



# RIC Messenger

A publication of the Regional Intergovernmental Council

Summer 2017

## Chairman's Message

As I begin my first year as RIC Chairman, I would like to thank my fellow RIC members for this opportunity to serve as the head of this organization. I have enjoyed working with the RIC staff and all the local officials that encompass the RIC board and I am looking forward to the next year leading this board as Chairman.



I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some important accomplishments at RIC during the past few months. In the area of community and economic development, the RIC staff has completed the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update for 2017, submitted four Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Applications, have three new projects going to construction and has completed the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, which has been accepted by FEMA. In the area of transportation, the RIC staff has completed the 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and completed the Public Participation portion of the Long-Range Plan (LRP). In addition, Kara Greathouse has been promoted to Planning Director for Transportation and Lance Hudnall is serving as a summer intern through the Governor's Internship Program.

We have much to look forward to in the coming year as RIC works to promote local communities, regional solutions and state-wide impacts.

Glen "Buck" Chestnut  
RIC Chairman

## Newly Elected Officials

The following new mayors have been serving their communities since July 1, 2017:

- Town of Buffalo: Mayor Paul D. Melton
- Town of Clendenin: Mayor Shana Trippett
- City of Marmet: Mayor Jay Snodgrass
- City of Saint Albans: Mayor Scott James

## New RIC Officers

The following RIC officers were elected to serve for the next year:

Chairman	Glen “Buck” Chestnut, Town of Belle
1st Vice-Chairman	James Hudnall, Town of Cedar Grove
2nd Vice-Chairman	Terry Greenlee, City of Dunbar
3rd Vice-Chairman	Vacant
Treasurer	S. K. Miller, Workforce Investment Board
Secretary	Damron Bradshaw, Kanawha County 4-H Foundation



RIC Chairman Jerry Linkinogger was honored for his service and dedication at the June 8, 2017 board meeting. Chairman Linkinogger has served faithfully for the past two years. Glen “Buck” Chestnut, Mayor of Belle began his term as Chairman on July 1, 2017.



Joanna Keller is the new Administrative Assistant for the Regional Intergovernmental Council. Joanna comes to RIC from the Kanawha County Planning and Community Development Office, where she served as an administrative assistant for nine years. Joanna resides in Saint Albans and enjoys hiking and spending time with her family.



The Regional Intergovernmental Council welcomes Lance Hudnall as a Summer Intern through the Governor's Internship Program. Lance is a native of Campbells Creek and is currently studying Accounting at West Virginia University. In his spare time, Lance enjoys riding dirt bikes and deep-sea fishing.

*If you would prefer to receive our newsletter electronically, OR if you wish to be taken off our mailing list, please email Joanna Keller at [Joanna@wvregion3.org](mailto:Joanna@wvregion3.org)*

## **Transportation Projects Update**

### **Update of Regional Transportation Plan**

The RIC transportation planning staff began updating our Kanawha-Putnam Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) in 2016 with transportation planning professionals from Kimley-Horn, Inc. The study team began by gathering the latest population, employment, household, school enrollment, and traffic data. The data has been compiled to analyze existing and future traffic conditions on highways and plan for future improvements. The plan also involved conducting a public outreach phase to gain community involvement. Currently the study team has met with the steering committee six times, conducted two rounds of public meetings in both counties, and attended several individual stakeholder meetings and community group meetings. The study team has compiled a list of potential projects and utilized a data driven approach to prioritize all projects and develop a list of financially constrained and recommended projects. The study team is currently documenting all aspects of the planning process. The plan is expected to be adopted at the RIC Policy Board Meeting in September.

### **Update of the Congestion Management Process**

The RIC transportation planning staff is developing a Congestion Management Process (CMP) concurrently with its Regional Transportation Plan Update. The plan identifies highway segments which regularly experience above average travel times. Actual vehicle travel time data for the region will be used to identify these segments. Public input was solicited in tandem with the public involvement efforts of the Regional Transportation Plan to determine high-congestion areas. The study team is also studying the effects of non-recurring, or irregular, congestion caused by adverse weather, roadway construction, accidents, broken down vehicles, debris on the roadway, and other incidents which temporarily and abruptly disrupt the normal flow of traffic.

Short-term and long-term solutions are currently under development to alleviate traffic congestion on the highlighted segments. Recommendations for policy and operational improvements for reducing non-recurring congestion are also under development. The congestion management process will be reviewed regularly and will become an integral part of its transportation planning process. Performance measures and goals for congestion reduction will be developed and regularly monitored for attainment. As previously mentioned the development of the CMP is concurrent with RIC's RTP, and is expected to be adopted at the same time.

### **RIC Hosted the WVLTA**

#### **Pedestrian & Bicycle Transportation Class on June 1<sup>st</sup>**

RIC staff hosted the Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Class taught by the West Virginia Local Technical Assistance Program (WVLTA) on June 1<sup>st</sup>. The class provided current information on design, operations, and maintenance of successful pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Class attendees learned the specific characteristics and needs of pedestrians and bicyclists and the importance of an interdisciplinary approach to planning and implementing pedestrian and bicycle programs.

## Transportation Courses & Conferences

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, Kara Greathouse and Kelsey Harrah, attended two courses held by the WV Local Technical Assistance Program (WV LTAP). The course consisted of two sessions, the first session covered Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-Evaluations and ADA Transition Plans. The second session involved an overview of the *Draft* Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG). Ronald W. Eck, P.E., instructed and led the course at the Charleston Civic Center in downtown Charleston. Mr. Eck is Professor of Civil Engineering at West Virginia University, as well as a Senior Advisor from the WV LTAP. He has specialized in the field of traffic engineering, as well as pedestrian transportation for more than 35 years. Mr. Eck also authored the chapter on pedestrians in McGraw-Hill's *Handbook of Transportation Engineering*.

The annual American Planning Association (APA) conference was held from May 5-9<sup>th</sup> in New York City. Colt Sandoro, Kara Greathouse and Kelsey Harrah attended courses on transportation planning taught by various instructors from the APA.

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## Meet the Regional Intergovernmental Council Staff



SoJuana Ellis has been with the Regional Intergovernmental Council for 26 years. She lives in Dunbar and attends Ferguson Memorial Baptist Church. In her spare time SoJuana enjoys reading, quilting and traveling. Her motto is, “Be respectful and be kind to one another.” When asked to share what she likes most about working at RIC, SoJuana stated, “It is very gratifying when water and sewer projects are completed because that means people are getting clean water.” She said, “People often take the necessities in life for granted so when you bring clean water and sewer to a neighborhood, it is a great feeling.” SoJuana also stated that one of her favorite things about working at RIC is the people that she meets and that they are all working towards the goal of bettering people’s lives.



## Community Development Project Updates

### Four Community Development Block Grant Applications submitted to the West Virginia Development Office for consideration

The staff of the Regional Intergovernmental Council has been working tirelessly to prepare four Community Development Block Grants for infrastructure and general community development projects. The Town of Cedar Grove Waterline Replacement and the Putnam County Manila Ridge Waterline Extension Projects are re-applications from previous years. The Kanawha County Commission is applying for the Lens Creek Phase I Sewer Line Extension in association with the Kanawha Public Service District. The City of Madison is applying for the replacement of a storm sewer in West Madison that currently travels under homes and is threatening the foundations of approximately 20 residences. This storm sewer was constructed by the developer prior to being annexed into the City of Madison.

*If you have an idea for a project, now is the time to begin developing your proposal. Many steps need to be completed before the project could be eligible for HUD funding. Contact Terry Martin or SoJuana Ellis in the Community Development Division at (304) 744-4258.*

### Boone County Morrisvale Cameo Waterline to begin after July 4, 2017

The Boone County PSD awarded the construction contract to Capitol Valley Contracting, incorporated in June 2017. Capitol Valley has moved equipment and materials to the site and will begin construction after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Capitol Valley has also hired several local residents who have needed construction equipment experience from their previous employment with mining companies. This project is not only an infrastructure project but a local jobs development project.

### Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update

RIC completed the annual Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update for 2017, as required by the Economic Development Administration. The 2017 Update captures new development and other economic changes that took place within the region last year. The Update also revisits the goals, strategies and projects list included in the plan. RIC's CEDS Committee approved the 2017 CEDS Update at their meeting on April 27, 2017, followed by the RIC policy board approval at the June 8, 2017 quarterly meeting. The 2017 CEDS Update is posted on the RIC website for public viewing at [www.wvregion3.org](http://www.wvregion3.org).

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We are currently in the process of updating the RIC Directory for 2017-2018. Mailings which include last year's directory information will soon be sent to all County Commission offices, Regional Development Councils and municipalities to ensure all information is up to date. Please return any changes by e-mail, fax or mail to Joanna Keller by July 28th.

Email: [Joanna@wvregion3.org](mailto:Joanna@wvregion3.org)  
Fax: (304) 744-2534

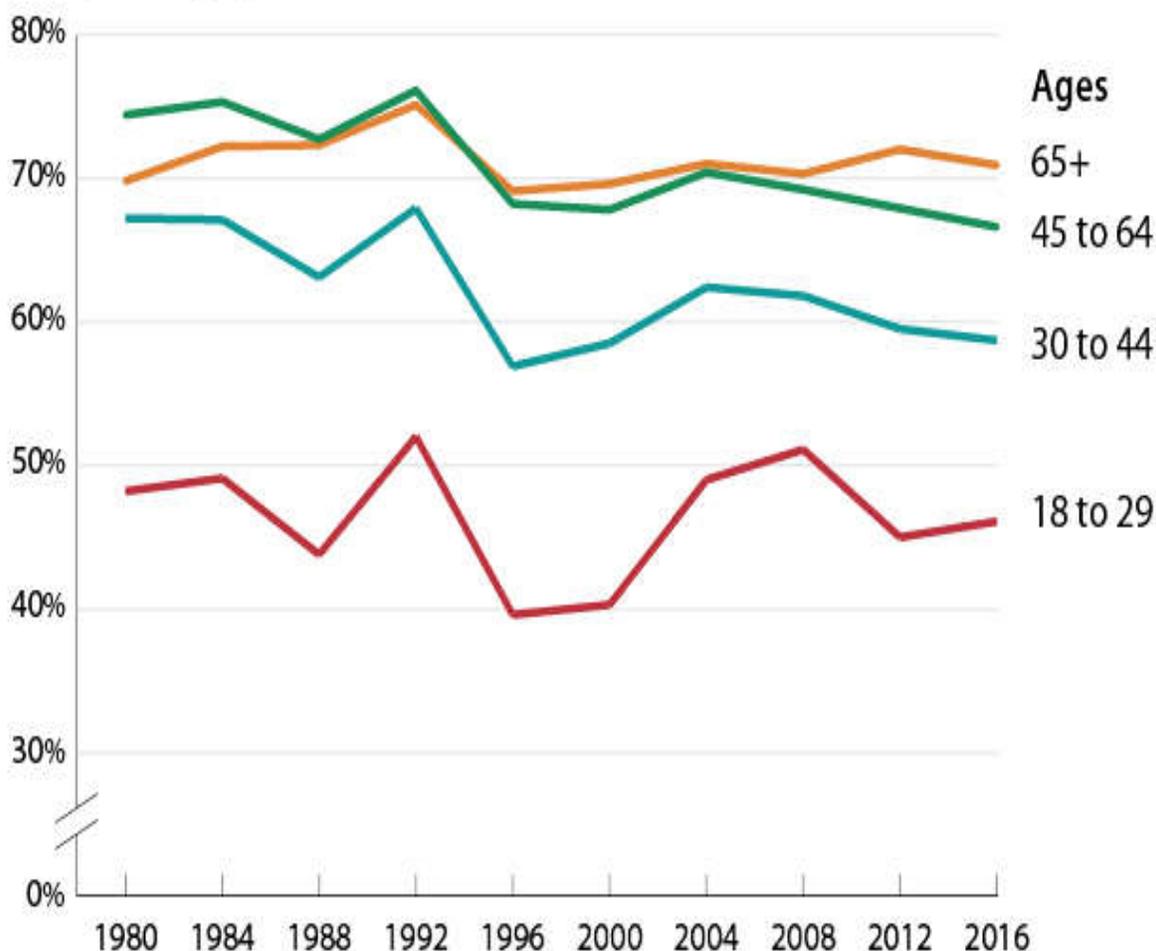
Mailing Address:  
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# More Millennials Vote

Only Age Group to See Voter Turnout Increase Since 2012

Voting Rates by Age



United States  
**Census**  
Bureau

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economics and Statistics Administration  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU  
[census.gov](https://www.census.gov)

Source: Current Population Survey,  
1980-2016 Voting and Registration Supplements  
<https://www.census.gov/topics/public-sector/voting.html>

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**Upcoming RIC Meetings:**

**September 7, 2017**

**December 14, 2017**

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*Chairman: Glen "Buck" Chestnut*

*Executive Director: Colt Sandoro*

*Newsletter prepared by Joanna Keller*

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***Local Communities / Regional Solutions / State Wide Impacts***