



REGIONAL REVIEW

Volume 14, Issue 2

Brooke-Hancock-Jefferson
Metropolitan Planning Commission

Summer 2013

MR. FROGGY SAYS, "SAVE MONEY—SHARE THE RIDE!"



You can always find hints on how to save money on your cable bill, electric, food, etc. There are ways to save on your transportation costs as well—leave your car at home and either vanpool or carpool, ride the bus—or bike it!

May is Commute Options Awareness Month, and for the fifth year consecutive year FROGGY Radio 103.5 did a live action broadcast to promote ridesharing. This year's event was held at Sheetz on Three Springs Drive in Weirton. Sheetz generously donated angus hamburgers to the first 103 people who stopped by.

FROGGY gave away t-shirts and cd's and everyone had a chance to spin the

birthday wheel to win \$103 if it fell on the correct birthday.

Commute Info Program Developer Lisa Kay Schweyer said, "Five people registered on site. It was one of the biggest LAB's (Live Action Broadcasts)." She also said, "It's hard to know who took information, thought about it and registered later."

According to the latest report available, there are currently 59 vans in operation. Eight of those originate from the Steubenville-Weirton area with 74 participants. There are also three carpools with eight participants.

Interested in saving money and having a stress-free option to get to work? You can either complete a "[Commuter Profile](#)" online at www.commuteinfo.org or by calling the toll-free phone number:

1-888-819-6110



IN THIS ISSUE

FROGGY Live Action Broadcast	1
From the Executive Director	2
BHJ FY 2014 Overall Work Program & Budget Approved	3
Construction Season	4
Brooke County in the Past	5
Scio, OH—Utica Shale Hotspot	6
Good-Bye WV Rail Plan Public Meeting	7
Calendar of Events	8

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Wittingly, on July 1st, I walked into our Finance Manager's office and wished her a "Happy New Year." Indeed, our new fiscal year, the basis for our program planning and financial management, had arrived once again with the closing of the books on June 30th. So, appropriately, this newsletter summarizes our adopted Work Program and Budget for the upcoming year. Similar to many organizations, health care has and will be a driving budgetary consideration. The BHJ Finance Committee wisely spent considerable review time on this matter and continues to monitor projections as they move toward reality.



In addition, we've reviewed the growing interest in commuter van pooling and ridesharing and how it's provided convenience and a cost saving difference. To supplement this program in the upcoming year, both the Ohio and West Virginia Department of Transportation will construct/improve Park and Ride Lots at Ohio 213/US 22 and Harmon Creek Road/US 22.

In the case of Jefferson County, Ohio Route 7, a long-standing landslide location, is literally under siege with project investments. The illustrated Rush Run photograph, taken at a usually inaccessible perch, reveals the unfolding of a \$22 million investment. Thanks to the Ohio Department of Transportation for this absorbing photograph.

Finally, on May 22nd at the BHJ Commission meeting, a representative from the Genesee and Wyoming (G&W) Railroad opened our eyes to the pending impact of private shale investment. The Village of Scio with a population of 763 and located in Harrison County has instantly become a key transportation hub. Through G&W's investment, 10,000 carloads of natural gas liquids are expected to be distributed annually. The rail company constructed a mile-long train siding and renewed a three-mile stretch of storage track to create this hub. To BHJ, this improvements footnotes the essential need for infrastructure, whether public or private, to move product. While other countries such as China have natural gas reserves, they do not have the interior highway or rail investment to create a financially sound bottom line.

John C. Brown

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FY 2014 OVERALL WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET APPROVED

On May 22nd, the BHJ Governing Board upon the recommendation of its Executive and Finance Committees adopted BHJ's *Overall Work Program (OWP) and Fiscal Year 2014 Budget*. The Budget is a combination of the Brooke-Hancock-Jefferson Metropolitan Planning Organization (BHJ) and the Brooke-Hancock Regional Planning and Development Council (BH) expenditures and programs. BH, as a regional council, is referenced as a planning body in the State of West Virginia Code and comprises representatives from Brooke County and Hancock County and the incorporated communities of Beech Bottom, Bethany, Chester, Follansbee, New Cumberland, Weirton, Wellsburg and Windsor Heights.

Over four months, with considerable dialogue and review, the BHJ Finance Committee led by BHJ Chair Marvin Six exchanged ideas and options for the forthcoming fiscal year. While programs and the delivery of services were key review issues (See listing below), characteristic to many upcoming budgets, the question and prediction of health care costs was a forefront issue. From January through April, BHJ staff attended multiple public health care forums and interviewed health care vendors to obtain projections. The BHJ Finance Committee intends to revisit this issue as projections move toward our fall renewal period.

Key projects for Fiscal Year 2014 are as follows. In most cases, BHJ is a lead partner or collaborative resource to complete these projects.

- To initiate the preliminary design of a **new Ohio River Bridge** between Brilliant, OH, and Wellsburg, WV.
- To complete final design plans for the projected \$14 million **access improvements at Veterans Bridge**. Project construction is expected in summer 2014.
- To coordinate a Regional Access **Mobility Partnership Program**, a locally coordinated transit program. With the coordinative effort of nine public and private transit providers, this program promises cost savings and further transit access for users.
- To collect and disseminate **traffic counting information**. In Fiscal Year 2013, BHJ completed counts at 423 locations. This activity provides a factual and objective building block to alter or construct highway, bridge and road improvements.
- To develop and maintain a **geographic information system (GIS)** and other transportation-related models to advance BHJ's *Long Range Transportation Plan* and fiscally constrained four-year capital improvement program.
- To provide commuter information and services through **CommuteInfo**, a partnership of management agencies, businesses and non-profits in Southwestern Pennsylvania and the BHJ Region.
- To monitor and participate in the **Jefferson County Community Investment Plan**. Acclaimed by the Ohio Department of Development as a roadmap for local county priority setting, this Plan continues to evolve and set a course for future investments.
- To initiate construction of **Phase II of the Mahans Lane-Eldersville Road Sewer Project** in Brooke County.
- To support the Business Development Corporation of the Northern Panhandle (BDC) in its implementation of priority recommendations from the **Brooke-Hancock strategic action plan**. To complete final design plans for the projected \$14 million **access improvements at Veterans Bridge**. Construction is expected in summer 2014.



The Board of Directors for the Business Development Corporation of the Northern Panhandle (BDC) pose with West Virginia Governor Earl Ray Tomlin at the Taylor, Smith and Taylor Brownfield site. November 2012.

CONSTRUCTION SEASON IS LAUNCHED!



Work is progressing on the \$22 million SR 7 landslide repair project at Rush Run in Jefferson County.

Photo by Adam Lytton, District 11 construction project engineer

In the April edition of ODOT District 11's quarterly newspaper, Becky Giaque, District Communications, wrote that one of the largest, most aggressive construction seasons to date has been launched with projects totaling approximately \$2.3 billion. Work will take place this summer on nearly 1,000 projects across the state. District 11 will invest \$145 million on 78 projects this season including the \$22 million landslide repair project at Rush Run in Jefferson County. Additional projects in the region include: • 26 resurfacing projects to pave 185 miles of highway • 21 bridge/culvert projects • 7 slide repairs • 4 safety improvements • 10 maintenance projects • 2 facilities projects • 3 enhancement projects • 5 local projects.

"Investing in our state's transportation system is vital to our economy and to job creation," said ODOT Director Jerry Wray. "We work hard to establish and maintain an efficient, effective transportation system that gets people and goods where they want to go in a timely and safe manner."

ODOT's robust construction schedule consists of an impressive 996 projects, including work on 10 mega projects, each totaling more than \$50 million.

Windsor

Beech Bottom



Welcome to

Brooke County

West Virginia

Follansbee

Wellsburg

Bethany

Thanks to Ruby Greathouse of the Brooke County Museum for the following article:

Located in the Northern Panhandle of West Virginia, Brooke County is at 92.8 square miles, among the smallest counties in the state. Brooke County was established under an act of the General Assembly of Virginia, passed November 30, 1796. The first county court meeting was held in Wellsburg, known as Charlestown at the time, on May 23, 1797. The county was formed from part of Ohio County and named in honor of Robert Brooke, governor of Virginia (1794–96). Brooke County was the 11th county created in the area that was to become West Virginia. It extended to the northernmost tip of the panhandle until 1848, when Hancock County was created from the northern half of Brooke.

Although there was Indian activity in the county, not much has been recorded. Richard “Greybeard” Wells erected a fort in northeastern Brooke County and maintained good relations with the natives. In contrast, in 1774, Daniel Greathouse and Joseph Tomlinson plus about 30 others massacred all of an Indian encampment, except for a little girl they kept as a prisoner. The dead were of Chief Logan’s family and tribe, including Logan’s sister. Logan, who bitterly memorialized the event in his famous speech, retaliated in a bloody campaign against white settlers, a precipitating factor in Dunmore’s War.

Three prehistoric mounds were located at Beech Bottom, and one was found in what is now Follansbee. The last white man killed in Brooke County by the Indians was John Decker.

Indian trails, military roads, and the Ohio River served Brooke’s early transportation needs, and by the 1870s the Pennsylvania Railroad’s main line crossed east to west through Brooke County, on its way to St. Louis. The north-to-south Panhandle Railroad (now gone) made its first run February 28, 1878.

Brooke County is situated in the busy Ohio Valley. Between 1790 and the 1850s, the principal activities were agriculture, small specialty industries, some mining, and transportation. Gristmills ground local grain, and flour became a leading product, shipped on the Ohio River to New Orleans and elsewhere. The glass industry has one of the oldest continuous histories, beginning in the county in 1813. Coal mining started on a relatively small scale in the late 19th century and boomed in the 20th century, changing the face of the county. Coal, the river, and available flat bottomland brought steel, electricity, and chemicals to Brooke County. Today Brooke produces sheet metal and tin containers, plastic containers, coal, paper bags, tar and chemicals, electric power, glass and glassware, dairy products, and fruit. Sheet steel and tin plate plants and allied industries are located at Beech Bottom and Follansbee.

The Brooke County public library is in Wellsburg, with a branch in Follansbee. Brooke County’s historical museum is in Wellsburg, housed in a structure built in 1795. The county is home to Bethany College, which was established in 1840 by Alexander Campbell, a theologian, author, and founder of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Two of West Virginia’s 15 National Historic Landmarks are located at Bethany, the Campbell Mansion and Old Main at Bethany College.

Brooke County has a long and proud past, with many old family names still represented in the area. Efforts are being made to preserve the past for the future. A high percentage of the county’s structures were constructed in the 1800s, and some are still standing from the 1790s, leading one to believe that those who built here intended to stay for a long time.

SCIO, OHIO IS A HOT SPOT FOR UTICA SHALE

At the BHJ Full Commission meeting on May 22, John Murray, Assistant Vice President for Sales and Marketing for the Ohio Central Railroad/ A. Genessee & Wyoming Inc. Company, provided an update to the company's expected May completion of rail service to the Scio/Harrison County natural gas liquids fractionation hub. Executive Director John Brown said that although the Scio project is outside BHJ's boundaries, it is an interesting case study for the BHJ members. He said the rail expansion is a "great example of how many trucks you can take off the roads, thereby reducing the enormous wear and tear on state, county and township roads."

Mr. Murray said completion of the Columbus & Ohio River Rail Road Co.'s mile-long siding to the new natural gas processing, fractionation, loading facility and terminal in Scio can be a game-changer for eastern Ohio. He said the rail line, in its final stages of construction, will be "a very efficient means of moving a lot of product into and out of the area." He further added, "It will have minimal impact, yet help bring about economic development of the shale play."

The Columbus and Ohio River Rail Road Co., or CUOH, signed a long-term agreement in December to serve the Scio plant, which is expected to ship 10,000 carloads of natural gas liquids annually. The plant, billed as the largest integrated midstream service complex in Eastern Ohio and the short-line holding company's largest U.S. customer, should be operational next month. "(It's) going to be key to increased drilling," said Mr. Murray

The Scio plant will work in conjunction with a state-of-the-art cryogenics processing plant in Kensington, Columbiana County, which will strip the natural gas liquids and ship them via pipeline to Scio. Both are owned by Utica East Ohio Buckeye, a three-company partnership making a \$900 million investment in natural gas facilities in Eastern Ohio.

"You can't get product to market without this facility, this is key," Murray said, pointing out Chesapeake alone has more than a hundred wells drilled and capped in the region. "They're waiting for this facility."

The Scio site was chosen because of its proximity to the liquids-rich Utica shale, key natural gas pipelines and CUOH, parent company Genessee & Wyoming said. Murray said CUOH will be working closely with Utica East Ohio Buckeye going forward to "make sure our capacity is there to handle their business."

Murray said the short line to the Scio plant and Newark expansion "are not the end" of the company's investment in Eastern Ohio, which already has seen new jobs created and millions pumped into the local economy during the construction process. He also pointed out that any development tied to the oil and gas industry will invariably help the railroad's longstanding customer base, which includes companies like Colgate-Palmolive and Pepsi Cola bottling. "All our customers will benefit from the increased infrastructure investment," he said.

"(It's) probably just the beginning. We're volume driven: The more business that comes to the railroad, the more people we'll hire, the more infrastructure we'll add. I fully expect to see employees and infrastructure added as our volumes increase."

(Information obtained from Marcellus Drilling News and Steubenville Herald Star)

QUICK FACT:

Utica Shale takes the name from the city of Utica, New York, as it was first described as an outcrop along the Starch Factory Creek east of the city by Ebenezer Emmons in 1842.

GOOD-BYE SHAWN



Saying good-bye is hard and especially when it's to a favorite co-worker.

Shawn Price, BHJ's senior engineering technician resigned from his position effective June 21. He came to BHJ almost 14 years ago in October 1999. He was newly married (in fact, he accepted the job while on his honeymoon) and eager to begin a new career.

A graduate of Jefferson Community College with an Associate Degree in Applied Business, Computer Information Systems in 1997, Shawn's responsibilities at BHJ were many. They included the update and maintenance of the regional traffic forecasting model and other specialized transportation software. He collected and analyzed demographic data relating to regional development and transportation planning and kept Census information related to the BHJ region updated. He maintained the GIS system and created maps upon request. In addition, Shawn developed and maintained the BHJ website, www.bhjmpc.org.

While working full-time at BHJ, Shawn earned a Bachelors Degree in Technical Management in 2009 from DeVry University.

Upon leaving, Shawn said, "Its been a fun one, learned a lot about government and politics and how things are done. Lets hope my next adventure will be just as fun and rewarding. " We wish you well, Shawn!

WEST VIRGINIA RAIL PLAN PUBLIC MEETING IN WEIRTON



On July 24 (Wednesday) from 5:30 to 7:00 at the Millsop Center in Weirton, the West Virginia State Rail Authority will hold an informational public meeting to help prepare a Statewide Rail Plan. A formal presentation will commence at 6:00 and staff will be on hand to present information and receive public comment.

The Statewide Rail Plan is the Plan for the future of freight and passenger service in the State. The Plan is an important first step in charting a direction for freight and passenger rail in the State for the next 20 - 30 years. For further information, please contact the BHJ Office (304-797-9666).

Norfolk Southern rail line on BHJ's east bank, a key freight connector between Wellsburg and Chester.



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Planning Commission**

Summer2013

SPRING/SUMMER CALENDAR

August 5	Executive Committee	Noon
August 22	B-H Regional Council Meeting	4:30
September 2	Labor Day—BHJ Office Closed	
September 9	Executive Committee	Noon
September 25	Technical Advisory Committee Full Commission	10:30 Noon
October 7	Executive Committee	Noon
October 9	Annual Dinner—Serbian American Cultural Center	

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

City of Steubenville
www.cityofsteubenville.us

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.ohio.gov

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

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

Village of Wintersville
www.wintersville.net

Weirton Area Port Authority
www.wapainc.org

Weirton Chamber of Commerce
www.weirtonchamber.com

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

West Virginia Development Office
www.wvdo.org

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