



RIC Messenger

Boone, Clay, Kanawha, Putnam Counties

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

Fall 2022



Chairman Fletcher's Message

I hope everyone is ready for the cool weather! The RIC staff continues to be extremely busy this fall diligently working throughout our region on many different projects. I would like to take this opportunity to provide an update on RICs projects and accomplishments over the past few months.

Community Development News

In **Boone County**, construction is complete on the sewer line extension that the RIC staff was administering for the new Boone Memorial Health. In **Clay County**, the RIC community development staff assisted the Town of Clay and Clay-Roane Public Service District with Critical Needs Grants for waterline extensions. The Clay County Commission and the Clay County Public Service District received an Appalachian Regional Commission grant totaling \$2,964,955 for the Big Otter Nebo

Walker Road Waterline Extension. The RIC community development staff submitted an application for additional funding through WVCAD HUD. It is anticipated that this project will soon be fully funded and ready to enter the design phase. In **Kanawha County**, the RIC community development staff assisted the Elk Valley Public Service District in applying for funding to stabilize the bank of the Elk River in several locations due to large scale erosion from the 2016 flooding. The RIC community development staff also worked with Yeager Airport to secure EDA funding to construct the apron for the new Marshall University Bill Noe Flight School as well as a sewer line extension that will provide service to future business developments on the property. In addition, the RIC community development staff is in the process of assisting the Town of Belle with their West Reynolds Avenue Storm and Sewer System Improvements Project. The Town of Belle is awaiting the binding commitment and authorization to bid the project. Furthermore, the RIC community development staff assisted the Town of East Bank in developing a Critical Needs Grant for water. In **Putnam County**, the RIC community development staff worked to secure a Critical Needs Grant for a sewer extension for the Town of Buffalo. Construction should begin on this project soon. There is also a pending application for a waterline extension for Deerfield Estates. To conclude the community development news, I would like to share an update on the **Region 3 Hazard Mitigation Plan**. FEMA has completed the review of the Region 3 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. Now that the plan has been completed and the FEMA review has been conducted, municipalities in Region 3 will need to provide a signed resolution of adoption for this plan. RIC staff are contacting local municipalities to coordinate this effort.

Transportation News

The RIC transportation staff completed the draft update for the Public Participation Plan and the Title VI Plan. The RIC transportation staff working in conjunction with Burgess and Niple, has completed the Road Safety Assessments project. As part of this effort, RIC transportation staff and the project team with Burgess and Niple conducted a field visit in the City of Dunbar along 10th Street and Myers Avenue to investigate pedestrian safety deficiencies.

The RIC transportation staff continues work efforts for the ongoing RIC ADA Technical Assistance program for member municipalities in Region 3. Transportation staff are currently assisting the City of Chesapeake, the Town of Belle and the Town of Pratt with sidewalk inventories and technical assistance for ADA Transition Plans. As part of this initiative and in collaboration with Dr. Ron Eck, P.E. of the West Virginia Local Technical Assistance Program (WVLTAP), the RIC hosted a free public ADA workshop training for local municipalities on September 22nd in South Charleston

I look forward to meeting with everyone at our **December 8, 2022** quarterly meeting as we work together as a team to promote local communities, regional solutions, and statewide impacts.

David Fletcher
Chairman

RIC Officers

The following RIC officers were elected to serve from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023:

Chairman	Mayor David Fletcher, Town of Belle
1st Vice-Chairman	Mayor David Casebolt, City of Nitro
2nd Vice-Chairman	S.K. Miller, Private Sector Representative
3rd Vice-Chairman	Kris Mitchell, Boone County Citizen Representative
Secretary	Commissioner Connie Kinder, Clay County Commission
Treasurer	Coston Davis, Minority Group Representative

Welcome New RIC Board Members

- Andy Backus, City of Charleston Citizen Representative
- Kenneth Kinder, E.L. Robinson Engineering
- Clark McCoy, WV Regional Technology Park
- Curt Zickafoose, Kanawha Valley Regional Transportation Authority

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>

Everyone is a Pedestrian

October is National Pedestrian Safety Month

The personal, physical, and environmental benefits of walking can lead to healthier, quieter, cleaner, and safer streets. Walking can also improve local economies and enhance social and community engagement, which can lead to more vibrant, resilient, and livable spaces.



Unfortunately, in 2020 there were 6,516 pedestrians killed in the United States. That is 18 pedestrians a day and 125 pedestrians a week. *On average, a*

pedestrian was killed every 81 minutes and injured every 10 minutes in traffic crashes in 2020.

Know the Basics—Pedestrian Safety

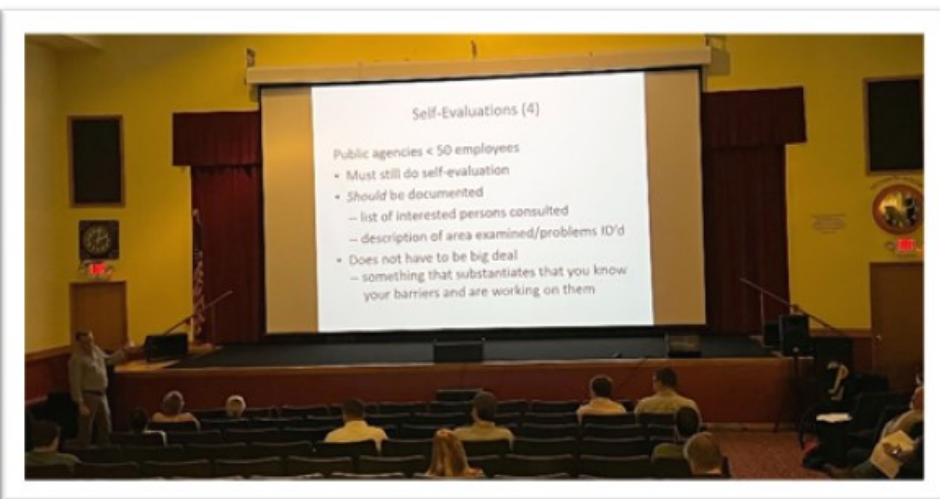
8 Safety Tips for Drivers

1. Look out for pedestrians everywhere, at all times.
2. Use extra caution when driving in hard-to-see conditions, such as nighttime or bad weather.
3. Slow down and be prepared to stop when turning or otherwise entering a crosswalk.
4. Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and stop well back from the crosswalk to give other vehicles an opportunity to see the crossing pedestrians so they can stop to.
5. Never pass vehicles stopped at a crosswalk. There may be people crossing where you can't see.
6. Never drive under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.
7. Follow the speed limit, especially around people on the street, in school zones and in neighborhoods where children are present.
8. Be extra cautious when backing up and look for pedestrians.

Source: NHTSA

WV LTAP ADA Training for Local Governments Inspires Communities to Take Action

Made possible by Dr. Ron Eck, P.E. and the West Virginia Local Technical Assistance Program (WV LTAP), the Regional Intergovernmental Council (RIC) hosted a public training— “ADA for Local Governments” on September 22nd in South Charleston. This one-day training provided an overview of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act Law and its primary applicable code as it pertains to roads and streets, and the Public-Rights-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG). Training attendees were comprised of representatives from the public and private sector and local government leaders in Kanawha and Putnam counties.



The PROWAG details specific guidance on the design and construction of the built environment, such as sidewalks and curbs ramps, that connects pedestrians to public places. Dr. Ron Eck, P.E. and Professor Emeritus at West Virginia University, led the training with a morning informational session and an outdoor practice audit during the afternoon. Throughout the morning session, Dr. Eck discussed the requirements to develop an ADA Transition Plan for any public agency with 50 or more employees and the requirement for

smaller agencies to document and plan to address ADA deficiencies within their communities. Attendees learned the summary requirements of PROWAG - including the importance of curb ramps, detectable warning pads, and the proper measurements of these features to be considered ADA-compliant.

During the practice audit, training attendees descended upon South Charleston's sidewalks and dawned low vision goggles to simulate the difficulties persons with low vision experience when traversing sidewalks and roadways. One attendee rapidly swapped goggles attempting to discover which set most closely resembled a condition they had in one eye. Other attendees, who were given the opportunity to use a manual wheelchair or blind-fold themselves and utilize a cane, were shocked at the limitations a person with these types of disabilities may face. Attendees discussed how challenging it might be to simply navigate the built environment that connects people from their homes, transit services, or parked vehicles to critical destinations such as grocery stores, pharmaceutical services, healthcare, and places employment. Other attendees examined the fine details of the measurements of some curb ramps and brainstormed possible solutions. Attendees were inspired to return to their communities and develop plans to seek funding to build their communities in a way that will increase accessibility and mobility for all persons regardless of age or ability.



Some attendees will partner with the Regional Intergovernmental Council to develop ADA Transition Plans. Other attendees planned to follow-up with Dr. Eck on questions about curb ramps in their communities. Dr. Eck reminded attendees that all WV LTAP programs are free. WV LTAP provides in person and virtual training on various topics to promote a safe and efficient transportation system in West Virginia. For more information, visit the WV LTAP website at www.wvltap.org



The Regional Intergovernmental Council can work with your community to coordinate training with WV LTAP. Public works personnel, city/county planners, city/county engineers, city council members, and members of the public are strongly encouraged to participate in these trainings.

The RIC offers an ADA Transition Plan Technical Assistance Program for any interested municipalities to provide technical assistance in developing, auditing, or updating ADA Transition Plans. To learn more, please contact Kelsey Tucker, Transportation Planning Manager, at (304) 744-4258 or ktucker@wvregion3.org



Upcoming RIC Meeting

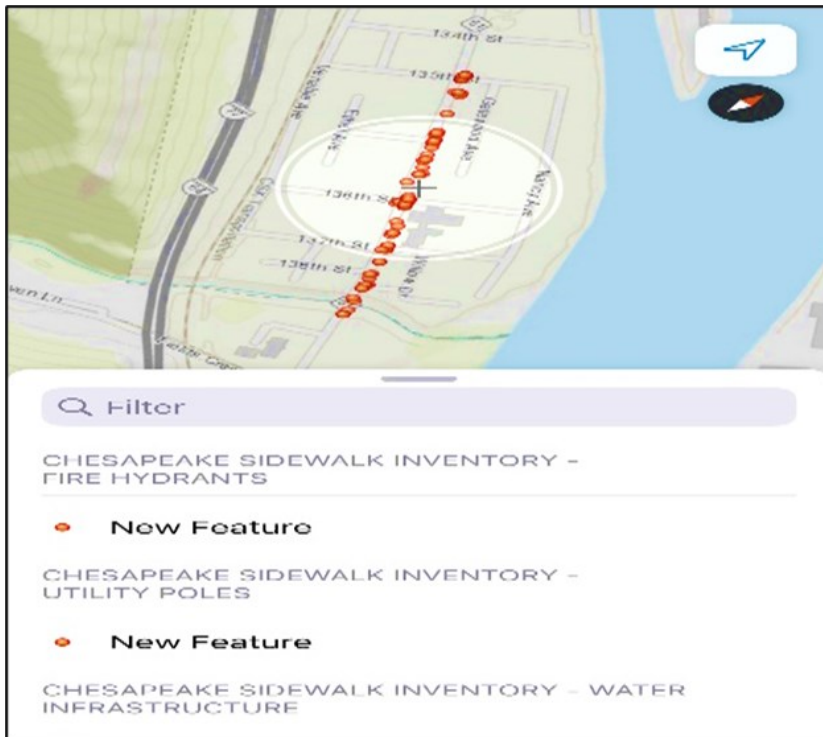
December 8, 2022

All meetings will be held at 12:00 Noon at the West Virginia Regional Technology Park, pending any changes due to public health conditions. We will continue to offer a virtual option as well.

Directors of the West Virginia Regional Planning and Development Councils pictured with Gayle Manchin at the West Virginia Association of Regional Councils Annual Conference at Capon Springs & Farms.

ADA Transition Plan and Data Collection

The Regional Intergovernmental Council (RIC) is currently working on sidewalk inventories in accordance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 Transition Plans in the towns of Chesapeake, Pratt, Belle, and Cedar Grove, WV. The goal of these ADA Transition Plans will be to give more accessibility to individuals who may not be able to traverse the sidewalks in their current state. Additionally, the towns will be given a greater opportunity to get assistance and build better pedestrian infrastructure for their community.



What is a sidewalk inventory? A sidewalk inventory is a data collecting mission to effectively compile and document the conditions of sidewalk networks within a given municipality. For these inventories the information gathered are compiled based on the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 standards. These standards give clear directive on how a sidewalk, curb ramp, and other aspects of the walking path should be designed. With respect to specific measures that allow people the ability to travel along the path regardless of their sight, hearing, or walking ability. The measures for these sidewalks are presented through Public Right of Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG). The PROWAG gives the specific

measure for these public areas and fall within the ADA's scope for sidewalk improvement.

How is the data collected? To collect data such as this, specialized software is necessary. Esri's Field Maps software is a data collector app that is used, as it works great for this sort of job. In this app it allows the user from any smart phone to create specialized key features. Key features being in this circumstance; water infrastructure, utility poles, ADA deficiencies, etc. These features can then be inputted into the map with GPS marking of the specific feature coordinates and corresponding photographs. The created map will then be able to accurately show the locale and give a full account of areas that have fallen well beyond the ADA's standards. This will then allow for RIC to create a map of the overall streets.

Want to get involved? If your municipality is interested in developing or updating an ADA Transition Plan or have any questions you may reach the Regional Intergovernmental Council at (304)-744-4258 or by email at mail@wvregion3.org. The Regional Intergovernmental Council would like to help your community and the region become a more accessible for everyone, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Measuring the Nation's Social and Economic Well-Being

		2020 ¹	2021
\$	Median household income (in 2021 inflation-adjusted dollars)	\$71,186	\$70,784
%	Percentage of people in poverty	11.5%	11.6%
±	Supplemental Poverty Measure	9.2%	7.8%
⚕	Percentage of people without health insurance	8.6%	8.3%

— Indicates change is not statistically significant. ↓ Indicates a decrease.
¹ 2020 Census-based population controls implemented.

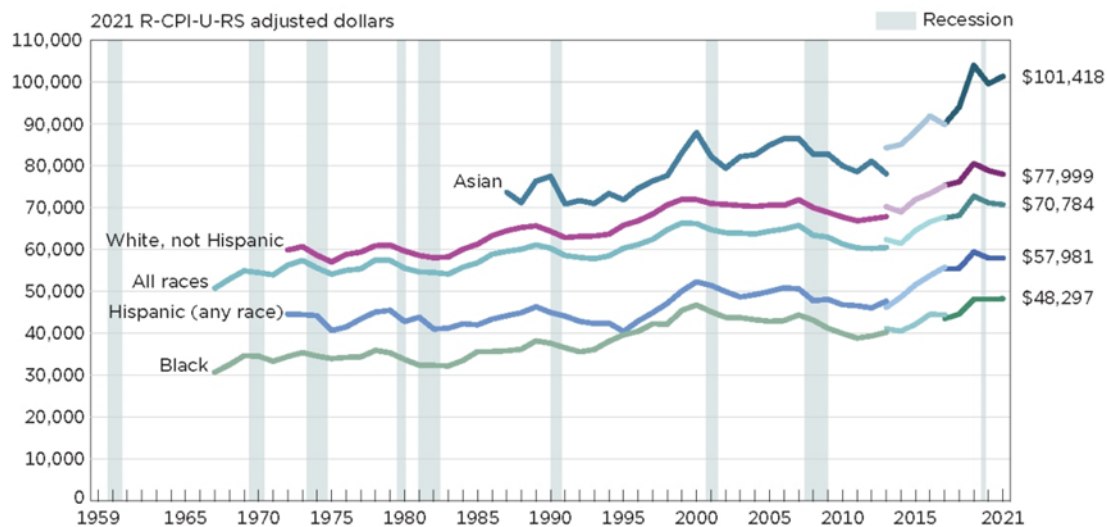
United States[®]
Census
 Bureau

U.S. Department of Commerce
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[census.gov](https://www.census.gov)

Source: Current Population Survey, 2021 and 2022 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC), www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps.html

Figure 2.

Real Median Household Income by Race and Hispanic Origin: 1967 to 2021 (Households as of March of the following year)



Note: The data for 2017 and beyond reflect the implementation of an updated processing system. The data for 2013 and beyond reflect the implementation of the redesigned income questions. Refer to Table A-2 for historical race footnotes. The data points are placed at the midpoints of the respective years. Median household income data are not available prior to 1967. More information on the R-CPI-U-RS dollar adjustment and recessions is available in Appendix A. Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar22.pdf>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1968 to 2022 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

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



Upcoming RIC Meeting

December 8, 2022 - 12:00 Noon

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*Chairman: David Fletcher
Executive Director: Colt Sandoro*

Newsletter prepared by Joanna Keller

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

Local Communities / Regional Solutions / Statewide Impacts