



RIC Messenger

Boone, Clay, Kanawha, Putnam Counties

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

Winter 2021

Chairman Snodgrass's Message



I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and a happy New Year! I am looking forward to this opportunity to serve as your new RIC Chairman and I look forward to meeting with you all at our Annual Meeting on Thursday, March 11, 2021. I would like to take this occasion to update you on the progress of some of the current projects happening at RIC.

The RIC transportation staff assisted the Town of Marmet in receiving a \$50,000 Transportation Alternative design phase grant for the Lens Creek Road Pedestrian Safety Project. The transportation staff also completed the Hazardous Intersection Study with the assistance of Burgess and Niple Inc. Several intersections were prioritized and studied within Kanawha and Putnam counties with the goal of reducing crashes at the selected locations. The transportation staff has also been working with Kimley Horn on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP); over the past several months two virtual public hearings have been hosted, the travel demand model has been updated and work with the MTP is now in the beginning stages of project identification. In addition, the transportation staff has been working with the West Virginia Division of Highways, Kanawha Valley Regional Transportation Authority and the West Virginia Division of Public Transit to prepare updated performance targets for next year.

The community development staff at RIC have been busy as well these last few months. In Putnam County, the RIC staff is working with the Putnam Public Service District, which received a \$1.2 million US Economic Development Administration grant. In Kanawha County, the RIC staff is working with the Kanawha Regional Development Authority, which received final approval to bid the Paint Creek/Standard/Mahan waterline extension. Additionally, the Kanawha Public Service District received the final \$1.5 million from the USDA Rural Development to fund the \$7.9 million project that will provide sanitary sewer to the Lens Creek area in Kanawha County. Also, the Town of Cedar Grove received bids on their sanitary sewer rehabilitation and will begin construction in the early spring. The final project that I would like to mention is that Yeager Airport received a \$1.2 million US Economic Development Administration grant to construct the apron for the Marshall University Flight School and provide sanitary sewer to outparcels for acquisition.

I am excited as we continue to work together through RIC to promote local communities, regional solutions and statewide impacts.

Jennings B. "Jay" Snodgrass Jr.
Acting Chairman

RIC Mourns the Loss of Longstanding Board Member Damron Bradshaw



DAMRON BLAIR BRADSHAW 78, lifelong resident and leader of Chesapeake went home to be with his Lord Saturday, January 16 after a short illness with Covid-19.

Preceding him in death were his parents, Jesse M. and Sarah V. (Childress) Bradshaw; brother, Jesse (Sonny) Bradshaw Jr.; nephew, Jesse M. (Matt) Bradshaw III from Humble, Texas; step-grandson, Andrew Scott Daugherty; sister-in-law, Donna Caudill Legg and brother-in-law, John William Caudill.

Surviving are his wife of 30 years, Mary Jane Caudill Bradshaw; sons, Paul Bradshaw (Bonita) and Charles Bradshaw both of Chesapeake; granddaughter, Ashley Bradshaw Carver (Cody) of Dry Branch; sister-in-law, Beulah Bradshaw Ford; nephew, Mark Bradshaw; great nephews, Jesse and Mason Bradshaw all of Humble, Texas; sisters-in-law, Sue Caudill Whittington (Wayne) and Janice Caudill Jenkins; brother-in-law, Damon Caudill (Kim); step son, John D. Scott III; step daughters, Kim Scott and Lori Daugherty (DeWayne); step grandchildren, Derek (Kelly) and Alicia Scott, Nathaniel (Emily)Hall and Mary Jane (Hall) (Jonathan) Ramsey, Adam (Katey), Alex (Lacee), and Aaron Daugherty; step great grandchildren, Henry and Hayden Hall, Jarrett Ramsey and Winston Daugherty; who all love him very much.

Damron was in the graduating class of 1960 at East Bank High School and graduated from West Virginia Tech with a degree in Business. Damron retired as a Shift Supervisor at E. I. Dupont's Belle Plant. He had thirty-two years of perfect attendance and was president of the Twenty-Five Year Club in 1986. He was first elected to the Chesapeake Town Council in 1971 and held every elected office in the town. He became mayor on January 21, 1991 and served twenty-four and one-half years. He also served as Municipal Judge from 1995 to 2015.

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Damron was ordained in 1974 in the Assembly Mission Association. He served as Associate Pastor from 1974-1982 of the Chesapeake Assembly. He then was a member of the Reynold's Memorial United Methodist Church in Marmet and Day Star Church in London, Ohio and served as pastor of the Racine United Methodist Church from 2000 until present.

Damron was fluent in Portuguese. In 1971 he became interested in the Brazilian Mission Program of the Pentecostal Church of Christ. In 1976 he was the National President of the Pentecostal Ambassadors, the denomination's youth group. He was later named Field Secretary to South Africa for the group which recently had merged with another. He made more than thirty-five trips to Brazil in that capacity along with official mission trips to Uruguay, Argentina, Venezuela, French Guiana, Jamaica, Africa, India, and the Philippines.

He was a member of the Loudendale Lions Club since 1971 and a member of the former Upper Kanawha Valley Rotary Club. He served as President or Chairman of the Regional Development Authority, the Kanawha County 4-H Foundation, the Chesapeake Lions Club, the Kanawha County Enforcement Agency, the Upper Kanawha Valley Enterprise Community where he became Executive Director and held that position from 2005 until 2015. He was also a member of the West Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, a member of the Upper Kanawha Valley Economic Development Association, frequent advisor to the Kanawha County Commission and a former member of the Chesapeake Volunteer Fire Department. As you can see, Damron had devoted his life to service as evidence of the many hats he wore.

He loved WVU sports, Riverside athletics and spent countless hours working to improve the lives of those who live in the Upper Kanawha Valley.

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:



Coronavirus Relief Funding Available for Entitlement and Non-Entitlement Communities

The State of West Virginia Department of Community Advancement and Development (WVCAD), a division of the West Virginia Development Office (WVDO), is now accepting a second round of applications from qualifying Entitlement and non-Entitlement Counties and Municipalities to help in the prevention of, preparation for, and response to the Coronavirus. CDBG-CV funds are available to qualifying public facility projects, public services, and planning activities serving residents State-wide with at least 51% benefit to low- to moderate-income persons.

All applications for CDBG-CV funds are due to the WVCAD office on or before 5:00p.m. on Friday, March 12th, 2021.

The State of West Virginia Amended FY2019 Consolidated Annual Action Plan which outlines the CDBG-CV program is posted on www.wvcad.org/resources under the HUD Consolidated Plan and Summary header.

WVCAD CDBG Program staff will conduct two webinars to review the CDBG-CV application and to provide an opportunity for potential applicants to ask questions. The first session is scheduled for Tuesday January 26th, at 12:00PM and the second session is scheduled for Wednesday, September 27th, at 2:00PM. To register for one of the sessions mentioned above, visit the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/WVCDBG-CV>.

For all questions regarding the CDBG-CV funding and for aid with the application process, contact Emily Hammond, Economic Resiliency Coordinator at emily@wvregion3.org.



Colt Sandoro presenting Chairman Cunningham with a plaque to honor him for his service and dedication to the RIC Board during his tenure as Chairman.

Hazardous Intersection Study

The RIC Transportation Staff has completed the Hazardous Intersection Study with the assistance of Burgess and Niple Inc., (B&N). The purpose of this study was to prioritize and study several intersections within Kanawha and Putnam counties in West Virginia with the goal of reducing crashes at the selected locations. RIC staff developed an extensive list of 50 intersections based upon crash data and public input and B&N ranked each intersection quantitatively.

B&N and RIC Staff held the first of four virtual Stakeholder Meeting in April where B&N presented the prioritized intersection list, ranking methodology, selected intersections, and proposed study tasks for each location. The selected intersections and specific tasks and analyses that will be performed for each of the studies are listed below.

Selected Intersections:

- WV 34 between Great Teays Boulevard and I-64
- Pennsylvania Avenue (North and South) between Virginia Street to Washington Street
- Patrick Street and Kanawha Boulevard
- US 60 between Mile Branch Road and Hull Avenue
- MacCorkle Ave and Montrose Rd

All studies will have the following aspects:

- Crash Trends Analysis and Collision Diagram
- Field Visit
- Countermeasure Identification
- Stakeholder Meeting
- Final Report

Subsequent stakeholder meetings were held in July, September, and December. The study team faced many challenges throughout this study due to the on-going Corona Virus Pandemic. All meetings were held virtually, field reviews were held while socially distanced, and traffic counts were adjusted to match historic traffic volumes. Holding virtual meetings and reduced travel led to significant cost savings and an additional intersection was selected to study. The final report for the additional intersection (MacCorkle Ave and Montrose Rd) was finalized at the end of December. These recommended countermeasures for each intersection will be included in the on-going Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Welcome New RIC Board Members

- Mayor James Buddy Hudson, City of Madison
- Mayor Scott Elliott, City of Dunbar
- Mayor Ramon A Williams, Town of Pratt
- Commissioner Craig Bratcher, Boone County

RIC's ADA Transition Plan Assistance Program

Made possible by the guidance of Dr. Ron Eck of West Virginia University's West Virginia Local Technical Assistance Program (WVLTAP), the Regional Intergovernmental Council (RIC) is reaching out to its constituents seeking new participants for its American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan Assistance Program. This member-only program is designed to provide all the tools possible your municipal government needs in order to ensure compliance with the latest surface transportation infrastructure accessibility guidance. With these tools, your town will be on its way to ensuring your public spaces meet the needs of all community members regardless of ability. Through this collaborative partnership we can offer your town the following services free of charge:

- **Virtual classroom training:**
 - ◊ Equip your staff with the knowledge from WVLTAP to be aware of existing surface transportation accessibility and safety deficiencies.
- **On-site self-evaluations:**
 - ◊ Enlist RIC staff to audit your transportation infrastructure of any existing surface transportation accessibility or safety deficiencies.
- **ADA Transition Plan drafting:**
 - ◊ Enlist RIC staff to assist in drafting your first ADA Transition Plan from outline to resolution.
- **ADA Transition Plan auditing:**
 - ◊ Enlist RIC staff to conduct an internal review of your existing ADA Transition Plan for quality, compliance, and adherence.

By continuing this program RIC's goal is to create regional conformity by upholding each of our partner's ADA transition plans to a high standard. No matter where your municipality is in the ADA Transition Plan process, contacting RIC staff to assist you can be your first step to ensure your town is eligible to receive federal grant assistance and working to reduce the risk of liability.

If you are interested in one or any combination of these services offered through this program, please contact Sam Richardson at srichardson@wvregion3.org.

2021 RIC Meetings

March 11, 2021

June 10, 2021

September 9, 2021

December 9, 2021



3 STEPS TO STARTUP Venture Fair

Join entrepreneurs from West Virginia and across the region in attending the virtual **3 Steps to StartUp Venture Fair**, taking place from 9:30am-noon on Tuesday, March 9 and Wednesday, March 10!

The event, which will feature experienced investors, assistance providers and innovators that have “been there and done that”, aims to provide West Virginia tech-focused, research-driven entrepreneurs an opportunity to learn strategies for raising funds and how to make an effective pitch to investors.

The event is open to all entrepreneurs, assistance providers, small business owners, funders, economic developers, and others. There is no cost to attend.

Go to the link below to register

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZluc-qorD8tEtx5PZSJspZYSm5ek1tXXipY>

Presentation topics will include:

Day One: *“So You Want to Start a Tech-Based or Research-Driven Business?”*

- What it takes to launch a tech-based or research-driven business
- How to be an effective tech-based startup (what questions to ask yourself when starting a business)
- Descriptions of and differences between funding categories
- Trends in early-stage venture funding

Day Two: *“Persuasive Pitching: What’s It Take to Sell Your Concept?”*

- Why pitch prep is critical, what comprises an effective pitch, and the 20 questions an investor will ask that you need to be prepared for
- Watch & Learn: Pitches from 5 WV StartUp Companies
- Entrepreneur Panel: Lessons Learned/Best Practices/Words of Wisdom
- Assistance/resources available to startups to help them move their concept forward

About 3 Steps To StartUp

The INNOVA Commercialization Group in collaboration with TechConnect West Virginia and the West Virginia Jobs Investment Trust created the *3 Steps to Start Up Program*, which is funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation through a federal POWER (Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization) grant. To learn more about the 3 Steps to StartUp Program, or to apply, visit <http://3steps2startup.com/>.



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



*Upcoming RIC Meeting
March 11, 2021 - 12:00 Noon*

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*Acting Chairman: Jennings B. “Jay” Snodgrass Jr.
Executive Director: Colt Sandoro*

Newsletter prepared by Joanna Keller

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Local Communities / Regional Solutions / Statewide Impacts