



REGIONAL REVIEW

Volume 13, Issue 1

**Brooke-Hancock-Jefferson
Metropolitan Planning Commission**

Winter 2012

LOVERS LANE CONNECTOR IN LINE FOR IMPROVEMENTS



At a cost of \$930,000, the Lovers Lane Connector will soon be getting a much needed facelift. Of that amount, ODOT (through federal funding) will be providing \$744,000. The remaining \$186,000 will be covered by the City of Steubenville. Mike Dolak, City of Steubenville engineer, says that in addition the City has been approved for a \$200,000 grant from the Ohio Public Works Commission—which means the project is 100% paid for. The remaining \$14,000 of the \$200,000 grant will be used to reimburse the City of Steubenville to compensate for Mr. Dolak's time spent on the project.

The Lovers Lane Connector was originally opened to traffic in 1991 in conjunction with the US 22 by-pass project. The road-

way surface is 48 feet wide with paved shoulders 10 feet wide on each side.

The project is considered an urban off-state system preservation project. The proposed scope is to remove the existing asphalt surface through surface planning and resurface with new asphalt concrete⁴. All curb ramps within the



project limits will be brought up to current ADA standards and all guardrail replaced. Long life pavement markings will be installed on the resurfaced pavement. The overall project length is 1.15 miles.

The project is expected to be advertised for bid in March with the bid opening on April 18. If there are left over OPWC funds from last year

that can be used, the start date will be in June. If not, work will not begin until July 15. The entire project is expected to be complete by early October.

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**BHJ METROPOLITAN
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Marvin Six, Secretary
Tom Timmons, Treasurer

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

While historical and crowd pleasing, I'm not sure how fulfilling it is to lose a major infrastructure link like the Ft. Steuben Bridge. In 2006, I had the privilege to hear U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd speak to this issue. Senator Byrd is the longest-serving senator in U.S. history. In 2010, he passed away. At the time of his speech, he was 88 years of age. Taught in a different time and through memorized readings, he recited the following pertinent poem in front of 450 captivated members of the Appalachian Regional Commission. This poem is framed, signed and strategically placed in the BHJ meeting room.



The Bridge Builder

By Will Allen Dromgoole 1860–1934

An old man going a lone highway,
Came, at the evening cold and gray,
To a chasm vast and deep and wide.
Through which was flowing a sullen tide
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
The sullen stream had no fear for him;
But he turned when safe on the other side
And built a bridge to span the tide.
“Old man,” said a fellow pilgrim near,
“You are wasting your strength with building here;
Your journey will end with the ending day,
You never again will pass this way;
You’ve crossed the chasm, deep and wide,
Why build this bridge at evening tide?”

The builder lifted his old gray head;
“Good friend, in the path I have come,” he said,
“There followed after me to-day
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm that has been as naught to me
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be;
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him!”

Source: *Father: An Anthology of Verse* (EP Dutton & Company)

John C. Brown
Executive Director

BHJ PREPARES FOR A NEW YEAR



Dr. John Brown (left), BHJ executive director, hands the gavel to Dr. Thomas Graham, Jefferson County commissioner and newly-elected chairman of BHJ.



The BHJ Full Commission met on Wednesday, January 25, 2012, for the annual reorganization meeting and election of officers. Dr. Thomas Graham, Jefferson County commissioner, was elected chairman. Dr. Graham said upon accepting the nomination that he “will hopefully follow the example of Bernie Kazienko.” Mr. Kazienko passed away in December and had served as the 2011 chair.

Other offices for the new year are Mike Swartzmiller, Hancock County commissioner; Marvin Six, assistant director of the BDC of the Northern Panhandle and Tom Timmons, Jefferson County representative to the Full Commission. These officers will also serve on the BHJ Executive Committee in the same capacity.

Dr. Graham announced his appointments to the Executive Committee which serves to oversee financial, personnel and legal matters for the agency. The Brooke County representative will be Mark Henne, City of Wellsburg city manager. Hancock County will be represented by Charlie Mitchell and one additional appointment will be made. The Jefferson County representatives are Ed Looman, director of Progress Alliance; Mayor Domenick Mucci, City of Steubenville and Mayor Harry Thomas, Village of Richmond. The At-Large member is Mayor Jay Eisenhower, Town of Bethany.

At the Technical Advisory Committee meeting held just prior to the Full Commission, Robert Laukert, Village of Wintersville representative, was re-elected chairman. Mike Dolak, the City of Steubenville engineer, will once again serve as vice-chairman.

Robert Laukert, Village of Wintersville representative was re-elected chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee for 2012

1928—LOCAL RESIDENTS CELEBRATE NEW BRIDGE



The Fort Steuben Bridge opened for traffic on Aug. 17, 1928 amidst much hoopla and fanfare. It was the first Ohio River suspension bridge with a concrete floor. At the time of construction it was one of only three cable-stay steel girder trusses in the United States.

Originally a toll bridge, it was built to help ease the traffic load on the Market Street Bridge. With its eastern terminus at the West Virginia state line on the Ohio River, the Fort Steuben Bridge crossing became the U.S. Route 22 alignment.

The Fort Steuben Bridge had to be closed at least two times during its life span. The first closure was during the 1937 flood. Then, according to former Mayor Andy Miller's scrapbook which is on file at the Steubenville Public Library, "it was closed on September 28, 1967 after highway officials found a hole in the bridge floor. The span was closed for about a month for repairs, during which time all traffic used the Market Street Bridge, causing horrible traffic jams. Highway officials promised to "speed up" the construction plans for a new bridge, which

had been planned in 1961. It actually took another 23 years for a new bridge to open."



2012—IT'S GONE!



On Tuesday, February 21, 2012, at exactly 7:15 a.m. the Fort Steuben Bridge was no more. The photos on the previous page depict preparation for the demolition. The photos on this page show the actual event. The photos are from local media sources as well as BHJ.



BEST WISHES TO JOAN!



On Friday, February 17, we said good-bye to our friend and co-worker, Joan Cresap, BHJ finance manager for 17 years.

Beginning her employment 19 years ago in a clerical position, she was promoted to finance manager two years later. In that capacity, she was responsible for monitoring the total agency budget and preparing budgets, cost allocation and fiscal reports. She also maintained and prepared payroll records, prepared quarterly reports and filed tax returns.

Joan is moving on to a new chapter in her life. She and her husband, Jay, recently purchased the Dove, a family restaurant, in Bloomingdale, OH. We wish them much success.

FY 13 OVERALL WORK PROGRAM & BUDGET

BHJ continues to sustain a strong and fiscally accountable agency. Over the last three fiscal years, we have been fortunate to maintain and expand our program and revenue stream while the fringe/indirect rate structure has remained steady.

In late February, BHJ forwarded its Overall Work Program and Budget to its primary funding agencies for review and approval. The document is BHJ's blueprint for the upcoming 2013 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013). Approximately 86% of BHJ's revenue is generated through federal and state grants. In FY 12, 60% of funds were allocated to transportation while 20% were distributed to environmental protection. In FY 12, health care costs for employees increased 11%.

BHJ was chartered in 1968. Our purpose, challenges and partnerships continue to evolve. We understand the need to respond to regional demands and prepare a regional vision within the reality of today's dollars. Our support dollars do not run in perpetuity. They fluctuate according to mandates and events. Thus, a quick review of our Overall Work Program will illustrate increased regional sharing through programs like the Regional Access Management Program (RAMP), Rideshare, Trails and Greenways, and Brownfields.

BROOKE-HANCOCK REGIONAL COUNCIL TO HOST STATEWIDE CONFERENCE MAY 15-17

From May 15 through 17, West Virginia's eleven regional planning districts will converge on Bethany College's Mountainside Conference Center and Gresham Inn and you're invited. If you're an elected official, municipal/county staff leader, consultant or interested citizen, this conference is a building block conference. Key presentations will be made on the oil and gas industry, water and sewer infrastructure financing, brownfield redevelopment, funding opportunities through the US Economic Development Administration/ Appalachian Regional Commission and a congressional update.

Meet and learn at the May 16 evening reception. Centered around a "Pig Roast" and live entertainment, you'll have more than ample time to compare notes and meet new contacts. For the uninformed, Bethany College is located in a rural, conveniently (Yes. Bethany College is WI FI and cell phone compatible) located community. The inn, dining facility and meeting rooms are all connected. You park once and connect with your colleagues for the remainder of the conference.

Conference registration may be completed through the BHJ Office (304-797-9666).



Humphry Conference Room at the Mountainside Conference Center.



Mountainside
Conference
Center shown
on the left.

On the right is
Gresham Inn



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WINTER CALENDAR

March 5	Executive Committee	Noon
March 28	Technical Advisory Committee Full Commission	10:30 Noon
April 2	Executive Committee	Noon
April 6	Good Friday—Office Closed	
May 7	Executive Committee	Noon
May 15-17	BH Regional Council Statewide Conference at Bethany	
May 23	Technical Advisory Committee Full Commission	10:30 Noon
May 28	Memorial Day—Office Closed	

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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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