



RIC Messenger

Boone, Clay, Kanawha, Putnam Counties

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

Fall 2020

Chair Cunningham's Message



COVID-19 came, COVID-19 has lingered, COVID-19 has stayed, COVID-19 will be with us for a long time.

Some have lost a lot, some have suffered a lot, and some have learned a lot.

We cannot linger on the losses and suffering. We need to be strong and help lift others up.

If each one of us take a look at our communities, we will see that there is new growth and progress. We continue to provide essential services; we have continued to make civic improvements; we continue to plan for future projects. All of this is being done to maintain the integrity of our communities while we weather this storm.

A lot has been taking place across our Region in the past couple of months.

Final performance reports have been issued for projects in the Town of Clay, Town of Belle and Putnam County.

Administrative work has begun on two projects in Kanawha County, namely the Olcott and Paint Creek/Standard Water Line Extensions.

Putnam PSD received a \$1.2 million Us Economic Development Administration Grant for water system improvements.

Staff are actively working to find funding for bridges on the Elk River Trail System and a future State Park between Queen Shoals Bridge and Clendenin.

Transportation Alternative Grant applications are completed for the Lens Creek Road Pedestrian Safety Improvements which is sponsored by the by the Kanawha County Commission and Town of Marmet.

The first steering committee meeting was held for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The committee is working on setting goals and priorities.

The Hazardous Intersection Study is wrapping up. The final recommendations are being prepared and when approved will be incorporated in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

As you can see infrastructure is being updated, plans are being prepared and plans are being implemented.

Working together we can weather the COVID storm, and by working we can be a beacon of encouragement to everyone that we represent that we are moving forward.

William E. Cunningham

RIC Chairman

The RIC transportation staff has begun work on the update to the *Regional Intergovernmental Council Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)*. The MTP serves as the long-range plan for the RIC MPO and is updated once every four years. The MTP is a comprehensive plan, created for the objective of defining and guiding transportation planning initiatives for the current and future transportation systems of the metropolitan planning area.



The plan development process of the MTP is an extensive process comprised of multiple phases to allow for improvements of the overall transportation system for all users alike. During development of the plan, RIC utilizes data-driven methodologies in combination with stakeholder and public input to identify existing and anticipated deficiencies of transportation infrastructure and addresses the needs for safe and efficient motorized travel, bicycle and pedestrian travel, transit and freight transport in the metropolitan planning area.

Currently, the update to the RIC MTP is in the initial phase of development which includes the completion of specialized tasks such as identification of the plan's working group, or 'Steering Committee', comprised of members from local communities and municipalities, community organizations, public and private transportation providers and transportation planning partners from local, state and federal levels of government.

A critical component for an all-encompassing, successful plan is the usage of equitable and innovative public engagement strategies and tools. RIC encourages members of the public to get involved and facilitates participation from the public during the MTP development process to aide in addressing key issues and concerns from users of the existing transportation system. Public engagement by way of public meetings is a traditional characteristic of public involvement for the RIC MTP and allows for the collection of valued public input and feedback on the existing transportation system of the metropolitan planning area in an open and transparent manner.

Due to the current circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, for the safety of all affected persons, public engagement efforts for the MTP will be conducted virtually. Any persons who wish to participate but are unable to do so virtually at the scheduled times may submit any input for the RIC MTP to the office of the Regional Intergovernmental Council via mail. The first, public 'kick-off' meetings for the RIC MTP are scheduled for **Monday, October 26, 2020 from 12 Noon-2:00pm and Tuesday, October 27, 2020 from 4:00-6:00pm via GoToMeeting.** RIC has scheduled two meeting dates and times to allow for maximum participation to best accommodate the daily schedules of our constituents.

If you are reading this article, your attendance is encouraged!

Meeting Information:

To join from a computer, tablet or smartphone: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/559522189>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: [+1 \(224\) 501-3412](tel:+12245013412)

Access Code: 559-522-189

Any persons wishing to participate may attend one or both public meetings. RIC transportation staff and project team members from Kimley-Horn and Associates will be available during each meeting to answer any questions and discuss overall plan initiatives and current plan progress.

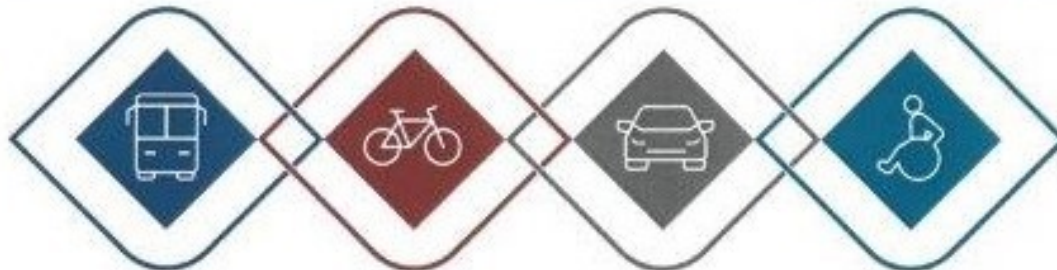
THE REGIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL INVITES YOU TO...



JOIN US



-VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING-



REGIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Monday, October 26, 2020: 12:00 - 2:00pm

Tuesday, October 27, 2020: 4:00 - 6:00pm

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The Putnam Public Service District in Scott Depot, West Virginia received a \$1.2 million grant to upgrade the community's water capacity to serve area commercial and industrial customers. The EDA grant, to be matched with \$1.2 million in local funds, is expected to create 220 jobs, retain more than 780 jobs, and generate \$28.4 million in private investment.

**Governor announces \$25 million in CARES funding
For the Residential Utility Grant Application
Affected between March 1, 2020 and July 31, 2020**

Governor Justice announced assistance to West Virginians with delinquent utility bills due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Governor, on September 30, 2020, issued a letter to all utilities in the state to explain the process to apply for these funds. This announcement can be found on our website, www.wvregion3.org, or the Council can forward a copy of the announcement at your request. This grant only applies to municipalities that operate water or sewer utilities and Public Service Districts in our four county area. The Council staff can assist you in establishing an account at the State's web portal, but the records of individual customer losses must be calculated by the utility and requested from the customer. Many questions have risen and the Governor's Office is preparing a more thorough list of eligibility questions and answers to be sent through the Regional Council network. Please contact any of our staff at 304-744-4258 or at mail@wvregion3.org and we will contact you back to address your specific needs.

Emily Hammond joins the Regional Intergovernmental Council



Emily Hammond joins the staff of the Regional Intergovernmental Council as the Economic Resiliency Coordinator. Emily received her undergraduate degree at West Virginia Wesleyan College, where she received a Bachelor of Arts in English and Music. While attending West Virginia Wesleyan, Emily participated in several musical ensembles and was a member of the Alpha Omicron Chapter of Alpha Gamma Delta where she was Vice President of Campus Relations. Also during her time at Wesleyan, she was selected to participate in the Global Citizenship Seminar in Salzburg, Austria. Between semesters, Emily worked as an intern at the Kanawha County Planning Office.

Upon completion of her undergraduate degree, Emily began working for the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts. While working, she earned a Master of Arts in Teaching from Marshall University where she graduated Suma Cum Laude.

Once finishing her master's degree Emily began working as a marketing manager for the Office of Marketing and Communications of the West Virginia Department of Commerce. There, she worked closely with state agencies under the executive branch on marketing and communications plans and leading several website redesign projects.

Emily is a lifelong resident of Charleston, West Virginia, a proud GW Patriot, and a frequent of local restaurants in the city. She is married to Tyler Holsclaw and together they are proud pet-parents to their two cats, Catsby and Daisy. In her spare time, Emily enjoys traveling, cooking, playing the trumpet, and finding new and fun places to explore and visit in West Virginia.

Emily's lifelong goal is to make West Virginia a better place to live, work and play. Through her position as Economic Resiliency Coordinator, she strives to foster growth and reconstruction in the Kanawha-Putnam region by supporting local governments in their efforts to grow local businesses and better the environment for residents and visitors.

Upcoming RIC Meeting

December 10, 2020

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:



The Town of Marmet Submits 2 TA Grant Applications

Mayor Jay Snodgrass of the Town of Marmet utilized the Transportation Alternative (TA) Grant Assistance Program through the Regional Intergovernmental Council (RIC), and successfully submitted two grant applications, each totaling a request for \$50,000. The priority project asks to design for approximately 1,500 feet of new sidewalk along MacCorkle Avenue towards where the roadway intersects with Lens Creek Road. The goal is to create a safe ADA-compliant pedestrian passage for residents of Marmet who are seeking to secure fresh produce or medicine at Kroger. If this grant is awarded, once designed, residents of Marmet



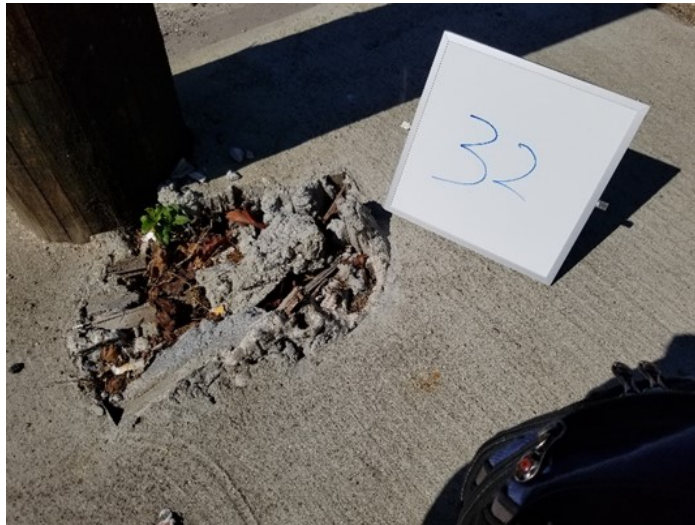
will have a clear picture as to how much the project will cost, the feasibility of the design, and how it will affect motor vehicle traffic. Currently, the passageway is heavily used by pedestrians, despite there being no pedestrian accommodations, higher than usual crash rates, and heavy motor vehicle traffic.

Pictured above: A family with stroller using the portion of roadway where Marmet hopes to install sidewalks.

The second TA grant request that was also deemed eligible by the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) asks for a completed design to renovate existing sidewalks along WV-61 in the Town of Marmet. RIC conducted an ADA Self-Evaluation with the guidance of the West Virginia Local Technical Assistance Program in the Fall of 2019 and identified numerous safety and ADA deficiencies on the sidewalk of the state route. Once this design phase is complete, Marmet will know exactly which sidewalk portions need renovation, how renovations will affect drainage, and have an accurate estimate of the total project cost.

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The Town of Marmet plans to continue to work with RIC to secure additional funding sources to dampen the burden of twenty percent match required by all TA grant recipients. “The Town of Marmet is fortunate and thankful for the tireless



efforts of Sam Richardson and the staff of the Regional Intergovernmental Council for working towards the completion of a safer travel alternative to access basic needs of the community in Marmet,” said Mayor Snodgrass when commenting on the assistance. Once Marmet has these design phases complete the Town will have a competitive edge when applying for funding for their construction.

Pictured above: A portion of sidewalk in need of renovation identified during Marmet’s self-evaluation.

\$1.2 Million EDA Grant Awarded to Support Growth of Aerospace Business at the Yeager Aviation Business Park

The U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross announced that the Department’s Economic Development Administration (EDA) is awarding a \$1.2 million grant to the Central West Virginia Regional Airport Authority, Charleston, West Virginia, to make infrastructure improvements needed to support the growth of aerospace businesses at the Yeager Aviation Business Park. The EDA grant, to be located near a Tax Cuts and Jobs Act Opportunity Zone, will be matched with \$304,966 in local funds and is expected to create 118 jobs.



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



Upcoming RIC Meeting

December 10, 2020 - 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: William E. Cunningham

Executive Director: Colt Sandoro

Newsletter prepared by Joanna Keller

The preparation of this newsletter is financially aided by grants from the Economic Development Administration, the U. S. Department of Transportation and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Local Communities / Regional Solutions / Statewide Impacts