

rollin' on the river

An e-publication of the Mahoning River Corridor Initiative
June 2009

What's "rollin" ?

Ohio Brownfield Conference

On May 12 and 13th, Sarah Lown and Dan Mamula made presentations at the OBC in Wilmington, Ohio on the Youngstown 2010 Plan and Corridor Initiative. Campbell Mayor Jack Dill and Randy Partika also attended representing the Corridor Initiative.

EfficientgovNow

On behalf of the Mahoning River Mayors' Association, the Corridor Initiative filed a grant proposal with the Fund for Our Economic Future to implement the Mahoning River Corridor Interactive Website. Utilizing the resources of the YSU Center for Urban and Regional Studies to develop the website, the site would market selected properties in the river corridor communities utilizing interactive site maps that would provide detailed information for developers and site selectors. The Corridor Manager and Marketing and Outreach Subcommittee will work with Association mayors on identifying which sites have the highest potential for economic development.

The FUND will select approximately 10 to 15 proposals as finalist and the public will then vote on up to three to be funded. Finalists are to be selected July 1, 2009. Public voting will begin then and last until July 31, 2009. If selected as a finalist, the Corridor Manager will advise on how to proceed with voting.

Corridor Initiative Meetings

On May 8, 2009 and May 19, 2009, respectively, the Transportation/Infrastructure and Environment/Recreation Subcommittees, met to review, rate and prioritize proposed corridor projects based upon various feasibility factors. Based on the feasibility factors, projects determined to have feasibility ratings indicating they could be implemented within one (1) to three years (2) were:

Transportation/Infrastructure Subcommittee

- The Lower Connector Bridge (1) (Struthers/Campbell)
- Sanitary Lift Station (1) (Campbell)
- Campbell/MRCO Roadway (1) Campbell
- CASTLO Infrastructure Improvements (1)
- Lower Division Street Bridge (2)
- Intermodal Facility (2)

Feasibility factors used to rate projects included; current project status, site ownership, environmental status, community interest, zoning, availability and timing of financial resources (state/federal), local match requirements and cost of project.

Environmental/Recreational Subcommittee Environmental Projects

- Girard Lowland West Project (1)
- Former Sharon Steel East (1) (Lowellville)
- Woodland/Hadnet Bluff Enhancement (1) Youngstown
- 422 Girard/Youngstown Gateway Enhancement (2)

Except for the CASTLO and Mahoningside Projects reported below, brownfield projects requiring environmental assessment and/or remediation were all rated 4 or 5 (projects that can be implemented in four to five years, or more). The Corridor Manager will work with those projects having ownership issues so that access can be obtained and other factors that need addressed.

Recreational Projects

- Lowellville Canoe Launch (1)
- Newton Falls Canoe Project (1)
- Mahoning River Water Trail (Trumbull Co.) (2)

Happenings in the Corridor

Clean Ohio – Warren

The City of Warren has been awarded a \$1,358,607 Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund grant to conduct environmental remediation at the former Mahoningside Power Plant along the Mahoning River.

Congratulations!

USEPA Brownfield – Struthers

EPA selected the City of Struthers to receive a \$200,000 Brownfields Petroleum Grant for the removal of storage tanks and related clean-up at the CASTLO Industrial Park.

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Congratulations!

Bill DeCicco to Retire

On July 1, 2009, after over twenty-nine years as CASTLO's Executive Director, Bill DeCicco is retiring. Bill has served CASTLO and the river corridor well over the years. CASTLO, the Mahoning River Consortium, and Mahoning River Corridor of Opportunity have

benefited greatly from his leadership and involvement in promoting the river corridor. The Corridor Initiative wishes him and his wife, Carol, the best. **Congratulations!**



Urban University Program

The Senate version of the State Budget has eliminated funding for the Urban University Program. As reported last issue the House version restored funding.

The two bills are now in conference committee and hopefully a compromise can be reached to restore some level of funding. The Corridor Initiative encourages all partners to contact State Senators and Senate President Harris to encourage continued funding. To those who have – Thank you.

Rail Developments

On May 19, 2009, representatives of metropolitan planning organizations from northeast Ohio and western Pennsylvania and the Corridor Initiative met with Matt Dietrich, Executive Director of the Ohio Rail Development Commission, to discuss passenger and high speed rail plans.

With regard to high speed rail, Matt Dietrich confirmed that the Pittsburgh – Youngstown – Cleveland corridor would be included as one of the four Ohio Hub corridors in the Preliminary Environmental Impact Study that would be used to determine the exact route. Ohio will fund the portion of the study that involves the Pennsylvania portion of the study. The PEIS is expected to take eighteen months to complete.

With regard to restoring regular passenger service through Youngstown in the near future, Mr. Dietrich was not as encouraging. Much will depend on the results of the PEIS and Amtrak.

As recommended by the Transportation & Infrastructure, the Corridor Initiative enlisted Mr. Dietrich's assistance in helping facilitate resolution of the crossing issue affecting the completion of Bob Cene Way extension in the City of Struthers. The City and its engineer were advised and they are working with Mr. Dietrich on the matter.

Brownfield Seminar

On May 26, 2009, at the invitation of Brownfield Restoration Group and the law firm of Roetzel & Andress, Corridor Initiative representatives participated in a brownfield seminar in Akron that addressed changes in the Ohio Clean Ohio Program, public/private partnerships and environmental liability issues. Mayor Holmes and Solicitor Doug Ross from McDonald, Bill DeCicco from CASTLO, John Bralich and Dan Mamula from the YSU Center for Urban and Regional Studies and John Getchey, Executive Director, Eastgate Regional COG participated in the seminar.

There's A Party Going On!

What party? An informal gathering of friends sharing a common interest in the redevelopment of the Mahoning River Corridor.

Who? The CASTLO Community Improvement Corporation and the Mahoning River Corridor of Opportunity (MRCO) are holding their ***Fifth Annual Summer Picnic and Golf Outing.***

When? On ***Thursday, June 25, 2009.*** Nine hole golf scramble starts at 1:30 p.m. Picnic at 5:00 p.m.

Where? **Bedford Trails Golf Course** (In Coitsville near the Pa. line on Bedford Road off Rt. 422. (You can find it.)

How much? Cheap! **\$40.00 for golf* and picnic; \$20.00 for just picnic and prizes** (Food is fantastic). *Golf includes Green fees, cart, prizes, snacks and beverages

RSVP? Yep! **Contact Denise Simon at CASTLO 330-750-1363 by Friday, June 19th.** All checks should be made out to **CASTLO/MRCO** and mailed to **CASTLO, 100 South Bridge Street, Struthers, Ohio 44471**

Mahoning River Corridor Initiative

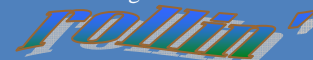
Financial partners

CASTLO - CIC
Mahoning River Consortium
Mahoning River Corridor Mayors' Association
Village of Lowellville
City of Struthers
City of Campbell
City of Youngstown
City of Girard
Village of McDonald
City of Niles
City of Warren
City of Newton Falls
Greater Mahoning Valley Common Wealth, Inc.
Ohio Department of Development*
YSU Center for Urban and Regional Studies

Community partners

Eastgate Regional Council of Governments
Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber

*Through a Local Governments Collaboration Grant Awarded to the City of Youngstown.



YSU Center for Urban and Regional Studies
One University Plaza
Youngstown, Ohio 44555

Ph. 330-941-1850
Fax 330-941-1527
Contact: Dan Mamula, Manager
dcmamula@ysu.edu

