

MID-OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL



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

October 2021

Polymer Alliance Zone (PAZ) celebrates 25 Years



MOVRC Staff and Board Members joined PAZ at its Annual Meeting September 30 at Star Plastics in Millwood.

PAZ was created in 1996 as a pilot project through an executive order of the WV Governor. Today PAZ has one of the highest concentrations of high-technology, specialty, and engineering polymers production in the United States.

MOVRC assisted the PAZ with the acquisition of the Meadville Road, Davisville Site from Ames True Temper in 2004.

Many of the PAZ board members are also board members of the MOVRC. MOVRC has assisted with financing for many of the PAZ companies located in the 7 counties situated along the Ohio River.

Star Plastics the meeting host was also celebrating an important milestone in its history. Founder and longtime CEO Doug Ritchie recently announced the company's acquisition by an investment capital firm which will further enable Star Plastics to achieve even more growth.

We congratulate PAZ on its first 25 years and look forward to what the next 25 will bring.

We applaud Doug Ritchie for his foresight and innovation in creating Star Plastics and SDR and congratulate him on the successful next step to insure the company's future.





The COVID pandemic business disruption is still placing America's small businesses in a bind. Faced with struggles in obtaining employees to rising supply prices now they are being taking advantage of by predatory lenders. Predatory lenders offer quick cash with just a few simple steps. Often this simple process does result in quick cash and prolonged suffering by the business. Payback is h---, and with predatory lenders this is true. Faced with daily repayments terms, coupled with outrageous interest rates many businesses are forced into bankruptcy. Please help spread the word to small businesses to not be taken in by such lenders and to consult with their Bank, WV Small Business Development Center or Development Authority office when they are in doubt about the legitimacy of such lenders.



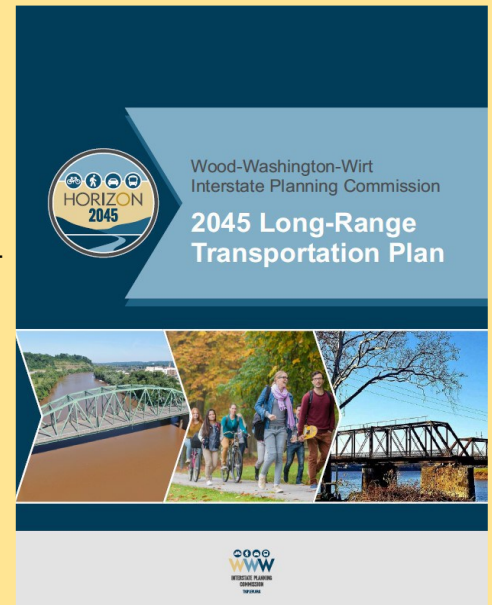
WWW Long-Range Transportation Plan



Horizon 2045: Moving Toward a Brighter Future

Final Draft WWW Horizon 2045 LRTP

The final draft of the WWW Horizon 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is now available for public review. Horizon 2045 identifies recommended improvements to the transportation system in the Wood- Washington-Wirt Metropolitan Planning Organization (WWW) study area which includes Wood County, West Virginia and portions of Washington County, Ohio. The recommendations address transportation needs and deficiencies that were identified through extensive stakeholder and public engagement and technical analysis conducted by the project team. The full draft final Horizon 2045 document is available to review on the Horizon 2045 website at: <https://horizon2045-movrc.hub.arcgis.com/>. Print versions of the plan are also available for review at the WWW office located at **709 Market Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101**.



Public Feedback

Horizon 2045 hosted two online public open houses, with the first running from November 16, 2020 to December 31, 2020, and the second running from August 18, 2021 to September 19, 2021. During these open houses, more than 100 comments were received, split between the online survey, interactive map, or submitted through other means. More than 60% of survey participants indicated that “supporting economic development and job creation” and “reducing crashes at high-crash locations” were the most important factors. During the second online open house, public comments were generally supportive of the draft LRTP.

Tell Us What You Think!

A 10-day public review period for the final draft Horizon 2045 LRTP begins on October 13, 2021 and will run through October 22, 2021. We encourage you to review the final draft LRTP and submit any comments that you have. You can comment through the project website (<https://horizon2045-movrc.hub.arcgis.com/>) or you can comment by email or phone by contacting Tracy Brown at tracy.brown@movrc.org or (304) 699- 3720.

Following the 10-day public review period, the WWW Technical Advisory and Policy Board will meet on October 27, 2021 to vote on adoption of the Horizon 2045 LRTP.



RSVP Update



The RSVP program is happy to announce that after 2 cancellations of our annual Recognitions Luncheon, it is going to happen. The luncheon which is usually held in May will be held Wednesday, October 20th at the Cedar Lakes Conference Center. As of today, we have nearly 75 seniors signed up and are expecting around 100. We continue to see volunteers working in their communities and helping their neighbors. During the past month, several stations have experienced either partial or total shutdowns as they work through COVID outbreaks among staff or volunteers. We are hoping that this luncheon will allow us to thank and show our volunteers just how much they are valued.

A Heartfelt Thank You
**TO ALL OF OUR
AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!**
We couldn't do it without you!

FGP Updates



AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparents finding new ways to serve.

When West Virginia Schools closed their doors to students and staff due to Covid 19, many students struggled with the transition to online learning. Poor internet service, or even, no internet at all burdened many families. Students grappled with their new learning environment outside of the classroom and away from their peers and teachers. For some, having access to meals became a challenge.

The Calhoun County FRN / Thrift Store Director, Tina Persinger and RSVP Volunteers recognized the need in their community. They began feeding around 100 children daily with food paid for, in connection with WV State Board of Education and the USDA. This service created a safe setting for students to share their experiences and hardships with the new world around them.





One of our Foster Grandparents, Virginia Judy wanted to help these children even more. She listened to many children describe their trouble progressing through their studies and said that she, “would love to help out and start tutoring the children”. Virginia dedicated her time helping them with their studies one on one and even learned how to use an iPad to further support the students. Her dedication made a positive impact on the lives and success of the students in Calhoun County. Tina Persinger stated that the children showed great improvement on tests scores and became eager to do homework.

The Calhoun community became stronger in a time of adversity because of compassionate individuals like Grandma Virginia.

SCP Update



Paper placemat story...

While traveling for Foster Grandparent site visits and Senior Companion in services in the month of September, we had the opportunity to give back to the local restaurants, Senior Centers and libraries that allow us to be a part of their business and activities each month. We presented to them paper table placemats that they can use on their tables, whether for dining or a covering to just highlight the AmeriCorps Seniors Programs or to use while working on arts/crafts. The placemats are in Barbour County at two local restaurants, Barb's, and Laurel Mountain Inn, also at The Depot Diner in Tucker County, Braxton County Senior Center, Upshur County Senior Center, Forest Park Activity Center and Webster Springs Library. While traveling to other areas throughout the month of October, more paper placemats will be delivered to those ready to receive them. The local owners and staff were delighted to have them, and the FGP/SCP volunteers were proud to have them representing the program in their neck of the woods!





BRAXTON placemat



Upshur placemat



Barb's placemat



Depot Diner placemat

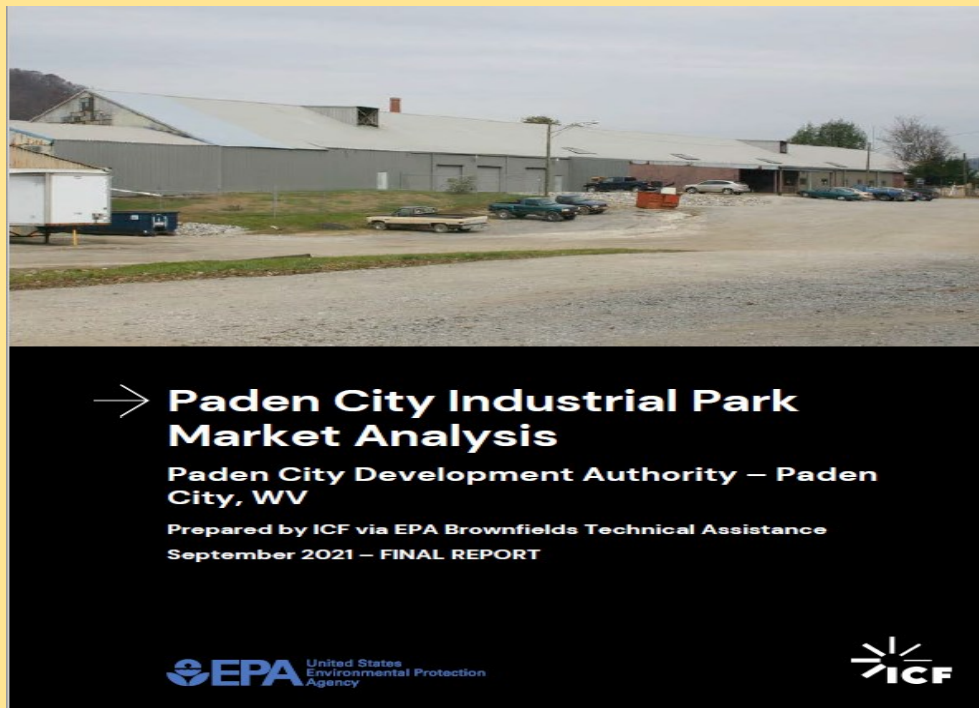


COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

- The Paden City Development Authority, through application assistance from MOVRC, has been awarded federal EDA funding for a Feasibility Development Study of the Paden City Industrial Park. PCDA has procured Civil & Environmental Consultants of Bridgeport, WV to complete engineering on water and sewer expansion, stormwater upgrades, building access and safety improvements, restoration of gas heat and windows, loading dock improvements and 3 phase power upgrades. The study budget is \$99,000 with PCDA providing a \$19,800 in matching funds to the \$79,200 federal share. The Industrial Park is located in an Opportunity Zone. This effort partners with existing EPA funding awards PCDA has gained for technical assistance and Clean-Up of the former Paden City Pottery and Corning kiln and production area at the north end of the industrial park.

Here is a link the recently completed Market Analysis prepared for PCDA by the consulting firm ICF using EPA Brownfields technical assistance.

[Paden City Market Analysis FINAL 9.22.21.pdf](#)



• UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITY FOR WATER UTILITIES

The National Association of Development Organizations recently announced a November 2nd training in Spencer called : Managing your Water System into the Future

NADO added, “We are a partners on the Smart Management for Small Water Systems Program, funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, to provide free training and technical assistance to small public water systems in all fifty states and five territories. These services are delivered through in-person workshops, webinars, and individualized technical assistance.”



Cost: Complimentary.

Please note: *The workshop is free of charge, but all food and travel costs are the responsibility of participants.*

Who Should Attend:

This workshop is designed for water systems serving 10,000 people or fewer (though systems of any size may attend), especially targeting local government systems facing financial challenges. Owners of privately owned systems, consultants and technical assistance providers serving water systems are also invited to attend.

Here's the direct registration link: <https://efcnetwork.org/events/west-virginia-managing-your-water-system-into-the-future-2/>

- The Southern Jackson PSD's Wendell/Given/Jim Ridge/Station Camp Water Extension Project is currently advertising to receive construction bids. The bid opening will be held on Thursday, November 4th at 1:30 pm at the PSD office. This \$3.46 million project is being assisted by the HUD/Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and USDA Rural Development.
- The Town of Reedy has a bid opening on Wednesday, October 20th, at 1pm for upgrades to its wastewater system. The project is funded through the Appalachian Regional Commission and the WV Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council.
- The Wood County Commission has acquired 5 homes in the Happy Valley project, assisted by a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Program grant.
- The Wood County Development Authority, which was awarded \$40,000 for a Small Incubator/Coworking Space Feasibility Study from EDA earlier this year, has since procured the services of Greenwood Consulting, Inc. to complete the study. The study is expected to be completed by November. If it is determined that a business incubator is feasible, development of an optional management plan would take an additional 45 days to complete, pending authorization.
- MOVRC has posted the 2021 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy or (CEDS). The CEDS is a strategy-driven plan for regional economic development, bringing a region together to review data, formulate a vision and create SMART objectives to enhance the economic growth in the region. The EDA requires regions to update their CEDS at least every 5 years to qualify for EDA assistance under its Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance programs. The CEDS is also a prerequisite for a designation by EDA as an Economic Development District (EDD). In addition to meeting EDA requirements, this document is also intended to serve as the Regional Development Plan as required by our planning grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). The ARC is a long-term partner of the Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council. The regional plan serves to align our goals and strategies with those contained in the ARC's development plan.

To read our updated CEDS, please see: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/1faa78352e73416e9a581d1bf31a0195>.

