



PA Turnpike commission CEO announces completion of Phase II of the Brownsville to Uniontown Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway project on August 22, 2007 with Phase I of the project in the background.



Progress Council vice president Al Ferrari (far right) joins (L to R) PTC CEO Joe Brimmeier, State Senator Rich Kasunic, PTC Chairman Mitch Rubin, and State Senator Barry Stout at announcement of Phase II of the Brownsville to Uniontown section of the Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway.

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Progress is ...

Expressway Partnership Initiative (EPI) continues to grow — EPI partners testify at the August 29 State Transportation Commission meeting — Expressway funding strategy proposed “The 2% Solution” — Letters of interest from major toll road firms released to the media // Mon Valley Community Education Council’s fall course schedule posted // Mid Mon Valley Regional Enterprise Zone meetings scheduled for fall

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

Expressway Partnership Initiative (EPI) continues to grow - The EPI that currently includes the Mon Valley Progress Council, Monroeville Area Chamber of Commerce and the Regional Chamber Alliance now includes the West-to-West Coalition and the Economic Growth Connection of Westmoreland County. The goal of the EPI is to complete the Allegheny County section of the Expressway through public/private partnership

Expressway funding strategy proposed “The 2% Solution” Expressway – EPI member Jim Dodaro presented a plan to fund the Squirrel Hill Tunnel bypass section of the Allegheny County Expressway section through a combination of private funding and a funding plan called “The 2% Solution”. The funding plan calls for passage of state legislation that would allocate 2% or \$1.14 billion of the \$57 billion the PA Turnpike anticipates raising through recently passed transportation legislation.

Letters of interest from major toll road firms released to the media – Progress Council Executive Director Joe Kirk releases names and letter of interest at the August 29 State Transportation Commission.

Mon Valley Community Education fall course schedule posted – Courses ranging from business planning to code enforcement training are on tap for the fall schedule of the Community Education Council.

Mid Mon Valley Regional Enterprise Zone strategic planning meetings scheduled for fall – Elected officials and community leaders from nine Mid Mon Valley communities will participate in meetings this fall to develop the Mid Mon Valley Regional Enterprise Zone strategic plan.

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Expressway Partnership Initiative (EPI) continues to grow

The EPI that currently includes the Mon Valley Progress Council, Monroeville Area Chamber of Commerce and the Regional Chamber Alliance now includes the West-to-West Coalition and the Economic Growth Connection of Westmoreland County. “Continued growth of the Expressway Partnership Initiative points to the interest in keeping the Allegheny County section of Expressway project moving ahead,” said Progress Council Highway and Bridge co-chairman and Progress Council EPI representative Bill Worthington. A listing of EPI members is provided below.

EPI members

Mon Valley Progress Council	Regional Chamber Alliance
Monroeville Area Chamber of Commerce	West-to-West Coalition
Economic Growth Connection of Westmoreland County	

EPI meetings are held at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association in Oakland courtesy of EPI member Bill Otto. The goal of the EPI is to complete the Allegheny County section of the Expressway through a public/private partnership.

Expressway funding strategy proposed “The 2% Solution” Expressway

In his testimony before the State Transportation Commission on August 28, EPI member Jim Dodaro presented a plan to fund the Squirrel Hill Tunnel bypass section of the Allegheny County Expressway through a funding strategy called “The 2% Solution”. The funding plan would call for passage of state legislation that would allocate 2% or \$1.14 billion of the \$57 billion the PA Turnpike Commission anticipates raising through recently passed transportation legislation.

Except from Dodaro’s testimony highlights the proposal for “The 2% Solution”

“Innovative funding strategies begin with a public commitment of funding. Recently passed state transportation legislation has both broadened both the authority and tolling capacity of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission. Based on the Turnpike Commission’s owned estimates they will have the capacity to raise \$57 billion dollars over the next forty years for transportation projects. We call for a commitment of just 2% this funding capacity to support a public/ private partnership for development of the Squirrel Hill Tunnel Bypass. This commitment would raise \$1.14 billion”.

Jim Dodaro, August 29, 2007, State Transportation Commission hearing, Southpointe Hilton Gardens.

Letters of interest from major toll road firms released to the media

At the August 29 hearing, Progress Council executive director Joe Kirk released the names and letters of interest in the Allegheny County section of the Expressway project submitted by major national and international infrastructure development and financing firms.

Major infrastructure development and financing firms that submitted letter of interest for the PA Route 51 to I-376 Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway

- 1. The Carlyle Group** – A U.S. private global investment firm with major and specific toll road development and financing experience.
- 2. McQuarie Securities (USA) Inc.** – A diversified international provider of specialist financial and investment banking services.
- 3. Cintra Developments L.L.C.** – A worldwide leader in the concession industry. Cintra both develops P’3 and operate facilities.
- 4. OHL Infrastructure** - A major international firm in the delivery of hundreds of toll road projects.

“These firms were very interested in the role that a local coalition of economic development and business groups could play in helping to advance a major transportation project. Our pledge to them is to be a strong advocate to maintain and broaden community support as well as seek funding,” said Progress Council executive director Joe Kirk. “They understand the role we have played in the Expressway project.”

Mon Valley Community Education fall course schedule posted

Courses ranging from business planning to code enforcement training are on tap for the fall schedule of the Community Education Council. “We are very excited by the range of courses and adding California University Southpointe Campus as an MVCEC education partner. Please visit mvcec.org if you would like to register for any of the courses.

MVCEC Courses and certificate programs Fall 2007/spring 2008

Penn State, Fayette campus

Classes of college credit

- Introduction to Administration of Justice
- Infant and Child Development
- Introductory Sociology
- Introduction to Information Sciences & Technology
- Introduction to Jazz

Penn State, Fayette campus

Certificate Programs

- Business Logistics
- Paralegal
- Real Estate
- Small Business Management

California University of Pennsylvania, Southpointe

Certificate program

- Building Codes enforcement

Westmoreland County Community College

Certificate Programs

- Culinary Arts
- Business—General Management
- Early Childhood Education

Mid Mon Valley Regional Enterprise Zone strategic planning meetings scheduled

Elected officials and community leaders from nine Mid Mon Valley communities will participate in meetings this fall to develop the Mid Mon Valley Regional Enterprise Zone (MMVREZ) strategic plan. The strategic plan will include a variety of initiatives, including a regional loan fund, to spur economic growth in EZ Zones within participating communities.

Participating communities will determine Enterprise Zones within their communities to target assistance. Upon approval of the MMVREZ by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, the Progress Council will work with the local communities on projects that will qualify for state assistance and funding through the regional loan fund. The Mid Mon Valley Regional Enterprise Zone is one of the larger zones under development in Pennsylvania.

Mid Mon Valley Regional Enterprise Zone (MMVREZ)

Participating Communities

Belle Vernon	California	Carroll Township
Charleroi	Donora	Monongahela City
North Charleroi	Speers	Twilight