

SAP&DC

Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission Newsletter!

Newsletter 



Greenways Mini-Grants Round 5 Funding Now Available:



Through the funding available by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Community Conservation Partnership Grant Program (C2P2), **Round 5** of the Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development's (SAP&DC) **Mini-Grants Program** is now open.

An information Session will be held at SAP&DC on **May 7 from 1 to 3 p.m.** Please RSVP to Stacy LoCastro at slocastro@sapdc.org.

For information on the program and guidelines, please click the link below.

[Greenways Mini-Grants](#)

Southern Alleghenies Regional

Broadband Taskforce:



The Broadband Taskforce Committee continued to meet on a regular basis to discuss next steps to enhance broadband connectivity in the region. One of the first goals set by the Taskforce was to "Research current broadband initiatives and U.S. funding opportunities available."

To that end, SAP&DC submitted a \$50,000, with a \$50,000 local match from 8 participating counties, POWER grant to Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) on April 10, 2019. The grant purpose is: *"to determine how to increase access and availability of broadband services to unserved and underserved areas; and will identify strategies to increase the level of current services being provided to improve health care, tourism, education, and technology, provide an inventory of broadband assets in place, determine each community's bandwidth requirements, establish best technologies to meet needs, set cost estimates for different deployment strategies, and assess vertical assets to aid in the development of future wireless networks. The completion of this assessment and action plan will provide decision makers with the data and information needed to begin enhancing the connectivity of residents and businesses in rural Pennsylvania."*

The 8 participating counties are Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fayette, Fulton, Huntingdon, Somerset, and Westmoreland. SAP&DC will be applying for \$100,000 from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) in May to further the assessment and action plan.

Jackson Township Receives Funding for Access Road



**APPALACHIAN
REGIONAL
COMMISSION**

Jackson Township was recently awarded \$980,000 from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to design and construct a business park access road in Jackson Township, Cambria County. The proposed ARC funded portion of the project will construct a 2,100-linear foot roadway ending with a cul-de-sac.

Construction of the roadway will provide access to 4 pad ready sites on 65-acres. The sites will be suitable for a mixed use of facilities for light manufacturing, distribution, technology based, and service-oriented businesses. The pad-ready sites are well positioned on land next to major transportation corridors like the east-west U.S. Route 22 and the north-south U.S. Route 219. A right turn lane on U.S. Route 22 and signal improvements will accommodate the additional traffic.

2019 Local Technical Assistance Program:



Work Zone Temp Traffic Control
Southern Alleghenies Planning &
Development Commission Conf. Room
May 21, 2019 8:00AM - 12:00 PM

**Stormwater Facility Operation &
Maintenance**
Huntingdon County, Shirley Township
August 2, 2019 8:00AM - 12:00 PM

Salt & Snow Management
Blair County, Duncansville, PA
September 17, 2019 8:00AM - 3:00 PM

**Asphalt Roads Common Maintenance
Problems**

Bedford County, East St. Clair Township
September 18, 2019 8:00AM - 12:00 PM

Equipment & Worker Safety
Somerset County, Berlin Borough
September 19, 2019 8:00AM - 12:00 PM

Speed Limits & Speed Management
Somerset County, Conemaugh Township
October 2, 2019 8:00AM - 12:00 PM

You can register for courses by creating an account on the [LTAP](#) and enrolling OR by contacting Janice Streightiff at (814) 949-6523 or streightiff@sapdc.org.

Registration for the Flagger Certification course cannot be completed on the LTAP website. To register for this course, you MUST contact Janice Streightiff.

Oakridge National Laboratory Stem Program Participant Selected



**APPALACHIAN
REGIONAL
COMMISSION**

SAP&DC along with the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), and Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), invited students and high school teachers to apply from our 8-county region, for this year's summer STEM Program at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

This year **Kayla Bruening**, *Science/Chemistry Teacher from Forbes Road High School, Fulton County*, was selected from the region. Ms. Bruening currently provides the Stem program in her classroom but hopes to “gain a better understanding in curriculum development, as well as create fun, innovative, and informative STEM curricula that interests and benefits my students.”

This year's program for high school students and teachers will run for two weeks, July 6-19, 2019. Students and Teachers participate in intensive hands-on science, math, and computer science technology group research projects with award-winning scientists, and the teachers work with science practitioners to develop a STEM-related curriculum.

Ms. Bruening will receive transportation to attend the program and full room and board, as well as all expenses paid related to lab work and field trips. She will also receive a \$1,000 stipend. Congratulations Kayla!

Trail Highlight:

Gap Trail/Big Savage Tunnel

The Great Allegheny Passage is a 150-mile trail which begins in Pittsburgh and ends at the Maryland boarder (which happens to



be about 4 miles past the tunnel!).

Somerset County is the only county in the SAP&DC region the trail runs through. Somerset covers 42 miles from Confluence to the Maryland boarder. The lighted tunnel is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile long and opens up to a beautiful view of the eastern continental divide. The tunnel opened in April (as seen here) and will be open thru December.

*For more information,
follow the link below!*

[Gap Trail/Big Savage Tunnel](#)

Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant Program

The Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) grant program is accepting applications until July 31, 2019. That being the case, we're hoping to have several quality submissions from eligible applicants within the Region this year.



In short, municipalities, school districts, councils of government, businesses/non-profits, economic development organizations, public transit agencies, and rail/freight ports are eligible as project sponsors. Awarded projects typically range between \$100,000 and \$3,000,000. **Awards require a 30% local match. Note that current fiscal code allows DCED the option to waive match for counties, cities, boroughs, and townships only, and only until December 31, 2019.**

Please see the respective guidance documents [HERE](#) for a more complete list of project eligibility, but some examples of categories are bicycle and pedestrian, transit oriented, streetscape, rail sidings, greenways, signage, and any project that seeks to coordinate local land use with transportation assets. Note that this is the DCED MTF Program and that PennDOT has a similar program which is not currently open.

New Planning Staff:

On March 18, we had 3 new staff join our Department:

- Stacy LoCastro is the new Grants Coordinator. Stacy will be working on initiatives with the county planning departments, the Comprehensive Development Strategy, Greenways activities and other grant writing.
- Zachary Lee is the new Regional Planner. Zach will be providing support for community economic development activities, as well as, transportation planning.
- Matthew Bjorkman is the new Transportation Specialist. Matthew will be focusing on the Local Technical Assistance Programs, GIS, and other transportation related tasks.

Visit our Website

