



RIC Messenger

Boone, Clay, Kanawha, Putnam Counties

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

Summer 2023

Chairman Casebolt's Message



I hope everyone is having a fantastic summer! I would like to thank my fellow RIC members for the opportunity to serve as RIC Chairman. I am enthusiastic about what we can accomplish, and I am looking forward to my tenure as Chairman. I would like to thank our past Chairman, Mayor David Fletcher for his service to the RIC board. I would also like to let everyone know that Colt Sandoro has accepted a position in the private sector and SoJuana Ellis is currently serving as Interim Executive Director as the RIC Executive Committee works to fill the vacant Executive Director position. The RIC staff continues to be extremely busy and persistently working throughout our region on numerous projects. I would like to take this opportunity to provide an update on RIC's projects and accomplishments over the past few months.

Community Development News

The community development staff is working hard on getting projects out to bid this summer. Based on cost estimates RIC expects the total cost of these projects to exceed 30-million dollars, of which **the RIC community development staff**

has helped to secure over 20-million dollars in grant funding for our region.

The following projects are going to bid or are currently under construction:

- **Jim Ridge Phase II Water Line Extension**
- **Lens Creek Sewer Line Extension**
- **Crestwood Drive Water Line Extension**
- **South Charleston, Liberty Street Lift Station Rehabilitation**
- **Town of Clay Sanitary Sewer Facility Rehabilitation**

In addition, the RIC community development staff is working with the Boone County Development Authority for a **broadband extension to Rock Creek Development Park**. The RIC community development staff also assisted in submitting multiple applications for **Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS)** and currently, several of these CDS applications have made it through the first round of selections. The RIC community development staff would also like to remind everyone that HUD applications are due in September and now is the time to get potential projects ready for HUD applications.

Transportation News

The RIC transportation staff in conjunction with Burgess & Niple developed the **Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP)** for Kanawha and Putnam counties. This enables RIC members to be eligible for the **Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program**. The transportation staff also worked to develop **MPO Project Selection Guidelines for Federal Suballocated Funds**. This creates eligibility to leverage suballocated **Surface Transportation Block Grants (STBG)** and **Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)** funding for our region. The transportation staff assisted the towns of Poca, Pratt, and Marmet with **Transportation Alternative (TA) Grant** applications. In addition, the transportation staff assisted the towns of Cedar Grove and Poca with the development of **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plans**. Furthermore, the transportation staff conducted a site visit to evaluate **streetscape development** for East Dupont Avenue in Belle.

I look forward to meeting with everyone at our **September 14, 2023**, quarterly meeting as we work together to promote local communities, regional solutions, and statewide impacts.

Dave Casebolt
Chairman

New RIC Officers

The following RIC officers were elected to serve from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024:

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

Welcome New RIC Board Members

- Mayor Jami Echols Hayes, Town of Bancroft
- Mayor Melissa Hill, Town of Chesapeake
- Morganne Tenney, Putnam County Development Authority
- Beth Thompson, Kanawha County Commission
- Mayor Melissa Young, Town of Cedar Grove

Upcoming RIC Meetings

September 14, 2023

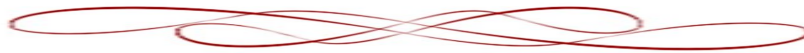
December 14, 2023

*All meetings will be held at 12:00 Noon at the West Virginia Regional Technology Park.
We will continue to offer a virtual option as well.*



RIC Says Farewell to Executive Director Colt Sandoro

Colt Sandoro accepted a new position in the private sector. RIC is saddened by Colt's departure, but grateful for all of his accomplishments and years of service as Executive Director. Colt worked hard to provide a positive and supportive work environment for the RIC staff, his leadership style was always inclusive and collaborative. His energy and bright ideas made RIC an enjoyable place to work. He was a wonderful supervisor who genuinely cared about his employees and he will be greatly missed. RIC wishes Colt the best as he begins this new chapter in his career.



RIC Says Goodbye to Kelsey Harrah

Kelsey Harrah accepted a new position with the Kanawha Valley Regional Transportation Authority (KVRTA). RIC is very grateful for Kelsey's dedication to RIC while serving as Transportation Planning Director. Kelsey was always eager and willing to help her fellow colleagues and to take the lead in any manner necessary to keep the RIC office running efficiently. Kelsey will be greatly missed. RIC wishes Kelsey the best in her new position.



Sign-up to Receive the RIC Newsletter by Email

If you would rather receive the RIC Newsletter by email, please email
Joanna Keller at Joanna@WVRegion3.org

RIC Transportation Team Conducts Site Visit with former Chairman of RIC and TGKVF

Mayor David Fletcher of Belle plans to leverage RIC services to develop streetscape funding for East Dupont Avenue in Belle, WV

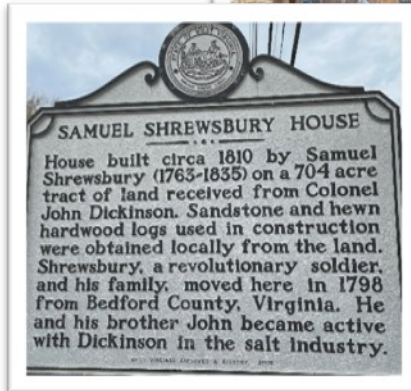
The Town of Belle partnered with the Regional Intergovernmental Council (RIC) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to conduct a site visit in conjunction with the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation (TGKVF). During the visit, Todd Dorcas, Community Economic Development Program Officer of TGKVF, commented on the beauty of the existing viewsheds, but thoughtfully pointed out the potential for further

beautification of the mixed-use development street with the use of well-planned and community-driven infrastructure tools. Throughout the visit, Mr. Dorcas leaned on his former transportation safety and planning experience as the site visit progressed, making comments on the technical aspects of the hope for future streetscape development on East Dupont Avenue in Belle, WV.

Mayor Fletcher enthusiastically shared what he voiced as the community vision for the street. The former Chairman of RIC tied his view of the town's vision into the existing community wealth that comes in the form of various businesses, transit development, and the historical Samuel Shrewsbury House. Former Chairman Fletcher

hopes that these existing forms of community wealth, alongside streetscape development, would serve as a beautiful gateway into the cherished community and spur further economic investment into the mixed-use development of the Upper Kanawha Valley town.

Small towns like Belle often do not have immediate funding to leverage what can be large and expensive infrastructure projects that require a local match. Small communities may choose to utilize the assistance of the RIC MPO to creatively seek non-federal sources of a local match to deliver projects to the communities it serves.



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>

Funding Available for Transportation Projects

RIC MPO Suballocated Transportation Project Funding

Due to the new transportation Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), federal funding for transportation projects is now available directly through the Regional Intergovernmental Council (RIC) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), through the Carbon Reduction Program and the Surface Transportation Block Grant.

Eligible Projects under the Carbon Reduction Program include “*a transportation alternative* (as defined under the Moving Ahead for Progress under the 21st Century Act [23 U.S.C. 101(a)(29), as in effect on July 5, 2012]), including, but not limited to, the construction, planning, and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other nonmotorized forms of transportation,” and much more.

Eligible Projects under the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program include, “*Transportation alternatives* previously described in 23 U.S.C. 101(a)(29) and in 23 U.S.C. 213 (as in effect on the day before enactment of the FAST Act),” and much more.

The RIC MPO seeks to improve transportation infrastructure throughout the two-county region of Kanawha and Putnam counties through the implementation of projects utilizing these MPO-specific federal suballocated funds. The MPO is responsible for allocating federal suballocated funds from the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) and the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) for eligible projects.

The MPO Project Selection Guidelines for Federal Suballocated Funds for RIC serve as a guide for project eligibility and the application process for the purpose of allocating federal suballocated funds for the RIC metropolitan planning area, comprising Kanawha and Putnam counties in West Virginia. These guidelines were adopted by the RIC Policy Board on June 8th, 2023.

Access the current MPO Project Selection Guidelines for Federal Suballocated Funds at: <https://wvregion3.org/funding/>

Selected projects must appear in the RIC TIP. The WVDOT has adopted the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Operating Procedures, which can be viewed at: <https://wvregion3.org/funding/>

To submit a request for RIC MPO Project Funding, please follow the application instructions at: <https://wvregion3.org/funding/>

The **deadline** to submit requests for FY24 (July 1st, 2023 – June 30th, 2024) is **August 18th, 2023, at 12 PM ET**.

For pre-application consulting, contact the RIC Transportation Team at (304) 744-4258 or at mail@wvregion3.org

Hard copies or accessibility accommodations for viewing the guidelines or making a submission can be made upon request.



For more information go to our website at www.wvregion3.org and select RIC Funding under the Transportation dropdown menu or enter the following url into your browser: <https://www.wvregion3.org/funding/>

* Photo credits: www.pedbikeimages.org / Dan Burden

RIC Employee Graduates from Roads Scholar II Program at WV LTAP

The program covers a range of transportation related topics aimed at planners, engineers, and high-level transportation managers.



Sam Richardson, Senior Transportation Planner at RIC, graduated from the West Virginia Local Technical Assistance Program's (WV LTAP) Roads Scholar II program. The program covers a variety of topics including Access Management, Common Sense Solutions to Intersection Safety, Low-Cost Safety Improvements, Designing Pedestrian Facilities for Accessibility, and many more.

Sam completed the program in just under 5 years, with his 5-year RIC employment anniversary coming in August 2023. "I am grateful for the opportunity to increase my transportation knowledge. Thank you to the RIC Policy Board, WV LTAP and Dr. Ron Eck for your contributions to this achievement. I am excited to use this knowledge to leverage funding for, and provide technical assistance to, RIC members," stated Sam regarding his recent achievement.

The West Virginia Local Technical Assistance Program serves the state by providing training, demonstrations, personalized technical assistance, resource materials, and other services to individuals and agencies responsible for managing and maintaining West Virginia's roadways. The WV LTAP is part of the national Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP), which is composed of a national network of 51 Centers - one in every state and Puerto Rico - and the Tribal Technical Assistance Program (TTAP), which serves tribal governments. The WV LTAP is funded by the Federal Highway Administration and the West Virginia Department of Transportation; the center is housed at West Virginia University.

Many WV LTAP classes are free or very low cost. Contact Sam Richardson at RIC to learn more about how to bring WV LTAP training to your community. To learn more about WV LTAP visit <https://www.wvltap.org/>.



Town of Buffalo Krystal Lane Sanitary Sewer Extension



Putnam Public Service District Water Plant Upgrade



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



Upcoming RIC Meeting

September 14, 2023 - 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: Dave Casebolt
Interim Executive Director: SoJuana Ellis*

Newsletter prepared by Joanna Keller, Executive Assistant

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

Local Communities / Regional Solutions / Statewide Impacts