

2023 Annual Report

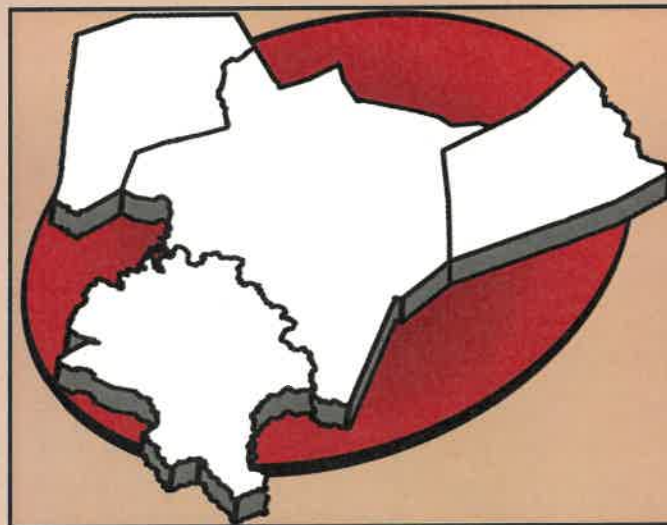
Boone

Clay

Kanawha

Putnam

Regional Intergovernmental Council



Local Communities / Regional Solutions / Statewide Impacts

History and Mission of the Regional Intergovernmental Council

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) was formally established on March 9, 1965 when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Appalachian Regional Development Act (ARDA) into public law. The ARC is a federal-state partnership committed to strengthening Appalachia's economy and helping the Region's 13 states achieve economic parity with the rest of the Nation. The Boone-Clay-Kanawha-Putnam Regional Intergovernmental Council (RIC) is the ARC's Local Development District (LDD) for our four county Region.

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. The responsibility of the MPO is to conduct 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 was designated as the Economic Development District (EDD) for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) on June, 16 1977. The EDA plays a critical role in facilitating regional economic development efforts in communities across the nation. EDDs serve as multi-jurisdictional entities that work to lead the locally based, regionally driven economic development planning process.

RIC's policy board is comprised of forty-eight members, including one commissioner from each of the four counties, the mayor of each of the twenty-five municipalities, fourteen citizen representatives and two minority representatives. The board acts as a forum for discussing mutual problems and dealing with issues that transcend political boundaries. The RIC staff works for all twenty-nine units of government by assisting with multi-jurisdictional issues.

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

“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.”



Chairman Casebolt's Message



RIC is an excellent organization with much to offer our region through continued leadership and assistance with many projects in Boone, Clay, Kanawha, and Putnam counties. I am excited to share RIC's many accomplishments in 2023 with you.

Transportation

In 2023, the RIC Policy Board adopted the suballocated funding guidelines that set forth the procedures and policies to distribute **Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG)** and **Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)** transportation funds to the RIC Metropolitan Transportation Area of Kanawha and Putnam counties. The RIC Policy Board adopted the **Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP)**. This created a list of action items and strategies RIC can take to reach the RIC Policy Board's newly adopted vision of zero traffic fatalities and severe injuries in Kanawha and Putnam counties. RIC also began implementing this action plan by conducting traffic safety studies at two crash hotspot locations through stakeholder discussions and on-site visits. RIC staff representatives participated in developing the **Region III Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Plan** that identifies transit and transportation accessibility needs for older people, people living with disabilities, and people living with incomes below the federal poverty level in Boone, Clay, Kanawha, and Putnam counties.

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Community Development

The Community Development Team worked on many projects throughout 2023, too many to name, but I would like to highlight a few. The **Standard/Paint Creek Project** in Kanawha County is finishing up. This 6.8 million dollar project extends water to locations on the turnpike and residents of Upper Paint Creek. Water meters have been set in the Kanawha County **Crestwood Project**, and residents are starting to receive water. This 1.9 million dollar project will serve thirty-four residents along Crestwood Road. **Jim Ridge Phase II** in Putnam County is a 3.8 million dollar waterline extension that serves sixty-six Jim Ridge residents. The **Putnam PSD Water Plant Expansion** is complete; this 2.4 million dollar project constructed a 1,600-square-foot building to contain a new filter unit to increase the plant's capacity. The Community Development Team completed and applied for a US EDA grant on behalf of **Advantage Valley**. This project will rehabilitate the former **Vossloh Track Materials Building** in Black Betsy to prepare it for use as a multi-tenant industrial building. The Community Development Team continues to work on developing applications on behalf of **Boone County PSD** to serve a portion of the former **Hobet Mine** site with water. The proposed waterline will support the planned development of the Mountain State Clean Energy Complex. **Lens Creek Sewer Line Extension**, **South Charleston Liberty Street Lift Station Rehabilitation**, and the **Town of Clay Sanitary Sewer Facilities Rehabilitation** are a few more projects RIC worked on in 2023.

The past year has been hectic for RIC, as the staff worked on various regional projects. As we move into 2024, we will continue strengthening Region 3 by promoting local communities, regional solutions, and statewide impacts.

Dave Casebolt
Chairman

Regional Intergovernmental Council Staff

Tyler Ferrell, Executive Director

Joanna Keller, Executive Assistant

Brandy Whittington, Finance Manager

Marci Tucker, Financial Assistant/Project Administrator

Terry Martin, Project Coordinator

SoJuana Ellis, Project Administrator

Bruce Mullins, Project Coordinator

Samuel Richardson, Transportation Program Manager

Jake Smith, Transportation Planner

2023 Regional Intergovernmental Council Officers

Chairman	Mayor David Casebolt, City of Nitro
First Vice-Chairman	Mayor David Fletcher, Town of Belle
Second Vice-Chairman	Kris Mitchell, Boone County Citizen Representative
Third Vice-Chairman	SK Miller, Private Sector Representative
Secretary	Coston Davis, Jr., Minority Group Representative
Treasurer	Commissioner Connie Kinder, Clay County Commission

Elected to serve from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

2023 Regional Intergovernmental Council Board Members

Boone County Commission	Brett Kuhn, Commissioner
Clay County Commission	Connie Kinder, Commissioner
Kanawha County Commission	W. Kent Carper, Commissioner
Putnam County Commission	Andy Skidmore, Commissioner
Town of Bancroft	Jami Echols Hayes, Mayor
Town of Belle	David Fletcher, Mayor
Town of Buffalo	Conrad Cain, Mayor
Town of Cedar Grove	Melissa Young, Mayor
City of Charleston	Amy Shuler Goodwin, Mayor
Town of Chesapeake	Melissa Hill, Mayor
Town of Clay	Josh Shamblin, Mayor
Town of Clendenin	Kay Summers, Mayor
Town of Danville	Mark McClure, Mayor
City of Dunbar	Scott E. Elliott, Mayor
Town of East Bank	Charles A. Blair, Mayor
Town of Eleanor	Cam Clendenin, Mayor
Town of Glasgow	Donald Fannin, Mayor
Town of Handley	Essie Ford, Jr., Mayor
City of Hurricane	Scott Edwards, Mayor
City of Madison	James “Buddy” Hudson, Mayor
Town of Marmet	David T. Fontalbert, Mayor
City of Nitro	Dave Casebolt, Mayor
Town of Poca	William Jones, Mayor
Town of Pratt	Ramon A. Williams, Mayor
City of St. Albans	Scott James, Mayor
City of South Charleston	Frank Mullens, Mayor

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2023 Regional Intergovernmental Council Board Members (Continued)

Town of Sylvester	Harvey Ferrell, Mayor
Town of Whitesville	Fred V. Harless, Jr., Mayor
City of Winfield	Randy Barrett, Mayor
Minority Group Representative	Oree Banks
Minority Group Representative	Coston Davis, Jr.
Boone County Citizen Representative	Kris Mitchell
Clay County Citizen Representative	Barry McCune
Kanawha County Citizen Representative	Melissa Smith
Putnam County Citizen Representative	Mark A. Stolle, Jr.
City of Charleston Citizen Representative	Andy Backus
Private Sector Representative	Russell Saunders, BridgeValley CTC
Private Sector Representative	Charles Mays, Faith Based-Comm. Service
Private Sector Representative	Kenneth Kinder, E.L. Robinson Engineering
Private Sector Representative	SK Miller, Verizon Mid-Atlantic (Retired)
Private Sector Representative	Clark McCoy, WV Regional Tech. Park
Private Sector Representative	Andrew Dunlap, Charleston Area Alliance
Private Sector Representative	Eric Sharp, Labor Employees Coop. Trust
Private Sector Representative	Ericke S. Cage, J.D., LL.M., WVSU
Private Sector Representative	Curt Zickafoose, KVRTA
Private Sector Representative	Brian Carr, WVDOH
Private Sector Representative	Joy Underwood, Coal River Inn
Private Sector Representative	Morganne Tenney, Putnam Co. Dev. Authority

2023 State Intergovernmental Reviews

During the twelve-month period from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023, RIC received 9 applications for state and federal assistance. Functioning as a clearinghouse, RIC is empowered by the State of West Virginia to review and comment upon selected applications for federal and state funds. This is accomplished by soliciting comments from RIC members in the project area.

No.	Project	Location	Applicant	Project Cost
1	Middle Ridge Trail System – AML Pilot Program	Kanawha County	Kanawha State Forest	\$300,000
2	Friends of Hansford – Section 5310 Grant Program – Purchase of Transportation Services	Kanawha County	Friends of Hansford	\$15,920
3	Putnam County Aging Program – Section 5310 Grant Program – Purchase of Transportation Services	Putnam County	Putnam County Aging Program	\$50,000
4	Kanawha County Solid Waste Authority – Recycling Program – Solid Waste Management Board Grant	Kanawha County	Kanawha County Solid Waste Authority	\$20,000
5	Clay County Solid Waste Authority – Annual Cleanup – Solid Waste Management Grant	Clay County	Clay County Solid Waste Authority	\$10,910
6	Putnam County Solid Waste Authority – Recycling Program – Solid Waste Management Board Grant	Putnam County	Putnam County Solid Waste Authority	\$20,000
7	Kanawha County Emergency Ambulance Authority – Marmet Ambulance Station – Congressionally Directed Spending Request	Kanawha County	Kanawha County Ambulance Authority	\$838,000
8	Town of Buffalo – Park Expansion - Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant	Putnam County	Town of Buffalo	\$410,000
9	Town of Eleanor – Park Expansion - Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant	Putnam County	Town of Eleanor	\$410,000

Regional Intergovernmental Council

Expenditures for the Year Ending June, 30 2023

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

Planning and Technical Assistance	12,832
Project Development	59,459
Regional Development Plan (RDP)	3,870
Coordination & Support	<u>47,295</u>
	123,456

TRANSPORTATION

Management and Administration	116,151
Long Range Plan Development	33,054
Transportation Improvement Program	27,704
Short Range Planning	34,495
Database GIS	84,675
General Transit	12,347
Special Studies	<u>242,363</u>
	550,789

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Hazard Mitigation	39,131
Buffalo- Critical Needs – Crystal Lane	5,867
Buffalo- Critical Needs – BMH	2,415
Dunbar Sanitary Board	8,139
Dunbar Sanitary Pass Through	373,684
Boone Foster	1,176
KCRDA Standard	16,244
KCRDA Olcott	5,215
Clay County Commission - Broadband	1,089
Putnam Water Rehabilitation	12,940
Yeager Airport	10,965
Tech Connect – Techwrks	491
Putnam – Jim Ridge	12,488
Cedar Grove Sewer	10,822
Belle - West Reynolds	8,804
BMH Farmers Market	3,756

Boone County – Right Fork	15,441
KPSD Lens Creek	7,195
Putnam – Deer Creek	12,984
Big Otter Nebo	3,299
Kanawha RDA Crestview	1,920
West Dunbar PSD	4,397
Clay Emergency Sewer	17,985
Clay Water Treatment	3,265
Boone Co Rock Creek	82
Prenter Phase II	3,681
South Charleston Housing Authority	1,338
Clay Water Leak	1,376
Boone Co BB	426
Headwaters of the Elk	210
EB Coalburg	16
BEAD	12,471
Digital Equity	<u>9,938</u>
	609,250

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

Project Development	39,467
CEDS	9,781
Coordination and Support	54,921
Cares	<u>129,561</u>
	233,730
SUBTOTAL	<u>1,517,225</u>
General Fund	<u>36,375</u>
GRAND TOTAL	<u>1,553,600</u>

LINE ITEM EXPENSES

Salaries	448,053
Fringe Benefits	117,829
Contractual Services	245,825
Travel	24,104
Printing	5,979
Indirect	274,137
Other	<u>437,673</u>
TOTAL	<u>1,553,600</u>

Transportation Planning

Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Suballocated Funding Policies

In 2023, RIC strategized ways and implemented policies to accelerate the RIC MTP which was adopted by the RIC Policy Board on September 9, 2021. In June of 2023, the RIC Policy Board adopted the suballocated funding guidelines that set forth the procedures to distribute Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funding to the RIC Metropolitan Transportation Area of Kanawha and Putnam counties.

Throughout 2023, work efforts were focused on implementing the goals and objectives of the current RIC MTP while incorporating the requirements of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), commonly known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP)

The RIC Policy Board adopted the RIC CSAP for the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Area of Kanawha and Putnam counties. This created a list of action items that RIC can take to work towards reaching the RIC Policy Board's newly adopted vision of zero fatalities and serious injuries in Kanawha and Putnam counties. RIC also began implementing this action plan with conducting traffic safety studies at two crash hotspot locations, which included acquiring a consultant Professional Engineer through a formal Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process, a stakeholder discussion, and on-site visits.

Transit Planning

In 2023, RIC staff representatives participated in the development of the Region III Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Plan, that serves to identify transit and transportation accessibility needs for older people, people living with disabilities, and people living with incomes below the federal poverty level in Boone, Clay, Kanawha, and Putnam counties. In December of 2023, the RIC Policy Board adopted the plan for the region.

Transportation Improvement Program

Throughout 2023, RIC amended its FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and adopted the new FY 2024-2027 TIP in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT), West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP), and the Kanawha Valley Regional Transportation Authority (KVRTA). Amendments to the RIC TIP were approved by the RIC Policy Board on a quarterly basis. In 2023, RIC transportation staff gathered data to maintain the web-based equity view and TIP project location map. The equity view is publicly available on the RIC website (www.wvregion3.org).

Census Management Planning

During 2023, RIC updated its library of printed and digital data materials from the U.S. Census Bureau and results from the 2020 Decennial Census. RIC assisted local municipalities, agencies and the public with census-related projects throughout the year. RIC transportation staff monitored, tracked, and developed updates to its planning products from the 2020 Decennial Census data and the latest available American Community Survey data.

Transportation Planning

Hazard Mitigation Planning

During 2023, RIC maintained the December 2022 update to the Region 3 Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP)—a plan which encompasses all hazards with potential to adversely impact the region of Boone, Clay, Kanawha and Putnam counties.

An approved hazard mitigation plan is required to receive non-emergency disaster assistance. RIC provided short-range planning assistance to member municipalities, explored developing a Region 3 emergency management program with the West Virginia Emergency Management Division, and strategized ways to implement RIC action items in the plan.

Transportation Database/Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

RIC continued to maintain its Geographic Information System (GIS) capabilities in 2023. RIC continues to utilize GIS for its transportation planning efforts. GIS software is utilized to provide mapping products for RIC's transportation plans in addition to community development projects, RIC member municipalities, and other local organizations. In 2023, RIC transportation staff acquired, updated, and analyzed crash data for Kanawha and Putnam counties to support RIC's maintenance of its Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP).

Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning

An element of the *Kanawha-Putnam Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan*, adopted in 2019, was the establishment of convening the RIC Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) on a quarterly basis. The committee meets prior to the meetings of the RIC Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) to advise stakeholders and advocates on current bicycle and pedestrian initiatives and policies, gather feedback from citizens and the community, and coordinate intergovernmental relations. The BPAC met four times, during regular quarterly meetings, throughout 2023 to prioritize bicycle and pedestrian planning efforts.

RIC transportation staff continued to provide assistance to RIC member municipalities through its ADA Technical Assistance Program. Through this initiative, RIC provides technical assistance to local communities to support the development, maintenance, and implementation of ADA transition plans. In 2023, the Town of Cedar Grove, the Town of Chesapeake, and the Town of Poca adopted ADA Transition Plans as a result of this program.

RIC Title VI Plan

In 2023, RIC maintained and implemented its Title VI Plan for transportation planning. The plan update was adopted by the RIC Policy Board on December 8, 2022. This is a required plan and ensures RIC's transportation planning complies with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as well as subsequent acts and Executive Orders pertaining to Title VI. RIC transportation staff review the plan on an annual basis to ensure compliance with current and future legislation. The goal of the plan is to ensure federally funded transportation planning activities do not discriminate against any persons on the basis of race, religion, sex, national origin, ethnicity, age, disability, political affiliation, color, marital status, sexual orientation, economic status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

Transportation Planning

RIC Public Participation Plan

RIC's Public Participation Plan for transportation planning details the processes, techniques, and activities RIC utilizes to inform and engage the public in transportation planning issues for the purpose of maximizing public involvement. This plan documents RIC's current and future actions to efficiently promote public participation in the metropolitan transportation planning process through various types of activities. Additionally, the plan outlines RIC's goals and objectives to ensure successful public participation processes for all planning purposes and activities. A significant focus of this plan is to ensure the fair and equitable participation and outreach to historically disadvantaged populations, including persons of limited English proficiency (LEP), persons with disabilities, minority groups and other underserved populations. RIC's Public Participation Plan is a living document and is reviewed on an ongoing basis.

During 2023, RIC maintained and implemented its Public Participation Plan to continue the facilitation of maximizing public involvement in the metropolitan transportation planning process. The plan update was adopted by the RIC Policy Board on December 8, 2022.



Community and Economic Development

2023 RIC Community Projects Update

During 2023, RIC administered a number of infrastructure projects including the Boone County Boone Memorial Hospital Sewer Extension Project, the Kanawha Public Service District Lens Creek Phase II Sewer Extension Project, the Town of Clay Water Tank Rehabilitation Project, the Town of Clay Emergency Sewer Rehabilitation Project, the Town of Clay Critical Needs Waterline Replacement Project, the Putnam County Jim Ridge Phase II Waterline Extension Project, the Kanawha County Crestwood Waterline Extension Project, the Kanawha County Olcott/Alum Creek Waterline Extension Project, the Kanawha County Standard/Paint Creek Mahan Waterline Extension Project, the Town of Cedar Grove Sewer Project, and the Belle Sewer Rehabilitation Project. RIC also administered the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) projects for the Putnam Public Service District Deer Creek Pump Station, Line Extension, and Water Rehabilitation Project. RIC completed administration of the Marshall University Flight School Apron Project and is continuing to support the sewer line extension to commercial sites.

RIC assisted in the development of additional infrastructure projects including, the Boone County Madison Inflow and Infiltration Sewer Rehabilitation Project, the Boone County Rock Creek Industrial Park Infrastructure Project, the Boone County Public Service District Right Fork Waterline Extension Project, the Putnam County Development Authority Strategic Plan Grant Application, the Sissonville Public Service District Sewer Improvements Project, the Town of East Bank Sewer Improvements Project, the Kanawha County Headwaters of the Elk Planning Project, the Town of Clay Emergency Waterline Replacement Project, the Clay Roane Critical Needs Improvement Project, and the Clay County Public Service District Big Otter/Nebo/Walker Road Waterline Extension Project. RIC also assisted with funding requests for other projects, some of which are currently pending and still in the preliminary phases.

RIC has assisted in the development of US EDA Build Back Better applications for the WV Regional Technology Park, the Boone Memorial Hospital Sustainable Living Initiative, the Yeager Airport Paint Hanger Structure Improvements, and the Boone County Rock Creek Development Park.

RIC is administering a number of US Congressional Directed Spending Grants for the Town of Marmet, the Elk Valley Public Service District, the West Virginia Regional Tech Park, and the Charleston Capitol Market. RIC is also administering many West Virginia Water Development Authority Economic Enhancement Grants for the Civil-Military Innovation Institute, the Putnam Public Service District 817 Sewer Line Extension and the Clay County Judicial Annex.

RIC assisted Clay County in administering a HUD Broadband Design Grant for Clay County to develop an independent broadband service for the region. The Clay Broadband Committee interviewed and selected Thompson and Litton of Wise, Virginia to design a broadband system for portions of Clay County.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) FY 2023 Update

RIC has completed the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) FY 2023 Update as required by the US Economic Development Administration (EDA). The FY 2023 CEDS documents new developments and other changes in the region and revisits the goals, strategies and projects list included within the plan. The RIC Policy Board approved the FY 2023 CEDS Update on June 13, 2023.

Looking Back at the Regional Intergovernmental Council in 2023



RIC Says Goodbye to
Colt Sandoro



SoJuana Ellis Serves as
Interim Executive Director



RIC Says Goodbye to
Kelsey Harrah



RIC Welcomes New Executive Director
Tyler Ferrell



East Reynolds Avenue
Belle



Putnam PSD Water Plant Expansion



Jim Ridge Phase II Waterline
Extension Groundbreaking
Putnam County



Crestwood Drive Waterline
Extension Groundbreaking
Kanawha County

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Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation and the
Appalachian Regional Commission.**

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***Chairman: Dave Casebolt
Executive Director: Tyler Ferrell***

Annual Report prepared by Joanna Keller, Executive Assistant

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