



# RIC Messenger

Boone, Clay, Kanawha, Putnam Counties

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

Winter 2024

## Chairman Casebolt's Message



Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a happy holiday season as we move into 2024! RIC's new Executive Director, Tyler Ferrell, has fresh, innovative ideas for RIC, and we look forward to seeing what this year has in store.

The RIC staff continues to work throughout our region on numerous projects. I want to take this opportunity to provide an update on RIC projects over the past few months.

### Transportation News

The RIC Transportation Team is working with Cedar Grove on developing a **Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application**. The \$2 million grant application is to fund a preliminary engineering report and to develop a cost estimate for resurfacing the town's vital street network. The RIC Transportation Team also conducted an initial stakeholder discussion and site review as part of the **Road Safety Assessments** with Burgess and Niple. In addition, the RIC Transportation Team aided with and took part in developing the **State of West Virginia's State Highway's Strategic Safety Plan and Vulnerable Road User Assessments**. Furthermore, the RIC Transportation Team collaborated with multiple member communities to develop requests for suballocated transportation project funding available through the **Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) and Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program**. Moreover, the RIC Transportation Team is working to maximize and develop the use of rollover planning funds. Member communities are encouraged to contact the RIC Transportation Team about any special studies or road assessments they would like RIC to review and consider for inclusion in the upcoming **Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**.

### Community Development News

The project design for the **Big Otter, Nebo Waterline Extension**, is complete. Currently, this project is working through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Review. This \$5.6 million waterline extension will serve 80 households. The construction contract for the Coalburg Sewer System Improvement Project was awarded. Construction began on this project on November 13, 2023, and construction is expected to be finished by February 2024. The RIC Community Development Team is developing **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications** for this year's grant cycle. Currently, the Community Development Team is working on four demolition projects and two streetscape projects for Clay, Marmet, Whitesville, and Cedar Grove towns. Member communities are requested to contact the RIC Community Development Team if they have any projects that they would like aid with.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our **March 14, 2024, Annual Meeting** as we work together to promote local communities, regional solutions, and statewide impacts.

Dave Casebolt  
Chairman



## RIC Mourns the Loss of Longstanding Board Member SK Miller

With a heavy heart, RIC mourns the loss of SK Miller, a dear friend and longstanding board member.

SK was an integral member of the RIC Board, and she will be dearly missed.



CMI2 Groundbreaking in Clay County  
at the former Fola Coal Company Site



Town of Belle East Reynolds Avenue



Recognition of Mikyle White by the Putnam  
County Commission for being Awarded the  
2023 Director of the Year by the WV APCO  
and 911 Council.

## RIC Conducts Regional Road Safety Assessment Site Visits at Hot Spot Locations in Kanawha and Putnam Counties

### Site Visits Were Conducted with Burgess and Niple to Implement RIC's Comprehensive Safety Action Plan

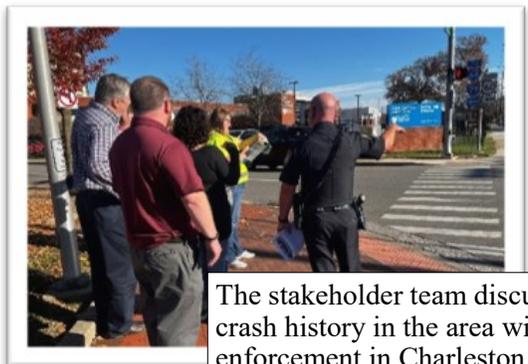
The Regional Intergovernmental Council Metropolitan Planning Organization (RIC MPO) began its process to implement the RIC MPO Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) by completing one of the key elements of a Road Safety Assessment (RSA), which includes an in-person site visit. The RIC MPO CSAP highlighted intersections and pedestrians as emphasis areas in the effort to reach the RIC Policy Board's vision of zero traffic-related deaths and serious injuries in Kanawha and Putnam counties. As a result, using statistical hotspot mapping techniques, a list of intersections suggested for study was produced based on the number of crashes and their severity associated with a specific location. Furthermore, the RIC MPO CSAP ranked corridors based on design elements that serve as statistically significant explanatory variables for the likelihood of a crash to occur involving a pedestrian.



The stakeholder team looks over crash diagrams in Putnam County.

The western intersection location of Mount Vernon Road and WV-34 was selected as an intersection hotspot in Putnam County. Kanawha County's location of the Washington Street East Corridor from Leon Sullivan Way to Ruffner Avenue, and the corridor of Lee Street from Leon Sullivan Way to Brooks Street was selected as a pair of high-risk pedestrian corridors.

In-person site visits, led by Burgess and Niple, allow the traffic study team to analyze the real-world conditions that may be leading to some of the crashes. Human behavior is analyzed in the context of the built environment. The team combines the data they collect during traffic counts with real-world analysis to prioritize a list of potential remedies for the crash problem. The recommendations may include enhanced engineering design, an increase in law enforcement presence, an effort to educate the public on how to properly navigate traffic control devices, or implementing methods to encourage more harmonious behavior between modes of transportation.



The stakeholder team discusses the crash history in the area with law enforcement in Charleston, WV.

The next step as part of this year's RSAs is to conduct a final stakeholder discussion. During this discussion, initial recommendations will be presented for stakeholder feedback and adjusted based on the comments. If you are interested in being a voice on regional traffic safety, please join the RIC Traffic Safety Task Force by emailing your statement of interest to Sam Richardson at [srichardson@wvregion3.org](mailto:srichardson@wvregion3.org).

### 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>

If you would rather receive the RIC Newsletter by email, please contact Joanna Keller at [Joanna@WVRegion3.org](mailto:Joanna@WVRegion3.org)

## Current and Future Year Funding Available for Transportation Projects RIC MPO Suballocated Transportation Project Funding Available for Current and Future Year Obligation

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). This funding is available through the federal funding types known as the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) and the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG). This funding is eligible to fund projects in the two-county metropolitan planning area of Kanawha and Putnam counties. The RIC MPO strives to implement a planning process that is continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive. The RIC Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) involves a mechanism to obligate future year federal transportation funds. Therefore, the RIC MPO is allowing eligible agencies to submit requests for current or future year suballocated funding to be implemented in the FY 2024-2027 RIC TIP. If your eligible agency has plans to include local match dollars for federally suballocated transportation funds in future year budgets, now is the time to plan. The **deadline** to submit requests to implement eligible transportation projects through federally suballocated funding to be programmed in the TIP in Federal Fiscal Year 2024 through Federal Fiscal Year 2027 is **February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 12 PM ET**.

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://www.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://www.wvregion3.org/transport\\_proj\\_fund/](https://www.wvregion3.org/transport_proj_fund/)

To submit a request for RIC MPO Project Funding, please follow the application instructions at: [https://www.wvregion3.org/transport\\_proj\\_fund/](https://www.wvregion3.org/transport_proj_fund/) or hover over the Transportation dropdown menu, hover over RIC Funding Opportunities, then hover over RIC Transport Project Funds and click Request Funds Now.

The **deadline** to submit requests for federally suballocated funding from Federal Fiscal Years 2022-2027 is **February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 12 PM ET**. For pre-application consulting, contact the RIC Transportation Team at (304) 744-4258 or at [mail@wvregion3.org](mailto: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 the RIC website at [www.wvregion3.org](http://www.wvregion3.org) and hover over RIC Funding under the Transportation dropdown menu and select “RIC Transport Project Funds” or enter the following url into your browser: [https://www.wvregion3.org/transport\\_proj\\_fund/](https://www.wvregion3.org/transport_proj_fund/)



Photo credits: [www.pedbikeimages.org](http://www.pedbikeimages.org) / Dan Burden

## 2 Funding Programs Available Now!

Agencies within Kanawha and Putnam, WV can partner with the RIC MPO



Transportation Project Funding

Community Planning Funding

### Community Planning

Eligible activities include:

- Transportation Plans
- Comprehensive Land Use Plans
- Economic Vitality Plans
- Travel and Tourism Enhancement
- Environmental Planning
- Housing Planning
- Emergency Services Route Optimization Planning



...and much more!

Funds for planning efforts to improve the quality of life in your community are available by partnering with the RIC MPO. For more information visit:

[https://www.wvregion3.org/ric\\_plan\\_fund/](https://www.wvregion3.org/ric_plan_fund/)

### Transportation Projects

Eligible activities include:

- Sidewalks
- Bike Lanes
- Roundabouts
- Lane Reductions
- Bridges and Roads
- Truck Parking
- Incident Management Programs
- Wetland Conservation
- Streetlight Replacements
- Pavement Markings



...and much more!

Funds for transportation projects to improve the transportation system are available by partnering with the RIC MPO. For more information visit:

[https://www.wvregion3.org/transport\\_proj\\_fund/](https://www.wvregion3.org/transport_proj_fund/)



### User-Friendly Application Process

The application process is intended to be simplified and streamlined to ensure the process is accessible.

### Schedule a Consultation Appointment

P: (304) 744-4258

e: [srichardson@wvregion3.org](mailto:srichardson@wvregion3.org)

Submit a request for one or both types by the deadline February 16th, 2024 at noon!

# State Fiscal Year 2025 Funding Available to Fund Community Planning Directly Through RIC MPO

## RIC MPO Opens Requests to Match Federal Planning Funds

Due to the new availability of additional federal planning funds (PL) through the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) directly to the Regional Intergovernmental Council Metropolitan Planning Organization (RIC MPO), eligible entities may submit requests to fund eligible community plans, if a required 20% local match is committed and provided by the start of 2025 State Fiscal Year on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

### Eligible entities include:

- Municipal governments in Kanawha and Putnam counties.  
~A subsidiary agency of a municipality in Kanawha and Putnam counties.
- Non-profit organizations that serve a complete neighborhood, community, place, or municipal area wholly within Kanawha and Putnam counties that have been determined to have a critical planning need.

Eligible activities include the full scope of the transportation planning process is defined by Title 23 § 450.306 Scope of the metropolitan transportation planning process.

### **23 CFR § 450.306 - Scope of the metropolitan transportation planning process.**

*(a) To accomplish the objectives in § 450.300 and § 450.306(b), metropolitan planning organizations designated under § 450.310, in cooperation with the State and public transportation operators, shall develop long-range transportation plans and TIPs through a performance-driven, outcome-based approach to planning for metropolitan areas of the State.*

*(b) The metropolitan transportation planning process shall be continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive, and provide for consideration and implementation of projects, strategies, and services that will address the following factors:*

- (1) Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency;*
- (2) Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;*
- (3) Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;*
- (4) Increase accessibility and mobility of people and freight;*
- (5) Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns;*
- (6) Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight;*
- (7) Promote efficient system management and operation;*
- (8) Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system;*
- (9) Improve the resiliency and reliability of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate storm-water impacts of surface transportation; and*
- (10) Enhance travel and tourism.*

*(c) Consideration of the planning factors in paragraph (b) of this section shall be reflected, as appropriate, in the metropolitan transportation planning process. The degree of consideration and analysis of the factors should be based on the scale and complexity of many issues, including transportation system development, land use, employment, economic development, human and natural environment (including Section 4(f) properties as defined in 23 CFR 774.17), and housing and community development.*

*Continued on next page*

**Some example activities may include, but not limited to:**

- Location-specific transportation studies
  - ~Safety
  - ~Feasibility
- System-wide transportation studies
  - ~Safety
  - ~Feasibility
- Tourism analysis and enhancement studies
- Studies that develop community priorities for system preservation.
- Multimodal transportation studies
  - ~Freight
  - ~Bicycle
  - ~Pedestrian
  - ~Transit
  - ~Carpool
  - ~Trail system
- Studies that evaluate the economic relationships between land use, transportation, and municipal revenue.
- Comprehensive plans that establish zoning and strengthen the relationship between land use and transportation.
- Emergency Services Route Management and Operational Efficiency
- Housing Development Studies
- Environmental Planning
  - ~Developing a Pollution Reduction Strategy
  - ~Stormwater Management Plans

To submit a request for RIC MPO Planning Funding, please follow the application instructions at: [https://www.wvregion3.org/ric\\_plan\\_fund/](https://www.wvregion3.org/ric_plan_fund/) or hover over the Transportation dropdown menu, hover over RIC Funding Opportunities, then hover over RIC Planning Funds and click Request Funds Now.

The **deadline** to submit requests for federal PL funds for State Fiscal Year 2025, beginning on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, is **February 16th, 2024, at 12 PM ET**. For pre-application consulting, contact the RIC Transportation Team at (304) 744-4258 or at [mail@wvregion3.org](mailto:mail@wvregion3.org). Hard copies or accessibility accommodations for making a submission can be made upon request.

For more information and updates to the process, go to the RIC website at [www.wvregion3.org](http://www.wvregion3.org) and hover over RIC Funding under the Transportation dropdown menu and select “RIC Planning Funds” or enter the following url into your browser: [https://www.wvregion3.org/ric\\_plan\\_fund/](https://www.wvregion3.org/ric_plan_fund/)

**Upcoming RIC Meetings**

March 14, 2024

June 13, 2024

September 12, 2024

December 12, 2024

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

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



***Upcoming RIC Meeting  
March 14, 2024 - 12:00 Noon***

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***Regional Intergovernmental Council  
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Phone: (304) 744-4258; Fax: (304) 744-2534  
Website: [www.wvregion3.org](http://www.wvregion3.org) · Email: [mail@wvregion3.org](mailto:mail@wvregion3.org)***

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

***Newsletter prepared by Joanna Keller, Executive Assistant***

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Development Administration, the U. S. Department of Transportation and the  
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***Local Communities / Regional Solutions / Statewide Impacts***