



REGIONAL REVIEW

Volume 12, Issue 4

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

2011 Year in Review

REPORT CARD 2011

There is no such thing as a BHJ Report Card 2011. It's impossible to separate our efforts from those of partners. From private business to federal to state to local initiatives, projects, particularly infrastructure projects, are an accumulation of needs and local priorities.

With these caveats, we've created a top ten regional project list. To no surprise, five of the ten are transportation projects while the others supplement job creation or enhance public health. There is no priority to the stated number.

1. **Access Improvements at Veterans Bridge.** Estimated at \$15 million, the traffic design is time consuming, accident prone and a job creation negative. A preferred design has been recommended. No construction dollars are yet committed.
2. **Brooke-Hancock Brownfield Redevelopment.** Estimated at \$800,000, created in 2003 and administered by BHJ's sister agency, the Brooke-Hancock Regional Planning and Development agency, the program has completed over 20 site assessments.



Veterans Bridge, Steubenville OH Side

Through these assessments, key redevelopment projects have been leveraged in Chester, Follansbee, Weirton and Wellsburg.

TS&T in Chester, West Virginia



Eagle Manufacturing in Wellsburg, West Virginia



**BHJ METROPOLITAN
PLANNING COMMISSION
OFFICERS—2011**

Tom Graham, Vice Chairman
Marvin Six, Secretary
Tom Timmons, Treasurer

STAFF

John C. Brown, PhD., AICP
Executive Director
Email: jbrown@bhjmpc.org

Joan E. Cresap, Finance Manager
Email: jcresap@bhjmpc.org

Mary Moore, Receptionist
Email: mmoore@bhjmpc.org

Michael J. Paprocki
Transportation Study Director
Email: mikepap@bhjmpc.org

Shawn Price
Senior Engineering Technician
Email: sprice@bhjmpc.org

David T. Snelting
Transportation Engineer
Email: dsnelting@bhjmpc.org

Linda Taylor
Office Manager/Rideshare
Email: ltaylor@bhjmpc.org

Barb Zimnox
Community Development Specialist
Email: bzimnox@bhjmpc.org

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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
Website: www.bhjmpc.org

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When Ed Koch was mayor of New York City, he was famous for asking, "How am I doing?" He'd ask CEO's, bus drivers and everyone in between. When it came to feedback, he was almost indiscriminate in terms of whom he'd ask. His reference is a constant reminder that no one knows a service better than the buyer. If you want to know how you're doing as a provider, don't ask a secondary source, ask the person on the front line.



For this reason, local metropolitan planning organizations (MPO) were federally mandated in 1962. BHJ is one of 380 federally mandated local MPO's in the United States. Our task is "to ensure existing and future expenditures of governmental funds for transportation projects and programs are based on a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive planning process."

With oversight by partners such the two Federal Highway Administration and two state departments of transportation, the BHJ Commission is the consensus building block for our regional transportation fate. We're suppose to see the big picture. We're suppose to see the forest among the trees. We're suppose to be the agency at the table with an understanding of local need and history.

To our regional customers, you may be assured the BHJ MPO staff understands this purpose. Hopefully, we listen locally and understand the need at the front line. Hopefully, this listening and understanding translates to a strong regional transportation future.

Thank you for your continued trust in our mutual effort.

John C. Brown
Executive Director

REPORT CARD 2011

(continued from page 1)

3. **Mahan's Lane Sewer Upgrade.** Estimated at \$13 million, Phase I was completed in October 2011. Phase 2, with a similar cost estimate, is partially funded.
4. **Market Street Bridge.** Estimated at \$16 million, the project opened in December 2011 and has an expected life-time beyond ten years.
5. **New Ohio River Bridge.** Estimated at \$100 million, the project is 25% financed. A final touchdown point will be determined in Spring 2012. With the demolition of the Ft. Steuben Bridge in Spring 2012, for emergency access, traffic flow and job creation purposes, a study has documented the need for a new crossing.
6. The **Regional Access Mobility Partnership (RAMP).** The RAMP Program is dedicated to eliminate and reduce obstacles and barriers to transportation services regardless of governmental boundaries and provide cooperation among all public transit, human service and private providers.
7. **Regional Landslides.** From south and north of Steubenville and Wellsburg, both state departments of transportation have spent an accumulated \$30 million to resolve rockslide and state route access.
8. **Regional Water-Sewer Separation Mandates.** The regional cities of Follansbee, Wellsburg and Weirton are under mandates from the US Environmental Protection Agency to separate combined sewer lines. Weirton alone faces a \$6 million improvement cost.
9. **US 30 Sewer Upgrade.** Estimated at \$7.5 million, this project follows Hancock County's aggressive program to provide sewer access to its northern residential communities.
10. **Washington Street/ Steubenville Street/Sidewalk Reconstruction.** Estimated at \$7.5 million, the project was completed in December 2011.

Mahan Lane Groundbreaking



Wellsburg Rock Slide—April 12, 2011



Washington Street Project

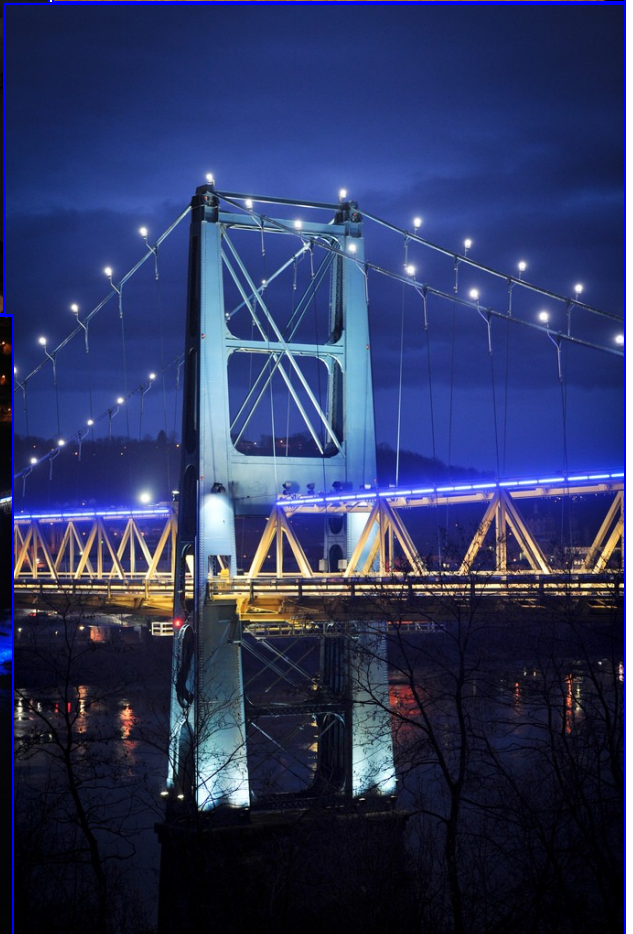


MARKET STREET BRIDGE

After being closed since last March, on Wednesday, December 7, the Market Street Bridge was re-opened . (Prior to that time, the bridge was closed from January 11 to November 12, 2010). The re-opening ceremony for the nearly \$15 million project was attended by West Virginia Governor Earl Ray Tomblin and many state and local elected officials.

The vision of local officials to extend the life of the Bridge was made possible in part by the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act, commonly known as the Stimulus Act.

The lighting project has definitely enhanced the area. The 146 lights added to the span's cables and the laser blue attached to the trusses is a beautiful sight.



WE MOURN THE LOSS

On Monday, December 5, 2011, we said good-bye to our chairman, Bernie Kazienko, who passed away at the age of 59 following a five-year battle against cancer. Bernie was a member of the Brooke-Hancock-Jefferson Metropolitan Planning Commission since 2004 after being elected to the Brooke County Commission. In that time, he served on the Executive Committee and also held office as vice-chairman and chairman.



His presence was felt and honored throughout the region. In 2008, Bernie received the Public Service Award at the BHJ Annual Dinner. That same year, he shared the Wellsburg Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year Award with the late Julie Caldwell. The courtroom at the Brooke County Courthouse was named in his honor this past October in recognition of his efforts to obtain grant funding for renovations to the courtroom and a new roof for the courthouse.

One of Bernie's favorite projects was to collect toys for local children in need at Christmas. The project originated with his uncle, Izzy Isinghood, who would collect and repair toys to be given to the children. Bernie continued the tradition which today is known as "Bernie's Kids." His children, Kirk, Shaney, Monica and Lindsay, plan to carry it on.

He will be remembered for his leadership, his hands on work effort, his love for others and his compassion. Bernie Kazienko will be missed by all who knew him.

BHJ RENEWS OFFICE LEASE

A five-year office lease renewal agreement was signed in late October between BHJ and RSVV, Inc., owner of the building.

The BHJ office moved from Adams Street in Steubenville to its current location at 124 North Fourth Street twelve years ago. The advantages to moving have been numerous. We are centrally located, have expanded in-house meeting space and provide reasonable parking.

Previously, we had to travel to outside locations for our Executive Committee meetings as well as Technical Advisory and Full Commission meetings.

BHJ SETS 2012 MEETING SCHEDULE

The Executive Committee will meet at noon at the BHJ office on the following dates in 2012:

January 9	July 2
February 6	August 6
March 5	September 4
April 2	October 1
May 7	November 5
June 4	December 3

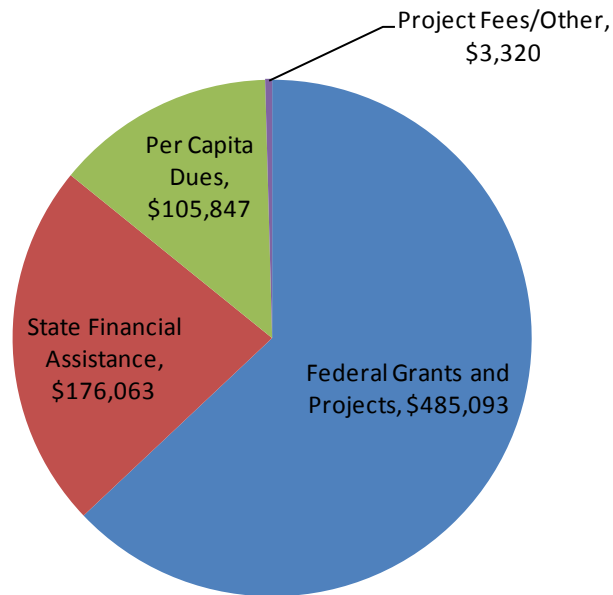
The Technical Advisory Committee will meet at 10:30 and the Full Commission at noon on the following dates in 2012:

January 25 (Organizational Meeting)	
March 28	September 26
May 23	November 28

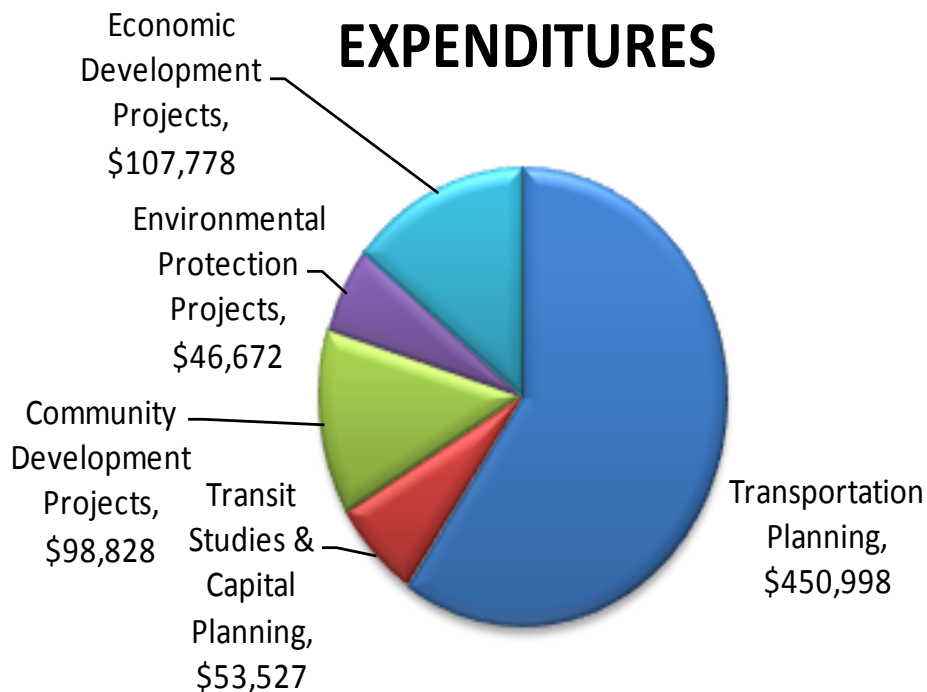
A LOOK AT BHJ'S FISCAL 2011 YEAR

BHJ ended its fiscal 2011 year (July 1, 2010 through June 0, 2011) in a financially sound and responsible position. 86% of BHJ's funds are provided through federal or state grants/assistance. 60% of BHJ's funds are targeted toward transportation. In 1968, BHJ was established as a federally mandated metropolitan planning commission to prioritize and plan regional transportation priorities.

REVENUES



EXPENDITURES



SHARE THE RIDE—WHOO HOO

On a daily basis, over 6,000 Brooke, Hancock and Jefferson county residents commute outside the region. For this reason, BHI heavily promoted Rideshare this past year. Working with our partner, CommuteInfo (a division of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission), the program was promoted through advertisement on television and radio. WTOV developed two television commercials. Advertising on FROGGY Radio was adapted to the seasons and/or holidays. Ten billboards from Lamar Advertising continued to be used throughout the region. All advertising used the “Whoo Hoo” Rideshare jingle (visually in the case of the billboards) to provide a consistent message—which is definitely being heard. Wherever you go in the area, someone is reporting they’ve seen the commercial, their kids are singing the jingle, they love the billboards, etc.

BHI owns the jingle, but we share it with CommuteInfo. You can find it, as well as the current commercials running, on their website. Recently, two of the Pittsburgh television stations agreed to air the tv ads as public service announcements.

This past spring, FROGGY Radio did a live remote broadcast at Quik King on Colliers Way in Weirton. Mr. John Riley, the owner, offered the use of his parking lot and also donated nine gas gift cards.





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CALENDAR

January 2	Office Closed—New Years Day Observed	
January 9	Executive Committee	Noon
January 16	Office Closed—Martin Luther King Day	
January 25	Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Full Commission—Organizational Meeting and Election of Officers	10:30 Noon
February 6	Executive Committee	

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the image below.**



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

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www.weirtonchamber.com

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West Virginia Development Office
www.wvdo.org

WORKFORCE
w.info@npworkforcewv.org