

RIC Messenger

Boone, Clay, Kanawha, Putnam Counties

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

Winter 2020

Chair Cavalier's Message

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and a happy New Year! I would like to take this opportunity to update you on what is happening at RIC and share with you the progress of the projects we are working on in our service area.

The transportation staff members at RIC have been busy these last few months.

- The RIC staff has updated the Public Participation Plan which was presented for adoption at the December 12, 2019 meeting.
- Burgess and Niple has been selected to complete the Hazardous Intersection Study and Road Safety Audits. The contract for the study was approved at the December 12, 2019 meeting.
- The RIC staff has worked to complete the Transit and Safety Performance Targets which were presented for adoption at the December 12, 2019 meeting.



The community development staff members at RIC have been busy as well these last few months.

- In Boone County, the RIC staff is working with the Boone County Public Service District which has begun construction on the Prenter Phase II Waterline Extension. This \$2,150,000 project should be completed in May 2020.
- In Clay County, the RIC staff is working with the Town of Clay which has received a \$760,000 grant from ARC for the rehabilitation of their water tank.
- In Kanawha County, the RIC staff is assisting West Dunbar PSD with a multi-million-dollar system rehabilitation after coming out of receivership earlier this year.
- In Putnam County, the RIC staff is working with the Putnam PSD which has received a \$860,000 EDA grant to provide wastewater service for a local industrial park.
- On December 30, 2019 the RIC staff submitted a FEMA Planning Grant Application to fund the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.

I look forward to seeing you at our Annual Meeting on Thursday, March 12, 2020 as we work TOGETHER to promote local communities, regional solutions and statewide impacts.

D. Anne Cavalier, Ed.D.
RIC Chair

History and Mission of the Regional Intergovernmental Council

The Boone-Clay-Kanawha-Putnam Regional Intergovernmental Council (RIC) was established in 1970 as a voluntary association of local governments. In 1971, it was designated by then Governor Arch Moore as West Virginia Region III, one of eleven such councils in West Virginia. RIC is committed to promoting economic, environmental, educational, cultural and recreational growth in Boone, Clay, Kanawha and Putnam counties.

In 1975, RIC was designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Charleston Urbanized Area. Later, this was expanded to include the entire Metropolitan Area (Kanawha and Putnam counties), to match the air quality non-attainment area. All urbanized areas in the U.S., as a condition of receiving federal highway and transit funding, must have an official MPO, whose responsibility it is to carry out a coordinated, cooperative and comprehensive planning process. This includes development of various transportation plans and programs in cooperation with state and local officials, transit agencies and local citizens

RIC's policy board is comprised primarily of representatives of 25 municipal and four county governments in the Region. The board acts as a forum for discussing mutual problems and dealing with issues that transcend political boundaries. The RIC staff works for all 29 units of government by assisting with multijurisdictional issues.

The general purpose of the Council as stated in its by-laws is as follows:

“The Council is organized and shall be operated as a cooperative organization of local governments for the promotion of public health, safety and welfare by providing improved public services and facilities, advancing the business prosperity and economic welfare and achieving a satisfactory level of living for the citizens of the area served by the Council.”

2020 RIC Meeting Dates

March 12, 2020

June 11, 2020

September 10, 2020

December 10, 2020

*All meetings will be held at 12:00 Noon at the
West Virginia Regional Technology Park*



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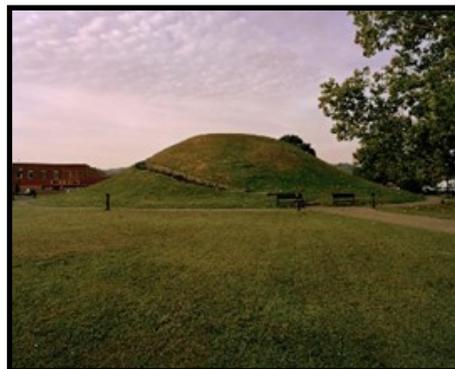
FY 2020 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LCWF)

Notice: Invitation to Submit Park Development Projects by May 1, 2020

The West Virginia Development Office has announced a grant opportunity for basic park facilities totaling \$2.8 million that is available for distribution. Award decisions will be made by the National Park Service.

To determine eligibility call or email John McGarrity at (304) 558-2234 / john.r.mcgarritty@wv.gov.

For assistance in developing your grant application, please contact the Regional Intergovernmental Council's Project Coordinator Terry Martin at (304) 744-4258 or at terrymartin@wvregion3.org.



Oakwood Road Intersection Improvements

In September the WVDOH presented five alternatives to improve traffic congestion along U.S. 119 between Emerald Road and MacCorkle Avenue (U.S. 60). The 5 alternatives ranged in cost from \$25 to \$51 million. The WVDOH received extensive feedback regarding the high cost of the projects, property impacts, and impact on the traveling public during construction.

In response to public comments the WVDOH has now developed a completely different alternative with a cost estimate of \$4.8 million for a much smaller section of U.S. 119. This new alternative will construct two innovative intersections (Restricted Crossing U-Turns/RCUT) and will impact U.S. 119 from Lawndale Lane to Hickory Road. It is anticipated that these intersection improvements will take place within existing WVDOH right-of-way and will not preclude future improvements to the corridor. These unique intersections have proven operational and safety benefits such as,

- Reduced number of conflict points at intersections
- Reduced injury and fatal crashes
- Shorter wait times at traffic signals

To meet requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and National Historic Preservation Act the WVDOH held another public meeting on Monday, December 16, 2019 at a location along the impacted roadway. The public had the opportunity to comment until January 16, 2020, before WVDOH can proceed with the project. The expected contract award date is February 2020.

New Year Statistics



The U.S. Census Bureau projected the US population to be 330,222,422 on January 1, 2020. Throughout the New Year the U.S. population is expected to grow by one person every 19 seconds. This includes; births, deaths, and net migration. Worldwide the population will increase 2.4 people every second.

Regional Intergovernmental Council Hazardous Intersection Study

The purpose of this study is to prioritize and study several intersections within Kanawha and Putnam counties in West Virginia with the goal of reducing crashes at the study locations. RIC staff developed an extensive list of 50 intersections based upon crash data and public input. The RIC staff enlisted the assistance of local stakeholders and the WVDOH to select Burgess & Niple Inc., to complete the study. The overall contract will be divided into two tasks.

Task 1: Prioritization

Crash data for the most recent three calendar years (2016 through 2018) for the 50 locations from the WVDOT ReportBeam website. Using the crash data frequencies and severities (potentially Equivalent Property Damage Only (EPDO) factors), the locations will be prioritized for further study. B&N will work with RIC to determine the best methods for prioritizing these locations.

Task 2: Intersection-Specific Studies

Selected prioritized intersections from the original list of 50 locations will be studied in more detail. A road safety audit is a formal safety performance examination of an existing or future road or intersection by an independent, multidisciplinary team. It qualitatively estimates and reports on potential road safety issues and identifies opportunities for improvements in safety for all road users. The consultant and RIC staff will cooperatively follow the FHWA Guidelines for Road Safety Audits, which will include the following steps.

1. Identify Project or Existing Road to be Audited (Task 1)
2. Select and RSA Team
3. Conduct a Pre-audit Meeting to Review Project Information and Drawings
4. Conduct Review of Project Data and Conduct Field Review
5. Conduct Audit Analysis and Prepare Report of Findings
6. Present Audit Findings to Design Team
7. Prepare Formal Response
8. Incorporate Findings into the Project when Appropriate

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> or use the QR Code below:

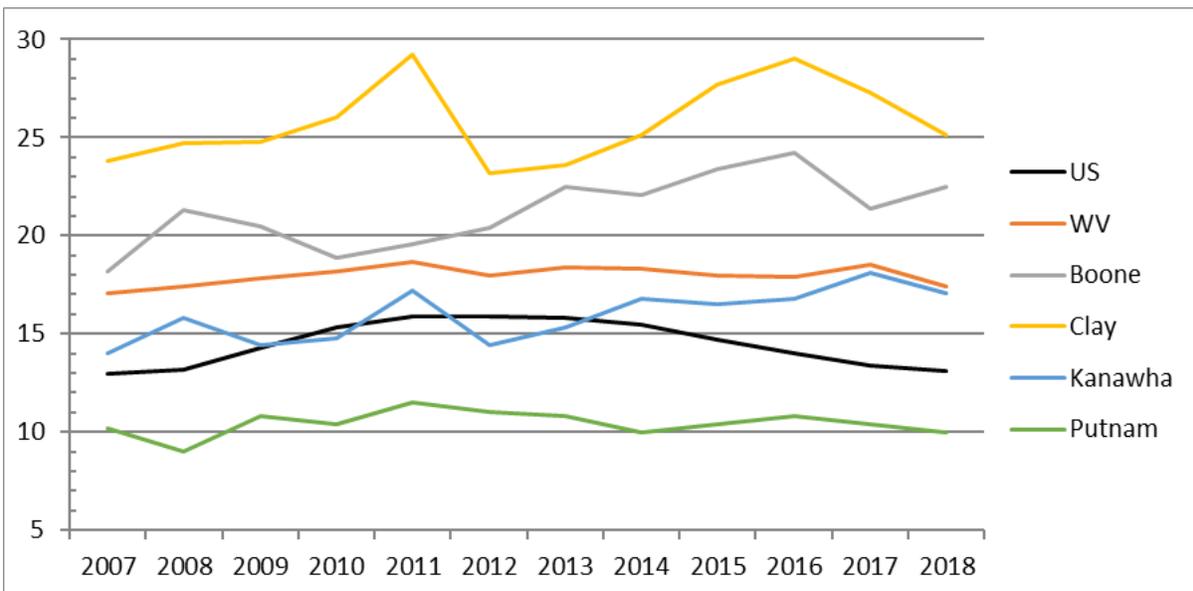


U.S. Census Bureau's Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates

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 all people living in poverty in the US, West Virginia, Boone County, Clay County, Kanawha County and Putnam County from 2007 to 2018.



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.

Prenter Phase II Waterline Extension

Construction is underway on the Prenter Phase II Waterline Extension in Boone County. This \$2,150,000 project will provide water to approximately 56 families and should be complete in May 2020.



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



Upcoming RIC Meeting

March 12, 2020 - 12:00 Noon at the West Virginia Regional Technology Park

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Executive Director: Colt Sandoro

Newsletter prepared by Joanna Keller

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Local Communities / Regional Solutions / Statewide Impacts