

## **Turtle Creek Valley COG Director's Report**

TCVCOG Board Meeting  
March 2024

### **Upcoming Meetings**

4/4 – 4/7: ALOM Conference

4/16: Police Chief Meeting, 1:30pm

4/25: TCVCOG Board Meeting - Virtual

### **Earmark Requests & Letters of Support**

We are planning to submit a blight related request in cooperation with Steel Rivers COG. Our portion of the request, if funded, would allow us to build a document generator, an Act 90 module, Community Integration, and an email and sms integrator for advanced communications and logging.

Letters of Support were supplied to Steel Rivers Council of Governments for the project just described, as well as request for SBA appropriations to support Mon Valley Entrepreneurship. The Steel Rivers Council of Governments would partner with the University of Pittsburgh Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence to pilot new educational programming, while also providing one on one consulting services. The appropriation funds will allow the Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence to expand several key programs to create a more comprehensive entrepreneurial education in the Mon Valley Region.

We are also planning to supply Letters of Support to Friends of the Riverfront for two project: Trail Network Branding and Warfare signage along the Turtle Creek Connector; and another to assist the County, in partnership with DCNR, for trail work in Allegheny County. Both projects have direct benefit to the TCVCOG footprint.

### **Code Enforcement/CodeNforce**

Micheal Pond has joined Alex Coyne in our code department. We have submitted a proposal to Turtle Creek Borough to begin property maintenance work there starting June 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Police Training**

Please plan to send your officers for this crucial, local training. \$25/officer.

Basic Class: April 15-16

Advanced Class: April 22-23

### **Utility Billing**

Please reach out if we can help with your refuse, stormwater or sewage billing.

## Turtle Creek Connector Trail Update

We have launched the Turtle Creek Connector Virtual Tour StoryMap and Survey! [Check out the StoryMap](#) for a tour of the project area segment by segment. For each segment, you'll find a brief description, the reasoning behind proposing it, and some conceptual renderings of the corridor with the suggested improvements. [Complete the survey](#) to tell us what you think of each piece—and **please share with your friends, family, neighbors, and everyone else in your community.**

## Black Equity Coalition Invitation

Tara Matthews is involved with the Pittsburgh Chapter of the [Black Equity Coalition](#) Data Working Group. The Black Equity Coalition is a network of government officials, scientists, academics, and community organizations who prioritize the health of Black and Brown residents.

“I want to invite you all to join members of the Black Equity Coalition’s Data Justice Working Group at two upcoming community events to celebrate recent successes, share a meal, and learn more about [opportunities to be involved](#) in shifting power to community members in how decisions are made about data and technology in partnership with the City of Pittsburgh.

We have reserved space at two of the University of Pittsburgh’s Community Engagement Centers for dinner and conversation on the following two dates – feel free to join us for one or both, and we encourage you to share the invitation with others in your community.

Thursday April 11 drop-in between 5:30-7:30 - [Homewood](#)

Registration Link: [by using our registration link](#). You’re also welcome to bring along a friend or two.

<https://bit.ly/BECOpenHouse>”

### **Manager’s Meeting: 3/7/24 - Hybrid :**

*In Person:* Connie Rosenbayger, East McKeesport; Greg Bachy, Swissvale; Alex Graziani, Monroeville; Amanda Settlermaier, TCVCOG;

*Zoom:* Dan Cohen, Cohen Law Group; Stephanie Schwoegl, Chalfant; Lou Ransom, Braddock; Jay Bish, North Braddock; Ben Walker, East Pittsburgh; Michelle McAndrew, Churchill; Unknown Iphone XR

### Old Business:

1. Dan Cohen reviewed the details of his proposal and answered questions. There are 14 eligible towns in the TCVCOG footprint with contracts expiring next year. There are two parts to the proposal:
  - a. There are 23 revenue sources in a cable franchise agreement. The audit checks to see if utility is paying and allocating the fees correctly. Underpayments are typically found.
  - b. Negotiating the Agreement. There have been changes in the law. Cohen looks to strengthen right of way management, storm response, etc. Alex Graziani is interested in providing streaming capacity to non-municipal users. Dan will rework the proposal to include High Def PEG. Alex will be sent a PEG needs assessment. Nobody else on the call expressed interest in PEG.

Connie asked if streaming services are considered for Franchise fees. Dan explained that an FCC decision has been upheld by the Supreme Court (Brandy v FCC) that determined franchise fees are not applicable to the internet.

Towns wishing to participate in the renewal should have their Letters of Interest to Cohen Law no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>. Amanda asked that she be copied on the letter because the COG will subsidize \$2k for eligible towns.

2. Amanda updated the committee on her meeting with the Allegheny Courts president judge, Susan Evashavik.

New Business:

The group discussed assessment appeals and how they believe property is being grossly underassessed. This has a negative impact on tax revenue. Amanda offered to consolidate examples into one document we can share with the County Executive.

April meeting is cancelled due to the ALOM Conference.

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Respectfully submitted,  
Amanda Settelmaier