

# MID-OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL



MOVRC Monthly Newsletter  
<http://www.movrc.org/>  
304-422-4993

December 2020

## WWW LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN



*Horizon 2045: Moving Toward a Brighter Future*

### Updating the LRTP

The Wood-Washington-Wirt Interstate Planning Commission (WWW) is updating the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for the Parkersburg, WV-Marietta, OH. This article provides information about the WWW LRTP and opportunities to get involved in the plan update process.



WWW is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Parkersburg, WV-Marietta, OH urbanized area. MPOs are established in urbanized areas with populations over 50,000 to ensure regional cooperation in transportation planning. As the designated MPO, WWW is required by federal law to produce an LRTP for the region and update it every four years.

### What is an LRTP?

The LRTP considers the transportation needs of the region to identify recommended improvements to the transportation system over the next 20+ years. The LRTP is a comprehensive, multi-modal plan that will consider needs related to roadways, transit, bikeways and walkways, rail, and aviation.

### How to Get Involved?

To help guide the development of this plan, WWW is seeking public input regarding current transportation conditions, issues and needs. The public may learn more about the planning process and provide feedback in several ways:

- Visit the **Online Public Open House** at <https://horizon2045-movrc.hub.arcgis.com/> to view information related to the plan update and to complete a transportation survey and/or provide comments.

- Call, email, or visit (call ahead for appointment) WWW with questions and comments, or to obtain LRTP information and a transportation survey. All inquiries should be directed to:

Randy Durst, Transportation Planning Director 709 Market Street, Parkersburg, W26101  
Randy.durst@movrc.org; (304) 422-4993 Ext. 1250

WWW will be accepting comments for this initial phase of the LRTP update from **November 16 – December 31, 2020.**

## Community Development Program Updates

- The Community Development Program continues to meet with development authorities to share data and collect feedback on our region's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).
- The Community Development staff has worked with partners in West Virginia and Ohio to submit an Investments Supporting Partnerships in Recovery Ecosystems (INSPIRE) application to ARC for \$500,000 to support and strengthen the region's Recovery-to-Work Ecosystem. This model will better position individuals in recovery for successful, long-term employment opportunities. This model will also provide education, support, and incentives to employers hiring individuals in recovery.
- Staff submitted a legal advertisement seeking Statements of Qualifications from engineering firms for the Pleasants County Development Authority. The PCDA seeks engineering services for industrial park improvements including a rail spur, barging facility enhancements, and any other needed betterments. Proposals are due January 7th, 2020.
- Paden City Development Authority is advertising an RFP for engineering services to develop an Industrial Property Feasibility Study & Improvements Plan. MOVRC is assisting with an EDA application for \$99,000 to fund the work at the current Paden City Industrial Park.
- The Town of North Hills is evaluating engineering proposals for their Wastewater System Improvements project.
- The City of Sistersville and Tyler PSD have begun construction on their respective contracts to transfer the city's water supply and treatment to the PSD's wells. Photos: (top Chelsea Street in Sistersville, bottom water main from wellheads in Davenport)





- The West Virginia Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority approved funding for both applications that the MOVRC submitted this year. The 80/20 grant and match program will provide \$100,000 to the Tyler County Commission for installation of an elevator in the courthouse annex to be constructed in 2021, which is an initial step toward ADA accessibility to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor offices and courtroom. Wirt County Commission will receive up to \$26,565.00 toward repairing failing, cracked plaster and peeling paint throughout the courthouse interior. This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> attempt to fund this improvement.
- The Community Development Block Grant and Appalachian Regional Commission application deadlines are Friday, January 29th. The following are new applications to be submitted: Spencer - Schoolhouse Water Mains, Sistersville Spot Demolition, Grantsville Rainbow Hotel Demo, and Calhoun County Park Bathhouse. CDBG Re-Apply applications to be submitted include: Roane - Walton Sewer, Wood - Marrtown Rd Sewer, Wirt - Claywood Spring Valley sewer, and Reedy - Middle Fork Water. The following CDBG Broadband applications to be submitted are: Wirt County - Broadband Study, Roane County – fiber construction, and Wood County - Broadband Study. Finally, the ARC grant applications to be submitted are: Walton Sewer System, Walton Camp Sheppard Water, Ripley Phase II Sewer, Pleasant Hill Water Extension, and Grantsville Water Plant (additional funds).





- Calhoun County has accepted bids on legal and appraisal for their FEMA project.
- Governor Justice recently announced that West Virginia Methanol Inc. will invest \$350 million and create 30 full-time jobs in an industrial park owned by the Pleasants County Development Authority. The plant will produce high-purity methanol from the abundant natural gas in the region. Combined with the ethane crackers being developed in the tri-state region, this starts to create a petrochemical/plastics cluster that should continue to grow throughout the Ohio Valley.

## WDB-MOV DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



COVID-19 restrictions have greatly hindered the Youth enrollment process. COVID-19 continues to impact some of the participants' ability to participate in PWE and complete employment boot camp. Despite these obstacles, case management staff continue to be creative in engaging youth to meet their educational and employment goals.





The WDB Employer Service Team continues to serve Region 4 employers with wage reimbursement and training programs. In November--Six employers used WIOA employer services, eight participants entered training and two new employers was recruited as new training sites.

The WDB hosted a virtual event for National Apprenticeship Week, it was a success! Six businesses and twenty-six job seekers registered for the event. Of the twenty-six registered job seekers, thirteen attended visiting multiple employer booths.

## GIS UPDATES



2020 has been big year for the MOVRC GIS Program. This year, the program has added several communities to the Regional GIS Agreement including Ravenswood, Sistersville, Harrisville, and Spencer. In May, the MOVRC GIS Program welcomed Johnathan Adkins as an intern for the summer. Johnathan worked with the City of Ripley throughout the summer collecting and maintaining the City's GIS data. In July, Vincent Post was promoted to GIS Program Manager, and the MOVRC GIS Program welcomed Erik Michael to its full-time staff. Erik has been helping Ravenswood collect data for their asset management plan over the past month; and will be continuing that work through the winter.

Finally, in November, the MOVRC GIS Program received a Special Achievement in GIS - 2020 Award from ESRI for the work done on MOVRC's COVID-19 Hub at the beginning of the pandemic; and contributing to the advancement of GIS in West Virginia with the WV Association of Regional Councils. MOVRC's COVID-19 Hub was developed to provide the public a "one stop shop" for information related to COVID-19 and statistics for the counties in our region. The Hub also contained an interactive map accessible by the public, with data entered by local businesses about their location, hours of operation, and if they provided delivery and/or pickup. This was a tremendous honor for our GIS staff to receive an award from ESRI, and we look forward to working with our communities to develop and improve their GIS activities in the future.

If you are interested in what the MOVRC GIS Program and Regional Agreement can offer your community, or public service district, you can contact Vincent Post III, MOVRC GIS Program Manager, at [vince.post@movrc.org](mailto:vince.post@movrc.org), or by phone at 304.422.4993, ext. 1060.

**Merry  
Christmas**

A graphic of a candy cane with a red and white striped pattern, a green holly leaf, and a red berry at the top, positioned between the words "Christmas" and "mas".

**mas**