

For Immediate Release

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Regional Transportation Alliance Launched to Imagine New Transportation Future for Southwestern Pennsylvania

Public and private sector leaders across 10-counties join together to promote better regional connectivity and mobility

More than 700 stakeholder groups to be engaged in crowdsourcing initiative

(PITTSBURGH – Sept. 30, 2015) – Today, the Regional Transportation Alliance of Southwestern Pennsylvania (RTA), a public-private partnership designed to facilitate a broad community discussion about the future of transportation in the region, was launched. The RTA’s mission is to improve connectivity across the 10-county region, and in doing so, to improve competitiveness, economic vitality and quality of life throughout southwestern Pennsylvania.

“Our region has a unique opportunity to approach our transportation future in a new and dynamic way,” said Dennis Yablonsky, CEO of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, the organization that is providing staff support to the RTA. “Act 89, the state transportation funding package passed in 2013, stabilized our transportation infrastructure maintenance situation. Now it’s time to look toward the future to imagine what is needed to create a better functioning, interconnected multimodal transportation network that benefits the entire region.”

The RTA will be led by a 22-person steering committee that includes a public and private sector representative from each of the 10-counties and the City of Pittsburgh (a list of the steering committee members is available below).

The first activity of the RTA will be an “Imagine Transportation” crowdsourcing initiative to identify transportation priorities through community feedback. Through the end of the year, more than 700 regional stakeholder groups – from small nonprofits to large employers, from environmental groups to social service agencies – will be asked to identify their most critical transportation problems and their ideas to address them. These priorities could be as small as “complete the two-mile bike path that’s supposed to run along the riverfront in my downtown” or as big as “build light rail to connect all 10 county-seat communities in the region.”

The RTA steering committee will then review these community responses to develop a picture for what the future of transportation in the region could look like. In its recently approved Long-Range Transportation Plan, the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission called for an “ongoing regional discussion” if the region wants to move beyond the status quo transportation system. Groups and organizations wishing to participate in the crowdsourcing exercise should follow the instructions at RegionalTransportationAlliance.org.

“Transportation is fundamental to economic development and vibrant communities,” said Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, a member of the RTA steering committee. “As a region, it’s critical that we take a visionary approach toward determining our transportation needs. And as a truly regional effort, the RTA will help facilitate this process and I’m excited to be a part of it.”

“Traveling to Denver, Colorado last year as member of a public-private benchmarking delegation, I saw what was possible when a region had a shared sense of vision to implement transformational transportation projects,” said Brian Heery, RTA co-chair, and president and CEO of Mitsubishi Electric Power Products, Inc., located in Warrendale, Pa. “Public-private partnership was critical to metro Denver’s transportation successes. And these partnerships will be just as critical as we envision how our own transportation future is defined.”

“Improving connectivity and mobility throughout southwestern Pennsylvania is a crucial issue facing our region,” said Steve Craig, RTA co-chair, and Lawrence County Commissioner. “The launch of the RTA and its crowdsourcing initiative is just the first step in a journey to redefine how the region’s transportation network functions.”

For more information on the RTA, visit RegionalTransportationAlliance.org.

RTA Steering Committee

Co-Chair: Steve Craig, *Commissioner*, Lawrence County

Co-Chair: Brian Heery, *President & Chief Executive Officer*, Mitsubishi Electric Power Products, Inc.

Tony Amadio, *Commissioner (Chairman)*, Beaver County

Alfred Ambrosini, *Commissioner*, Fayette County

Philip Ameris, *President & Business Manager*, Laborers’ District Council of Western PA

David E. Barenfeld, *President & Chief Executive Officer*, The Ellwood Group, Inc.

David K. Battaglia, *Commissioner (Chairman)*, Armstrong County

Rich Fitzgerald, *County Executive*, Allegheny County

Kim Geyer, *Assistant to Commissioner McCarrier*, Butler County

Dr. Tori Haring-Smith, *President*, Washington & Jefferson University

John Lewis, *President & Chief Executive Officer*, Armstrong County Memorial Hospital

Lawrence O. Maggi, *Commissioner (Chairman)*, Washington County

Henry J. Maier, *President & Chief Executive Officer*, FedEx Ground
Jeffrey Marshall, *Chief Clerk and County Administrator*, Greene County
Greg McCloskey, *Director of Public Works*, Westmoreland County
Bill Peduto, *Mayor*, City of Pittsburgh
Rodney D. Ruddock, *Commissioner (Chairman)*, Indiana County
Art Titus, *Chief Operating Officer*, Elliott Group
Rodney Wilson, *Manager-Business Development*, Consol Energy

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The **Regional Transportation Alliance of Southwestern Pennsylvania** (RTA) is a coalition of public and private partners from the 10 counties of southwestern Pennsylvania and the city of Pittsburgh that is facilitating an ongoing regional discussion to support the realization of additional transportation projects to enhance regional connectivity, competitiveness and quality of life.

The RTA will be led by a 22-person steering committee, comprised of a public sector representative and a private sector representative from each county and the city of Pittsburgh. There is a private sector and public sector co-chair, and the Allegheny Conference on Community Development provides staff support to the RTA.