



Progress Update

Vol. 47 No.01-02

Jan./Feb. 2011

The Forty-sixth Mon Valley Progress Council annual dinner is set for April 14. Allegheny Conference on Community Development CEO Dennis Yablonsky will be the keynote speaker // Progress Council supports a statewide transportation funding coalition to increase funding for highways and bridges // Smart Government Initiative forum for municipal secretaries and administrators brings together local staff // March 7 Smart Government Initiative meeting features presentations of reports on regional policing strategies and creation of a Mid Mon Valley intergovernmental.

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

Forty-sixth annual “Celebration of Progress” dinner set for April 14th– The Progress Council 46th annual dinner will feature Allegheny Conference on Community Development CEO Dennis Yablonsky. Dennis joined the Conference in 2009 and has brought a strong focus on economic development to the 67- year-old regional economic development organization. The annual dinner will also include presentations of the Frank Irey Jr., Join in Progress Award and the Allison Maxwell Award for outstanding community leadership. The Progress Council’s annual dinner will be held on April 14th at the Willowroom, 800 Plaza Drive, Belle Vernon, PA. The social hour will begin at 5:30 and dinner at 6:30. Reservations are \$55 per person. Please look for your reservation in the mail or contact the Progress Council at 724-684-3381.

Progress Council support’s statewide transportation funding coalition to increase funding for highways and bridges – Progress Council Executive Director Joe Kirk has been working closely with a statewide coalition of transportation professionals who are meeting with state elected officials on transportation funding needs in Pennsylvania.

Smart Government Initiative forum for municipal secretaries and administrators brings together local staff – A Progress Council Initiative to promote more regionally-based delivery of municipal services has initiated the first ever regional forum for Mid Mon Valley municipal secretaries and administrators.

Smart Government steering meeting features positive action – A March 7 meeting of the Smart Government Initiative featured presentations of reports on regional policing strategies and creation of a Mid Mon Valley intergovernmental cooperative for local governments.

Progress Council support's statewide transportation funding coalition to increase funding for highways and bridges

Progress Council Executive Director Joe Kirk has been working closely with a statewide coalition of transportation professionals who are meeting with state elected officials on transportation funding needs in Pennsylvania.

The Keystone Funding Coalition is a statewide coordinated effort to meet with legislators throughout the Commonwealth to describe the dire conditions of bridges and roadways in the Pennsylvania.

Currently nearly 25% of bridges in Pennsylvania are structurally deficient. Funding levels for transportation are expected to decrease as much as one third in 2011. Further compounding road and bridge challenges is the lack of action on transportation funding at the federal level.

Smart Government Initiative forum for municipal secretaries and administrators brings together local staff

A Progress Council Initiative to promote more regionally based delivery of municipal services has initiated the first ever regional forum for Mid Mon Valley municipal secretaries and administrators.

A March 4th meeting of local administrators and secretaries held at Mon Valley Career and Technology Center included a presentation by Michael Foreman, DCED Local Government Policy Specialist on key responsibilities of local administrators. Foreman reviewed the DCED municipal handbook to provide guidance to attendees.

Chris Bova and Tim Yurcisin of Westmoreland County Department of Planning then review funding process for Community Development Blocks grants.

Progress Council Smart Government consultant, PA Futures Alan Kugler coordinated the meeting. The next municipal secretaries and administrators' forum, to be held on April 15, will feature a presentation by representatives of PennDOT District 12.

Smart Government steering meeting features positive action

The March 7th meeting of the Smart Government Initiative featured presentations of reports on regional policing strategies and creation of a Mid Mon Valley intergovernmental cooperative for local governments.

George Dougherty of the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs Center for Metropolitan studies presented a final report on Mid Mon Valley regional policy strategies. The report included the concept of three cluster areas of regional policing to serve the region. According to the PITT study, cost savings for basic police patrolling would be in the range of \$1.78 million on an annual basis. The Progress Council will continue to work with local governments on the proposals included in the PITT report.

Progress Council Executive Director Joe Kirk then presented the concept of an intermunicipal cooperative that would serve the Mid Mon Valley. The proposed Mid Mon Valley Intermunicipal Cooperative (MMVIC) would provide an ongoing forum for

development and implementation of efforts to promote more regionally based municipal services.

Information on the MMVIC will be provided to all Mid Mon Valley local governments for further consideration.

The Mon Valley Progress Council

435 Donner Avenue | Suite 410 | Monessen, PA 15062

Tel: 724-684-3381 | Fax: 724-684-5113 | email: jkirk@monvalleyprogress.org | website: www.monvalleyprogress.org