

# REGIONAL REVIEW

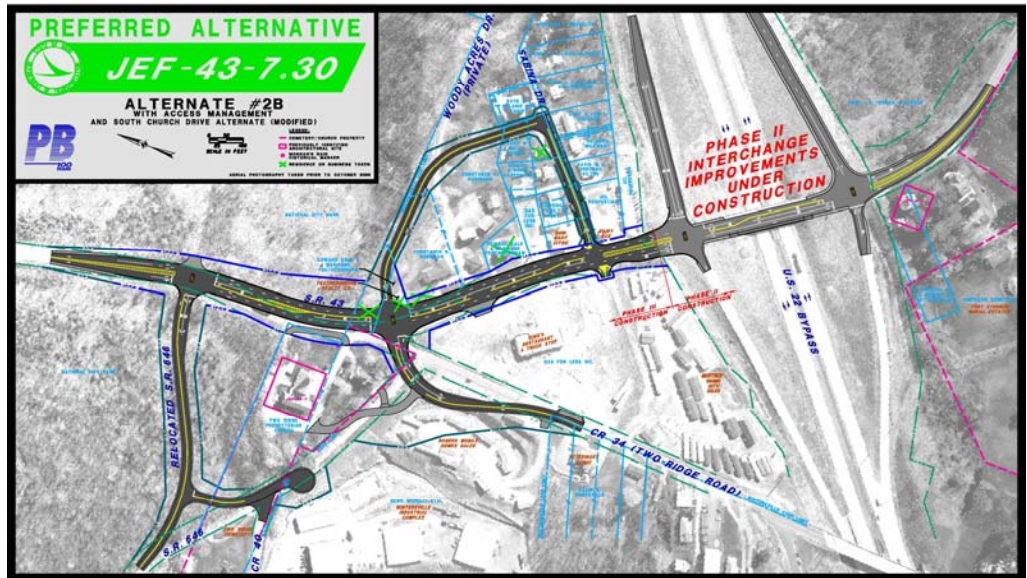
Volume 7, Issue 2

Brooke-Hancock-Jefferson  
Metropolitan Planning Commission

Summer 2006

## ROAD PROJECT + BRIDGE RESTRICTIONS = CHANGES!

**State Route 43** Long-awaited access improvements to the WalMart Distribution Center and Jefferson County's Industrial Park on US 22 and Jefferson Route 43 will be initiated in August. The construction contract for this project was awarded to Shelly & Sands Inc., from Zanesville, Ohio, on June 15, 2006, for \$5.2 million. ODOT anticipates construction beginning sometime this month and being completed by fall 2007. A pre-construction meeting with the contractor is scheduled this week to determine an exact start date. Traffic will be maintained during construction, but congestion and some traffic delays are expected.



**Ft. Steuben Bridge** On May 30, 2006, ODOT District 11 announced that effective Monday, June 19, 2006, the Fort Steuben Bridge would close to all truck traffic.

ODOT District 11 first reduced the legal load limits for truck traffic in April 2004. At that time, trucks were required to maintain 100-foot spacing between them. Further reductions occurred in December 2005, and depending on the axle configuration of the truck, were at 10, 11, 12 and 19 tons respectively.

"When the last reductions occurred, we said that the bridge would remain open as long as those posted load limits were observed," said ODOT Dis-

trict 11 Deputy Director James Spain. "Unfortunately, they are not."

Upon completion of recent bridge inspections, it has been deemed necessary to reduce the maximum weight limit for all vehicles allowed to cross the bridge even further due to the continually deteriorating condition of the structure and nonobservance and violation of the current load restrictions. Spain said, "When the posted load limits for trucks are not being observed, it creates a safety concern for us, and we understand it's difficult for the Ohio State Highway Patrol to be at the bridge to enforce the weight limits all the time. The safest thing for us to do and the way we can get the most life out of the bridge is to close it to all truck traffic immediately."

The legal load limits will be posted,

depending on the axle configuration of the vehicles at 4, 6, 7 and 10 tons respectively. The bridge will remain open at this time as long as the posted load limits are observed, and it remains safe to travel.

What does this mean for area drivers? The next issue of the *Regional Review* will focus on traffic problems and solutions.

### IN THIS ISSUE

Transportation News	1
From the Executive Director	2
The Chairman's Perspective	3
Awards Luncheon	4
Summer Calendar	5
Guest Column: Joan Beck	6
Meet Tom Bayuzik	7

## BHJ METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION OFFICERS—2006

Gary R. Folden, Chairman  
Norma Tarr, Vice Chairman  
Ruby Greathouse, Treasurer  
Art Miser, Secretary

### STAFF

John C. Brown, PhD., AICP  
Executive Director  
**Email: [jbrown@bhjmpc.org](mailto:jbrown@bhjmpc.org)**

Joan E. Beatty, Finance Manager  
**Email: [jbeatty@bhjmpc.org](mailto:jbeatty@bhjmpc.org)**

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

Michael J. Paprocki  
Transportation Study Director  
**Email: [mikepap@bhjmpc.org](mailto:mikepap@bhjmpc.org)**

Shawn Price  
Senior Engineering Technician  
**Email: [sprice@bhjmpc.org](mailto:sprice@bhjmpc.org)**

David T. Snelting  
Transportation Engineer  
**Email: [dsnelting@bhjmpc.org](mailto:dsnelting@bhjmpc.org)**

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

Barb Zimnox  
Community Development Specialist  
**Email: [bzimnox@bhjmpc.org](mailto:bzimnox@bhjmpc.org)**

Publication of this newsletter is made possible with assistance from the 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 4th Street Second Floor  
Steubenville OH 43952-2796  
Ohio: (740) 282-3685  
WV: (304) 797-9666  
Fax: (740) 282-1821  
Email: [bhjmpc@bhjmpc.org](mailto:bhjmpc@bhjmpc.org)  
Website: [www.bhjmpc.org](http://www.bhjmpc.org)

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As we enter this new fiscal year, we ask your continued financial support for BHJ's regional services. As the federally recognized regional agency for transportation planning and a key funding source for infrastructure and entrepreneurial programs, we hope you will continue to support regional improvements through the "Municipal Per Cap" charge. Based upon a 23 cent per person formula, each municipality formally received this charge request in June. Based upon services delivered and dollars leveraged from the federal and state government, we believe your investment is a true bang for the dollar.

We acknowledge the trust you have placed in our hands. For every one dollar delivered locally, BHJ leverages six additional dollars of outside investment. With a budget of \$758,343 for Fiscal Year 07, we will have the greatest ability to continue and expand regional services. We know local communities struggle to provide services. When I attend local council meetings, its clear local financial resources are limited. Tough decisions about your community's quality of life are forefront.

The Brooke-Hancock-Jefferson Metropolitan Planning Commission (BHJ) is a customer based business of 27 municipalities and three counties. Based upon their size and location, these communities have a variety of service needs. If your community has a population of 200 and lies in the region's outer rural rim, your needs are clearly different than a community with a population of 20,000 and situated near the regional core.

The common denominator is how communities may save money and receive better services through the promotion of intergovernmental communication, co-operation, and collaboration on issues that have a greater than local impact. So, maybe the recent designation of US 22, our regional east/west four-lane road corridor, as a macro corridor means nothing to the single household; however, it does mean saved travel time and safety. It was initiated through municipal community contributions to BHJ. From a simple bridge renovation in Amsterdam to infrastructure planning in Beech Bottom to a multi-million new Ohio River Bridge crossing, BHJ with a majority board of locally elected officials impacts communities in a positive and fundamental way.

In sum, you are a valued customer. We understand if we don't provide responsible service we won't attract customers and investors. And without customers, we don't have a business. We understand customer service is real, it matters and most importantly, it is achievable.

## THE CHAIRMAN'S PERSPECTIVE

GARY FOLDEN

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Luncheon is now history and if you were unable to attend, you missed a great event. Thanks to Dr. John Brown and the BHJ Staff for planning such a nice luncheon.

The Awards Nominating Committee, consisting of Norma Tarr, Jeff Davis, and Dave Maple, did an excellent job in choosing the award recipients. This year's award winners were Mark Vignovic, Public Service Award; Mike O'Brien, Volunteer of the Year Award; and Huberta Schiappa Siciliano and Teresa Schiappa, Special Recognition Award. Each of these outstanding individuals has spent many years of their lives giving back to their communities and is well deserving of the honor bestowed upon them. They exemplify what we all hope to achieve. I certainly appreciate their dedication and continuing efforts to make our area a better place to live, work, and play.



I would like to say thank you to our keynote speaker, Jim Spain, who is the District Deputy Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation's District 11, which is Jefferson County's transportation district. Jim is a veteran of state government, spending the last eight years as a part of the department's management team. He lives in Harrison County and is quite familiar with the transportation needs of our area. His comments were very informative and held everyone's attention. Jim is certainly an asset to the District 11 staff.

Jefferson County Commissioner Dr. Thomas Graham performed the National Anthem and gave his usual outstanding rendition of the Star Spangled Banner. Mingo Junction Mayor John Fabian started the luncheon out right by offering a blessing. I also want to acknowledge those who introduced the awardees; they are Chuck Svokas, Ruby Greathouse, and Richard Delatore. Of course the luncheon would not have been complete without the great food prepared by Froehlich's Classic Corner.

The entire luncheon and program was completed in approximately an hour and a half and everyone enjoyed the fellowship and good food. So, I suggest you try not to miss next year's awards luncheon, it is time spent well.

I want to wish you all a happy and healthy summer.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS (CONTINUED)

In cooperation with our many regional partners, the following achievements were accomplished over the past year.

- ✦ On a bi-monthly basis, BHJ through its full commission of elected officials formally approves all federal and state transportation projects in the region.
- ✦ In August 05, through a continuing dialogue with West Virginia Senators Byrd and Rockefeller, a federal appropriation of \$18 million was made to create further planning and initiate design for a New Ohio River Bridge near Wellsburg, West Virginia.
- ✦ In mid-05, BHJ received a second grant in the amount of \$200,000 to prioritize and redevelopment mothballed commercial-industrial properties, commonly called brownfields.
- ✦ In December 05, BHJ finalized an entrepreneurial action plan to create jobs through economic diversification.
- ✦ In mid-06, BHJ finalized a transit consultant report to evaluate options for coordination among five transit providers in the region.
- ✦ Over the past two years, BHJ has led a bi-monthly meeting of businesses and DOT's to create further access options near the Veterans Bridge.
- ✦ Throughout the year, BHJ helped coordinate significant water and sewer projects including Mahan's Lane Sewer Extension, the Beech Bottom Water Line Extension and the Route 8 Sewer Extension.

*John Brown, AICP*  
jbrown@bhjmpc.org



## EIGHTH ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

The eighth annual awards luncheon was held Wednesday, June 14, 2006 at Froehlich's Classic Corner in Steubenville. Approximately 40 people attended the luncheon honoring four individuals who have made a marked difference in the tri-county region.



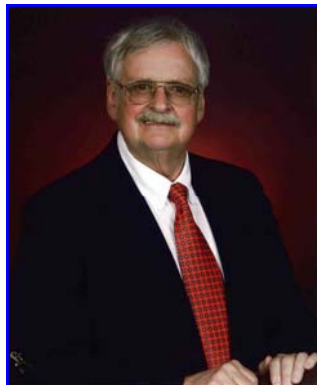
Mark Vignovic, this year's Special Recognition Award recipient, was nominated by the Hancock County Commission. He is the chairman of the Hancock County Solid Waste Authority, and has held that position since

1989. For the past six years he has led the electronic recycling program which annually collects over 22,000 pounds of obsolete electronic items in a single day. In addition, he has been instrumental in the clean-up of numerous Hancock County sites including a \$450,000 improvement at the Willard Gardner site.

He previously served as Weirton Steel's manager of environmental control operations as well as director of environmental control. A 1980 graduate of Penn State University, he holds a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering from Penn State University. He currently is vice-president of Jamegy, Inc. which has enhanced environmental operations and expanded job opportunities.

Mark resides in Weirton with his wife, Debbie.

The recipient of the Volunteer Award, Mr. Mike O'Brien of Wellsburg, is committed to his community as well as family and friends. His list of volunteer activities includes being a member of the Wellsburg Applefest Committee since its creation in 1979, the Wellsburg July 4 Committee and for over 45 years has been an active member of the Wellsburg Lions Club. For more than 20 years he has been the chairman of both the St. John Church Annual Mardi Gras and the Wellsburg Chamber of Commerce Christmas Light-up Committee. As a member of the Lewis & Clark Heritage



Foundation, he coordinated the 2003 re-enactors' stop at Wellsburg to honor Patrick Gass.

Ruby Greathouse, who nominated Mike and is also a member of the BHJ Full Commission, says that he "believes in the celebration of events and persons." St. Patrick's Day will find him in full proper attire and hat. His impersonation of Johnny Appleseed is enjoyed by the elementary students at Wellsburg Primary School.

A graduate of Wellsburg High School and West Liberty State College, he resides in Wellsburg with his wife, Sharon. Four children and eleven grandchildren complete the family.

The Special Recognition Award went to Huberta Schiappa Siciliano and Teresa Schiappa, trustees for the Mary A. Schiappa Trust. They were nominated by Richard Delatore, past Jefferson County commissioner and BHJ board member.

The Mary A. Schiappa Trust is committed to the creation of jobs and redevelopment through the promotion and development of a 5,000 acre parcel in Island Creek Township near the WalMart Distribution Center. The plan for these proposed regional improvements is known as New Horizon. The plan draws upon the original concepts of Albert Schiappa, the founder of the Schiappa coal Company.



Huberta (l) Teresa (r)



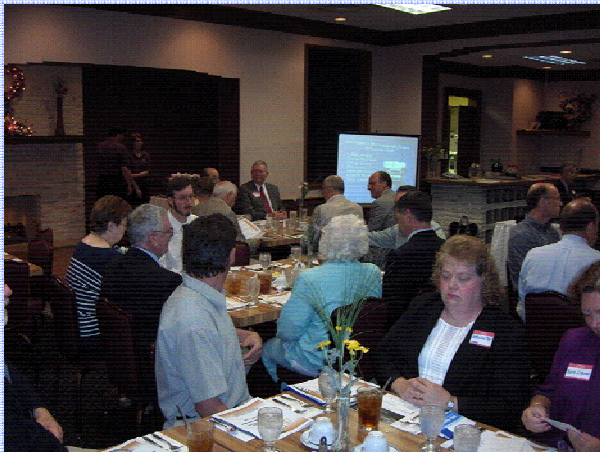
Huberta and Teresa are dedicated to fulfilling their parents' vision and work diligently to keep that dream alive.

The speaker for the event was Mr. Jim Spain, District Deputy Director, ODOT District 11. The event was sponsored by the following banks: Chase, National City, Sky and WesBanco.

# BHJ ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON



**Award Winners**  
Mike O'Brien, Elaine Smith (representing Teresa Schiappa), Huberta Schiappa - Sciliano and Mark Vignovic.



**Jim Spain—ODOT District Deputy Director**

## SUMMER 2006 EVENTS

August 1	BHJ Executive Committee Meeting	Noon
September 4	Labor Day—Office Closed	
September 5	BHJ Executive Committee Meeting	Noon
September 20	TAC	10:30
	Full Commission	Noon
October 2	BHJ Executive Committee	Noon

**HAVE A SAFE SUMMER!!!!**



## LET'S SHARE THE -

Change is evolutionary. At first glance, it is unsettling. Many of us fear change; some of us flee from it; others fight it, and some grudgingly adapt. Many are learning to welcome change as a “norm” in our life. However, when we empower ourselves to “drive change”, we reposition ourselves on the power curve. The quality of our journey is often dependent upon our attitudes toward change, flexibility, creativity, and “*joi de vive*”. I want to share a short story describing my journey “home” to the Ohio Valley.

On September 11, 2001, I was on the telephone with our east coast distribution facility, arranging for priority deployment of product from our Sherman, Texas plant to the NJ distribution center, when the radio station announced that the World Trade Center had been hit by a plane. My NJ colleague and I had just concluded our business, when this horrific tragedy began to unfold. Stunned, our conversation about “base business” seemed so insignificant! We stayed on the phone together for another half hour talking about how our picture of reality had changed, forever. As our radios announced that the towers had just collapsed, our idealism hid behind the clouds.

2001 was a spiritual, professional, and emotional milestone for me.

- In less than 10 years, our corporation experienced three corporate reorganizations – the latest reorganization was showing all the signs of a “soon to be announced plant closing”.
- A few months earlier my dad died of a stroke; we had lost mom five years prior, to cancer - I had not taken the time to grieve!
- 70 hour work weeks had taken their toll – I was balancing a full time job as an Operations Manager for a Fortune 50 company, plus additional roles as an active community leader, graduate student, step mom, and small business owner. Who appointed me superwoman?
- After 25 years as a corporate line manager, business unit manager, supply chain manager, and entrepreneur, I learned to drive organizational change, very well. But, along the way, I had focused on everyone else’s needs, but lost touch with my own.

These reflections prompted me to re-evaluate my priorities and prepare for a change. Just as my house in Texas sold, the corporation announced that it was closing the plant and relocating the operations overseas. What a perfect time to pay off bills and relocate to Follansbee with a better cost of living!

By April 2002, I was traveling, cross-country, to the Ohio Valley. I hadn’t lived in the area since I had graduated from Bethany College in 1974. During the trip, I recalled stories that my parents shared with me about the area and the challenges faced by their parents when they relocated from their birth country to the United States.

Mom’s parents relocated from Lebanon to New Jersey and owned several retail businesses. Mom attended the Julliard School of Music, but opted to become a nurse and later joined the Army where she met my dad. Her sensitivity, excellent technical skills, and love of learning made her an excellent mother, teacher, and nurse.

My dad’s father was a mason and general contractor. By the age of 10, dad had lost two siblings, and upon his arrival in America, he had to learn English. His hard work and tenacity generated academic and athletic achievements, which earned him the chance to attend Kenyon College, an ivy league school in Gambier, Ohio. He worked his way through school washing dishes, laboring in the mill for Mr. Millsop, and as an apprentice carpenter and mason for his dad and other local builders. Shortly after his graduation, World War II started and he enlisted in the Air Force. He pursued a distinguished 30 years career in the military, and retired as a Colonel. Post-military professional assignments included: personnel director for a major urban hospital, hospital administrator, regional chamber of commerce executive, and economic developer. He returned to Follansbee in 1982.

Obviously, my relocation from Northern Panhandle of Texas to the Northern Panhandle of West Virginia was a “piece of cake”, compared to the changes that my grandparents and parents encountered, such as: World War I, immigration, new languages and customs, the depression, World War II, the industrial and nuclear revolutions. As I walked in to the three-level brick home that my grandfather designed and built in the 1920’s in the orchard of Follansbee, WV, I realized that this home represented a valuable legacy far more important than its market value.

## - JOI DE VIVE!

My heritage was centered on: a strong work ethic, a solid religious foundation, perseverance, the spirit of entrepreneurship, as well as the courage to meet change head-on. I knew through extended family and friends, that these values are shared by many in this valley. It didn't take long for this house to feel like "home".

The next challenge centered on my career. Thanks to outstanding educational experiences at Bethany College and Rutgers University, small business ownership experience, and versatile work assignments of increasing responsibility with multiple Johnson and Johnson locations in New Jersey and Texas, I developed a diversified background. Strengths included: personnel staffing, training, operations management, supply chain optimization, and organization development. Today, as a performance consultant, workforce development trainer, and business manager, I welcome each day with "joi de vive". "Coming home" has improved my health, quality of life, and desire to contribute. I also welcome new opportunities for growth!

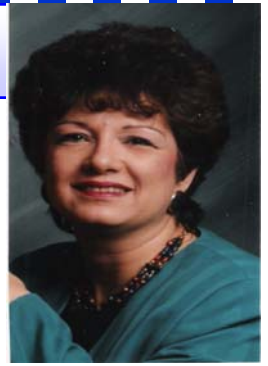
On a macro-level, our Northern Panhandle has been significantly impacted by the volatile coal and steel industrial life cycles. Thanks to family, friends, and business colleagues, I learn more every day about Ohio Valley resources. Short-term, limited tax revenues will force use to

integrate and combine organizations, redefine roles and relationships, and leverage our funding, programs, and human capital. Currently, we need new ideas, clear plans, and more people committed to making things happen.

*Economic development is never an accident; it is the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction, collaborative teamwork, innovation, skillful planning and execution, and the vision to see changes and obstacles as opportunities.*

I am now passionate about recruiting our youth, college students, community, and business colleagues to join our county planning and economic development initiatives. We need market our valley to families, alumni associations, and professional networks. Through outreach, synergy, and perseverance we can promote and achieve economic growth for our region.

Joan Simonetti Beck is an adult education instructor for RESA-6, performance consultant (Performance PLUS Assoc.), and President of the Brooke County Economic Development



## MEET TOM BAYUZIK—PROGRESS ALLIANCE

A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Thomas Bayuzik Jr. was educated in the Pittsburgh Public Schools and is a graduate of Taylor Allderdice H.S. Bayuzik earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science/Regional Planning from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Bayuzik also completed a professional certificate program in real estate from the University of Pittsburgh; is a graduate of Regional Vision-Leadership Development in Rural Northwest Pennsylvania; and attended economic development training at Penn State University and the University of Oklahoma.

Bayuzik has over 18 years of economic development experience throughout his career. In 1999, Bayuzik was appointed by Tom Murphy, Mayor of the City of Pittsburgh as Director of the Mayors Office of Economic Development ('99-'03). Prior to 1999, Bayuzik served in various positions including; Executive Director, Indiana County Office of Planning & Development ('97-'99); Director of Economic Development, City of Oil City, PA ('94-'97);

Executive Director, Redevelopment Authority of the City of DuBois, DuBois, PA; Project Manager, Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County, Pittsburgh, PA. ('87-'92).

Bayuzik has served on boards of numerous organizations including; Three Rivers Workforce Investment Board, Regional Development Funding Corporation, Duquesne University's Chrysler Small Business Development Center, Oakland Business Improvement District, Southwestern PA Planning Commission, Indiana County Small Business Incubator, Oil Region Enterprise Zone, Pennsylvania Economic Development Association, and the Greenfield Organization.

Bayuzik is married to Jennifer and has three daughters, Courtney, Alexandra, and Chloe.





# REGIONAL REVIEW

*Volume 7, Issue 2*

*Brooke-Hancock-Jefferson  
Metropolitan Planning Commission*

*Summer 2006*

**Editor: Linda Taylor**  
**Regional Review**  
**BHJ Metropolitan Planning Commission**  
**124 North Fourth Street Second Floor**  
**Steubenville, OH 43952**  
**740-282-3685**  
[www.bhjmpc.org](http://www.bhjmpc.org)

---

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

---

## 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.ci.steubenville.oh.us](http://www.ci.steubenville.oh.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)