

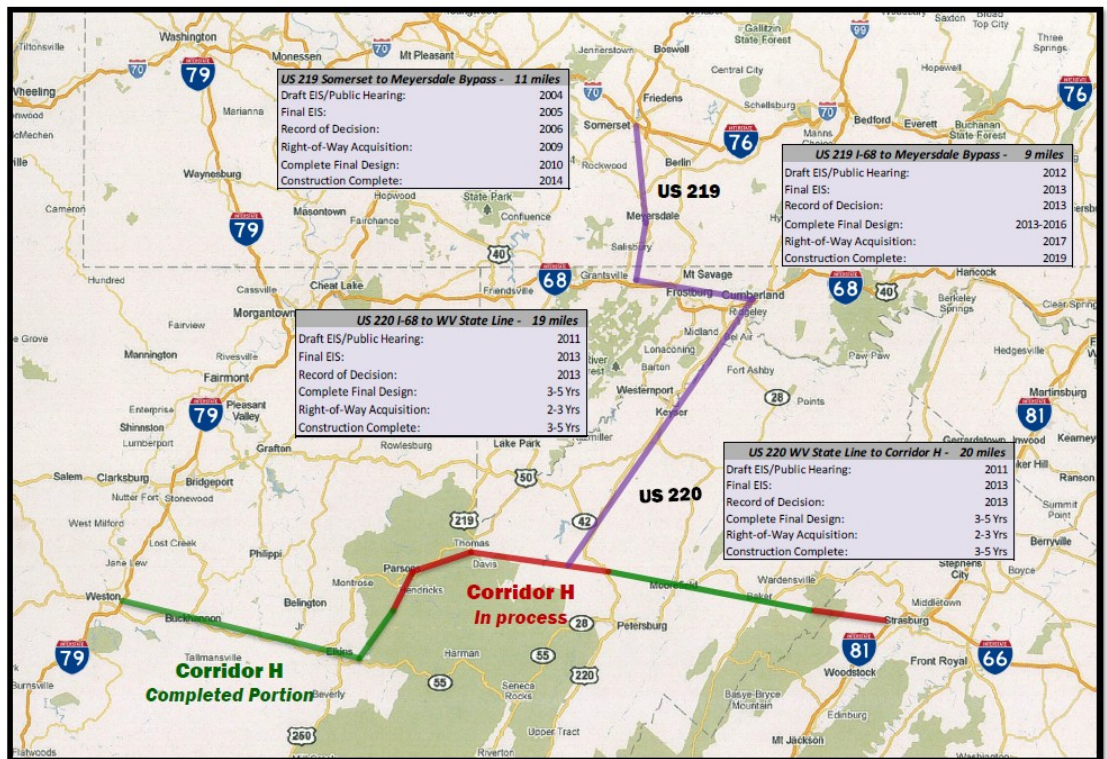
TGCC

The North/South Appalachian Highway Project

Coalition Mission Statement

“My top transportation priority for Western Maryland is to see the North/South Appalachian Highway segments in Garrett and Allegany Counties completed. TGCC and your private and public sector partners have made it abundantly clear that this an extremely important project for the region and I wholeheartedly agree.”
 - Senator Benjamin Cardin 3/3/11

The mission of the Northeastern Appalachian Highway Coalition is to advance economic development in the Laurel Highlands of Pennsylvania, Potomac Highlands of West Virginia and Mountain Maryland by leading efforts to complete the transportation corridor linking the Pennsylvania Turnpike, I-68, and Corridor H. Coalition partners will include businesses, civic organizations, elected officials, government entities and media outlets. **Our goal is to create an energetic grassroots campaign, culminating in a powerful voice of advocacy with a singular purpose to complete the North South Appalachia Highway.**



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“The completion of Route 219 continues to be one of my top priorities for the 9th District; everyone I meet with understands this critical north-south route will open the door to greater economic development and a higher standard of living for everyone living in Somerset and Cambria Counties and beyond.” - Congressman Bill Shuster (PA)

2011-2012 North/South Appalachian Highway Action Plan

- Reinstatement use of toll credits as state match for ADHS projects, including the northern leg of the Appalachian Highway.
- Ensure completion of Tier 1 Study for southern leg of the Appalachian Highway, US 220 S, including Record of Decision by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA); Secure funding for Tier 2 Study for US 220 S.
- Maintain media momentum and project awareness.
- Continue to build the North/South Appalachian Highway Coalition
- Educate, or re-educate as appropriate, elected officials at local, state and federal levels regarding the economic and safety values of this project.
- Develop a plan to ensure that the project continues to advance through future phases of development.

N/S Highway Advocates Meet with 13 Congressional Offices during Recent Trip to Washington, D.C.

On March 29 & 30, seven members of the North/South Appalachian Highway Coalition met with Congressional leaders and staffs in an effort to educate federal elected officials on the critical value of this project. Participating in this 2-day trip were Kim Leonard (Chair, N/S Coalition), Meg Lauerman (Project Manager, Continental –1 Coalition), Dave Moe (Garrett County Development Corporation), Mona Ridder (Mineral County Development Authority), Colleen Peterson (Executive Director, TGCC), Dr. Wayne Spiggle (TGCC member & former Mineral County Commissioner) and John Vatauvuk (Somerset County Commissioner). Janet Vatauvuk joined her husband in this “march on Washington.”

The North/South Highway travel team met with Congressman David McKinley (WV), Congresswoman Shelley Moore-Capito (WV), Congressman Mark Critz (PA), Congressman GT Thompson (NY), Senator Robert Casey (PA), and Senator Joe Manchin (WV). In addition, the team met with staff members from the following offices: Congressman Bill Shuster (PA), Congressman Nick Rahall (WV), Congressman Steny Hoyer (MD), Congressman Tom Reed (NY), Senator Jay Rockefeller (WV), Senator Charles Schumer (NY) and Senator Pat Toomey (PA).

The purpose of these meetings was to educate Congressional representatives from Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania and West Virginia on the economic opportunities and safety considerations related to completing the North/South Appalachian Highway, which is designed to provide an essential north-south transportation connection linking the existing east-west corridors of I-68 in Maryland, the Pennsylvania Turnpike and Corridor H in West Virginia. The March 29 & 30 trip represented the 3rd time in less than 18 months that this group had traveled to DC to meet with elected leaders on this issue. Joining the travel team this year was Meg Lauerman, representing the Continental 1 Corridor, a bi-national direct route from Toronto to Miami, which includes the 219 N leg of the North/South Appalachian Highway. Continental 1 and the North/south Appalachian Highway have developed a strategic partnership intended to advance the shared goal of enhancing business development and mitigating safety issues along the route of common interest.



Conducting a telephone interview about their DC trip while waiting in Congressman Rahall's office

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“The discussion I had with the Mineral County Development Authority and the North/South Appalachian Highway Coalition was very informative. I look forward to working together to ensure we meet our goals as a community.” - Representative David McKinley (WV)

Recent Trip to Washington, D.C.—Cont'd

Highlights of the March 2011 visit included the introduction of legislation, HR 1218, by Congressman Bill Shuster (PA) to amend current legislation to once again allow the use of toll credits for Appalachian Development Highway Systems projects. On the Senate side, Senators Cardin (MD) and Casey (PA) introduced the campaign bill S950. Senator Mikulski (MD) has recently signed on as a co-sponsor of 5950.. Members of the North/South Appalachian Highway Coalition are following up with Congressional leaders in both the Senator and House to educate them on the toll credit issue and how it may affect their state's ability to advance important transportation projects.

HR1218 and SB950:

A bill to amend title 23, United States

Code, to allow a State to use as a credit toward the non-Federal share requirement for funds made available to carry out such title the Appalachian development highway system program.



David Moe and John Vatauvuk speak with Representative Mark Critz (PA)

On the Horizon

*Meeting with Federal Highway (FHWA) representatives from Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania and West Virginia to discuss their involvement in this project as well as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

***North/South Appalachian Highway Coalition Meeting to be scheduled in September—stay tuned!**



Inside the Capitol after meeting with Senator Robert Casey (PA)



March 2011 The travel team visits with Congresswoman Shelly Moore-Capito (WV)

“There has been little progress recently with regard to the Appalachian highway project because of funding problems, and passage of the Cardin-Casey-Shuster measure would help alleviate that situation. Completion of the route still lies a good distance in the future, but this latest development gives us continued hope.”

- Cumberland Times-News Editorial “Good Sign” on Monday, May 16, 2011

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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.

"This is a project we've been working on for about two years. We feel very confident that we're making some headway despite the changes in the political climate." - Mona Ridder, Mineral County Development Authority via News Tribune, 3/31/11

N/S Highway Core Work Group

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