

# MID-OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL



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

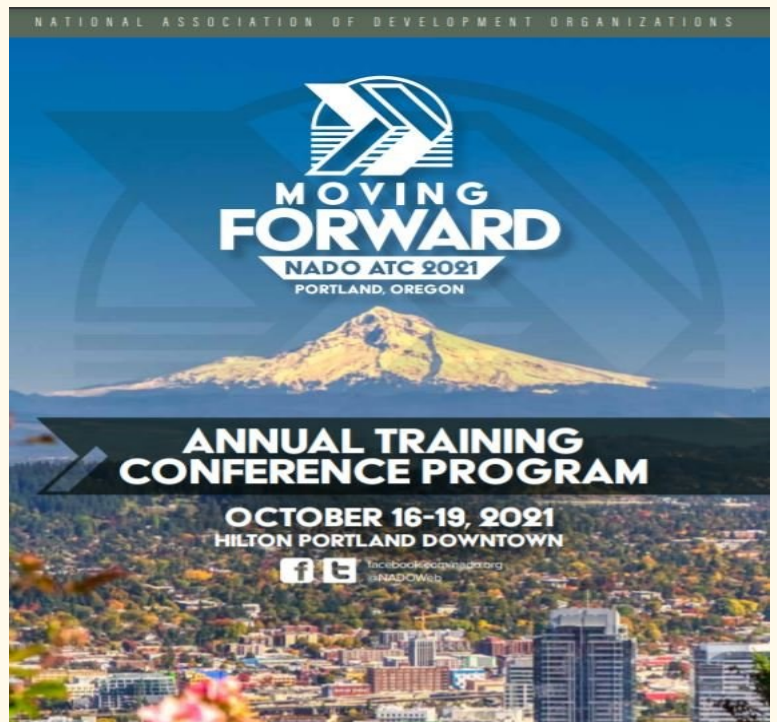
November 2021

## *Note from Executive Directors Desk*

With falling leaves and frost on the pumpkin we celebrate another busy year. Staff have been so busy this year with new projects and new ways of doing things. The MOVRC is very thankful to the staff and their dedication to the programs, projects, communities we serve and the individuals whose lives we touch. Without our staff this organization would not have been able to celebrate 50 years of successful service this year. COVID put a damper on many things but not our enthusiasm to continue our mission to improve the economy and communities in our region.

MOVRC Attends National Association of Development Organization Annual Training Conference.

MOVRC Chairman Eric Peters and Luke Peters, Community Development Staff represented MOVRC at the NADO ATC event. This event had attendees from regional planning organizations from all 50 states and territories is the premier industry event. Sessions included Embracing Change and Strengthening Communities in Rural America, The American Rescue Plan Act: What are the RDO Roles; Tourism and Recreation, Expanding Broadband; and many others. Carol Jackson who serves on the NADO board was unable to attend in person but attended the NADO Board meeting via Zoom on October 18<sup>th</sup> and participated in elected Misty Crosby from Buckeye Hills Regional Council in Reno, Ohio to the NADO President position for 2021-2022 term. The NADO Board has been extremely active during COVID with providing information, testimonies, and letters of support for the various governmental programs that have passed to assist with the recovery efforts. One of NADO's long fought battles recorded a win in 2021 with the enacted defederalization of US Economic Development Administration Revolving Loan Fund. Thanks to Shelly Moore Capito's support this legislation was passed and enabled MOVRC to have full control of its \$3million EDA RLF program in June 2021. NADO is still actively engaged with the EDA, ARC, USDA, FEMA, and other federal agencies to monitor the American Rescue Plan.



**Bipartisan infrastructure package**, contains a number of provisions affecting ARC, including the following (this a general summary):

- **Provides \$1 billion** over five years (\$200 million per year, starting in FY22) for ARC generally. This is in addition to ARC's regular appropriation. There are no congressional directions on how the money is to be allocated. (The pending House and Senate FY22 regular appropriation bills both provide \$210 million for ARC, along with congressional directions.)
- **Reauthorizes ARC** for five years and changes the agency's sunset date to October 1, 2026.
  - ⇒ Adds three counties to ARC (Catawba and Cleveland in NC and Union in SC).
  - ⇒ Creates a new regional energy hub initiative, authorized at \$5 million per year, that can support, through research and grants, an ethane storage facility.
  - ⇒ Reworks ARC's existing broadband authorization to require ARC before making a broadband grant to request information from the FCC, NTIA, EDA, and USDA concerning the level and extent of broadband service in the area to be served and the degree of broadband service that may be provided by those other federal agencies; specifies that at least 65 percent of the funds used under this authority go for construction and deployment of infrastructure.
  - ⇒ Requires that ARC provide notice to specific congressional committees three business days before the approval of grants greater than \$50,000.
  - ⇒ Alters ARC's definition of North Central Appalachia by including within that definition the West Virginia counties of Brooke, Hancock, Marshall, and Ohio.
- **Provides \$1.25 billion** over five years in dedicated funding for the Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS) at the Federal Highway Administration.
  - ⇒ Prescribes that the formula for the distribution of those funds will be based on the 2021 Cost-to-Complete Estimate, adjusted by the 2013 Completion Report, as modified by the 2020 Future Outlook report.
  - ⇒ Provides a floor of \$10 million per year for each state, except that no state can receive more than is necessary to complete their portion of the ADHS.
  - ⇒ Imposes a ceiling that ensures that no state will receive more than 30 percent of the funding.
  - ⇒ Specifies that the federal share for construction of the ADHS shall be up to 100 percent.
- **Creates a new Rural Surface Transportation Grant program** and reserves 25 percent of the available funding each year for projects that will further completion of the ADHS.
- Provides that up to 15 percent of funds apportioned to states under certain provisions of the State Transportation Block Grant program may be transferred to the ADHS.
- Creates a new Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment program at the Department of Commerce and specifies that ARC funds may count as the non-federal match for grants under that program.
- Creates a new Digital Equity Grant program at the Department of Commerce and specifies that in establishing that program the Assistant Secretary shall consult with, among others, the ARC Federal Co-Chair.

## Wood County Alternative Transportation Council – FY 2022

WWW accepted the nomination for **Vice Chairperson of the Wood County Alternative Transportation Council** and an appointment to serve as such by the Wood County Commission.

The Wood County Alternative Transportation Council (WCATC) is appointed by the Wood County Commission as a citizens advisory group with a focus on active transportation for pedestrians and bicyclists in Wood County. The WCATC has pursued plans to develop an active transportation network in Wood County, WV and has an approved Alternative Transportation Plan that was prepared by Burges and Niple in 2012. While efforts to develop an active transportation network are fluid, the WCATC is planning for some immediate developments for calendar year 2023. These include supporting the construction of the Parkersburg Ohio River Trail (PORT), continuing the development of a North Bend Rail Trail connection from Happy Valley Road to Corning Park, updating the WCATC Alternative Transportation Plan, and a multi-use trail connection from Williamstown to the Historic Henderson Hall and Harbor Point development.



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### Work Product Support

- Staff efforts include participation in meetings and support with document preparation, field activities, and project development support by request and as needed to further the vision of the WCATC.
- Administration of the WCATC Facebook pages.
- Coordination with staff at the Wood County Commission.
- Work activity spans from July 2021 to June 2022.
- [WWW.triplew.org](http://WWW.triplew.org)
- Bike and Hike Parkersburg on Facebook.

The WCATC holds meetings on the first Monday of the month, every other month during the year and usually at 6pm. These meetings are open to the public. The MOVRC and Wood County Commission have agreed that future meetings will be held in the conference room at the MOVRC.

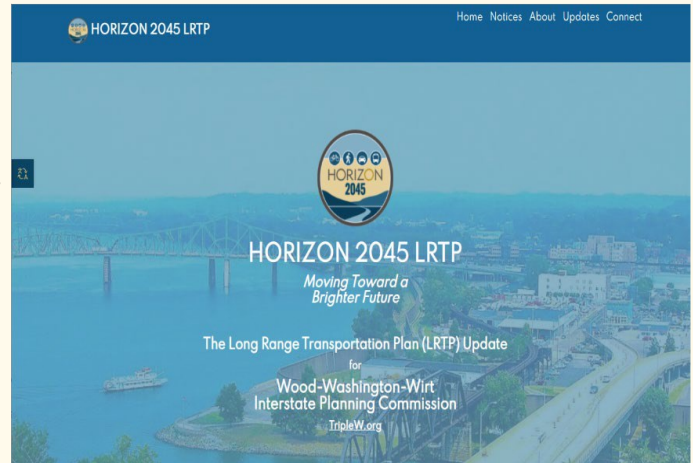
Staff involvement in the WCATC fulfills in part work element 601.2 Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning as well as some from work element 625 Transportation Planning Services and Administration.

## Horizon 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan – FY22

The WWW Policy Board held a Special Meeting on October 27, 2021 to approve the **Final Horizon 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan** for WWW. The plan was completed by Burgess and Niple under contract with WWW. The LRTP was approved as Final by the Policy Board as well as the air quality conformity determination as required by federal law.

Long Range Transportation Plans guide efforts to improve transportation systems – highways and roads, facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists, as well as transit, airports, public railroad projects, and intermodal facilities. WWW is required by federal law to produce a long-range transportation plan and update it every four years.

The finalization of this document fills in part work element 610 Long Range Planning, identified in the FY 2022 Unified Work Program. WWW will continue to monitor this document and associated projects over the next four year cycle to ascertain the success of the fiscally constrained projects and the potential impacts on statewide performance



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### Study Support

- Staff efforts included contract management and oversight by the program director, GIS coordination with the GIS Specialist, outreach coordination and participation by Staff, among other duties required by this vast type of work product.
- Work activity spanned from July 2020 to November 2021.
- [WWW.triplew.org](http://WWW.triplew.org)





## Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act – FY22



In July 2021, a notice of the **Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA)** funding was provided to WWW by ODOT. The notice indicated that WWW would be suballocated \$185,647 in CRRSAA funding to be applied toward eligible Surface Transportation Block Grant projects regardless of underlying functional classification. This one-time funding opportunity made funds immediately available to recipients for projects

with urgent fiscal needs within the State.

WWW met virtually with the members of the Transportation Improvement Program management group in Ohio on September 21, 2021 to discuss this opportunity and collaborate on projects meeting the CRRSAA rationale. As a result of that meeting, WWW allocated \$185,647 toward two paving projects in the City of Belpre:

- Paving from Braun Road from State Route 7 to Belrock Avenue at Putnam Howe, and
- Paving Florence Street from Gibbens Street to the railroad Bridge.

CRRSAA funds were paired with \$18,565 in State funding and added to the Statewide Line Item list on WWW's TIP for a total of \$204,212 under PID 115762 in FY22.

The suballocation and management of CRRSAA funds fulfills in part work element 602.1 Transportation Improvement Program from WWW's FY 2022 Unified Work Program.

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### Work Product Support

- Staff efforts included coordination with ODOT and local partners, project selection, and management of suballocated funding in accordance with TIP procedures by the Director of Transportation Planning.
- Work activity spanned from July 2021 to September 2021.
- [WWW.triplew.org](http://WWW.triplew.org)





## Ohio Diesel Emission Grant Programs

### **To: Interested parties, Ohio diesel emission grant programs**

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) invites applications for grants under its Diesel Mitigation Trust Fund (DMTF) program to help fund the installation of publicly available DC Fast Charging (DCFC) Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations in [26 Ohio priority counties](#).

The purpose of this part of the DMTF program is to increase the availability and public awareness of charging stations. This, in turn, should help increase EV adoption and reduce petroleum-based fuel consumption by vehicles, thereby, mitigating nitrogen oxides and decreasing particulate matter and greenhouse gas emissions in Ohio.

Grants will be funded with dollars allocated to Ohio from the Volkswagen (VW) Mitigation Trust Fund, as part of a court-ordered settlement to offset the excess air pollution emitted by some VW vehicles that violated the Clean Air Act. Because these are considered public dollars, these funds are dedicated to supporting publicly available locations. Consequently, charging primarily for residents of individual homes or multi-unit dwellings, or employees at workplaces is not eligible for funding under this program.

This current offering is for DC Fast Charging stations only. A separate funding opportunity was made available in Summer 2020 for Level 2 Charging stations only. The total funding under this grant offering is approximately \$7,000,000. For chargers located on Government Owned Property, Ohio EPA will provide up to 100% of eligible project costs. For chargers located on Non-Government Owned Property, Ohio EPA will provide up to 80% of eligible project costs.

Recipients of a grant for charging stations under this program are required to operate and maintain the chargers for a minimum of 5 years from the date the chargers are first put into service. Recipients will also be required to submit annual usage reports to Ohio EPA for the first five years from the date the chargers are first put into service. The grant agreement will stipulate that failure to do so will result in the recipient paying back the grant award amount.

Applications are due via email to [evcharging@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:evcharging@epa.ohio.gov) no later than January 31, 2022.

Two webinars offered as Microsoft Teams Live events have been scheduled to provide an overview of the program and offer an opportunity for prospective applicants to ask questions.

If you would like to attend a webinar, please click the link that corresponds to the webinar you would like to attend. Please note that identical information will be presented at both webinars, so ***you only need to attend one of the two sessions*** and it is ***not necessary to have Microsoft Teams software*** on your computer to participate in these webinars. ***Attending one of these webinars will increase your ability to submit a complete and competitive grant application.***

**Session 1 (Thursday, November 4, 2021 from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm)**

**Session 2 (Tuesday, November 9, 2021 from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm)**

Presentation slides and questions and answers from both sessions will be posted on the program website. Applicants may contact Ohio EPA staff members with questions throughout the grant cycle. Ohio EPA will continue to update the list of questions and answers regularly so that all applicants have access to the same information.

Please feel free to share this email with others you know who may be interested in this funding opportunity. Please email any questions to [evcharging@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:evcharging@epa.ohio.gov).

SCP



Senior Companion & Foster Grandparent volunteers participated in a service project with the Roane County Drug Coalition. Volunteers made Drug Awareness Halloween treat bags for the communities of Geary, Spencer, Reedy and Walton in Roane County. Over 763 bags were filled with hand sanitizer, markers, candy and drug free information.







## AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Program & Senior Companion Program receives funding from the WV Central Federal Credit Union

WV Central Federal Credit Union recognized 48 organizations in the MOV community during International Credit Union Day on October 21<sup>st</sup>. The AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Program and the Senior Companion Program received donations of \$2,500 respectively. One of WV Central Federal Credit Union's core values is Community-create an environment of positive influences. The monies received will assist both programs in their continued efforts to provide meaningful volunteer opportunities in the communities they serve.



Thank  
you!





## IT WAS SCARECROW DAY IN ELKINS

It was Scarecrow Days in Elkins, WV from September 25<sup>th</sup> to October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The downtown streets were decorated with Scarecrows made by various businesses, individuals, schools, agencies, and programs in Randolph County. Our Town Inc, a nonprofit organization in Elkins, promotes community activities and involvement and they sponsored this event. AmeriCorps Seniors Program Coordinator participated again this year. Although the Scarecrow did not receive an official name, she adorned the Darden House post as an AmeriCorps Senior-Crow, representing us well. She got some attention with spectators taking pictures with her and someone even leaving more flowers in her scarecrow hands!



# RSVP



The RSVP program was finally able to hold our annual Volunteer Recognitions Luncheon at Cedar Lakes on Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. We had over 100 volunteers from 7 counties in attendance. Everyone was quite happy to be able to see old friends and catch up with each other. Many gift cards, gift baskets and other awards were handed out to the volunteers.



We also had experienced several short closures at several centers as cases of COVID are detected. We seem to be back to having most opened. We are in the process of planning some small holiday recognitions and events for our volunteers. The holidays will be here before we know it. The volunteers are looking forward to spending quality time together and resume their volunteer roles.



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

- In November 2018 we held a kick-off meeting for preparation of the 2021 Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Unfortunately, due to a glitch with FEMA funding we were unable to continue that effort. Recently we were informed that MOVRC is receiving a HUD Mitigation grant in the amount of \$185,000 for preparation of the new regional plan.

The existing regional plan expires December 4, 2021. There is no way to avoid the fact that the plan will expire before a new plan is adopted. We have been told (not in writing) that any hazard mitigation projects during the lapse will be able to get a waiver of the requirement that a hazard mitigation plan be in place for the award of FEMA hazard mitigation funding.

Due to the need to get a new plan in place as quickly as possible we have made the decision to hire a consultant to assist with the preparation of the plan. We will be contacting stakeholders in the near future to restart the planning process.



- The City of Spencer was recently awarded \$4,415,000 for two flood mitigation projects toward which the city will also contribute a total of \$110,000. The funds are being made available through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant Mitigation Program (CDBG-MIT). The program helps communities impacted by recent natural disasters carry out strategic and high-impact activities to mitigate disaster risks and reduce future losses.

### CDBG -MIT awards for City of Spencer



Gov. Jim Justice with Rob Miller, City of Spencer Public Works Director

#### **CITY OF SPENCER (ROANE COUNTY)**

**Project:** Spencer Wastewater Line Mitigation Improvements

**CDBG-MIT Amount:** \$3,880,000

**Description:** The project will relocate wastewater collection lines out of the floodplain and construct additional pumping and surge flow storage capacity at the treatment works in order to mitigate collection system overflows. These improvements will reduce the threat of flooding events to the wastewater treatment facility that serves 1,552 customers.

#### **CITY OF SPENCER (ROANE COUNTY)**

**Project:** City of Spencer Miletree #1 Dam Modifications

**CDBG-MIT Amount:** \$535,000

**Description:** This project will mitigate a high risk dam in Spencer. Plans include modifying the dam so that the permanent pool elevation of the impoundment is lowered by 10 feet. This project will mitigate against the risk of dam failure during severe storm and flooding events. It will protect 850 residents and surrounding farm and residential areas downstream of the dam. Failure of the dam, according to the WVDEP, poses potential loss of life to residents downstream of the Miletree Dam.





- The Community Foundation for the Ohio Valley notified MOVRC on November 3<sup>rd</sup> that two applications for Tyler County communities had been funded in the 2021 grant awards through the Harry E. & Olive T. Barth Charitable Trust.
- **City of Sistersville - \$27,000** – City Building Fascia and Soffit Repairs Project – This is a follow-up the roof repairs funded in 2020, and will prevent continued pigeon infestation and further damage to the historic structure.
- **Town of Friendly - \$18,100** – Friendly Community Center HVAC Upgrade – The often-used community center has never had air conditioning, which has limited the comfort of use in summer months.
- A check presentation will be held at Sistersville Public Library on November 17<sup>th</sup> at 10AM. The Barth Charitable Trust, administered by WesBanco Bank, Inc., seeks to make grants for use by non-profit organizations (designated as 501(c)(3) organizations) in West Virginia with preference, though not exclusively, to those organizations from the City of Sistersville, West Virginia and Tyler County, West Virginia areas that seek program support. Schools, churches, and governmental entities may also be considered.



- Financing for the Ravenswood Water Project will close and construction contract award will take place on November 18.
- Recently the SBA announced new COVID EIDL (Economic Injury Disaster Loan) program policy changes. Among other things, the maximum loan cap has increased from \$500k to \$2m; the use of funds was expanded to include payment and pre-payment of business non-federal debt incurred at any time (past or future), and payment of federal debt; and the deferment period has been extended to 24 months from origination. EIDL applicants may be eligible to receive a COVID-19 Targeted Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Advance may be eligible



to receive a COVID-19 Targeted Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Advance may be eligible to receive up to \$10,000 in funding from SBA that does not need to be repaid. These "advances" are similar to a grant, but without the typical requirements that come with a U.S. government grant. Applicants must wait until they receive an email invite from the SBA to apply for both the Targeted EIDL Advance and Supplemental Targeted Advance. [Note: Businesses with COVID-19-related losses can still apply for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) if they have not done so already]. More information about the loan program can be found at <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/covid-19-relief-options>.

- Although the SBA's Paycheck Protection Program is no longer accepting applications, existing borrowers may be eligible for **PPP loan forgiveness**. This is a **time-sensitive opportunity**, so existing borrowers are encouraged to visit <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/covid-19-relief-options/paycheck-protection-program/ppp-loan-forgiveness> and begin the application process as soon as possible.
- The Interagency Working Group on Coal & Power Plant Communities & Economic Revitalization recently launched a website which includes a "one-stop shopping" page for **grants to energy communities**. Funds can be used to upgrade infrastructure, clean up environmental damage, promote entrepreneurship, and support workforce development. Approximately \$36 billion is available from several federal agencies. <https://energycommunities.gov/funding-opportunities/>

