



# RIC Messenger

Boone, Clay, Kanawha, Putnam Counties

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

Fall 2021



## Chairman Fletcher's Message

I hope everyone had a terrific summer and I hope everybody is ready for cooler fall weather!

I would like to take this opportunity to provide an update on RICs projects and accomplishments over the past few months.

Starting first with RIC community development news. Construction on the Boone County Prenter Phase II Waterline project is complete. This waterline extension is valued at \$2,000,000 and serves approximately 40 residents. The RIC staff has also been working with Yeager Airport on the Marshall University Flight School. The flight school project was completed in August and opened on August 23, 2021 for the fall semester with its inaugural class. In addition, the Putnam County Commission received a \$1,500,000 award for the Jim Ridge Phase II Waterline Extension, which is part of a \$3,100,000 project that serves approximately 60 residents. The RIC staff also began assisting the West Virginia Regional Technology Park, Yeager Airport, Boone County Commission, and other economic development authorities with the American Recovery Funds through the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA).

In Transportation news, the RIC transportation staff completed the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), which was approved at the September 9, 2021 RIC meeting. Work has also begun on developing the 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The new TIP will be presented for adoption at the December 9, 2021 RIC meeting. Preparations are also underway for an upcoming project to improve transportation safety throughout the region. The project will consist of performing road safety assessments throughout Kanawha and Putnam counties.

I look forward to meeting with you at our December 9, 2021 quarterly meeting as we work together as a team to promote local communities, regional solutions, and statewide impacts.

David Fletcher  
Chairman

## **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 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 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 primarily of representatives from 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 multi-jurisdictional issues.

The general purpose of the Council is 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.”

**Upcoming RIC Meeting**

**December 9, 2021**

## 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 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.

- **Transportation Alternative Grant Application Drafting:**

- ◊ Following the adoption of a strong ADA Transition Plan, your municipality is in a good position to work with RIC staff on acquiring federal, state, and community funding to get your project designed and built through the Transportation Alternatives Program.



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](mailto:srichardson@wvregion3.org) or Kelsey Tucker at [ktucker@wvregion3.org](mailto:ktucker@wvregion3.org).

## **Kanawha-Putnam Road Safety Assessments**

The Kanawha-Putnam Road Safety Assessments project will begin soon. The objective of the project is to improve transportation safety in Kanawha and Putnam counties. To accomplish this goal, multiple high-crash locations throughout the two-county area will be examined and selected for study and evaluation. Multimodal recommendations, countermeasures, and improvements will be identified to reduce crashes and improve safety. Preparation for the project is already underway. The project will officially kick-off in December 2021.

For questions about the project, please contact Kelsey Tucker, Transportation Planning Manager at [ktucker@wvregion3.org](mailto:ktucker@wvregion3.org).

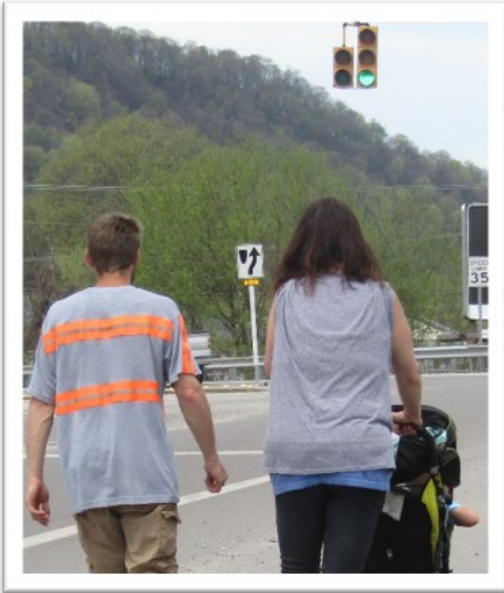


## **Completion of 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan**

RIC is pleased to announce the completion of the update to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The 2050 MTP serves as the long-range transportation plan for Kanawha and Putnam counties and examines the existing transportation network to evaluate current deficiencies and plan for future conditions. The plan is updated every four years and addresses priorities and needs for all modes of transportation including automobiles, freight, bicycles, pedestrians, and transit.

In conjunction with Kimley-Horn, work on the plan began in 2020 and is now complete. The plan was adopted by the RIC Policy Board at the September 9, 2021 quarterly meeting. The 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan can be accessed at any time on the RIC website ([www.wvregion3.org](http://www.wvregion3.org)). The project team would like to thank members of the Steering Committee and stakeholders who helped make the plan's development a success.

## Join the Regional Intergovernmental Council's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)



The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) of the Regional Intergovernmental Council (RIC) helps shape the Kanawha - Putnam Metropolitan Area's regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. The projects listed in the plan are expected to be represented in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) or be directly programmed into the (TIP). Shaping the plan to meet our regional community needs starts with appointed representation among the region through local communities and municipal governments. While membership in the BPAC is not required, the BPAC may be a good opportunity to appoint a citizen representative to serve on your behalf. This appointed representative may wish to join the committee

as a voice for specific infrastructure needs in the community that they may experience on a regular basis. Having that appointed representation on the BPAC may be the first step one can make in searching for federal funds to help fill any bicycle and pedestrian related infrastructure needs.

If your or someone you know is interested in serving on the BPAC, please contact Sam Richardson at [srichardson@wvregion3.org](mailto:srichardson@wvregion3.org) or Kelsey Tucker at [### Sign-up to Join the RIC Email List](mailto:ktuck-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

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:



## Bill Noe Flight School Opens for Fall Semester



Marshall University's Bill Noe Flight School, a \$6.79 million project that began construction in 2020 opened August 23, 2021 for the Fall semester at Yeager Airport. The flight school has a 10,500-square-foot classroom building located along Taxiway B at Yeager Airport's general aviation area along with a 12,000-square-foot hangar. The new classroom building contains two large classrooms, a flight training laboratory, operations

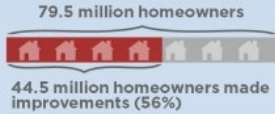
desk, staff and faculty offices and a student lounge. The hangar houses the flight school's two new Cirrus SR20 single-engine airplanes. At least 20 students will make up the inaugural class of the flight school. These students will be on their way to earning a commercial pilot Bachelor of Science degree. The flight school is projected to have a total enrollment of about 200 students and produce 50 commercial pilots annually.



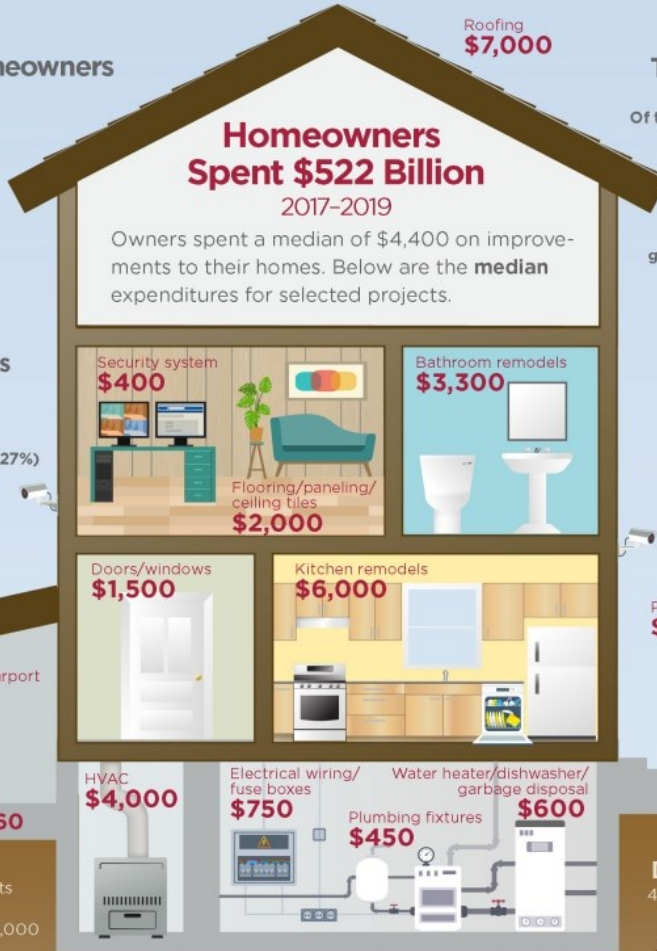


# HOME IMPROVEMENTS

## Well Over Half of Homeowners Made Improvements

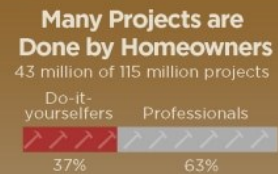
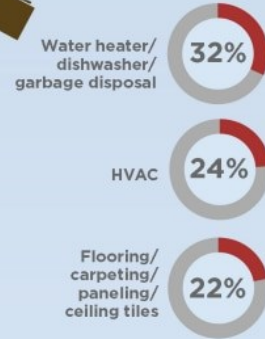


## Over 1 in 4 of Those Made Energy Efficiency Improvements



## Top Improvements Made to Units

Of the 44.5 million homeowners who made improvements



## Spending Varied Widely by Improvement Type



Source: U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2019 American Housing Survey.



U.S. Department of Commerce  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU  
census.gov



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



*Upcoming RIC Meeting*

*December 9, 2021 - 12:00 Noon*

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*Chairman: David Fletcher  
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***