

# rollin' on the river

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

## What's rollin'?

Approximately sixty people attended the MRCI General Membership Meeting on March 16, 2009. Special thanks to Dr. Khawaja, YSU Provost, for the encouraging and supportive welcome and to Dave Imbrogno and the D.D. and Velma Davis Center staff for their cooperation.



Dr. Khawaja, YSU Provost and  
Dan Mamula, Manager



John Getchey  
Transportation and Infrastructure Chair

Subcommittee Chairs reported on the following projects and activities.

### Projects Completed or Underway

- Lower Connector Bridge (Struthers/Campbell)
- Bob Cene Way Extension (Struthers)
- Phase II Environmental Assessment (CASTLO)
- Phase II Environmental Assessment (Campbell)
- Environmental Covenants (Struthers, Castlo, Campbell)
- Sanitary Lift Station Upgrade (Campbell)

### Proposed

#### Transportation and Infrastructure – John Getchey

Members – Randy Partika, John Picuri, Scott Martin

- L-Shaped Road (MRCO/Campbell)
- Intermodal Facility
- CASTLO Infrastructure Improvements
- Lower Division Street Bridge (Mahoning County/Youngstown)
- Arrel-Smith Road (Lowellville, Struthers, Poland Twp.)

*Jim Pirko made note that considerable brownfield areas are in Weatherfield Twp. between Niles and Warren and that those should be included. The consensus was the corridor communities would work with townships in the corridor where it was mutually beneficial.*

### Environmental /Recreational- Bill DeCicco

Members- Dave Imbrogno, Rachel McCartney, Jim Converse

- US Steel site (McDonald)
- Leatherworks site (Girard)
- Direct International site (Newton Falls)
- Sharon Steel site (Lowellville)
- Wetland Bank (Mahoning/Trumbull Counties)
- Dam/canoe project (Newton Falls)
- Youngstown Bikeway Project
- Warren/Niles Bikeway Project

At the suggestion of the Mayor Holmes and Mayor Melfi the bikeway spurs to McDonald/ Girard were added.

### Outreach- Tony Paglia

Members- Mayor John Dill, Mayor James Melfi, John Bralich

Reported on activities and procedures to inform and engage the community, private sector and role of the Regional Chamber in the initiative.

### Finance and Grants- Sarah Lown

Members- Tom Finnerty, Arnie Clebone, Pat Rosenthal  
Reported on sources of MRCI funding and need to develop and establish a revenue stream to sustain economic development in the corridor. Various models are being researched for consideration.

### Mahoning River Corridor Mayors' Association



Mayors John Dill (Campbell) and  
James Melfi (Girard)

Campbell Mayor John Dill and Girard Mayor James Melfi discussed the role of the Mahoning River Corridor Mayors' Association and their respective efforts to form joint economic development agreements to further development. Mayor Dill is President of the Mayors' Association and Mayor Melfi is Secretary

## Cleveland – Youngstown – Pittsburgh Passenger Rail Project

The General Membership endorsed funding the Cleveland-Youngstown-Pittsburgh Passenger Rail Project submitted by the City of Youngstown under the Federal Stimulus Program.

According to research done by All Aboard Ohio the \$30 million project would open the Cleveland – Youngstown – Pittsburgh rail corridor by restoring Ravenna Connection track, and build rail stations in Ravenna, Youngstown and other places between Cleveland and Pittsburgh. It would also lay the ground work to be in a position to accommodate the planned high speed rail system.

The Corridor Initiative Manager will provide all members and partnering organizations with additional information to prepare letters of support and/or resolutions in support of the project. Partners are urged to send support letters/resolutions as soon as possible since decisions are scheduled to be made before April 18, 2009. Forward a copy to Dan Mamula

### *Happenings In The Corridor*

The Technical Advisory Committee at Eastgate Regional Council of Governments recently selected and submitted a number of transportation projects for consideration under the Stimulus Program. Among those in the corridor are:

- Route 422 improvements in the City of Girard.
- State Street Improvement Project in Struthers.
- Warren Bikeway Project.
- Sidewalk Improvement Program in Lowellville.

The City of Campbell received notification that their request for ODOT assistance to locate a business in the corridor was approved. The City of Campbell was also awarded a \$720,000 Clean Ohio grant to remediate the former pickling line site in the corridor.

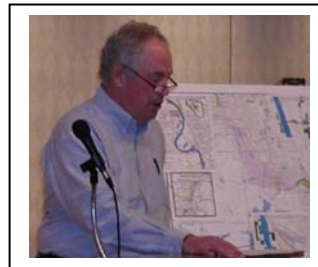


Continue site inventories and meetings with officials. Thus far site visits have been made to Newton Falls, Girard, McDonald, Lowellville, Struthers and Campbell. Site maps are being updated as information is gathered. Meetings have been held with officials in Newton Falls, Girard and McDonald and Youngstown.

Meet with subcommittees to prioritize proposed projects in their respective areas.

Identify funding sources for projects and provide information for funding requests.

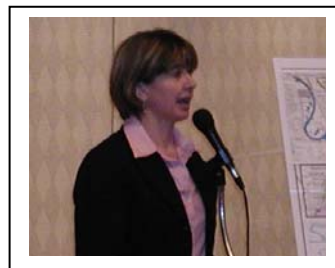
Network with state and federal officials and agencies about Corridor Initiative objectives and projects.



**Bill DeCicco**  
Environmental / Recreational Chair

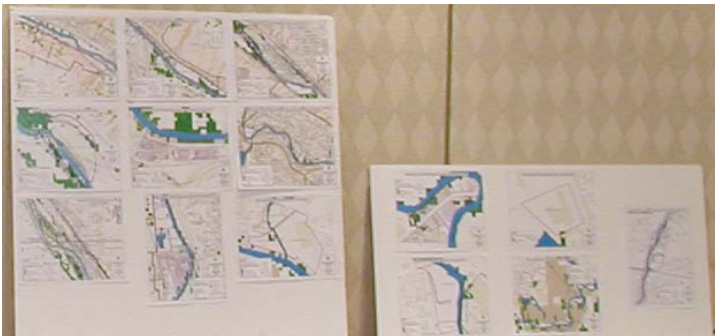


**Tony Paglia**  
Outreach Chair



**Sarah Lown**  
Finance and Grants Chair

*Anyone interested in participating on one of the subcommittees - who haven't already done so - can contact Dan Mamula or the Subcommittee Chair.*



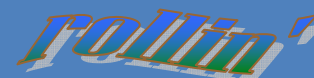
### *Mahoning River Corridor Initiative*

*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.



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