

rollin' on the river

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What's *rollin'?* NSP2

Unfortunately, despite being strong on innovativeness and regional collaboration, the grant application for NSP2 filed by the City of Youngstown in collaboration with the river corridor communities was not one of the 79 from over 400 selected by HUD for funding.

At a previously scheduled meeting with the White House on Wednesday, January 20, 2010 to discuss the Youngstown 2010 plan, Congressman Ryan, Mayor Williams, Bill D'Avignon and others raised the NSP2 matter.

As a result of that meeting and as reported, it appears HUD had concerns regarding the capacity and available expertise in the communities to implement the program within the required time frame. In addition, as was discussed initially, the focus of NSP2 did not fit well with the needs of the corridor communities where the removal of blight conditions was more paramount to urban and neighborhood revitalization than the rehabilitation and creation of more housing.

The whole experience points to the fact that there is a need for urban redevelopment programs that specifically recognize and address the needs of smaller, older industrial cities adversely affected by significant population loss over the years. Ironically, one of the original purposes of the January 20th meeting was to discuss ways of addressing that very issue. As was reported, the White House and HUD have agreed to address the availability of programs for those cities. It is imperative that we continue to collaborate to insure that happens.

MRCI Meeting **Friday, January 29, 2010** **10:00 a.m.**

Eastgate Regional Council of Governments

Steering Committee, Subcommittee members and Corridor Mayors Association members are urged to attend. Agenda to focus on recent developments, objectives for 2010 - including design and implementation of corridor website, private property owners seminar, the status of currently funded projects and the identification opportunities to advance other projects in the corridor.

rollin' on the river website

The Corridor Initiative continues to move forward with the design and implementation of the website to market corridor communities and property and in the river corridor. In addition to the information and sites in the feasibility report, corridor communities have been asked to submit other property and/or buildings available that could have significant economic impact if developed or more fully utilized. The objective is to get the website up and running by spring.

Mahoning River Corridor Mayors' Association **The River Corridor Mayors' Association will meet** **on Thursday, February 11, 2010, 4:00 p.m. @** **TowJo's Restaurant in McDonald**

The program will include a discussion with Rose Ann DeLeon, Executive Director of the Western Reserve Port Authority, on how the Corridor Mayors' Association and WRPA can collaborate to facilitate development in the river corridor communities.

At the invitation of Lou Berroteran, Executive Director of the Summit County Mayors Association, Corridor Mayors Association Chairman Mayor Glenn Holmes and the Corridor Initiative Manager met with Mr. Berroteran and the mayors of Stow and Twinsburg to learn more on how the Summit County Mayors Association was organized and their activities. A number of ideas were shared that could benefit the Corridor Mayors Association and will be addressed at the up-coming meeting.

The Mahoning River Corridor Mayors Association welcomes Campbell Mayor George Krinos as its newest member and looks forward to working with him.

Western Reserve Port Authority

Representatives of the YSU Center for Urban and Regional Studies and the Corridor Initiative met with Rose Ann DeLeon, Executive Director of the Western Reserve Port Authority, to acquaint her with the Corridor Initiative and how we can work together. Specifically discussed was the proposal to establish an intermodal rail to truck facility in the Mahoning Valley.

Ms. DeLeon agreed to participate on the Corridor Initiative Steering Committee On behalf of the Corridor Initiative we welcome Rose Ann and look forward to working with her.

Mahoning River Water Trail

The Corridor Initiative manager met with Zachary Svette, Project Coordinator for the Trumbull County Metro Parks Water Trail project. The meeting focused on the MRCI proposed water trail sites and how we could collaborate. Zachary has done considerable work towards getting the upper reaches of the Mahoning River designated as an official water trail with the Ohio Department of Development. Zachary has also agreed to participate on the MRCI as a member of the Environmental/Recreational Enhancement Subcommittee. His input and expertise will be definitely welcome.

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