



**Pittsburgh 250 News
For Immediate Release**

Contact: Beverly Morrow-Jones, 412-325-0294
Lynne Glover, 412-325-0295

Pittsburgh 250 Celebration Ready for Fast Finish

PITTSBURGH – Pittsburgh is pedaling toward its future, taking pride in the past and urging everyone to “Imagine what you can do here” as the Pittsburgh 250 celebration nears the finish line.

Cyclists are gearing up for The PNC Legacy Trail Ride along the Great Allegheny Passage and C & O Canal Towpath, a 335-mile biking and hiking path that connects Pittsburgh to Washington, D.C. Participants in The PNC Legacy Trail Ride will relive history by following the route where Colonel George Washington joined a force led by British General John Forbes, capturing Fort Duquesne from the French in 1758 and naming the site “Pittsburgh.”

“Completing the Great Allegheny Passage will be a lasting achievement of Pittsburgh 250, providing enjoyment for generations to come,” said James E. Rohr, Chairman of the Pittsburgh 250 commission and CEO of PNC Financial Services Group. “The PNC Legacy Trail Ride will raise awareness of this wonderful new recreational asset among visitors and residents, as well as introduce participants to the many charming trail towns along the way.”

The PNC Legacy Trail Ride features four main events ending on Oct. 4:

- **Celebration Saturday** in six trail towns on Sept. 27 (noon – 4 p.m.)
- **The PNC Legacy Relay** that speeds from Washington, D.C. to Pittsburgh in just 24 hours
- **The Venture Outdoors 250 Bike Tour** from Washington to Pittsburgh over one week
- **The PNC Legacy Trail Community Ride**, in which area cyclists join the Relay and Venture Outdoors riders on their final sprint into renovated Point State Park

On Celebration Saturday, the western Pennsylvania trail towns of West Newton, Connellsville, Ohiopyle, Confluence, Meyersdale and Rockwood will celebrate the history and

new outdoor amenities they share along the Great Allegheny Passage. Each community is offering trail-related activities, food, entertainment and the unveiling of public art projects, funded in part, by Pittsburgh 250 Community Connections.

That same day, Sept. 27, the Venture Outdoors 250 Bike Tour departs Washington, D.C. and will arrive in Pittsburgh the following Saturday. This 335-mile bike trip features breathtaking scenery along the Great Allegheny Passage, which has been dubbed “America’s most accessible trail.”

As these riders reach downtown on Oct. 4, families are encouraged to join in the PNC Legacy Trail Community Ride by pedaling to the finish line at Point State Park. Families are invited to bring their children to join the ride at the Hot Metal Bridge on Pittsburgh’s South Side or at PNC Firstside Center, Downtown. Anyone interested in participating can register at www.bike250.org.

Beginning in Washington, D.C. on Friday, Oct. 3, the PNC Legacy Relay – with 18 teams of six cyclists – will ride through the night carrying a Congressional proclamation to Pittsburgh. The PNC Legacy Trail Ride concludes with a multitude of festivities at Point State Park.

The trail ride helps kick off Colcom Foundation Presents... Pittsburgh Celebrates 250, a free, day-long event and another Signature Project of Pittsburgh 250. Pittsburgh Celebrates 250 continues throughout October and November with the Pittsburgh International Festival of Firsts, a performing and visual arts celebration, and the Pittsburgh 250 Festival of Lights, which will illuminate and decorate buildings and outdoor spaces, the most spectacular lighting exhibit of its kind in North America.

Homecoming Weekend after Thanksgiving Day spotlights the Pitt-West Virginia “Backyard Brawl” at Heinz Field, a special screening of a new film about Pittsburgh called “My Tale of Two Cities,” and the Celebrate the Seasons Parade.

All of the Pittsburgh 250 events encourage residents and visitors alike to “imagine what you can do here” and join together in celebrating our region’s bright future.

###