



BROOKE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

PO Box 134, Wellsburg, WV 26070

(304) 737-4095

July 12, 2007

This letter, accompanied by the attached signatures, is intended to share with you how concerned we are regarding our highway and transit system. We need your help in implementing and accelerating projects to address the following:

1. A new bridge between Ohio & West Virginia;
2. Veterans Memorial Bridge design optimization to handle additional commercial and industrial traffic volume;
3. Route 2 expansion to 4 lanes;
4. Other highway enhancements or connections to reduce in-transit time to interstate 70 and other tri-state metro areas.

These initiatives are important to our region for the following reasons:

- **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** In order for us to be a “credible player” in the economic development arena, we must be able to demonstrate that we have a transit system that benefits existing and prospective businesses.
 - 2 of 3 bridges have exceed their design life, which may prompt shutdown in the near future;
 - the newest bridge needs enhancement to its design to handle the potential increase in traffic volume;
 - public transportation resources are inadequate and need to foster *equal access* to employment opportunities throughout the tri-state area.
- **SAFETY:** We must have efficient and safe ingress and egress to handle short-term emergency situations/events.
 - Traffic congestion between Weirton and Wellsburg and Wellsburg and Wheeling occur frequently;
 - The floods of 2004-5, and subsequent hillside erosions and mudslides, closed Route 2 and accessory routes.
- **HOMELAND SECURITY-EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:** We must have bridge and highway systems that permit the efficient and safe deployment of emergency services during regional or national crisis.
 - The shutdown of two of our three bridges, significantly curtail our options for contingency deployment routes.
 - Alternates to Route 2 and Route 7 are needed for National Guard, safety, security, and emergency services to efficiently work together.
- **FUTURE CAPACITY:** We must have bridges, roads, and highways that offer sufficient infrastructure to assure business retention and expansion, as well as foster future growth in the area. These systems need to promote fast, flexible, and efficient interstate traffic flow and support our ability to respond to the:
 - Expansion of existing businesses,
 - Addition of table gaming within the Northern Panhandle,
 - Recruitment of new commercial enterprises in the future,
 - Support the transition of our region to becoming a “bedroom community” to Pittsburgh.

Our region needs state and federal funding support to implement transportation infrastructure capacity expansion to support “base business”, promote future interstate commerce, and enhance the security, safety, and quality of life for our citizens. Please advise regarding your activities to help us accomplish these goals.

Thank you for your proactive support!

Sincerely,

SEE SIGNATURES BELOW.

