



STEEL RIVERS

Council of Governments

NEWSLETTER

FOR MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES



BOARD MEETING

SRCOG CONFERENCE ROOM

1705 MAPLE ST.
HOMESTEAD, PA
15120

THURS. MAR. 6

6:00 PM - DINNER

6:30 PM - MEETING

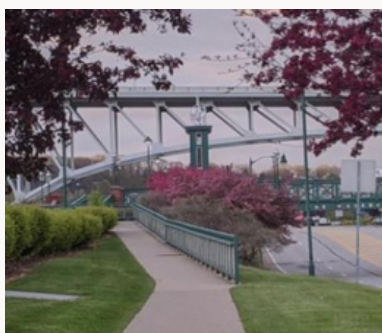
RSVP TO [PENNY DONALDSON](#)

MANAGERS MEETING

SHARE AND LEARN FROM YOUR FELLOW COG MANAGERS.
GUEST SPEAKER:

**THURSDAY, MARCH 20
AT 12:00 PM**

[Contact Penny](#)
to reserve your spot



YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED!

EACH MUNICIPALITY IS ASKED TO COMPLETE A SURVEY ABOUT LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PA DCED. READ MORE ON PAGE 2. **SURVEY DUE 3/12/25**

[COMPLETE THE SURVEY](#)

LAND USE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT REPORT

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

- 03/06/25 BOARD MEETING
- 03/20/25 MANAGERS MEETING
- 03/27/25 ANNUAL DINNER



SRCOG BOARD OFFICER ELECTION RESULTS

Every five years, Steel Rivers COG member municipalities nominate and elect a new officials to preside over meetings and conduct COG business. At our Board Meeting on February 6, 2025, the following officials were elected:

- President - Anthony Colecchi, Glassport Borough**
- Vice President - Tammy Firda, Lincoln Borough**
- Treasurer - Tom Evans, Braddock Hills Borough**
- Secretary - Amy Cline, Forward Township**

Congratulations to our newly elected officials. Please make a point of joining us at our upcoming March events to share your thoughts about the COG's plans for the next term. Our next Board Meeting is March 6, the Managers Meeting is March 20, and our Annual Dinner will be held March 27.

TAMMY FIRDA



Receives the ACBA Borough Official of the Year Award

At their Annual Banquet in February, the Allegheny County Borough Association (ACBA) named Lincoln Borough Council Member and outgoing SRCOG President, Tammy Firda, as the 2025 Borough Official of the Year. Tammy entered public service in March of 2000 as a Lincoln Borough Council Person. "My husband convinced me that I would be good at it," remembers Tammy. "I realized I loved it and that was what I wanted to do." After 25 years as a Borough official, Tammy says you never quit learning. "There is so much to know, and it is changing every day."

Please join us in congratulating Tammy and thanking her for all she has done for Lincoln Borough and her Mon Valley neighbors.

YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED!



Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) works with the PA State Planning Board to prepare the State Land Use and Growth Management Report every five years. The report studies development patterns and local government land use planning, and makes recommendations for state agency action, regulations, and programs.

Each municipality is asked to submit **one survey response, due March 12, 2025**. One staff member in each municipality with the most knowledge of the jurisdiction's policies should be designated to complete this 5-minute survey. Your input is vital to help shape policies and support all PA communities.

You can **read the 2020 Report here**, and you can learn more information about the **DCED State Planning Board here**.

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 Penny if you need to adjust your reservation.



SRCOG Executive Director An Lewis and SWPA Hub's Chief Executive Officer Megan Zeigler at the 2024 Annual Dinner

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

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

PA Small Water and Sewer open now through April 30

Greenways, Trails, Recreation and Parks (GTRP)

Now taking applications for trail and park projects. **Deadline May 31, 2025**

Multimodal Transportation (MMT) opens March 1

Municipal Assistance Program (MAP) Two 2025 Funding Rounds- March 1 and September 1.

**Zero Compromises on Safety For All**

Real Estate Tax Discount Extended



An Ordinance of the Allegheny County Council was passed on February 10, 2025, extending the County real estate tax 2% discount deadline from March 31, 2025 to April 30, 2025, and the gross/face period deadline from May 1, 2025 to May 31, 2025.

What does this mean for home and property owners in your municipality? **KDKA reported** that Real Estate Tax bills were mailed out on February 14. The Tax Discount extension will make it easier for property owners to make those payments. **Trib Live reports** that the printed bills might still bear the old deadline. For the most updated Real Estate Tax information, visit the **County Treasurer's Real Estate Tax website**. Tax payers may choose to pay their bills online through the **Allegheny County Real Estate Portal**.

You can see the **full text of the Ordinance here**, (click "Legislation Text") and you can learn more about Allegheny County real estate tax **abatements and exemptions here**.

The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC), along with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), Allegheny County, and the City of Pittsburgh, are furthering their commitment to ending traffic deaths and serious injuries on roads within Allegheny County through a new safety initiative called **Vision Zero**.

Vision Zero is a proven method of making streets safer. **Its goal is to eliminate all fatal and serious injury traffic crashes**. Endorsed by the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), Vision Zero helps us identify problems and sets a path toward reducing the loss of precious lives and the associated costs to our communities. This coordinated planning effort will result in a comprehensive Safety Action Plan for Allegheny County.

You can help! Share this information with your communities, and encourage residents to **visit the Allegheny County Vision Zero website**. There, they can share safety concerns in three ways:

1. Complete a Safety Survey
2. Use the interactive map to show where pedestrians feel unsafe
3. Leave a general comment

This website also gives information about the program's progress and upcoming events.



Duquesne and Glassport are awarded Public Health Funds

As part of the U.S. Steel Clairton Coke Works fire settlement, Allegheny County will receive \$4.5 million to be distributed over the next 5 years as grant funding for public health projects in the immediately affected municipalities. This grant is known as the **Mon Valley Public Health and Welfare Fund**. During the first round of funding, \$250,000 were awarded to six projects, two of which were to SRCOG member municipalities.

Glassport Community Development Corporation secured funding to create a community garden space, including site preparation and equipment purchase.

SRCOG partnered with Duquesne to submit their application. Funds will be used to purchase and distribute respiratory-friendly cleaning products to City residents. A Jefferson Regional Hospital mobile clinic will be at the distribution site to conduct free health screenings. The City is already working on an application for Round 2 of funding which will begin accepting applications on March 24. This time, in response to the high number of residents who suffer from asthma and other respiratory conditions, Duquesne will request funds to purchase and distribute home air purifiers.

ACED Housing Division Manager Nathan Wetzel, who oversees the MVPH program suggests applicants consider self-sustaining projects that can be implemented in a relatively short time. Mr. Wetzel advises being mindful that during this round, they expect more applications, and \$450,000 will be shared by all approved projects in Allegheny County. There is no maximum request amount, but extremely large requests are not likely to receive funding.

Dr. Iulia Vann from the Allegheny County Department of Health will help review the applications. She advises that projects addressing clean air and the reduction of greenhouse gases are favorable, but any public health initiative will be considered. Other projects that were during Round 1 include an air purifier distribution and public education event; the purchase of AED units for a fire and rescue team; expanding counseling, support, and education services for individuals affected by gun violence; and funding for caseworkers and health supplies for Rainbow Kitchen Community Services.

Do you have an idea for a public health or clean air project in your community? MVPH parameters have been left loose to allow a wide variety of applications. The application process is simple and SRCOG **Government Grants Manager Jenny Kwiatek** will be glad to help you put your idea into action.