



GREENWAYS MINI-GRANTS AWARDED



DCNR

Through \$175,000 of funding available by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Community Conservation Partnership Grant Program (C2P2), **Round 6** of the Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission's (SAP&DC's)

Regional Greenways Mini-Grants Program has awarded funding to the following six (6) projects totaling \$170,464:

- Rockwood Veterans Memorial Park – Rockwood Borough
- Stonycreek-Quemahoning Trails, Phase II – Stonycreek-Quemahoning Initiative
- Honan Avenue Trail Greenspace Enhancements – Johnstown Redevelopment Authority
- Johnstown Connectivity Key Gap Preliminary Engineering Study – Cambria County Conservation and Recreation Authority
- Shuster Way Heritage Trail Extension – Bedford Joint Municipal Authority
- Kayak Soft Launch Connector - Huntingdon Borough

We encourage applications to the program, which opens every spring. You can review the guidelines for the program at the link below:

[Greenways Mini-Grant](#)

Any further questions about the program, please contact Stacy LoCastro at (814) 949-6510 or slocastro@sapdc.org.

CORRIDOR N STUDY

The Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission (SAP&DC) and the Somerset County Commissioners are pleased to announce the completion of the U.S. 219 (Corridor N) Completion Analysis & Impact Study. Corridor N is an Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS) route that traverses North-South in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and neighboring states. The ADHS was devised in 1965 to improve access between

interstate highways and distressed portions of Appalachia. Stakeholders from across Pennsylvania and the Region are engaged in efforts to build a four-lane U.S. 219 between the Pennsylvania Turnpike and Interstate 68 in Maryland.

In January 2020, SAP&DC and its consultant, Metro Analytics, began efforts to listen to businesses from a variety of different industries as well as other stakeholders impacted by the U.S. 219 Corridor. The Study revealed “the completion of the US-219 corridor is of immense importance to the sustainability, expansion, and profitability of businesses within the region.” Brandon Peters, Transportation Program Manager at SAP&DC, facilitated site visits with several businesses in Garrett County, Maryland and Somerset County, Pennsylvania. Peters said “it was clear that these businesses are interested in the opportunities a completed four-lane highway would offer. The businesses we interviewed said they would be able to hire additional employees, expand facilities and operations, reach new markets more easily, and increase annual output.”



The Study concludes, “a comprehensive qualitative overview of the Southern Alleghenies business environment, the role of the highway system in regional, statewide, and national economic vitality finds that US-219 is expected to significantly enhance workforce access, tourism access and volume, and reduce the risk and resilience costs of transportation for the region and its trading partners.” Ultimately, the six-mile segment in Pennsylvania and the 1.1-mile segment in Maryland lack the funding to begin any phase of the project. SAP&DC, PennDOT, and the Maryland State Highway Administration, are actively seeking viable funding sources including federal and state grant programs.

For any questions regarding the study, please contact Brandon Peters at (814) 949-6543 or bpeters@sapdc.org.

DCNR SMALL COMMUNITY PROGRAM FUNDING



DCNR

Commonwealth municipalities with a population of 5,000 or less, as documented in the most recent U.S. Census, are eligible to receive grant funds for rehabilitation and/or new development of basic outdoor recreation and park facilities that provide a high level of

recreational value. Eligible municipalities may request a minimum of \$50,000 and a maximum of \$70,000 in grant funds. The first \$30,000 in grant funds does not require a match. Grant funds in excess of \$30,000 require a \$1 for \$1 match. A grant request for less than the minimum will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The funding legislation requires the separation of costs for Professional Service Fees, Materials/Equipment, and Labor related to all Small Community Program projects. A maximum of \$10,000 of the grant award is earmarked for Professional Service Fees only and does not require a match.

Limited funding for nonprofit organizations for small community projects is available, but the organization must call their regional DCNR representative directly to discuss a potential project.

Grant funding opens in January and runs through April. More information about the specific details about the program can be found on DCNR's website [here](#).

BROADBAND EFFORTS IN THE REGION

BROADBAND STUDY COMPLETE

In late 2019, the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission (SAP&DC) was awarded a grant to coordinate a feasibility study in order to inventory existing broadband assets, to identify gaps in service, and to develop a plan for improving broadband services throughout the Region. Design Nine, Inc., from Blacksburg, Virginia, was contracted to assist with the eight-county broadband study. The study concluded in August 2020 and the reports developed for each county contain information that is necessary to pursue various state and federal grant programs and to help guide officials in the decision-making process for broadband-related projects or plans. Some of the information includes: Served/Underserved/Unserved Areas, Results of the Broadband Survey, Various Connectivity Solutions such as Wireless, Fiber, and Small Cell Broadband Poles, and County-wide Network Designs. The reports can be viewed on SAP&DC's website at http://www.sapdc.org/broadband_task_force.



ARC POWER AWARD

In October 2020, the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) awarded an ARC POWER Grant of \$600,000 to the North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission in Ridgway, PA, for the Pennsylvania LDDAP Statewide Broadband Initiative. The project, in partnership with Pennsylvania's other six local development districts (LDDs) in the Appalachian Region, will help communities assess strategies and associated costs for deploying broadband in unserved areas. It will also facilitate broadband deployment activities, including the installation of fixed wireless broadband equipment and the partnership with existing internet providers to expand broadband service into target areas. For the Southern Alleghenies Region, an effort is currently underway to purchase and install fixed wireless equipment at three existing tower sites and will provide quality internet service to more than 300 homes and businesses in the Region.

ALLEGHENIES BROADBAND, INC.

SAP&DC is excited to announce the formation of Alleghenies Broadband, Inc. (ABI), a non-profit organization with the sole purpose of supporting the development of broadband infrastructure to ensure residents and businesses have access to reliable, high-speed internet service in the Southern Alleghenies Region. ABI will work to enhance infrastructure through public-private partnerships to deliver high-speed internet to underserved and unserved rural areas identified in the plan/reports mentioned above, which will need to be completed in a multitude of phases as funding resources are available.

LTAP DROP-IN COURSES



It is time to start scheduling LTAP trainings for 2021!

We are asking municipal employees to help us pick which classes they would like to see

held for the region. Please take our short online survey [here](#) by November 6th to let us know which courses you would like us to schedule for the region in 2021.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, LTAP is continuing to provide **FREE** virtual training! LTAP is offering **1-hour** Drop-In Sessions as well as full **4-hour** training courses on a variety of maintenance and safety topics.

Drop-in Session Information: LTAP Virtual Drop-ins are centered on various safety and maintenance topics. These sessions are **not** virtual classes; they are informal one-hour live sessions focused on networking and sharing information with other municipal roadway personnel. Whether you are new to the virtual world or have a lot of experience, you will enjoy meeting online with LTAP staff and other municipal staff to learn and discuss information critical to your job. Check the website for the Drop-In Session schedule.

Note: The drop-ins are not eligible for Roads Scholar credits.

Time: All Drop-in Sessions are from 12 PM to 1 PM

Group Participation in LTAP Virtual Class : A municipality may have a few staff participate in a virtual class together, if they are meeting their municipal requirements for COVID-19. After the class, the quiz and evaluation forms need to be completed. Please have **everyone** register on the website that is planning on attending.

Upcoming Virtual Training Sessions (all classes 8AM-12PM unless stated):

- October 22 - Active Transportation
- October 27- Pedestrian and Crosswalks
- October 28-29 - Principles of Paving (two-day sessions 8-11 AM)
- October 30- Conducting Sign Retroreflectivity Inspections
- November 3- Stormwater Facilities Operations and Maintenance
- November 6 - Curves on Local Roads: Issues and Safety Tools
- November 10 - Asset Management (New course)
- November 13 - Unpaved and Gravel Roads: Common Maintenance Practices
- November 24 - Introduction to Traffic Studies

You can register for the Virtual Drop-in Sessions by visiting the LTAP website (<http://gis.penndot.gov/LTAP>) and going to the "Bulletin Board" section of the homepage.

If you need assistance with registration, please contact LTAP at LTAP@state.pa.us call 1-800-FOR-LTAP or 717-787-5243. You may also contact Matthew Bjorkman at (814) 949-6553 or mborkman@sapdc.org.

Visit our
Website

Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission (SAP&DC)
Phone: 814-949-6500 | Fax: 814-949-6505 | Email: sapdc@sapdc.org

