsh extraction, were drawn to the area and built an entire community.

From that time on, Follansbee established itself as a manufacturing center. With the steady development of business, the area became a “melting pot for labor” as described by the City’s mayor, Anthony Paesano.

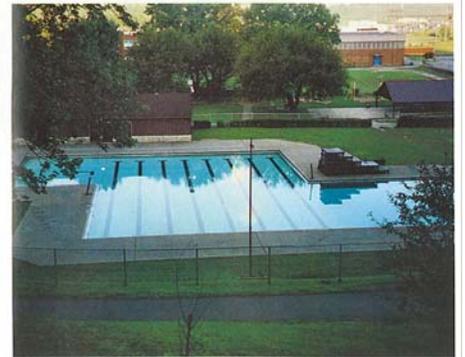
Mayor Paesano said, too, that just as infrastructure was the big issue 100 years ago, so it is today. Those early days saw many businesses develop, such as the S. Keighly



Metal Ceiling and Manufacturing Company, the Jefferson Glass Company and the Union Lumber Company. Today, the City is in the process developing a 17 acre site with expectations of the first business locating there in the spring. Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel donated approximately 30 acres for the development of a sports complex. A Main Street Committee is actively pursuing plans for a streetscape project for downtown that will make it conducive to encourage businesses to move in.

The City is proud of its heritage and proud of its citizens. They have a history of working together and taking care of each other as evidenced all through the years in their development. In fact, Mayor Paesano says the City’s mission statement is, “Enhance the quality of life for our citizens.” There are many social activities and places to gather offered to the residents.

The Follansbee Park, which the Mayor refers to as the City’s “Crown Jewel,” was built with stone taken from State Route 2. The workers were paid 25 cents an hour. Today it is the site of many community activities including an annual summer picnic during Community Days which is absolutely free to the citizens.



Sponsored by the Follansbee Garibaldi Lodge, a fraternal organization established in 1928 by Italian immigrants who worked in the mill, the Garibaldi Festival is a highlight of the summer. The Follansbee Senior Citizens offers a place for its seniors to gather and socialize.

With the upcoming celebration of its 100 year anniversary, many more activities are being planned for this summer including a series of concerts, an ecumenical prayer breakfast and a family picnic. (A complete schedule of activities will be included in the next edition of the *Regional Review*.)

As the City strives to pursue their vision of economic and recreational development, we congratulate them on their many successes in their first one hundred years. Happy Birthday, Follansbee!



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Related Web Sites

Appalachian Regional Commission
www.arc.gov

Brooke Pioneer Trail Assoc. Inc
www.brookepioneertrail.org

**Business Development Corporation of the
Northern Panhandle**
www.bhbdc.org

CHANGE, Inc.
www.changeinc.org

City of Steubenville
www.ci.steubenville.oh.us

Hancock County Convention and Visitors Bureau
www.hancockcvb.com

Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce
www.jeffersoncountychamber.com

Ohio Department of Transportation
www.dot.state.oh.us

Progress Alliance
www.progressalliance.com

State of Ohio Government Information
www.state.oh.us

State of West Virginia Government Info.
www.state.wv.us

State Route 2 & Interstate 68 Authority
www.route2andi68.com

U.S. Census Bureau
www.census.gov

U.S. Department of Transportation
www.dot.gov

Village of Wintersville
www.wintersville.net

Weirton Chamber of Commerce
www.weirtonchamber.com

West Virginia Department of Transportation
www.wvdot.com

West Virginia Development Office
www.wvdo.org