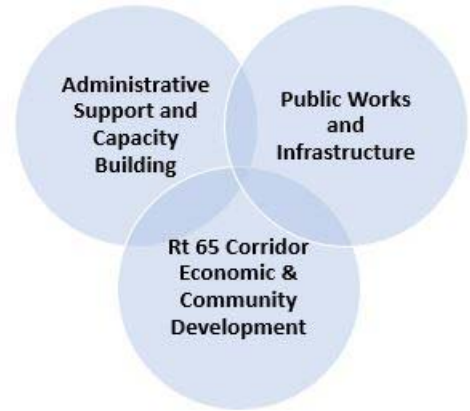




Quaker Valley Council of Governments (QVCOG)
2019 Program Year in Review
December 2019

Quaker Valley COG (QVCOG) is a network of communities along the Ohio River as it heads north from its confluence in downtown Pittsburgh. Starting at the City of Pittsburgh boundary, the QVCOG municipalities form a string of boroughs and townships until they reach the Allegheny County – Beaver County line.



Councils of Governments, enabled by the Pennsylvania Constitution and the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act, are a vehicle for local communities to review, discuss and respond to regional needs. Further, other levels of government actively promote the development and implementation of shared municipal services—as well as the overall concept of intergovernmental cooperation. This interest can be leveraged to help communities form and sustain the partnerships necessary to formulate cost effective local programs.

The QVCOG continues to focus on shared interests that build administrative capacity that our communities lack acting alone, shared public works and infrastructure concerns and a common destiny shaped by Route 65 and our mobility and transportation connections.

Working Together on Shared Asset of Route 65 – In 2019 QVCOG worked significantly on the 65 Corridor Study. The study focuses on 4 elements: transportation and technology, economic development, community design, and multi-municipal planning and governance. Part of that work included a kick-off for stakeholders on February 28, followed by topical sessions throughout the QVCOG. Through this work, the QVCOG was able to obtain community input for the Carnegie Mellon University/Remaking



Cities Institute authored Phase 1 of the study.

Multi-Municipal Multi-Modal	Emsworth Borough
Placemaking and Attracting Investment	Bellevue Borough
Route 65 Roadway Safety	Leetsdale Borough
Land Use and Community Development	Avalon Borough

In addition, QVCOG developed the 65corridor.org website, and worked with Carnegie Mellon to develop an online place-

based comments portal. Using the QVCOG-wide GIS as the underlying platform, the portal allows members of the public to drop a pin on a map of the corridor and make comments or cite concerns. The portal, nicknamed CORBi (“Comments on Ohio River Blvd Input”), was completed at no-charge to QVCOG by Information Systems students at Carnegie Mellon after being competitively selected into the program.



The work on the 65 Corridor study will continue into 2020 and frames the basis for future cooperation. Providing a single point of contact for transportation agencies, developing common way-making and signage, pursuing multi-modal projects are among the desires expressed through the community engagement processes.

Public Works & Infrastructure –Numerous programs associated with public works and Infrastructure highlighted 2019. The Public Works Supervisors Roundtable continued in 2019 with 3 programs, including Winter Maintenance, Tree Felling, Chainsaw & Chipper Safety. Solid Waste and Recycling included a 2019 Hard to Recycle event in partnership with Pennsylvania Resources Council, Recycling Committee



coordination of glass recycling events, a tour of a materials recovery facility, and the administration of the PA DEP 904 recycling performance grant which returned 53% of net revenue to member and the remainder reserved for future QVCOG-wide recycling events. Further projects included application and administration of over \$700,000 in Community Development Block Grant funded construction, including playgrounds, waterlines, sidewalks, and business district improvements. Part of that administration



included the modernization of the program to include online bidding. The QVCOG was successful in securing PennDOT funding for traffic signal improvements at Lincoln and Freemont Avenues. Additionally, traffic flow will improve on Lincoln Avenue due to signalization timing improvements to be performed as part the QVCOG being approved for the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission SINC-UP program.

Administrative Support and Capacity Building - QVCOG supported efficient municipal operations with several programs in 2019. This included Financial Administrative Services and Technical Assistance, which added one new participating municipality; QVCOG-wide Geographic Information System (GIS) to which 2 municipalities were added; and the launch of Zoning Technical Assistance and Proactive Code Enforcement programs. QVCOG facilitated Emergency Management planning with 3 events conducted in coordination with Allegheny County Emergency Services. Further, the QVCOG conducted monthly Managers & Secretaries Committee meetings for information sharing and program development, and 4 GIS Cohort Training Sessions. Group training of members was conducted in April as part of the national EcoDistrict Incubator program. The QVCOG provided administrative support



to the Glenfield-Haysville Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan. Regional and statewide policy leaders were engaged through participation at Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, Allegheny COG Council, and Allegheny County Economic Development events. The 2019 Annual Dinner was held October 16, 2019, 7 PM at Clubhouse Assembly Room at Masonic Village.



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2020 and Beyond – The Route 65 Corridor remains essential to QVCOG communities and will continue to frame the intergovernmental environment. No new programs are expected for 2020, however QVCOG municipalities will scan the landscape for opportunities to assist members and improve efficiency and effectiveness of government. The QVCOG will remain member-driven and powered by good ideas.



2019 Delegates

Aleppo

- Arthur Williams

Bell Acres

- Brock Meanor
- Michelle Veeck, Alternate

Ben Avon

- Megan Dolan
- Melanie Holcomb, Alternate

Emsworth

- Paul Getz
- Brian Fashion, Alternate

Glenfield

- Curtis Reiner
- Connie Klauck, Alternate

Kilbuck

- Jean-Sebastien Valois, President
- Tom Tomaro, Alternate

Leetsdale

- Jeff Weatherby
- Wes James, Alternate

Avalon

- Tom Lloyd
- Victoria Donnelly, Alternate

Bellevue

- Anthony DiTullio
- Anya Pikul, Alternate

Edgeworth

- Joseph Hoepp
- John Schwend, Alternate

Glen Osborne

- Barbara Carrier
- Bill Monski, Alternate

Haysville

- Amy Paff
- Mary Beth Conlin, Alternate

Leet

- Betsy Rengers
- Donna Adipietro, Alternate

Sewickley Heights Borough

- Katie Stringent
- Nate Briggs, Alternate

Staff

- Susan G. Hockenberry, Executive Director
- Janet Wenger, CDBG Coordinator