



REGIONAL REVIEW

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Brooke-Hancock-Jefferson
Metropolitan Planning Commission

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BHJ FREIGHT STUDY RESULTS IN POSITIVE FINDINGS

The *BHJ Freight Study* as explained by Dr. John Brown is an up-to-date profile of issues and opportunities while suggesting actions to maximize freight benefits. Proposed by the Brook-Hancock-Jefferson Metropolitan Planning Commission and funded through the U.S. Federal Highway Administration and the Claude Worthington Foundation, the Study encompasses highway, rail, waterborne and air freight movement.

Dr. Brown says that BHJ is not the first region to evaluate their unique freight profile. While varying geographically, and driven by different economic markets, other entities such as the States of Ohio and West Virginia, the cities of Cincinnati, Columbus and Huntington, have undertaken recent freight studies. The push to complete these foundation reports is “by the year 2025, U.S. domestic freight tonnage is anticipated to double, while international freight tonnage will nearly triple.” (U.S. Dept. of Transportation’s *Freight Facts and Figures*, 2009).

Dr. Brown goes on to say that a brave new transportation world is in front of us. In many cases, when appropriately positioned, this world means regional jobs and entrepreneurial investment. Linked by the Ohio River, crossed by a multitude of rail lines and connected to a globally renowned international airport, the BHJ region is a competitive regional market. The *BHJ Freight Study*, therefore, is one very big step toward legitimizing the business practicality of our region.

The *BHJ Freight Study* is now complete. Barb Sloan, principal for Cambridge Systematics, presented the findings to the Technical Advisory Committee and Full Commission at the January 26 joint meeting. Cambridge Systematics was awarded the contract to perform the study in July 2010.



Barb Sloan, principal for Cambridge Systematics, presents the *BHJ Freight Study* findings.

Ms. Sloan said the study was performed for the agency and its stakeholders to provide an understanding of the nature and critical value of goods traveling to, from and through the region and to help them proactively play for the region’s future. In addition, the study identifies the region’s economic drivers and the linkages between these drivers and the transportation system in order to enable the region to

take advantage of the existing freight infrastructure to help foster economic growth.

Ms. Sloan went on to say the greater Steubenville-Weirton area has experienced a declining industrial base over the past few decades.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On January 26th, the BHJ Commission held its annual organizational meeting. While typical organizational matters such as the election of new officers and the setting of an annual calendar were completed, we spent considerable time evaluating our challenges for the upcoming year.



To kick-off the discussion, I highlighted my perceived challenges to the Commission and staff. If you traveled the BHJ halls on a daily basis, you'd hear the subtle undertow of these issues. For BHJ customers, you may be assured we are working diligently to confront these issues.

As predominately marked at the entry to the BHJ Office, we need to hold true to our mission (i.e., to promote communication, collaboration and coordination for issues and problems that have a greater than local impact).

Whether it's a sewer/water plan, a coordinated transit program, or a multi-state vision of our labor force, given local financial constraints, this mission is increasingly important.

We need to sustain the care and maintenance of our existing infrastructure. Our economic future depends on it. Clearly, the Wal-Mart Distribution Center would not have occurred without a Veterans Bridge, without a Steubenville Bypass or a Weirton Bypass. In coordination with the Federal Highway Administration, the Ohio Department of Transportation and the West Virginia Department of Transportation, this is BHJ's frontline task. In the last fiscal year, over 50% of our agency budget was spent on transportation care and maintenance.

We need to clearly, factually and competitively communicate transportation and infrastructure needs to our state and federally elected officials. The number of newly elected officials is unprecedented and includes Ohio Delegate Lou Gentile, Ohio Congressman Bill Johnson, Ohio Governor John Kasich, WV Delegate Ronnie Jones, WV Senator Orphy Klempa, WV Congressman David McKinley, WV Governor Earl Ray Tomblin, US Senator Joe Manchin and US Senator Rob Portman.

We are entering a "brave new transportation world" with increasingly diversified modes of freight movement. "By the year 2025, U.S. domestic freight tonnage is anticipated to double, while international freight tonnage will nearly triple (US Department of Transportation. *Freight Facts and Figures*, 2009). When appropriately positioned, this new world translates to regional jobs and entrepreneurial investment.

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NEWLY ELECTED BHJ OFFICERS FACE MANY CHALLENGES IN THE COMING YEAR



Outgoing Chairman Gary Folden (r) passes the gavel to Bernie Kazienko.

The September 26, 2011 joint meeting of the BHJ Full Commission and Technical Advisory Committee began with the election of new officers. This year's chairman will be Bernie Kazienko, Brooke County commissioner. Mr. Kazienko takes over for Gary R. Folden who has just completed his fourth term in leading the Commission. Other officers elected were Tom Graham, vice-chairman; Marvin Six, secretary and Tom Timmons, treasurer.

Mr. Kazienko announced his appointments to the Executive Committee whose role is to address financial, personnel and legal issues that may arise. Those members include Mark Henne from Brooke County and Art Miser and Charlie Mitchell from Hancock County. Jefferson County appointees are Harry Thomas, Ed Looman and Dom Mucci. Jay Eisenhauer, also from Brooke County, was named an At-Large member. Rounding out the Executive Committee members, including

the Full Commission officers are Gary Folden, Norma Tarr and Chuck Svokas

Dr. Brown told the group that the challenges in 2011 are many. With a new Congress and so many changes in local and state government, BHJ must present its projects and goals to a fairly new group of people who were not involved in the early stages of development—such as the proposed New Ohio River Bridge. On page 2 of this newsletter, Dr. Brown outlines and explains the agency's goals for the coming year and ensures the agency is working diligently to “get the message out.”

In addition to the election of officers for the Full Commission, it was announced that the Technical Advisory Committee will once again be led by Bob Laukert, chairman, and Mike Dolak, vice-chairman. Mr. Laukert, a long-time member of the Full Commission, represents the Village of Wintersville and will be serving his third term as the TAC chairman. Mr. Dolak is the city engineer in Steubenville.



Bob Laukert

BHJ PLANS TO PUBLISH UPDATED DIRECTORY

In the next several weeks requests for updated contact information will be sent to

FREIGHT STUDY RESULTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

As a result, the region now faces game-changing challenges that will influence how transportation investments are made. Local governments are experiencing steep declines in tax revenues due to the waning steel industry, traditional transportation dollars are inadequate to address highway capital and maintenance needs and ever-present environmental and energy regulations continue to tighten.

Ms. Sloan said these conditions present BHJ with an opportunity to consider promoting alternative, affordable and environmentally-efficient transportation options that will help guide the region into a prosperous future. She further stated the value of freight moving in and out of the region is an excellent economic development tool which is why a bi-state port authority was set as a high priority. She noted it will take time to put it together. She said the first step is to continue to work to expand and set up the Weirton Port Authority and a countywide port authority in Jefferson Count

Sixteen recommendations came out of the study in addition to developing a bi-state port authority. Those items include expanding investment in rail freight, exploring opportunities to connect rail and highway to the Ohio River for freight transfers, developing a regional marketing strategy to promote freight-related assets to potential freight-dependent industries and identifying new and available funding for freight improvements.

The study identifies a total of 19 issues and opportunities in the areas of infrastructure, land use and policy. Infrastructure includes highway, rail freight, waterborne freight and air freight. Land use is finding available land and sites for development as well as determining site selection factors. Policy issues include a regional/bi-state coordination, funding, economic development, demographic issues and continuing with the “3-2-1 Jobs Initiative.”

Ms. Sloan said the final task of the study identifies 16 recommendations and implementation strategies for enhancing freight mobility and the linkage to economic development. She discussed some of them including:

- ◆ Identify potential locations and funding sources for expanded truck parking/rest areas with appropriate amenities to enable compatibility with surrounding land uses.
- ◆ Explore opportunities to enhance intermodal connectivity between rail/water and highway/water modes.
- ◆ Develop regional marketing strategies to promote the region’s freight-related assets to potential freight-dependent industries.
- ◆ Identify innovative strategies to better match new and available funds with freight system needs.
- ◆ Establish a governance structure, such as a Bi-State Port Authority, to identify issues, guide investments and advocate on behalf of the region through public outreach and education, promoting the BHJ region’s economy and protecting the public interest.

Ms. Sloan concluded by saying the next steps will be to implement an action plan, keep the momentum going, continue the steering committee and monitor progress.



NEW LEADERSHIP FOR ODOT

With the election of a new governor for the State of Ohio, comes some new faces within the Department of Transportation. The ODOT and District 11 websites provide the following information on two of those appointed to leadership positions.



Jerry Wray is the first to be named director twice in ODOT's 100-plus year history. Wray first served as director of ODOT under Governor Voinovich from 1991 to 1999. During that time he was instrumental in helping the department become leaner and more efficient, saving future payrolls more than \$50 million annually. He also re-engineered the department and was able to reduce the number of staff from 7,800 to 6,000 employees. Under Director Wray's leadership, ODOT increased its construction program a record \$300 million from its output in the 1980s while simultaneously reducing its operating costs by \$200 million.

Director Wray began his career at ODOT as an Engineer-in-Training from 1969 to 1977. He then left to become deputy Licking County engineer. He was elected Licking County engineer in 1980 and re-elected in both 1984 and 1988.

Director Wray earned his civil engineering degree from the University of Akron. He resides in Newark, Ohio with wife Eva. They have four grandchildren.

Fourteen-year veteran with the department's management team – 12 of which was in District 11, **Lloyd MacAdam**, 49, replaces Richard Bible, who has served as the Deputy Director for District 11 since 2007. He is a long-time resident of Tuscarawas County and is very familiar with ODOT's systems and processes. Most recently, he served the department as a Regional Projects Manager for ODOT's Northeast Ohio's Real Estate Office in Akron.

MacAdam said, "I'm so excited to be back in my home District. It is an honor to serve the people of eastern Ohio and work with the great employees at ODOT. I look forward to the opportunities ahead of us as we work to become as efficient as possible and focus on customer service in eastern Ohio."

In addition to assisting the department with strategic transportation planning, policy development and implementation of statewide transportation initiatives, MacAdam serves as the district's chief executive responsible for the planning, design, construction and maintenance of the transportation system in District 11's seven counties, including Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, and Tuscarawas counties. District 11 employs 325 people and oversees an annual construction program of approximately \$75 million. The district is also in charge of all snow and ice removal operations on the state highway system in its region.

MacAdam graduated from the University of Akron with a Bachelor's of Science in Civil Engineering. In addition to being a professional engineer, MacAdam also has his professional surveyor's license and was a 2009 graduate of Ohio's Certified Public Manager Program.

He and his wife, Carol, reside in New Philadelphia, and have four sons.





B-H PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Dr. Brown reports that on January 10, 2011, the Northern Brownfield Assistance Center announced a FOCUS West Virginia Brownfields Grant was awarded to the Brooke-Hancock Regional Planning and Development Council in the amount of \$5,000 for further evaluation of the Taylor, Smith and Taylor site in Chester, WV.

In addition, a \$200,000 USEDA funded project for the Brooke-Hancock Regional Investment Plan will be unveiled in February. The Plan recommends detailed development for two sites, capitalizes weaknesses and strengths and sets an achievement plan for economic recovery.

In March, in coordination with the Northern Panhandle Workforce Investment Board, West Virginia Community College, West Virginia University and the Northern West Virginia Brownfield Assistance Center, BHJ will submit a training grant to train 50 local residents in the environmental clean-up field. The grant is called "Environmental Workforce Development and Training Grant Workshop."

BHJ 2011 MEETING CALENDAR

BHJ has a full slate of meetings scheduled for 2011. The Executive Committee normally meets the first Monday of every month at noon at the BHJ office, 124 North Fourth Street, Steubenville, OH, unless that Monday is a holiday. The Executive Committee will meet on the following dates:

January 3	July 5 (Tuesday)
February 7	August 1
March 7	September 6 (Tuesday)
April 11 (Changed from April 4)	October 3
May 2	November 7
June 6	December 5

The Technical Advisory Committee and Full Commission meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the BHJ office in January, March, May, June, September and November. TAC meetings begin at 10:30 and Full Commission at noon.

January 26	June 22
March 23	September 28
May 25	November 23

The Brooke-Hancock Brownfield Task Force Meetings will be held on the following dates at noon at the Weirton State Office Building, 100 Municipal Plaza, Weirton, WV.

March 9	September 14
June 8	December 7

The Brooke-Hancock Regional Planning Meetings are scheduled on the following dates at 4:30 at the Business Development Corporation of the Northern Panhandle (BDC) Office located at 3174 Pennsylvania Avenue, Weirton, WV

April 13	December 14
August 10	

The 13th annual BHJ Awards Dinner will be held Wednesday, October 5, 2011 at 6:00 at the Serbian-American Cultural Center, 1000 Colliers Way, Weirton, WV.



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Metropolitan Planning Commission*

Winter 2010

WINTER CALENDAR

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY FALL!

February 21	Presidents Day—BHJ Office Closed	
March 7	Executive Committee	Noon
March 23	Technical Advisory Committee Full Commission	10:30 Noon
April 11	Executive Committee	
April 22	Good Friday—BHJ Office Closed	

SAVE THE DATE!!!

OCTOBER 5, 2011

**FOR BHJ'S
13TH ANNUAL DINNER
SERBIAN-AMERICAN
CULTURAL CENTER
COLLIERS WAY,
WEIRTON, WV**

Related Web Sites

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 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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