



Executive Director's Report – November 2024

2025 Municipal Intern Program Application Details Announced – Are you considering hiring a summer intern for 2025? Local Government Academy (LGA) is excited to announce that the Municipal Intern Program (MIP) application period will be a little earlier this year. This timing change aims to better align with academic calendars and seeks to enhance student recruitment efforts. MIP project applications are due by 4:00 p.m. on **December 3rd**. Eligible placement sites include municipalities, COGs, and municipal authorities throughout the southwestern region of Pennsylvania. To learn more about the program changes and receive tips for a successful project application, please visit localgovernmentacademy.org. Interested applicants are encouraged to propose innovative and engaging projects and should be sure to review the program's updated guidelines.

Hard to Recycle Event Recap – On Saturday, October 26th 310 attendees participated in the QVCOG's sponsored Hard to Recycle event which was facilitated by the Pennsylvania Resources Council. Based on averages from the previous events in this region, an estimated 23,077 lbs. of material was collected and will be sustainably recycled and diverted from landfills.

Managers and Secretaries Holiday Luncheon – As has become a tradition in recent years, the QVCOG Managers and Secretaries Committee will be combining its November and December meetings to accommodate everyone's unpredictable holiday schedules. The meeting will take place on Wednesday, **November 20th** at 11:00 a.m. at the Aleppo Township Municipal Building (100 North Drive, Sewickley, PA 15143). The meeting will be exclusively in-person. Lunch from Panera Bread will be provided.

Local Share Account (LSA) Application Deadline - The statewide Local Share Account (LSA) Program application window will be open from September 1, 2024, through November 30, 2024, for grants up to \$1 million. Please note, there is no local match required. Interested parties may access the updated guidelines by visiting qvcog.org. Eligible projects must be owned and maintained by an eligible applicant or a nonprofit organization and include a Project in the Public Interest (i.e. a projects that improve the quality of life in the impacted community). Eligible uses of funds may be used for: Acquisition, Construction, & Demolition; Infrastructure; Purchase of vehicles, machinery and/or equipment; Planning, consulting and design costs related to planning projects; and Engineering, design and inspection, to include permitting fees, for construction projects not to exceed 10% of the total grant award.

Route 65 Intergovernmental Agreement Update - In an effort to formalize a unified consensus amongst all member communities regarding Route 65, as well as to enhance future federal, state, and local grant applications for future planning initiatives, the QVCOG Board of Delegates drafted and approved a revised intergovernmental agreement regarding the Boulevard at its October 16th Regular Meeting. To date, eleven of the QVCOG's fifteen member communities have approved either the original Agreement language (approved in June 2024) or the updated version. These minor revisions sought to alleviate some concerns levied by the remaining communities and their respective solicitors. Specifically, the revised agreement removed any language regarding the potential of any financial commitment tied to the regional compact. Per the guidance of QVCOG Solicitor Matthew Racunas, the updated Agreement has been re-circulated to all member municipalities. Solicitor Racunas does not feel that the aforementioned changes are "material changes" and, therefore, should not require re-approval by any community that signed the original Agreement. Once all fifteen members approve the Agreement, a copy of the document will be sent to each participating community.