



RIC Messenger

Boone, Clay, Kanawha, Putnam Counties

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

Summer 2020

Chair Cunningham's Message



Just when we thought we had it figured out COVID-19 struck. We as a State and Country are having to reevaluate how we approach every aspect of our lives and the way we conduct business.

This is not all bad. We have reconnected with family, completed a lot of projects at home that have been idle, and reevaluated how we function as a community.

The City of Dunbar could not find lifeguards to work the pool this year and as a result could not open the pool. So, what do you do? I reflected to my younger years and remembered that we use to have neighborhood summer programs for kids and would open fire hydrants on hot days and play in the water. Neighborhood programs – Water- Answer - Portable Sprinkle Zone.

We found equipment that is easy to transport and set up.

As we start to reinvent our programs, maybe we just need to look back at when things were simpler and less complex and modernize those ideas.

While we struggle to adjust to COVID-19 we as a State are moving forward with maintaining and upgrading our infrastructure. We have all found ways to do what needs to be done to keep things running. Several communities have been awarded grants for infrastructure projects. These projects create jobs while making needed improvements to our communities.

If you have a project that you are contemplating, please contact the RIC Staff. They have a wealth of knowledge and insight into what projects are being considered under the various agency guidelines and can assist with your application so that you are competitive in the evaluation process.

If we stand together and share our successes and work together to overcome our short falls, we will build the foundation for a better tomorrow.

I am looking forward to working with you this year and will be leaning on you guys for support as the year progresses.

In closing I do not think we can say enough about the leadership and guidance that Anne Cavalier brought to us. We can revote and have her stay on if she is willing.

William E. Cunningham
RIC Chairman



Colt Sandoro presenting Chair Anne Cavalier, Ed.D. with a plaque to honor her for her service and dedication to the RIC Board during her tenure as Chair.



SoJuana Ellis and Terry Martin receiving the RIC Outstanding Service Award at the March 12, 2020 Annual Meeting for their tireless work and dedication to bring water and sewer service to many different locations in the Region 3 service area.

Hazardous Intersection Study

The RIC Transportation Staff began the Hazardous Intersection Study in January with the assistance of Burgess and Niple Inc., (B&N). The purpose of this study is to prioritize and study several intersections within Kanawha and Putnam counties in West Virginia with the goal of reducing crashes at the selected locations. RIC staff developed an extensive list of 50 intersections based upon crash data and public input and B&N ranked each intersection quantitatively.

B&N and RIC Staff held the first virtual Stakeholder Meeting in April where B&N presented the prioritized intersection list, ranking methodology, selected intersections, and proposed study tasks for each location. The selected intersections and specific tasks and analyses that will be performed for each of the studies are listed below.

Selected Intersections:

- WV 34 between Great Teays Boulevard and I-64
- Pennsylvania Avenue (North and South) between Virginia Street to Washington Street
- Patrick Street and Kanawha Boulevard
- US 60 between Mile Branch Road and Hull Avenue

All studies will have the following aspects:

- Crash Trends Analysis and Collision Diagram
- Field Visit
- Countermeasure Identification
- Stakeholder Meeting
- Final Report

Since April, the study team has acquired traffic counts, reviewed crash data, and conducted field reviews. The next stakeholder meeting will take place in July and will include existing conditions analyses and potential countermeasures.

Notice for Community Development HUD Applicants

The HUD Community Development Block Grants were announced on June 3rd, 2020. Our region only received one award, a broadband design grant for Clay County. There is currently no information as to when the new applications will be due but in the interim, meetings and public hearings are being developed in the months of July and August. If you need assistance to reapply for vital applications or to develop a new application please leave a message for Sojuana Ellis at 304-744-4258 ext. 102 (sojuanaellis@wvregion3.org) or Terry Martin at 304-744-4258 ext. 103 (terrymartin@wvregion3.org). Terry or Sojuana would be happy to assist you with any questions or concerns you may have.

RIC FY 2021 Officers

Chair: Bill Cunningham

First Vice-Chair: Jay Snodgrass

Second Vice-Chair: S.K. Miller

Third Vice-Chair: Damron Bradshaw

Secretary: Connie Kinder

Treasurer: Coston Davis

2019 Transportation Alternative Grant Cycle Recipients Announced

The City of Dunbar and Clay County are awarded grants by WVDOH by utilizing from RIC's grant application assistance program.

On June 1st, 2020 Governor Jim Justice and Secretary Byrd White announced the award of \$7.4 million in Transportation Alternatives and Recreational Trails Program grants across West Virginia. A total of 38 projects were awarded for 27 counties of which \$912,500 will go towards the Kanawha-Putnam-Clay-Boon County region. "We're doing everything in our power to make our state's transportation infrastructure better and better. And that's exactly what this funding is going to do." Governor Justice said.

The City of Dunbar and Clay County both reached out to the Regional Intergovernmental Council seeking grant assistance and benefitted from that process receiving \$90,000 and \$50,000, respectively. The detailed grant recipient list for our regions is below:

Boone County

Town of Danville

\$100,000

Park Avenue and Phipps Avenue Walking Improvements

City of Madison

\$85,000

Madison Riverside Drive Sidewalks

Kanawha County

City of Dunbar

\$90,000

Grosscup Avenue ADA sidewalk

City of Nitro

\$487,500

Nitro Second Avenue Streetscape

Clay County

Regional Intergovernmental Council

\$50,000

Clay Sidewalk Improvement Phase 1

Multi County (includes Kanawha, Boone)

Hatfield McCoy Regional Recreational Authority

\$100,000

Biological Assessment and Programmatic Agreement Development





Image: A portion of sidewalk that will be renovated for ADA compliance as a result of the grant award at the Grosscup Ave and 12th Avenue intersection adjacent to the United States Postal Service in Dunbar.

Transportation Alternative and Recreational Trails Program grants are a set-aside from funds from the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program. These are federal funds are intended as a continuation of the former Transportation Alternative Program. The national total for this program is \$850 million.

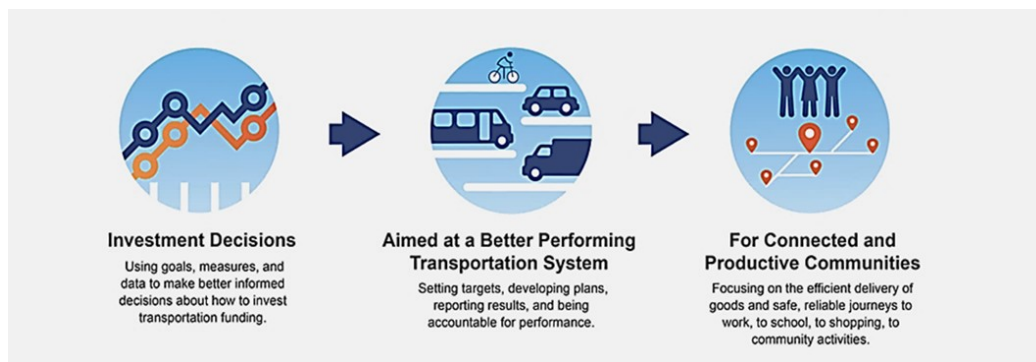
For assistance in the next upcoming Transportation Alternative grant cycle, please contact Kara Greathouse at kgreathouse@wvregion3.org.

Governor Justice Announcing the Clay Sidewalk Improvements Grant



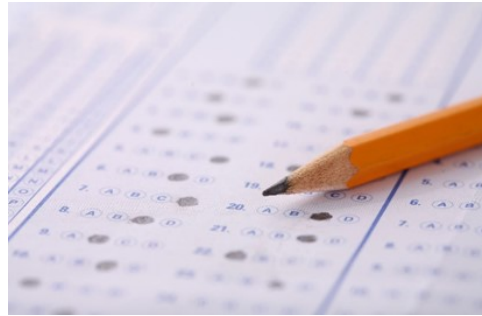
Informed Transportation Investment Decision-Making: A Tool for Planning and Monitoring Performance of the Transportation System

As a requirement of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act in conjunction with federal guidance on the Transportation Performance Management (TPM) framework for bettering existing and future transportation systems, State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) established performance targets for national performance areas addressing safety, infrastructure conditions, system performance, traffic congestion, on-road mobile source emissions, freight movement and transit safety. TPM is a strategic, data-driven approach that uses system information to make investment and policy decisions to achieve national performance goals. Transportation agencies at the federal, state and local level all have duties and responsibilities surrounding TPM, continual collaborative efforts among these agencies is imperative to maximize the initiatives of TPM for the betterment of existing and future transportation systems.



Following the implementation and incorporation of Transportation Performance Management (TPM) principles into the MPO transportation planning and programming processes, RIC transportation staff developed the RIC System Performance Report, created to serve as a living document to identify short-term and long-term performance linked by data-based areas of efficiency and deficiency of the transportation system in order to achieve desired outcomes by the ongoing, collective monitorization of progress toward achieving targets for performance measures. Additionally, the system performance report aims to promote transparency and accountability in the decision-making processes surrounding transportation investments for the RIC MPO planning area. RIC transportation staff are currently developing an online component for the RIC System Performance Report which will be accessible on the RIC website at (www.wvregion3.org).

It is not too late to complete the 2020 Census at 2020census.gov



The first US census took place in 1790, let's see how the 2020 Census compares to the 1790 count.

- In 1790, the original 13 states, the districts of Kentucky, Maine, and Vermont and the Southwest Territory were counted.
- In 1790 approximately 650 U.S. Marshals and assistants traveled by horseback and foot to record answers on forms made of parchment and animal skins.
- The 2020 Census is the first time Americans can respond online, phone or by mail.
- In 1790 the total population was 3,929,214 in 2020 there are approximately 331,002,651 in all 50 states and five territories.

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:



2020 RIC Meeting Dates

September 10, 2020

December 10, 2020

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



Upcoming RIC Meeting

September 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

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Appalachian Regional Commission.*

Local Communities / Regional Solutions / Statewide Impacts