

TGCC

# The North/South Appalachian Highway Project

## Awareness & Advocacy

### “Common Mission, Goals”

2/2/10—Daily American

Top officials from the local chambers of commerce—*Allegheny, Garrett, Somerset and Mineral*—all support the highway project. Despite operating independently with their own individual agendas, all four chambers recognize the benefits the project could bring to the entire region.

Members of the Core Work Group and the Coalition have been meeting with **elected officials at the local, state and federal level in Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia** to advance both legs of this highway. A number of these elected officials have joined the Coalition and/or have provided resolutions or letters of support.

Following the **November 17, 2009** trip to Washington, DC to meet with **Senators Cardin & Mikulski (MD), Casey & Spencer (PA) and Byrd & Rockefeller (WV)**, the N/S Highway travel team returned to Washington on **March 16, 2010** to meet with **Congressman Bartlett (MD), Congressman Mollohan (WV), Congresswoman Moore-Capito (WV), Congressman Shuster (PA) and Congressman Carney (PA)**. Meetings were also held with transportation staff members in the offices of **Congressmen Rahall (WV) and Murtha (PA)**.

Both meetings in Washington focused on changing language in the next federal transportation bill to once again allow the use of toll credits as non-federal state match for Appalachian Development Highway System projects. The March 16 meeting with Congressional representatives was particularly productive in seeking support for a “Dear Colleague” letter on this issue, championed by Congressmen Bill Shuster and Chris Carney (PA).

### *Complete the Initial Environmental Impact Studies for 219N and 220S*

**Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley’s support of \$750,000** in late summer of 2009, provided the much-needed catalyst to advance the initial environmental impact study for 220S with WV. We anticipate this phase will be completed early in 2011. Our current efforts are focused on the 219N leg, which is funded by MD and PA, and which makes the issue of toll credit use very relevant.

Additionally, we are developing strategies to advance the final environmental impact studies (FEIS) and beginning discussions regarding construction funding.



*N/S travel team meets with Congressman Shuster (PA)*

Kim Leonard, Chair, N/S Highway Core WG  
David Moe (GC Dev. Corp), Keith Funkhouser (ATK),  
Commissioner John Vataavuk (Somerset),  
Congressman Shuster (PA),  
Ron Aldom (Somerset Chamber),  
Colleen Peterson (TGCC),  
Mona Ridder (Mineral Co. Dev. Authority),  
Commissioner Wayne Spiggle (Mineral)

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### “N/S Appalachian Highway supporters trying to push project forward”

2/7/10—Cumberland Times-News

Contingent heading to Washington to speak with seven congressmen about allowing toll credits to be used as a state’s match for ADHS projects. Doing so would allow Route 219 upgrades to move forward.

## Securing Support from Each State

As we learned during our March 16 trip to Washington, it is critical that each participating state—Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia—make the North/South Appalachian Highway a priority on their respective transportation projects lists. Our efforts to secure federal funds must be supported by the transportation departments in each state affected by this Highway. Over the next several months, we will be focusing significant energy toward securing priority status for the North/South Appalachian Highway in Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.



Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito (WV) speaks with travel team members on March 16, 2010 in Washington, DC.

### **Locals take another trip for Route 219 - 2/3/10—Daily American**

Contingent heading to Washington to speak with seven congressmen about allowing toll credits to be used as a state's match for ADHS projects. Doing so would allow Route 219 upgrades to move forward. **U.S. Representatives Bill Shuster and Christopher Carney from PA recently wrote a letter to fellow congressmen for the 13 ARC states in hopes that they would sign a letter in support of repealing the pro-**

## Build the Coalition

As a grassroots organization formed in July 2009, the **North/South Appalachian Highway Coalition** currently has 130 members that include elected officials, business leaders and community organizations from Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Our goal is to aggressively increase the Coalition membership and create a strong voice of advocacy in support of this project.

### Coalition Partners

as of May 3, 2010

Organizations and elected officials who have joined The Coalition include:

#### **STATE OF MARYLAND**

Allegheny County Chamber of Commerce  
Allegheny County Commissioners  
City of Cumberland Mayor & Town Council  
District 1 Delegation

*Senator George Edwards*  
*Delegate Wendell Beitzel*  
*Delegate Kevin Kelly*  
*Delegate LeRoy Myers*

Garrett County Chamber of Commerce  
Garrett County Commissioners  
Garrett County Development Corporation  
Grantsville Mayor & Town Council  
Tri-County Council of Western Maryland

#### **STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Borough of Meyersdale  
Borough of Somerset  
Jefferson Township Supervisors  
Representative Frank Burns, 72<sup>nd</sup> District  
Representative Carl Walker Metzgar, 69<sup>th</sup> District  
Senator Richard A. Kasunic, 32<sup>nd</sup> District  
Senator John N. Wozniak, 35<sup>th</sup> District  
Shade Township Supervisors  
Somerset County Commissioners

Stoystown Borough  
Summit Township  
John P. Vatauvuk, Commissioner

#### **STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA**

Delegate Allen V. Evans  
Delegate Harold Michael  
Delegate Mike Ross  
Delegate Robert A. Schadler  
Mineral County Chamber of Commerce  
Mineral County Commission  
Mineral County Development Authority  
Mineral County Schools  
Region 8 Planning & Development Council  
Senator Clark Barnes  
Senator Walt Helmick  
Senator Dave Sypolt  
Senator Bob Williams  
Town of Carpendale  
Town of Elk Garden  
Town of Ridgely

#### **Multi-State Support**

Continental 1  
Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce

### ***Continental 1 Backs N/S Highway***

At its May 21, 2010 meeting in Ridgway, PA, the Board of Directors of Continental 1 voted on two separate issues that have positive implications for the North/South Appalachian Highway. In its first action, the Continental 1 Board unanimously agreed to provide a resolution of support for the Highway, thereby becoming a member of the North/South Appalachian Highway Coalition. This decision followed a presentation by Colleen Peterson, Executive Director of TGCC, on the actions and strategic plan developed to advance this major north/south transportation corridor.

The second action was a request by Continental 1 Board members—John Vatauvuk, Somerset County Commissioner, Ron Aldom, Executive Director of the Somerset County Chamber and Ed Silvetti, Executive Director of the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission-- to alter the route of Continental 1 to include Somerset and Cambria counties. The new alignment follows 219 south to DuBois, where it switches to Route 119, taking trade traffic through Jefferson and Indiana counties. At Blairsville, it follows Route 22 to Ebensburg picking up the four-lane limited access Route 219 through Somerset County and connecting with I-68 in Maryland. The Board's vote to modify the Continental 1 route was unanimous and represents the first route change since the Continental 1 effort was organized 12 years ago.

Continental 1 is a 1,500 mile trade and travel corridor from Toronto to Miami connecting people, businesses and markets. The C-1 corridor begins on Canada's QEW expressway, crossing at the Peace Bridge and traveling along Route 219 in New York and Pennsylvania. From Pennsylvania, the corridor runs through Maryland and West Virginia, eventually connecting with I-95 in South Carolina.

**PLEASE ATTEND THE NEXT  
NORTH/SOUTH APPALACHIAN HIGHWAY COALITION MEETING  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14  
3PM  
MEYERSDALE COMMUNITY CENTER  
215 MAIN STREET, MEYERSDALE, PA**

Updates on the status of our Coalition efforts to advance both legs of the Highway, **219N and 220S**, will be provided. In addition, future action items will be discussed and your ideas will be welcomed.

Contact Juli McCoy at 301-722-0090 or email: [jmccoy@greatercc.org](mailto:jmccoy@greatercc.org) to confirm your attendance.

#### **Directions/Location**

**Coming from Somerset on Rt. 219 south:** take the Business Route 219 exit off Rt. 219. Continue about two miles on Business Rt. 219. The Community Center is on the left hand side at the intersection of Grant (Rt. 219) and Main Streets. The Fire Department is across the street. Parking is available on Main St.

**Coming from I-68 on Rt. 219 north:** take the Meyersdale exit off Rt. 219 north, then turn right to go in to Meyersdale, about one mile. When in town, bear to the left at the Dough Boy Monument and continue two blocks. The Community Center will be on the right side at the intersection of Grant St. (Rt. 219) and Main St. Parking is available on Main Street.

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### **TGCC's Mission**

*The mission of TGCC is to help identify opportunities for collaboration to enhance the quality of life in the region, negotiate broad and sound solutions to community issues and to serve as convener, facilitator and catalyst for regional responsiveness and community improvement.*

### **"Not Giving Up!"**

4/1/10—Cumberland Times-News editorial

**Give The Greater Cumberland Committee a lot of credit** for continuing to keep the N/S Appalachian Highway project at the top of its priority list.

Members of the group traveled to Capitol Hill last month in an effort to have the next transportation bill modified to allow states to once again use toll credits as their share of matching funds for Appalachian Development Highway System projects, a provision that was prohibited from the 2005 legislation.

"There is no question that the congressional leadership we met with understood this issue and supported the language change we are seeking," said Kim Leonard, chairman of TGCC's N/S Appalachian Highway Work Group.

Currently, the U.S. Route 219 North leg of the N/S Appalachian Highway, a joint project between MD and PA, is stalled. MD has indicated it is ready to move forward but the prohibition against use of toll credits has halted PA's progress.

The day included meetings with U.S. Reps. Alan Mollohan and Shelley Moore-Capito of WV, Roscoe Bartlett of MD and Christopher Carney and Bill Shuster of PA, as well as senior transportation staff in the offices of Reps. Nick Rahall in WV and the late John Murtha in PA. Information packets generated by TGCC were discussed extensively and support for removing the toll credit prohibition in the next transportation bill was secured from each member of the House of Representatives the delegation visited.

**If the highway ever becomes a reality, a big part of the reason will be the incessant pressure The Greater Cumberland Committee has been applying.**

## **N/S Highway Core Work Group**

### **Kim Leonard, Chair**

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### **Mona Ridder**

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### **Ed Silveti**

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### **Mallie Combs-Snider**

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### **Commissioner John Vatajuk**

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