



# STEEL RIVERS

Council of Governments

# NEWSLETTER

## FOR MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES



### BOARD MEETING

SRCOG CONFERENCE ROOM

1705 MAPLE ST.  
HOMESTEAD, PA  
15120

**THURS. FEB. 6**

**6:00 PM - DINNER**

**6:30 PM - MEETING**

RSVP TO [PENNY DONALDSON](#)

### ANNUAL DINNER

COG MEMBERS AND PLUS ONES ARE INVITED TO NETWORK AND DINE TOGETHER AT THE SUNSET ROOM IN ELIZABETH

**THURSDAY, MARCH 27  
AT 5:00 PM**

[RSVP WITH PENNY  
BY 2/28/2025](#)



### GRANT APPLICATIONS

[LEARN MORE](#)

FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR YOUR PARK, TRAIL, PUBLIC HEALTH, AFFORDABLE HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION PROJECTS

**HAVE A PROJECT IN MIND? WE CAN HELP FIND FUNDING.**

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO VIEW CURRENT PROJECTS

BRADDOCK HILLS BOROUGH, CITY OF CLAIRTON, CITY OF DUQUESNE, DRAVOSBURG BOROUGH, ELIZABETH BOROUGH, FORWARD TOWNSHIP, GLASSPORT BOROUGH, HOMESTEAD BOROUGH, LIBERTY BOROUGH, LINCOLN BOROUGH, CITY OF MCKEESPORT, MUNHALL BOROUGH, PORT VUE BOROUGH, SOUTH VERSAILLES TOWNSHIP, VERSAILLES BOROUGH, WEST ELIZABETH BOROUGH, WEST HOMESTEAD BOROUGH, WHITAKER BOROUGH, AND WHITE OAK BOROUGH



**Remembering PA  
State Representative  
Matthew Gergely**

Since 2023, Matthew Gergely represented District 35 in the Commonwealth's House of Representatives, but his presence has been felt in the Mon Valley for much longer. Since 2012, Mr. Gergely served McKeesport as the Mayor's chief of staff, the school district's business manager, and the City's chief revenue officer. More memorably, Gergely dedicated himself to serving the people of the Mon Valley. The impact of Gergely's service is evident in the way he is described by Governor Shapiro, Lt. Governor Davis, McKeesport Mayor Cherepko, and his fellow congress people: "dedicated," "tireless," "ever-present," "devoted," "champion" and "friend."

Mr. Gergely's sudden passing on January 19, 2025 leaves his community stunned and saddened, however he will be remembered as a driving force for positive change. We are grateful for his service to our COG communities and to the rest of the Mon Valley area, and know his legacy of dedication to working families will live on.

**ANNUAL  
DINNER**

Celebrating  
Partnerships and  
Collaborations

We look forward to joining our COG members and their guests at our annual dinner to be held at Sunset Room at The Vista in Elizabeth on Thursday, March 27 at 5:00 pm. Contact our Office Coordinator [Penny Donaldson](#) to make your reservation by Friday, February 28.



Port Vue Council President Mark Tortorice and Glassport Borough Manager Elaine Skiba at the 2024 Annual Dinner



**Thanks for  
reaching  
out**

January's grant funding freeze announcement had state and local officials scratching their heads and looking for clarification. Many of you contacted our office and we were grateful for those conversations. Please continue to use us as a touchstone for information, a sounding board for policies, and guidance on handling local issues. One benefit of COG membership is access to the varied perspectives and experience of your fellow members and the COG management team.

**GRANT  
OPPORTUNITIES**

**THE COG CAN APPLY TO ALMOST ANY GRANT ON BEHALF OF MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES** and manage the project for a small administration fee. If you would like the COG to apply to a grant on your behalf, your submission deadline will be one week prior to the published deadline. Contact [Jennifer Kwiatek](#), Government Grants Manager, for more details.

**GHHI Thriving Communities  
EPA & EJ**

Now taking applications for planning and assessment projects.  
**Deadline April 30, 2025.**

**GTRP - Greenways, Trails,  
Recreation and Parks**

**Act 13, Marcellus Legacy Fund**  
Now taking applications for trail and park projects.  
**Deadline May 31, 2025**

**MAP - Municipal Assistance  
Program**

**DCED**  
Now taking applications for shared services and community planning projects.



# USDOT Awards a **RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES GRANT** to Mon and Turtle Creek Valleys

**STEEL RIVERS**  
Council of Governments

The Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments (TCVCOG) and Steel Rivers Council of Governments (SRCOG) are proud to announce they have been awarded a \$800,000 Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) grant by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). This critical funding will support an initial feasibility study, alternatives analysis, and conceptual design process to reconnect five historic communities in the Monongahela and Turtle Creek Valleys: Braddock, North Braddock, East Pittsburgh, Turtle Creek, and Wilmerding.

Located just ten miles east of downtown Pittsburgh, these boroughs are working together to begin an in-depth, data-driven exploration of how to overcome key infrastructure barriers that have limited access to critical services and economic opportunities for their residents. This initiative will start to restore critical connections lost over decades of disinvestment, focusing on improving mobility through the combined Pennsylvania State Route 130 (PA-130)/Braddock Ave corridor and the

Norfolk Southern (NS) and Union Railroad (URR) rail lines that currently divide the communities from east to west.

This collaborative effort is part of a broader regional strategy to revitalize the area and create a more connected and thriving future for the residents of the Monongahela and Turtle Creek Valleys. The successful grant award was made possible with the support of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Municipal Project Hub, a regional technical assistance organization helping to maximize investments in our communities, close local capacity gaps, and catalyze shared regional success.

“This award illustrates the value of multi-municipal collaborations and the ongoing commitment of the Steel Rivers and Turtle Creek Council of Governments to bring lasting sustainable change to the Monongahela Valley,” said Megan Zeigler, CEO for the SWPA Municipal Project Hub.

Read the **full press release** and learn more about **SWPA MP Hub** [here](#). Learn more about the USDOT **Reconnecting Communities Pilot Grant Program** [here](#).

**Pittsburghers for  
Public Transit**

## About the Project

Bus Line Redesign is a unique opportunity to comprehensively review all of PRT's bus routes. The study will consider where, when, and how people travel in and around the region and recommend updates to bus routes to better serve all of Allegheny County. This project was prioritized in PRT's 2021 long-range plan, NEXTransit.

## How Did We Get Here? Introducing Draft Network 1.0

Draft Network 1.0 connects more Allegheny County residents to more jobs, healthcare facilities, grocery stores, and shopping centers. It creates additional one-seat rides to Oakland, improves connections between communities with new crosstown routes and transit hubs, and increases frequencies throughout the week and on weekends compared to today's bus network. Many of the proposed network changes are a direct result of what we heard during the BLR engagement Phases 1 and 2.

## What does this mean for you?

A local group called Pittsburghers for Public Transit advocates for safe and accessible transportation for all. They have collected some tools to help you understand Draft Network 1.0.

[Click here](#) to see which communities will be affected and where the biggest changes might take place.

[Click here](#) to calculate proposed changes to the bus lines you usually use.

[Click here](#) to see several ways for you to provide feedback on the Bus Line Redesign.

[Plan to attend](#) an upcoming information event, or view videos of past events.