



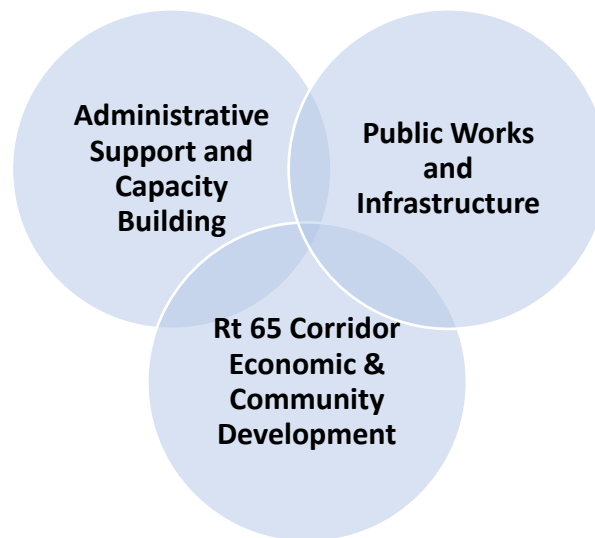
Quaker Valley Council of Governments  
February 2017

**Mission:** The Quaker Valley COG is a *nonprofit* organization that *facilitates multi-municipal* efforts and implements *efficient, cost-effective* programs on *behalf* of its *members*.

**QVCOG “Reboot:”** During the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2016, the leadership of QVCOG conducted listening sessions with all 14 member-municipality governing boards and conducted a survey of all elected officials within the QVCOG. The information garnered through that process reveals important mutual concerns of our communities:

- **Budget and Fiscal Concerns**
- **Governance and Operations**
- **Fighting Blight and Community Development**
- **Infrastructure**

The **municipalities** of the Quaker Valley COG move forward *working together* on 3 interconnected priorities:



In addition, the Board and staff of Quaker Valley COG are committed to **overcoming existing challenges** and to **improving Communications, Sustainability, Technology, Member Services, and Renewed Governance**.



**Quaker Valley Council of Governments  
February 2017 Member Services**

- 1. Capital Improvements Planning** – Information about the long-term needs of our towns is essential for developing cost-saving strategies. This project identifies, and helps to prioritize, a 5-year schedule of infrastructure and equipment needs. Informs joint purchases, shared services and grant seeking, as well as provides a service and report to the member-municipalities.
- 2. Community Development Block Grant Administration** – QVCOG fully administers CDBG on behalf its members from the application, to advertising, bidding, awarding, monitoring and completion of contracts. Municipalities benefit by avoiding in-house responsibility for complying with complex federal and county regulations.
- 3. Geographic Information Systems** – QVCOG’s emerging GIS program will allow members to takes advantage of economies of scale and cloud-based solutions. QVCOG and members have access to data to develop project proposals and municipal subscribers will have the power of local mapping at their disposal.
- 4. UCC Board of Appeals** – This COG-wide Board responds to Uniform Construction Code appeals from participating member-municipalities. The board meets the mandate of the PA Uniform Construction Code, and a joint board alleviates participating communities from the requirement to empanel its own board.
- 5. Route 65 Corridor Planning** – Connecting all 14 municipalities, Rt. 65 impacts every aspect of our communities. Working with Remaking Cities Institute at Carnegie Mellon University, QVCOG advocates for impactful multi-modal projects, both multi-municipal and for individual municipalities.
- 6. Blight Fight** –The development of an online property database and condition rating system for use by our members launches the QVCOG Blight Fight. QVCOG is also implementing new requirements for demolition to be funded by CDBG.
- 7. MS4 Compliance/Clean Water Initiative** – The QVCOG campaign fulfills MS4 public education requirements for all QVCOG members. As an intergovernmental program, each member achieves best management practices for public education for each COG administered event. QVCOG provides literature, and staffs special events promoting clean water. Provides an online complaint form for citizens to report pollution.
- 8. Financial Management Service** – Assisting small municipalities maintain internal controls and segregation of duties, QVCOG offers financial management and cloud-based QuickBooks administration that includes general ledger, accounts payable and financial statement preparation at a competitive hourly rate.
- 9. Educational and Networking Opportunities** – QVCOG distributes information from state and national organizations and agencies. Additionally, members forge regional priorities at regular monthly meetings— among both elected officials and municipal staff. QVCOG will host a Legislators from County, State and Federal government in 2017, as well as conduct an Annual Meeting and Dinner, website and newsletter.
- 10. Cable TV Franchise Representation** – QVCOG secured a discounted rate for special legal counsel for the purpose of auditing expiring and negotiating new cable TV franchise agreements. Negotiations ongoing.
- 11. Solid Waste and Recycling** – Curbside refuse and recycling collection, as well as special recycling events provide cost-savings, and environmental benefits. The new “QVCOG Recycling Challenge” will generate a \$250 donation to winning municipality’s selected community group.
- 12. Public Works Survey** – Identifying mutual concerns regarding Roads, Sanitary Sewers, Storm Sewers, Public Works Management, Fleets, and Winter Operations is the goal of the 2017 Public Works Survey and convening of Public Works Foremen. The benefit of the subsequent of shared services, staff training program, and coordination with Capital Improvement Planning will accrue to all QVCOG members.