BHJ-MPC
Brooke Hancock Jefferson
Metropolitan Planning Commission

REGIONAL REVIEW

Volume 17, Issue 2

April 2016

In This Issue

Page 1
Timmons Elected Chairman

Page 2
From the Executive Director

Page 3
Wellsburg Bridge
BHJ Open House

Page 4
New Intern
Auditor of State Award

Page 5
Coalition Task Force Recognized
Lovers Lane Roundabout

Page 6—7
BAD Buildings Program

Page 8
Meeting Calendar

TOM TIMMONS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE BHJ POLICY BOARD

The BHJ Technical Advisory and Full Commission elected officers for 2016 at the organizational meeting on January 27. Along with Chairman Tom Timmons, Mayor Linda McNeil (New Cumberland) was elected vice-chairman, Mayor Sue Simonetti (Wellsburg) secretary and Commissioner Jim Andreozzi (Brooke County) treasurer.

Outgoing Chairman Mark Henne (former Wellsburg city manager and currently assistant manager at the Weirton Transit Corporation) was presented a plaque in appreciation of his service. In addition, a resolution acknowledging his contribution to the agency was passed. Mr. Henne thanked the Commission for their support and said he is proud of the progress that has been made on the new bridge and brownfields.

From left to right: Mike Paprocki, BHJ executive director; Mark Henne, 2015 outgoing chairman and Tom Timmons 2016 chairman.

The Technical Advisory Committee met prior to the Full Commission and re-elected Bob Laukert (representative for the Village of Wintersville) as chairman. Mike Dolak (City of Steubenville engineer) was elected vice-chairman.

BHJ Metropolitan Planning Commission Officers—2016

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

Staff

MichaelParocki
Executive Director
mikepap@bhjmpc.org

Rhonda Howell
Finance Manager
rhowell@bhjmpc.org

Mary Moore, Receptionist
mmoore@bhjmpc.org

Nicholas Orsay
Sr. Transportation Planner
norsay@bhjmpc.org

David T. Snelting
Transportation Engineer
dsnelting@bhjmpc.org

Tyler Steinway
Intern
tsteinway@bhjmpc.org

Linda Taylor
Office Manager/Rideshare
ltaylor@bhjmpc.org

Barb Zimnox, Sr. Community Development Specialist
bzimnox@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

From The Executive Director

On May 25, 2016, the BHJ Technical Advisory Committee and Transportation Study Policy Committee will consider adoption of the Region's 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Update. The plan must first be fiscally constrained by the fiscal parameters provided by both the Ohio and West Virginia Departments of Transportation and second, meet BHJ's goals and objectives.

The Plan also will consider all modes of transportation, road, water, rail, and transit, as well as performance factors such as safety, pavement conditions, and movement of freight. The integration of all possible modes of transportation is vitally important for the future growth and development of the region. As our transportation evolves, we will continue, along with our state and federal partners, to grapple with fundamental funding and environmental constraints. It has become increasingly important to make the most efficient use of the entire transportation system.

Two areas of concern present major challenges. First is the major downturn and shutter of our steel industry and the shift to an energy production economy through oil and natural gas. Our regional freight and commuter travel patterns are uncertain. Although most of the drilling and fracking activity in Marcellus and Utica Shale is taking place along the fringes of our BHJ area, the majority of the freight movements for support services occur in Brooke, Hancock, and Jefferson counties. These movements include storage and delivery of piping and drill casings, as well as railroad to truck transloading of sand and water necessary for the fracking process. The downturn in the steel industry in specific, also presents new economic prospects through brownfield redevelopment in areas such as Beech Bottom, Follansbee, Mingo Junction, Steubenville, Tiltonsville, Weirton, and Yorkville.

Secondly, with the eventual completion of the Wellsburg Bridge over the Ohio River, the Veterans Memorial Bridge Access Improvements, and the uncertainty of the Market Street Bridge after the new bridge is open to traffic, it is difficult to predict future travel patterns after 2020.

The plan update will consider many projects that the TAC and Policy Committee have been discussing in detail over the last several years. Namely, improved travel conditions on West Virginia State Route 2; slope repair and widening of the state highway between Beech Bottom and Wellsburg in Brooke County and relocating WV-2 on a new alignment in Hancock County through New Cumberland. Other projects include the redesign of the intersection of Birch Drive and Freedom Way in Weirton at the Half Moon Industrial Park, reconstruction and resurfacing of South Commercial Avenue in Mingo Junction, and realignment of OH-43 in the south end of Amsterdam, OH.

I hope you find our newsletter enlightening and appreciate the hard work of our staff as much as I sincerely do. Once again, I look forward to your continued support for a productive and prosperous future.

Your faithful and humble servant

Michael J. Paprocki

Good News for the New Wellsburg Bridge

BHJ staff has made multiple requests to the Ohio Transportation Review Advisory Committee to obtain funding for the Wellsburg Bridge. Late in 2015 Mike Paprocki, executive director, Dave Snelting, transportation engineer, and Nick Orsay, senior transportation planner, once again traveled to Columbus to make their case. Those efforts paid off. In January Lloyd MacAdam, ODOT district deputy director made the announcement at a news conference held at the BHJ office that $37 million in funding had been approved. Mr. MacAdam said funding for the Wellsburg Bridge was the largest award granted by TRAC. West Virginia's share of the more than $130 million project is $93 million.

Lloyd MacAdam
ODOT District Deputy Director

Construction, which will be managed by West Virginia, is expected to take approximately three years. ODOT will be responsible for building the connections to the Ohio side of the bridge at Brilliant, as well as the portion of the bridge that extends to the West Virginia border, near the Ohio side of the river.

Requests for qualifications for design and construction were due March 15. After review and evaluation, three contractors were selected as announced by WVDOT Secretary Paul Mattox in late March. The three chosen are the American Bridge Co. of Coraopolis, PA; Flatiron Constructors, Inc. of Broomfield, CO and Walsh Construction Company of Chicago. The contractors are permitted to submit the design they believe will be the most cost-feasible within the guidelines as set by WVDOT. Bids will be opened July 26, 2016.

Construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2017 and estimated to be completed by July 2020.

BHJ Open House April 20, 2016 to Review the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Update

BHJ will host an open house from 11-2 on Wednesday, April 20 at the BHJ office located at 124 North Fourth Street (second floor), Steubenville, OH. The public will have the opportunity to review and comment on the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Update.

The Plan will then be presented for adoption to the Technical Advisory Committee and Full Commission at the May 25 meeting. The Plan must be fiscally constrained using the fiscal parameters provided through both the Ohio and West Virginia Departments of Transportation.

The update includes many projects that have been discussed in detail over the last year.

Mike Paprocki, BHJ executive director, says that two areas of concern present a major challenge in developing the Plan. First is the major downturn and shutter of the steel industry and the shift to an energy production economy through oil and natural gas. The second is the completion of the Wellsburg Bridge, the Veterans Memorial Bridge access improvements and the uncertainty of the Market Street Bridge once the new bridge is open to traffic.

Tyler Steinway

Tyler Steinway, a second year Urban Planning major from the University of Cincinnati, began his internship with BHJ in January and will be here until May. This is the first of five internships that he will complete through the University's co-op (cooperative education) program.

Tyler is proving to be a productive part of the agency. He has completed some of the mapping for the Long Range Plan. He also updated the Brownfield inventory map and created an online map application for the public to view. In addition, he completed the mapping for the Weirton Transit Corporation and Steel Valley Regional Transit Authority bus routes. Most of the projects he has worked on for BHJ involve some form of GIS mapping.

Tyler comes from a really close knit family. His best friend is his brother Steven who is a Fine Art major at the University of Cincinnati. His mother is an administrative assistant for multiple orthopedic surgeons at the University of Cincinnati hospital and his father manages a warehouse for a political sign company.

His hobbies are many. Tyler says he love the outdoors and the mountains. He loves hiking, backpacking, camping and really anything in nature. He also likes to snowboard in the winter and skateboard in the summer. He has a dream of going on long backcountry snowboarding expeditions in remote locations such as Japan, Chile, and Alaska. He enjoys making and listening to music with friends. He is also a craft beer enthusiast.

When asked what his future plans are, Tyler said "I really want to work with the National Park service or an organization like that to help preserve nature and wild habitats. I would like to think I am an environmentalist and want to push for more sustainable infrastructure and fight against climate change. I could also see myself doing community development work helping underprivileged people get affordable housing and help the fight against gentrification. Lastly, being a huge skateboard fan I would love to be an urban designer that could create safe spots for people to skate and come together as a community."

AUDITOR OF STATE AWARD

The Brooke-Hancock-Jefferson Metropolitan Planning Commission has received the Auditor of State award from the state Auditor's Office for returning a clean audit report for the third consecutive year.

Entities that receive the award must have filed their financial reports in a timely manner to the state Auditor's Office, with no findings of questioned costs or other deficiencies and no comments related to ethics referrals, public meetings or records or other issues.

Headed by executive directors John Brown or Mike Paprocki over the last three years, BHJ employs Rhonda Howell as its finance manager. The audit report is available for inspection at the finance manager's office or the Federal Audit Clearinghouse website.

EPA Recognizes the Coalition Task Force

The tri-county area was dealt a blow this past year when the Federal government denied the area's Ohio and West Virginia applications for $800,000 in 2015. Out of that disappointment and believing the region is actually one economic area separated only by the Ohio River, the Coalition Task Force, comprised of BHJ, the Business Development Corporation of the Northern Panhandle, Jefferson County Regional Planning and the Jefferson County Port Authority, was born. The group was recently recognized by the EPA for the positive strides they have made in addressing the brownfields in our region.

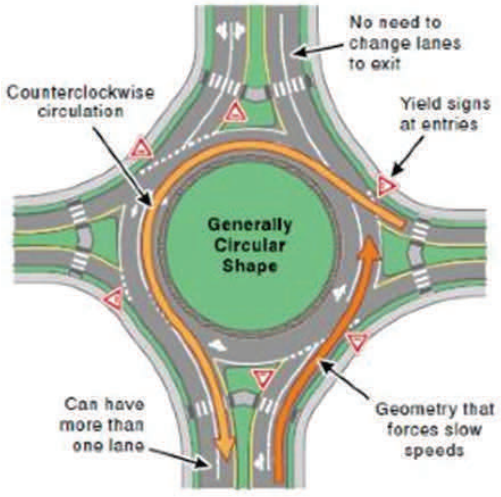
The Task Force is the focus of a U.S. EPA-produced video highlighting the partnerships that are leading to redevelopment of old industrial sites. At a recent meeting, the task force saw a five-minute version of the video which includes Michael Paprocki, BHJ executive director, Pat Ford, executive director of Business Development Corp. of the Northern Panhandle and Hancock County Commissioner Jeff Davis. The video features the efforts to rehabilitate several sites including the old TS&T pottery in Chester, the Beech Bottom Industrial Park (the former Wheeling Corrugating plant) and the old Brooke Glass property in Wellsburg. The longer version of the video is being used as a training tool in EPA offices across the nation.

You can view the short version by going to http://nrcce.wvu.edu/uncategorized/new-epa-brownfields-videos-highlight-w-va-partnerships-and-projects/. The long version features additional interviews with Patrick Kirby, director of the Northern West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center, Patricia Hickman, director of Land Restoration at WVDEP and others.

Lovers Lane Roundabout Will Soon be a Reality

When Lovers Lane was built back in the 1920s there was no expectation it would carry the amount of traffic that it receives today. With a narrow width of 19 feet curb to curb it can be hard to navigate. This is especially evidenced when people are trying to turn left onto Fort Steuben Drive during peak hours. You cannot go around the driver turning causing traffic to back up. This has been a growing problem for quite some time and it is finally getting fixed.

The City of Steubenville has desired to make improvements to this road for several years but it has only created political controversy. Originally the plan was to widen the road very minimally to put in a turn lane but the residents opposed this idea because they feared that it will increase the volume of traffic and encourage higher rates of speed. In 2008, the City of Steubenville decided to hire a consulting firm to develop an Improvement Concept Plan. After doing research, three solutions were proposed:



Unlike this example, the Lovers Lane Roundabout will have just three entries.

- Widen the road and create a southbound turn lane and increase the corner turn radii for right turn
- Install a traffic signal
- Construct a roundabout at the intersection

After careful consideration, it was determined that although the first suggestion addresses the traffic flow problem in the southbound direction, it creates a sight distance problem for the people turning left out of Fort Steuben Drive. The second suggestion is a viable solution, but there is concern that a traffic signal is not an appropriate traffic control device for this area. Suggestion three, considered the best solution, not only addresses the concern about traffic speeds but also solves the congestion problem caused by the lack of a southbound left turn lane.

What is the Bad Building Program?

(All information is taken from the BAD Buildings Program website wvbrownfields.org/tag/**bad-buildings-program**)

The BAD (Brownfield, Abandoned, Dilapidated) Buildings Program is a West Virginia statewide initiative that provides technical assistance and site analysis tools to enhance abandoned and dilapidated building programs in WV communities. Failure to address BAD Buildings imposes severe social and economic costs on neighborhoods. This program helps to identify, prioritize, and redevelop such buildings.

The BAD Buildings Model and resources support West Virginia communities with limited local capacity and no abandoned/dilapidated buildings program. Applications for the technical assistance provided through the program are accepted annually, however our website (wvbadbuildings.org) provides a wealth of resources that can be used by any community at all stages of project development.

Program Definitions

A BAD Buildings Team is a volunteer team comprised of local citizens, elected officials, and other stakeholders. This Team will conduct the BAD Buildings survey and inventory as well as decide upon the future direction and efforts it will take to address targeted BAD Buildings.

A BAD Buildings Survey is a preliminary visual survey of all properties within the target area to identify potential BAD Buildings. Additional site research will be conducted to determine if specific properties are abandoned, vacant, or dilapidated and should be added to the BAD Buildings Inventory, which is the compilation of all properties surveyed and researched.

The BAD Buildings Program includes tools to help communities address properties that are brownfields (properties with real or perceived environmental contaminants), abandoned (owner has given up responsibility for the property), vacant (owner does not occupy/cannot find tenants for the property), or dilapidated (properties with significant aesthetic or structural impairments).

Teams create a BAD Buildings Redevelopment Plan which includes a complete BAD Buildings Inventory as well as the identification of prioritized, high value properties for targeted redevelopment. The Plan includes specific next steps to begin addressing the BAD Buildings, such as the creation of owner outreach, marketing, and prevention strategies. The plan also identifies key team leaders who will lead the project going forward to implement the strategies and continuation of redevelopment efforts

There are five principles of the BAD Buildings Program

- The Program prepares property for reuse and reintroduction into the local market.
- Local teams use a transparent and efficient process to identify, evaluate, and prioritize buildings targeted for demolition, deconstruction, or rehabilitation.
- Local stakeholders determine priority criteria in order to most efficiently use limited resources targeted toward sites that will have the highest redevelopment impact.
- An effective local effort includes all stakeholders throughout each step of the process.
- An engaged and supportive local municipal government plays a vital role in the success

Bad Building Projects: Hancock County

◄*Before & After*—
Located in Weirton, WV

The two houses in Chester have been identified by a city task group along with 15 other structures as in need of work or demo. Letters are being sent to the owners stating the groups concern and inviting the owners to join the group to see how the issues with the house can be addressed.

►

Property in New Cumberland the BDC owns and plans to demo. It was purchased at auction with the intent to clean up.

►

And in Brooke County

Wellsburg Mayor Sue Simonetti said, "We are working with the URA to develop specific plans. As of now our main goal is to get properties cleaned up. There are 56 properties that our Urban Redevelopment Authority has identified as dilapidated buildings."

This burned out gas station is located at 1429 Commerce Street in Wellsburg, WV.

The owners of the station are working with Wellsburg's URA.

Riverview School

This property, owned by the BDC, is located on 5th & High Street in Wellsburg, WV.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

Another property being targeted is the GenPack Building located at 18th & Charles Street also in Wellsburg.

BHJ-MPC
Brooke Hancock Jefferson Metropolitan Planning Commission

Volume 17
Issue 2

REGIONAL REVIEW

BHJ Meeting Calendar

April 20	Joint Meeting of TAC & Full Commission	Noon
May 2	Executive Committee Meeting	Noon
May 18	TAC Meeting Full Commission B-H Regional Council	10:30 Noon 4:30
June 6	Executive Committee Meeting	Noon
June 8	Brooke-Hancock Brownfield Task Force	Noon

Appalachian Regional Commission
www.arc.gov

Brooke County Economic Development Authority
www.brookewv.org

Brooke Pioneer Trail Assoc. Inc
www.brookepioneertrail.org

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

CHANGE, Inc.
www.changeinc.org

CommuteInfo
www.commuteinfo.org

Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce
www.jeffersoncountychamber.com

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

State of Ohio Government Information
www.ohio.gov

State of West Virginia Government Info.
www.wv.gov

Steubenville, City of
www.cityofsteubenville.us

Top of WV Convention and Visitors Bureau
www.topofwv.com

U.S. Census Bureau
www.census.gov

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

U.S. Economic Development Administration
www.commerce.gov

Weirton Chamber of Commerce
www.weirtonchamber.com

Weirton, City of
www.cityofweirton.com

West Virginia Department of Transportation
www.transportation.wv.gov.

West Virginia Development Office
www.wvdo.org

Wintersville, Village of
www.wintersville.net

WORKFORCE
www.info@npworkforceww.org