



RIC Messenger

Boone, Clay, Kanawha, Putnam Counties

A publication of the B-C-K-P Regional Intergovernmental Council

Summer 2022



Chairman Fletcher's Message

I hope everyone is having a great summer and enjoying all the warm weather!

RIC has been extremely busy working throughout our region, and I would like to take this opportunity to provide an update on RICs projects and accomplishments over the past few months.

Community Development News

In **Boone County**, the RIC staff began administering the Boone Memorial Hospital Sewer Line Extension to the old Danville Magic Mart building, which will soon become the new Boone Memorial Hospital Medical Clinic. In **Clay County**, the RIC staff worked with the Town of Clay to receive and bid a \$7,000,000 sanitary sewer upgrade. The RIC staff also worked to develop a HUD Mitigation Grant to relocate the 911 Center from Clay to Triplett Ridge to move the facility out of the floodplain and floodway. In addition, the RIC staff began the FEMA Clay County Buffalo Creek reconstruction project. In **Kanawha County**, the RIC staff assisted Dunbar Sanitary Board with a Critical Needs Grant for plant improvements and equipment. The RIC staff also developed a \$9.96 million grant application for the Elk Valley PSD for the remediation of the main sanitary sewer lines along the Elk River that were compromised from the 2016 flood. In addition, the RIC staff began administering an Abandon Mine Land (AML) Grant for the Kanawha County Regional Development Authority for the Standard-Paint Creek-Collinsdale Waterline Extension. The RIC staff also began administering the Headwaters of the Elk Planning Grant for the Kanawha County Commission. Furthermore, the RIC staff assisted in the development of the Kanawha County Regional Development Authority Olcott Waterline project which serves over one-hundred customers in the Alum Creek area. In **Putnam County**, the RIC staff is assisting the Putnam County Development Authority with a US EDA Strategic Plan application. Also, the Putnam County Jim Ridge Phase II Waterline Extension which serves over sixty residents is moving closer to receiving authorization to bid. To conclude the community development news, the RIC staff held two public meetings in Kanawha and Putnam counties for the update to the Region 3 Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Transportation News

RIC staff, along with Burgess & Niple, are continuing progress on the Road Safety Assessments project—a project that will identify and develop safety improvement recommendations at four locations throughout Kanawha and Putnam counties. RIC staff, the project team, and local stakeholders conducted field visits in April at each study location to observe and identify existing safety deficiencies and potential improvements. The project's preliminary safety recommendations were presented to local and federal stakeholders for feedback in May. The developments of each study location's draft and final reports are underway.

RIC transportation staff attended the 2022 WV LTAP – WVAMPO – WVDOH Transportation Planning Conference from April 26-28, 2022, at Cacapon Resort State Park. The 2022 Planning Conference was the first transportation planning conference held since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This annual conference provides a venue where local and federal transportation planning practitioners collaborate to strategize and exchange information and ideas on various subjects focused on improving transportation in West Virginia. At this year's conference, Sam Richardson gave a presentation to conference attendees titled, "Accelerating Multimodal Project Delivery"—on a presentation developed to provide evidence-based strategies, common challenges, case studies, and technical information to assist in increasing the rate by which critical multimodal transportation improvement projects are advanced. The 2022 conference presentations be accessed at the following link: https://transportation.wv.gov/highways/programplanning/plan_conf/Pages/2022-Planning-Conference.aspx

The RIC staff also assisted the Town of Clendenin in the development and adoption of an ADA Transition Plan. For the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) Transportation Alternatives (TA) grant program, RIC staff provided technical assistance to two local municipalities through the development of grant applications. In cooperation with local and federal partners, RIC staff developed the Fiscal Year 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) which identifies transportation planning work activities for the upcoming fiscal year. The FY 2023 UPWP was adopted by the RIC Policy Board in June 2022.

I look forward to meeting with everyone at our **September 1, 2022** quarterly meeting as we work together as a team to promote local communities, regional solutions, and statewide impacts.

David Fletcher
Chairman

RIC Says Goodbye to Amy Talbert



Amy Talbert accepted a new position with the Bureau of Fiscal Services with the United States Treasury Office. RIC is grateful for Amy Talbert's years of service and will miss her greatly. RIC wishes Amy the best in her new position.

New RIC Officers

The following RIC officers were elected to serve from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023:

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|-------------------|--|
| Chairman | Mayor David Fletcher, Town of Belle |
| 1st Vice-Chairman | Mayor David Casebolt, City of Nitro |
| 2nd Vice-Chairman | S.K. Miller, Private Sector Representative |
| 3rd Vice-Chairman | Kris Mitchell, Boone County Citizen Representative |
| Secretary | Commissioner Connie Kinder, Clay County Commission |
| Treasurer | Coston Davis, Minority Group Representative |



Groundbreaking for the Standard Paint Creek/ Collinsdale Waterline Extension which will service 33 families and 3 stations on the West Virginia Turnpike. The project was largely funded through the West Virginia Abandoned Mine Lands program through the DEP.



The Upper Kanawha Valley was awarded the Community in Planning award at the 2022 Mountain State Land Use Academy

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Discretionary Grant Program



The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program is a new program established under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The program will appropriate \$5 billion in funds over the next 5 years.

Funds for the SS4A grant program are to be awarded on a competitive basis to support planning, infrastructure, behavioral, and operational initiatives to prevent death and serious injury on roads and streets involving all roadway users, including pedestrians; bicyclists; public transportation, personal conveyance, and micromobility users; motorists; and commercial vehicle operators.

SS4A funding is only available for the following entities:

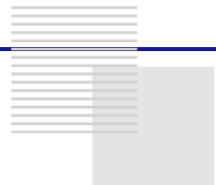
- Metropolitan planning organizations;
 - Counties, cities, towns, and transit agencies or other special districts that are subdivisions of a State;
 - Federally recognized Tribal governments; and
 - Multijurisdictional groups comprised of the above entities
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- www.transportation.gov/SS4A is the official SS4A website, where important information about the program can be accessed—USDOT is frequently updating the site with new material.
 - The FY 2022 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) can be accessed at: <https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2022-05/SS4A-Notice-of-Funding-Opportunity-FY-2022.pdf>
 - USDOT hosted informational webinars and presentations which serve as a resource for prospective SS4A applicants. These webinars and presentations can be accessed at: www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A/webinars
 - SS4A - Frequently Asked Questions: <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/ss4a/faqs>
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Important Dates

- Deadline to submit technical questions to SS4A@dot.gov - **August 15, 2022**
 - FY 2022 Application Submittal Deadline - **5:00 PM EDT, September 15, 2022**
- ⇒ Applications for the SS4A must be submitted via www.grants.gov
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Contact Kelsey Tucker at (304) 744-4258 for more information



RIC Welcomes New Staff

Marci Cline Joins RIC as Finance Assistant and Project Administrator



Marci Cline received her BBA with a focus on Accounting from Morehead State University in the fall of 2020. While earning the degree, she volunteered every weekday with her local elementary school working with a kindergarten class as well as doing technical assistance for the school. She also volunteered with her conservation office when she was available. Marci helped and organized events like Heritage Day and the county's fourth-grade project.

Upon finishing her degree, Marci moved from her small hometown of Beauty, Kentucky to Charleston, West Virginia to be with her fiancé and their two cats Mario and Watson. She then began working as a deal processor for Moses Auto Group in Saint Albans, West Virginia. After some time with them, she fell back on her knowledge of childcare and worked for Zion Child Development Center as the lead teacher for the infants and one year old's. She joined the RIC team as Finance Assistant and Project Administrator in April 2022.

While not originally from West Virginia, Marci understands what it's like to live in a rural coalmining community. She watched as everyone left her town to follow the job market and wants to help the smaller districts gain their community back and flourish.

In her spare time Marci loves to get out into her community, riding bikes, kayaking, camping, and enjoying the local parks. She loves to get out in nature and paint the breathtaking views of the Wild and Wonderful West Virginia scenery. Her fiancé, Jerry Tucker, was born and raised in Charleston. He shows her the little things that makes WV the perfect place to live and grow like only someone raised in the community can. Marci is excited to grow with the community as well as RIC as she works on projects to enrich the lives of the people in region three.

Bruce Mullins Joins RIC as Project Coordinator



Bruce Mullins joined the Council on June 16th as a Project Coordinator in the community development division. Bruce's transition to the Council comes after a twenty-year career with Kanawha County Schools in which he served most recently as the band director at Riverside High School.

Bruce was raised in Gallagher on Paint Creek in Eastern Kanawha County, graduated from East Bank High School in 1998 and then from Marshall University in 2002, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education, Cum Laude. After graduation, he came back to East Bank (now middle school) where he was the band director until moving to Riverside in 2012.

In August, Bruce and his wife Sarah will celebrate their twenty-third wedding anniversary. Together they have three children: Gabbie, a student in the St. Mary's School of Nursing at Marshall; Rose, a student in the Occupational Therapy Assistant program at the University of Charleston; and Will who is in the seventh grade at East Bank Middle School.

Bruce is new to community development but is excited to learn and anxious to make a difference for our region. He says, "I am very thankful to have Terry Martin to guide and teach me as I get started in this new career. His experience in the field is an invaluable resource and I can't thank him enough for all his help."

Jake Smith Joins RIC as Transportation Planner



Jake Smith is the newest arrival at the Regional Intergovernmental Council taking the role as Transportation Planner. Jake is a West Virginian born and raised in the City of Bluefield. He is committed to serving the community and excited of the prospects that the Council can bring to the community. His dedication for community service began in high school with his participation in Key Club, where he was able to assist in community service regularly.

In college at the University of Kentucky, Jake continued his community service involvement in a living learning program dedicated to community service. Beyond the living learning program, Jake joined a service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega. In Alpha Phi Omega service he was able to make great community outreach, seeing much of the Lexington area. Assisting in community kitchen projects, gardening, volunteering, and much more. He accumulated more than 150 hours of service through his service fraternity. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, with a focus on government curriculum. Additionally taking courses on digital mapping as an interest.

Jake holds many interests and hobbies. A major one being, learning language. He has studied French and generally enjoys learning. He also enjoys playing sports, those being soccer and tennis. His interests also include reading, primarily classical literature, and historical subject matter.

Jake is tremendously excited for this opportunity. He looks forward to being able to make a real difference for people of the community. He is appreciative of the opportunity and cannot wait to get started on this new journey.

Welcome New RIC Board Members

- President Ericke S. Cage, J.D., LL.M., West Virginia State University
- Kim Knapp, BridgeValley Community & Technical College
- Mayor Jack Lavender, City of Chesapeake

RIC Mourns the Loss of Long-Standing Board Member Harry M. “Mickey” Brown

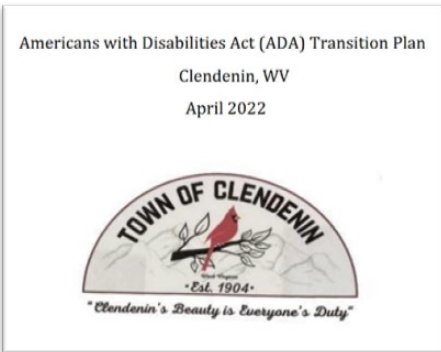


RIC mourns the loss of long-standing board member Harry M. “Mickey” Brown. Mickey passed peacefully on Thursday, May 19, 2022. Mickey was elected to the Boone County Commission where he served his community for 18 years. He served as Commission President for a number of years and was also Vice President of the County Commission Association of West Virginia. He served on Region 2 Work Force Investment Board, the Regional Intergovernmental Council, Southern Regional Day Report, Boone County Community and Development Corporation, as well as WVU Extension Board of Directors. Mickey was also a retired MSGT with the 130th AW West Virginia Air National Guard. He was most proud of accomplishing his

goal to provide reliable city water to areas of need in Boone County.

Town of Clendenin Adopts ADA Transition Plan

The Town of Clendenin adopted an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan on April 11th, 2022, as part of the Town's plans to renovate its downtown sidewalks for compliance with the ADA and the Public Rights of Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG) to support persons with disabilities living in, shopping in, or traveling to Clendenin. The plan was developed with the assistance of the Regional Intergovernmental Council (RIC) following the Town of Clendenin's participation in RIC's ADA Transition Plan Assistance Program.



RIC staff assisted the Town of Clendenin in its self-evaluation by conducting a sidewalk inventory, at times braving cold winter weather to see this through. The sidewalk inventory allows Mayor Kay M. Summers and the Town of Clendenin to have a mapped inventory and photo collection of accessibility issues that will serve as

a constant resource for the current and future administrations. Following the sidewalk inventory, areas of needed improvement were prioritized based on access to government services, fresh produce, medical and pharmaceutical services, and shopping and tourist destinations. These priorities were formulated into the ADA Transition Plan, in which there are recommended improvements that Mayor Kay M. Summers hopes will be realized in the form of a Transportation Alternatives Program (TA) grant.

While an ADA Transition Plan is not required for public bodies with fewer than 50 employees, conducting a self-evaluation and developing a plan can give the town a sense of direction when determining which sidewalks to renovate first. The planning efforts demonstrate to grant providers that the Town of Clendenin is dedicated to accessibility and the sidewalks it wishes to renovate first are prioritized through the lens of accessibility to the most important services. This gives grant providers confidence that the funding request is based on a need, not simply a desire.



An example of some of the tools used to conduct a sidewalk inventory, including a high-visibility safety vest, a measuring wheel, a tape measurer, a digital level, and a dry erase board.

Upcoming RIC Meetings

September 1, 2022

December 8, 2022

RIC to assist Town of Clendenin and City of Dunbar with TA Grant Applications

Following the opening of the 2022 Transportation Alternative Program (TA) Grant Portal by the West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT), the Regional Intergovernmental Council (RIC) is continuing support for municipalities that are participating in its Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan Assistance Program by providing technical support for the City of Dunbar and the Town of Clendenin on their TA grant proposals.

The City of Dunbar – Grosscup Avenue - Construction

The City of Dunbar is continuing its efforts to see intermittently renovated sidewalks along the north and south sides of Grosscup Avenue, to bring previously identified deficiencies in the priority area to full compliance with the ADA and the Public Rights of Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG). Renovating these sidewalks for ADA and PROWAG compliance will allow for safer and more comfortable travel for persons with disabilities that live in or travel to Dunbar who wish to access pharmaceutical services, government services, and shopping, to which the route provides access. The City of Dunbar was previously awarded \$90,000 in 2020 by Governor Jim Justice and WVDOT for the engineering phase of this project. In 2022, Mayor Scott Elliot hopes to see the construction phase funded with the regional and technical support provided by RIC. The City of Dunbar previously identified deficiencies and created a plan to improve them through an ADA Transition Plan, with the assistance of RIC.

The Town of Clendenin – Clendenin Community Center Pedestrian Access Route – Engineering

The Town of Clendenin is continuing its participation in RIC's ADA Transition Plan Assistance Program by seeking RIC's assistance in developing a TA grant proposal to support the advancement of the Town of Clendenin's recently adopted ADA Transition Plan. The Town of Clendenin plans to submit an engineering phase grant to address ADA deficiencies along sidewalks in priority area #1 listed in its ADA Transition Plan – the Clendenin Community Center Pedestrian Access Route. The pedestrian access route design will seek to provide direct access to the Clendenin Community Center, which provides senior nutrition meals hosted by Kanawha Valley Senior Services. It will also seek to provide access to a fresh produce stand. The route design will seek to renovate a portion of the north side of Maywood Avenue and the west side of 1st Street and designing for about 50 feet of new sidewalk on the east side of 1st Street. The project will also seek to add brick pavers to the sidewalk edges for beautification. The Town of Clendenin was able to determine the need for these sidewalk upgrades by participating in RIC's ADA Transition Plan Assistance Program, where RIC staff conducted a sidewalk inventory and developed an ADA Transition Plan based on needs and community input.

Sign-up to Join the RIC Email List

If you would like to receive information about upcoming events and opportunities, sign up to join our email list at <http://eepurl.com/dH-hyj>

*Regional Intergovernmental Council
315 D Street
South Charleston, WV 25303*



Upcoming RIC Meeting

September 1, 2022 - 12:00 Noon

*Regional Intergovernmental Council
315 D Street, South Charleston, WV 25303
Phone: (304) 744-4258; Fax: (304) 744-2534
Website: www.wvregion3.org · Email: mail@wvregion3.org*

*Chairman: David Fletcher
Executive Director: Colt Sandoro*

Newsletter prepared by Joanna Keller

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Local Communities / Regional Solutions / Statewide Impacts