



RIC Messenger

A publication of the Regional Intergovernmental Council

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BAD Buildings Program News

The Northern WV Brownfields Assistance Center (BAD) has announced the availability of the 2015 BAD Buildings Technical Assistance grant program.

The BAD Buildings Program is a statewide initiative that provides technical assistance and site analysis tools to develop and enhance abandoned/dilapidated buildings programs in West Virginia communities. The program also addresses barriers to identifying, prioritizing and redeveloping BAD buildings. The BAD Buildings Program is funded through a grant from the *Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation*.

The 2015 BAD Buildings Program will provide technical assistance to up to 8 communities from across the state to create or enhance community-driven revitalization and redevelopment of abandoned, dilapidated or vacant properties.

How To Apply:

Begin your application process by downloading the Request for Applications and the Program Guide, by visiting www.wvbrownfields.org. Completed applications must be submitted on or before **Friday, February 13, 2015**.

Who Should Apply:

Eligible applicants include the following: Units of local government, non-profit organizations, Government entity created by State Legislature, and redevelopment Agencies that are chartered or otherwise sanctioned by the state.



RIC staff



RIC's Transportation Engineer Masood Akhtar retired December 31st. We thank Masood for his dedication and hard work at RIC for the past 15 years and wish him a Happy Retirement!

Welcome



We are pleased to announce our new Finance Manager, Amy Talbert. Amy, a resident of Ripley, West Virginia, has a degree in accounting from WVU-Parkersburg. She and her husband Johnathon are the proud parents of four children. Amy replaces Chamese Ruddock who resigned to take a position at the WV Attorney General's office.

In other staff news, Scott Ferry attended the Association of Metropolitan Planners Organization Conference held in Atlanta in October. Kara Greathouse attended the Census Transportation Planning Product users group meeting, also held in Atlanta.

SoJuana Ellis and Joyce Rockwell attended the Energy Efficient Summit at Stonewall Jackson Resort in November.

Terry Martin, SoJuana Ellis and Kara Greathouse attended the WV Development Office and IJDC Meeting in Flatwoods, in November.



Regional Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan Update Workshops Held

Two public workshops were held in November and December by WVDOT's Division of Public Transit to begin the updating process for Region III's transportation plan. RLS Consultants is facilitating and completing the annual updates for all 11 Regional Councils.

Transportation services are essential for seniors, people with disabilities, individuals and families living below the poverty level, and the general public, to access employment, education, health services, and community programs.

The workshops allowed the attendees to provide their input and insights to discuss unmet transportation needs, gaps in transportation services, and recommend strategies to improve transportation and mobility options in and around Boone, Clay, Kanawha and Putnam Counties. Any organizations that plan to be applicants for Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 funds must participate in the planning effort.

The plan's Draft is anticipated by early spring, with adoption of the Final Plan at RIC's June 4th Board meeting.



Transportation Plan Update Workshop on November 5, 2014
in South Charleston

RIC Begins Two New Corridor Studies in Kanawha County

RIC transportation planning staff is starting work on two new corridor studies in Kanawha County. The first study will explore options for improvements along the Third Street corridor in St. Albans from MacCorkle Avenue to Kanawha Terrace. Identifying options for widening, replacing or improving traffic flow through the Third Street underpass will be a particular area of emphasis in the study.

The second study will explore options for improvements along the WV 622 corridor (Goff Mountain Road, Big Tyler Road) in Cross Lanes from New Goff Mountain Road to Doc Bailey Road. This study will seek to find options for increasing capacity and reducing travel time along the corridor.

Both corridors were identified in RIC's most recent long-range transportation plan as containing deficiencies and were recommended for improvements. Burgess and Niple, Inc. staff will partner with RIC staff to perform the studies, which will take one year to complete.



RIC Partnering for Paratransit Survey

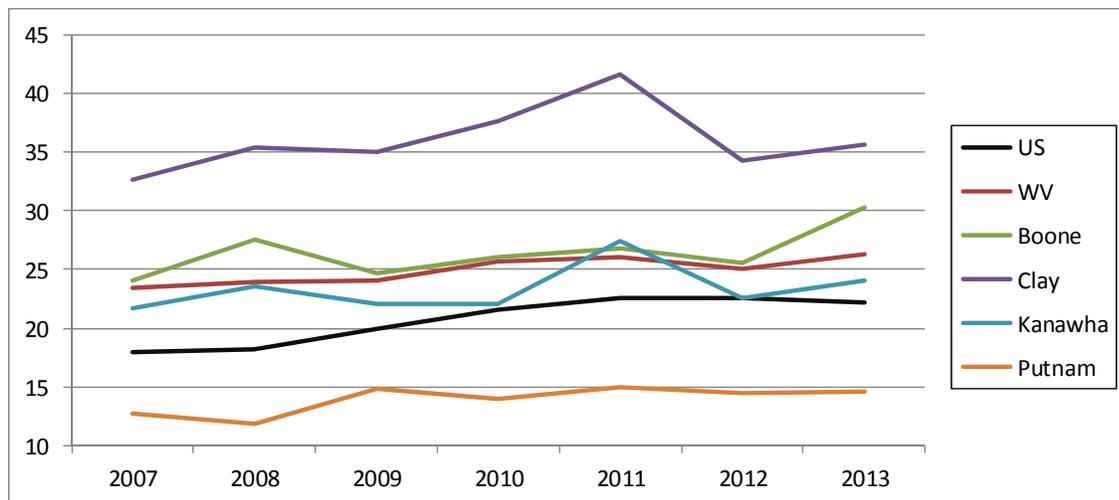


The Regional Intergovernmental Council has been partnering with several paratransit agencies throughout the region to complete a customer satisfaction survey. The survey has been distributed by the drivers, and RIC will be tabulating and analyzing the data. With compiled survey data, paratransit agencies will be able to ensure quality service and identify areas of improvement.

U.S. Census Update

The U.S. Census Bureau's Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) program provides annual estimates of income and poverty statistics for all school districts, counties, and states. The main objective of this program is to provide estimates of income and poverty for the administration of federal programs and the allocation of federal funds to local jurisdictions. In addition to these federal programs, state and local programs use the income and poverty estimates for distributing funds and managing programs.

The SAIPE program produces the following county and state estimates; total number of people in poverty, number of children under age 5 in poverty, number of related children ages 5 to 17 in families in poverty, number of children under age 18 in poverty, and median household income. The following graph details the percent of children under age 18 living in poverty in the US, West Virginia, Boone County, Clay County, Kanawha County and Putnam County from 2007 to 2013. Notice the decrease in poverty during 2012 which suggests a recovery from the recent recession. However, 2013 has shown a slight increase in poverty which could be attributed to unemployment (which has increased since the middle of 2013), or a combination of other factors.



The estimates are not direct counts from enumerations or administrative records, nor direct estimates from sample surveys. Instead, for counties and states, income and poverty estimates are modeled by combining survey data with population estimates and administrative records.

New Year Statistics

The U.S. Census Bureau projected the US population to be 320,090,857 on January 1, 2015. Throughout the New Year the U.S. population is expected to grow by one person every 16 seconds. This includes; births, deaths, and net migration. Worldwide the population will increase 2.5 people every second.

New Road Opens in Putnam County



A long-awaited section of road is complete and open for traffic in the Teays Valley area of Putnam County. Known as Liberty Park Drive, it is an extension of an existing section of road within the Liberty Square Shopping Center. The newly completed three-lane section of road now connects WV 34 near the Teays Valley interchange of Interstate 64 with US 35 near the Scott Depot interchange. This section of road provides needed roadway access for several large commercial properties and should aid in their development. It also now permits shoppers to access Putnam County's largest retail area from US 35 and the Scott Depot area, reducing congestion on other local roads. The project cost \$2.9 million.

Clay County Commission Awarded \$1.3 Million Small Cities Block Grant

On January 22nd, Governor Earl Ray Tomblin awarded the Clay County Commission their second year funding of \$1,325,000 of HUD Small Cities Block Grant funding toward the \$2,960,000 needed to complete the waterline project which serves approximately 130 residents in the Pack Fork and Independence Road area of Clay County. The engineer, Greg Belcher, of the Chapman Technical Group has completed the design and is in the process of applying for needed permits.

Sanitary Sewer Projects Update

The City of Dunbar's sanitary sewer rehabilitation project is approximately 60% complete. RIC will continue to monitor and perform labor interviews. Pratt's project is expected to be completed by March.



Work on Dunbar project progressing



Workers placing generator at Pratt project

RIC Meeting Dates Announced for 2015

March 12 (Annual Meeting)

June 4th

September 10th

December 10th



A PUBLICATION OF THE REGIONAL
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