**EXECUTIVE MESSAGE**

Welcome to the NEPA Alliance Annual Report for the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year that ended June 30, 2014.

This past fiscal year was one of many challenges and accomplishments. We successfully added and expanded programming in several areas.

- NEPA Business Development Programs successfully created or retained 925 jobs in our region.

- NEPA’s Business Finance Center loaned over $1.5 million, leveraging another $2.5 million for business expansion in the region.

- The NEPA Alliance Business Finance Corporation, our affiliate nonprofit corporation, is up and running as a Certified Development Company (CDC) by the Small Business Administration (SBA) and has approved three loans totaling $1,252,000 for job creation in the region.

- The NEPA Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), started in May 2013, serves Carbon, Monroe, Pike and Schuylkill Counties with transportation planning and has successfully adopted a TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) for 2015-2018.

- NEPA manages the NEPA PREP Partnership (Partnerships for Regional Economic Performance), which is a collaboration of fourteen (14) economic development agencies within our region to receive state funding of over $1.2 million.

- The Nonprofit & Community Assistance Center (NCAC) provided training or assistance to 344 nonprofit entities within our region.

- NEPA continues to manage the Blue Ribbon Task Force supporting Tobyhanna Army Depot.

- The NEPA International Business Development Program completed the year at 123% of its goal established by the Commonwealth Office of International Business Development.

- NEPA’s government contracting program (PTAC) supported over 525 jobs from $71.6 million in government contracts awarded in our region.

- NEPA has upgraded all of our websites and marketing materials for a fresh format.

These are a few of NEPA’s successes for Fiscal Year 2013-2014. The pages that follow chronicle the services that we provide to Business, Community and Government in Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Schuylkill and Wayne Counties.

We thank all of our volunteer Board Members and Committee Members for their service and dedication to making Northeastern Pennsylvania a great place to live, work and play.

We will continue to be an Alliance committed to community and economic development in Northeastern Pennsylvania.
NEPA ALLIANCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FYE 2013-14

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Bud Quandel, 2nd Vice-Board Chairperson
Phil Condon, Treasurer
Judy Borger, Secretary
Dave Farrington, Assistant Treasurer
Stephen Barrouk, Past Board Chairperson

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Stanley Costello
Kathy Henderson
Commissioner Wayne Nothstein
Joseph Sebelin

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Philip Condon
Tom Donohue
John McNulty
Vincent Riggi
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Fred Suljic
Peter Wulfhorst

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Craig Rickerd
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John Cognetti, PNE Board Chair

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Mahmoud Fahmy
Ernest Preate
Michael Bean
Larry Malski
Wayne Michel
Maria Montero
Michael Pacyna

EMERITUS
Phyllis Brandwene
David Donlin

DIVISIONS

Executive Leadership
Jeffrey Box - President & CEO

Administrative Services
Wendi Holena - Vice President & Chief Financial Officer
Judith Doblix - Accounting Manager
Kevin Kwiatek - Accounting Specialist

Community Services
Kurt Bauman - Division Manager; Executive Director, NCAC
Steve Zaricki - Research & Information Manager
Deborah Phillips - Community Services Specialist

Government Services
Alan Baranski - Vice President
Kate McMahon - Transportation Services Manager
Daniel Yelito - Transportation Services Manager
Lee Ann Chamberlain - Administrative Assistant

Enterprise Development
Tom Pellegrini - Vice President
Michael Horvath - International Business Development Manager
Paul Macknosky - Business Finance Specialist
Frank Migneco - Government Procurement Specialist
David Nat - Business Finance Manager
Karen Ostroskie - Procurement Technical Assistance Center Manager
Paula Terpak - Government Procurement & Enterprise Development Specialist
Donna Brdaric - Administrative Assistant

Operations
Donna Romiski - Manager
Michael Skowronsiki - Information Technology Manager
Louise Tracy - Administrative Assistant/Receptionist
**ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT**

NEPA serves as the regional development district for the programs and services of the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Economic Development Administration.

These federal agencies have provided significant grant assistance in Northeastern Pennsylvania for a myriad of projects that have led to job creation, private investment and community infrastructure improvements.

NEPA’s Enterprise Development staff provides technical assistance to organizations seeking funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission, the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration and other State and Federal agencies.

**ARC GRANT ASSISTANCE**

As the Local Development District for both the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) & Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, NEPA staff provides technical and proposal development assistance to organizations seeking ARC grants.

**ARC Applications Approved**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Grant Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEPA PREP Partnership</td>
<td>$400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary and Harry Kiensendahl School of Hospitality &amp; Tourism at the Lake Center / Lackawanna College</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Accelerator Wet Lab Equipment / East Stroudsburg University</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology Lab &amp; Curricular Enhancements to support Workforce Development Training Entrepreneurial Development in Environmental Resource Management / Keystone College</td>
<td>$75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Information Technology Workforce Development Skills / Northampton Community College (Monroe Campus)</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEPA Energy Resource Center / NEPA</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are also six (6) applications pending ARC approval

**PARTNERSHIPS FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE (PREP)**

The NEPA Regional PREP initiative concluded its third year of operations. As its core objective, the regional PREP delivers integrated services to businesses that ensure all available resources are being provided in an effective and efficient manner. The aggregation of regional economic development programs and services into a new delivery paradigm is the basis for enhanced service delivery that is customer focused and results oriented.

During the past year, some key activities that have occurred included:

- Began implementation of the NEPA PREP Strategic Plan.
- Began utilization of Executive Pulse which is a shared Customer Relationship Management System.
- Conducted joint meetings and made referrals among the PREP organizations.
- Co-sponsored and participated in seminars and workshops throughout the region.
- Came together to jointly develop additional proposals and initiatives including:
  - PA Jobs 1st - Regional Workforce / Economic Development Collaborative.
  - Discovered & Developed in PA - Raising Regional Awareness of PREP.
  - Economic Development Administration - Make It In America seeks to encourage foreign / domestic businesses to invest in rural areas of PA.
  - Department of Defense / Office of Economic Adjustment - Responds to federal defense cutbacks and cancellation of proposed spending and its impact on business and their employees through the development of diversification plans.

**PREP Regional Partners are:**

- Berwick Industrial Development Association
- CANDO, Inc.
- Carbon County Economic Development Corporation
- Manufacturers Resource Center
- Monroe County Industrial Development Authority
- Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance
- Northeastern Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center
- Pike County Economic Development Corporation
- Scranton Lackawanna Industrial Building Company
- Schuylkill Economic Development Corporation
- Small Business Development Center, Wilkes University
- The University of Scranton Small Business Development Center
- Wayne Economic Development Corporation
- Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business & Industry
The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) awarded the NEPA Alliance’s Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) the “Solicitation for Cooperative Agreement Application” Contract for a new base year on May 5, 2014. Along with matching funds from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), the total program award is $490,000 (an 8.9% increase in funding from the previous year).

The PTAC uses a set of professional Performance Measurement criteria to determine client and mission value/success. For the period of July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, PTAC achieved:

- PTAC Initial Counseling Sessions: 177
- PTAC Follow-up Counseling Sessions: 1,191
- Sponsored Events: 12
- Participated Events: 11
- Total Attendance (at all events): 1,448
- Prime Contract Awards: $54,224,196
- Subcontract Awards: $17,410,714
- Total of All Awards: $71,634,910

On April 24, 2014 the Government Contracting Showcase was conducted. The Showcase featured two dynamic keynote speakers, Congressman Matt Cartwright and Scott Denniston. The 2014 Showcase experienced an increase in overall attendance, as well as the number of exhibitors. Six informative and educational breakout sessions on various topics were also made available to the attendees.

Of the many PTAC success stories for the year, Greenway Solutions, Inc. was highlighted based on their contract award from the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Wilkes-Barre, to provide storage of the Medical Center’s furniture in their 100,000 square foot warehouse. Greenway Solutions will additionally be responsible for the distribution of the furniture as directed by the Medical Center.

“The PTAC is your best tool to do business with the Federal Government, and you are at a disadvantage to those who are using their services.”

- Scott Denniston, Executive Director of the National Veteran Small Business Coalition
BUSINESS FINANCE CENTER

NEPA Loan Programs

Highlights of NEPA’s loan programs are:

- Counseled 290 entrepreneurs and small businesses.
- Approved eighteen loans for a total of $1,557,250.
- Closed sixteen loans for a total of $1,232,500.
- Leveraged an additional $2,500,000 in private/public financing.
- Retained/created a projected 227 jobs due to this program.
- Reduced interest rates on several of its Revolving Loan Fund Programs ranging from 1% - 4%.
- Participated in numerous seminars/workshops to promote these programs.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION 504 LOAN PROGRAM

NEPA has entered into an agreement with NEPA Alliance Business Finance Corporation to market, process, and service SBA 504 loans. A SBA 504 loan provides eligible businesses with long term, fixed rate financing. Proceeds can be used to purchase fixed assets such as machinery, equipment, land, buildings, or building construction/renovations.

SBA 504 benefits include:

- Financing up to 90% of project costs
- 10 and 20 year terms
- Fixed Interest Rate for the life of the loan
- Cash-Flow / working capital enhancements

NEPA-BFC Results:

- 3 - Loans approved for $1,252,000
- 1 - Loan was closed for $598,000
- Private funds leveraged - over $3.6 million
- 56 new jobs are projected

“The Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance has been instrumental to the success of Architectural Polymers, providing three low interest loans to service critical areas.”

- Marshall Walters, President & CEO, Architectural Polymers

Miss Ashley’s Beach House receives the first loan through the Luzerne Foundation’s Schickshinny Disaster Recovery Loan Program managed by NEPA.

NEPA closes on two loans for Harrold’s Pharmacy in Wilkes-Barre, PA.
**INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

**MAKE IT IN AMERICA**

The International Business Development Program is involved with the “Make It In America” (MIIA) initiative with other Northeastern Pennsylvania Partnerships for Regional Economic Performance (PREP) partners and others from CORE regions of Pennsylvania.

The MIIA initiative is a three year project to promote Northeastern Pennsylvania and the CORE region as a destination for foreign and domestic businesses to locate their business, help businesses re-shore the manufacturing being done overseas and provide job skill training to meet the needs of the new businesses and re-shored production.

MIIA representatives from the CORE region attended the World Foreign Direct Investment Forum in Philadelphia, PA to hear from international and US professionals on the current trends in business site selection and what businesses consider when selecting a future location for their expansions.

**NEPA INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

**2013 – 2014 Outcomes (Performance Metrics)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Companies Assisted</td>
<td>80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work Orders Entered</td>
<td>188</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Export Clients Reporting Sales</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Goal Achieved</td>
<td>123%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Clients</td>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Export Actions Reported</td>
<td>168</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Export Sales Reported</td>
<td>$57,069,635</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jobs Supported</td>
<td>137</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"We found out that there was a Bio-fuels conference being held in the Netherlands that only happens every other year a few weeks from the time we decided to get into the Bio-fuels business. We contacted Mike Horvath from the NEPA Alliance and he put us in contact with Kim America from the trade office. In a very few days, we had a phenomenal, well prepared report in our hands that is helping us to interact positively at the show. The response time and details provided went far above and beyond our expectations. This service is very, very helpful and we really appreciate it and the hard work put forth by ALL of the trade advisors.

THANK YOU!"

- Mike Duffy, President, Keystone Automation

**GOVERNOR’S IMPACT AWARD**

The International Program assisted the Partners for Regional Economic Performance (PREP) with the second annual Governor’s Impact Awards program. The International Program secured company nominations for the Export award category. The Program aided the PREP committee in selecting the five nominations submitted to DCED. Congratulations to Vigon International, Inc of East Stroudsburg, PA for receiving the 2014 Governor’s Export Impact Award.

**NEPA INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

15th Annual “Bringing the World to Northeastern Pennsylvania”

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance’s International Program hosted Pennsylvania’s Trade Advisors 15th annual visit to the region on September 27, 2013. The event was held at the Woodlands Inn & Resort in Wilkes-Barre, PA. The 21 Trade Advisors met with 31 companies from Northeastern Pennsylvania, which generated 174 one-on-one meetings. These companies explained to the Trade Advisors the assistance needed to develop new international markets and to increase their international sales.

The luncheon speakers for the 15th annual Bringing the World to Northeastern Pennsylvania were Pennsylvania Senator Lisa Baker and Mr. Greg Driscoll, President of Blaschak Coal Corporation in Mahanoy City, Schuylkill County, PA.
COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Community Services Division highlights NEPA’s emphasis on community development, nonprofit assistance, research, telecommunications and energy conservation and efficiency initiatives. The division includes the operation of the Nonprofit & Community Assistance Center, the Energy Resource Center and the Research & Information Center that provide valuable services to nonprofits, local governments and businesses.

NEPA ENERGY RESOURCE CENTER

The NEPA Energy Resource Center is designed to assist local governments, nonprofits and businesses reduce their energy consumption and costs through education, training, energy assessments and demand reduction.

- Through the Energy program, NEPA staff performs energy assessments and utility bill analyses to identify and prioritize energy conservation measures. NEPA further assists clients with the development of funding packages (loans, rebates, tax credits) and grant writing assistance to increase the likelihood of project implementation.

Energy Resource Center Impacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Completed</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Lifecycle Energy Savings</td>
<td>$740,443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants/Loans Leveraged</td>
<td>$558,963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Act 129 Rebates Received</td>
<td>$83,198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual kWh Savings</td>
<td>650,961</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NONPROFIT & COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE CENTER (NCAC)

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Nonprofit & Community Assistance Center (NCAC) is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 affiliate agency of NEPA providing assistance to nonprofit organizations and communities within the NEPA region. NCAC’s mission is to strengthen and support Northeastern Pennsylvania’s nonprofit organizations and grantmakers in their service to our region. NCAC develops and offers resources, facilitates partnerships and collaborations and assists in the identification and implementation of governance and management best practices to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of organizations and the services and programs they offer.

NEPA GRANTMAKERS INITIATIVE

In collaboration with the Harry & Jeannette Weinberg Foundation, the McGowan Charitable Trust, The Luzerne Foundation, the Scranton Area Foundation and the Margaret Briggs Foundation, NCAC launched the NEPA Grantmakers initiative. The NEPA Grantmakers initiative is designed to bring grantmaking organizations and agencies together to more efficiently and effectively address the grantmaking needs of the communities in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The consortium allows for open discussion on grantmaking activities and best practices, local service deficiencies, peer collaborations, investment insight and legal challenges. It is our hope that this initiative will lead to systemic improvements in grantmaking activities throughout the region that will provide greater efficiencies and impacts to both the funders and grant recipients.

NCAC COMMUNITY AWARDS

The 2013 NCAC Community Awards Program was held September 19, 2013 in Wilkes-Barre, and Christopher Gergen, CEO of Forward Impact, served as the keynote speaker. In total, award recipients received over $4,000 in donations, memberships, plaques and complimentary seats. Awards recognizing excellence in community and nonprofit programming were presented in 7 categories:

- Arts & Culture
- Children & Youth
- Community Development
- Education
- Environmental Action & Animal Welfare
- Health & Human Services
- Program of the Year

NCAC Program Totals 2013-2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nonprofit Counseling Sessions</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource Center Visitors</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop Attendees</td>
<td>344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customized Funding Searches</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Proposal Reviews</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Applications Completed</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonprofit Start-Up</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demographic &amp; Statistic Assistance</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Assistance Provided</td>
<td>587</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2013 NCAC Program of the Year Award Winner, Family Services Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Disaster Recovery Coalition of Luzerne County
RESEARCH & INFORMATION CENTER

NEPA’s Research & Information Center provides research and economic impact modeling services to businesses, nonprofits and government agencies. Whether it’s the population of a municipality, the unemployment rate of a county or the number of businesses for a particular industry in the region, NEPA will provide the most current statistical and demographic information that meets our client’s needs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information Requests</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Service/Nonprofit Organizations</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Businesses</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic/Research Institutions</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Citizens</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ECONOMIC IMPACT MODELING

NEPA utilizes an economic impact model, IMPLAN®, or Impact Analysis for Planning. The model estimates the economic impact of projects, which are based on the construction of buildings, a temporary impact, and the ongoing impacts that result from the operation of facilities and, where applicable, tourism. During FYE 2013-14, NEPA conducted 7 economic impact analyses for clients within the region.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT - THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON CENTER FOR REHABILITATION EDUCATION

One of the clients was The University of Scranton, which requested an economic impact analysis to be used in making the case for state funds for the construction and operation of its $47.5 million Center for Rehabilitation Education. The 116,340 square-foot Center, which is scheduled for completion in summer 2015 and will meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards, will be the location of undergraduate and graduate programs in the Departments of Exercise Science, Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy. When IMPLAN® is used with information provided by the University, the estimated impact on the Pennsylvania economy from construction-related expenditures is 322 jobs in 2013, 657 jobs in 2014 and 504 jobs in 2015. These jobs can be either full-time or part-time. The total estimated economic activity from construction is $87.7 million in 2015 dollars. The estimated impact on the Lackawanna County economy from operation in 2016, which consists of the new jobs that will be created as a result of the Center, is 29 jobs, which can be either full-time or part-time, and $2.7 million in economic activity.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Online Broadband & Technology Training (OBTT)

NEPA has also applied and has been approved by the state for an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) broadband project. NEPA is the lead agency in a statewide effort to provide online computer training to local governments, nonprofits, small businesses, first responders, libraries and individual residents. The OBTT program offers more than 100 free online courses in a range of topics including online marketing, Website development, cloud computing, QuickBooks, Microsoft applications, business skills, project management and more. Throughout NEPA’s service area:

- 79 individuals have participated and
- 185 courses and learning sessions have been completed

Registration information is available at www.paobtt.com. OBTT courses are available through December 31, 2014.

BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE (BRTF)

NEPA manages the Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF), which was organized in 1992 to provide regional community support for the preservation and protection of the Tobyhanna Army Depot from the base closure process known as BRAC.

- NEPA worked with the Commonwealth to secure grant funds to prevent encroachment at Tobyhanna Army Depot. NEPA purchased 42 acres from a developer and has held title of the property waiting for transfer to the Depot.
- NEPA Military Installation Public Relations & Outreach Initiative - NEPA received a $25,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Military Community Protection Commission to launch a public relations and outreach initiative designed to increase the profile of the Tobyhanna Army Depot throughout the region and Commonwealth.
GOVERNMENT SERVICES

NEPA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)
The Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance operates the Northeastern Pennsylvania Metropolitan Planning Organization (NEPA MPO), providing transportation planning and programming services for Carbon, Monroe, Pike, and Schuylkill Counties. As part of the planning process for the MPO, two MPO committees are convened: the NEPA MPO Technical Planning Committee and NEPA MPO Policy Board. The committees include membership from the four MPO counties, transit providers and PennDOT. The committees review and approve the four-county regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) which is the primary funding source for the counties’ highway and bridge projects, transit system improvements and other transportation programs. During the past fiscal year, the newly designated NEPA MPO took final actions to establish its formal structure and developed the 2015-2018 TIP Update incorporating Federal, State and additional Act 89 state funding for transportation infrastructure improvements. Project funding totals $564 million over four years.

LOCAL ASSET INVENTORY
NEPA has been engaged by PennDOT to perform an inventory of local roadways and bridges less than 20 feet in five counties of our region including Carbon, Monroe, Pike, Schuylkill and Wayne Counties.

NEPA staff collects roadway and bridge information in Pike, Wayne and Carbon Counties. Pike and Wayne Counties are approximately 95% complete for both road and bridge inventory. NEPA staff has met with roadmasters in those counties to review the data collected. As the base data for Monroe and Schuylkill Counties have recently become available, data collection efforts in those counties will intensify in the upcoming year.

2013-2014 Local Asset Data Collection Bridges inventoried

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carbon</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monroe</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pike</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schuylkill</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne</td>
<td>211</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN
NEPA is in the process of developing a multi-modal Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for the four-county MPO region. The Long Range Transportation Plan will identify the major transportation projects, programs and policies needed for the next twenty-five years and will establish the vision and goals that will guide future decisions affecting transportation facilities, infrastructure and services in the region. McCormick Taylor was selected as the consultant for the LRTP and will work with NEPA and the MPO Committees, with completion expected in 2016.

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM
The NEPA MPO worked with PennDOT on the prioritization of projects for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). TAP projects are intended to build pedestrian and bicycle facilities, improve access to public transportation, create safe routes to school, preserve historic transportation structures, provide environmental mitigation and create trails projects that serve a transportation purpose. The NEPA MPO Technical Planning Committee ranked the TAP projects in the four-county MPO area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>D&amp;L Trail- Carbon County Pedestrian Bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pike County- Mott Street Pedestrian Bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Downtown Lehighton Pedestrian Improvements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Milford Enhancement Committee Phase 10- Sidewalk Improvements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Chestnuthill Twp.- Rt. 209/Weir Lake Road Sidewalks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Mount Pocono Borough- Proposed Stormwater Improvements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LTAP)
NEPA coordinates the PennDOT Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) throughout our seven county region serving our local governments with road maintenance and safety training sessions. Services available through LTAP includes workshop training, on-site technical assistance, updates on latest technologies and innovations, field demonstrations and newsletters. These services are available to all municipal and county road staff and are provided at no cost to attendees.

2013-2014 LTAP Training

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LTAP Courses Held</th>
<th>18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participants at an LTAP class in Monroe County.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTAP Courses Held</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals Trained</td>
<td>387</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GOVERNMENT SERVICES
FOCUS 81 COMMITTEE

The Focus 81 Committee was formed by NEPA and consists of a broad coalition of business, community and government leaders who have joined together to develop and enact measures which will enhance safety and reduce congestion within a targeted corridor of Interstate 81 in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties. This fiscal year, the group:

- Continued to work with PennDOT to utilize project funding to improve the I-81 corridor;
- Updated the Focus 81 website to provide commuters and travelers with the most current information about the I-81 corridor in Northeastern Pennsylvania;
- Promoted the use of the PA Turnpike as an alternate to I-81 and supported efforts to improve connections between the two roadways;
- Celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the Focus 81 Committee;
- Collaborated with the I-81 Multi-State Coalition.

SAFE 80 TASKFORCE

The Safe 80 Taskforce is a broad coalition of business, community and government leaders who have joined together to address emerging public safety needs within the I-80 corridor in Monroe County. NEPA assists with the management of the taskforce. Over the past year, the group has:

- Updated and improved the Safe 80 website to inform commuters and travelers along the I-80 corridor;
- Developed a public outreach plan to target motorists traveling on I-80;
- Supported efforts to improve safety and increase capacity along I-80 corridor.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

NEPA provides a number of specialized services designed to assist local governments including: project funding searches, grantwriting, meeting facilitation/administration, operational assessments, project consultation, etc. The following highlight assistance provided by NEPA during this past fiscal year.

- **Back Mountain Community Partnership (BMCP):** NEPA continued in its role as the administrator of this group consisting of the following communities in Luzerne County: Franklin, Jackson, Kingston, Lehman and Dallas Townships and Dallas Borough. This group formed in 2009 and is working to jointly address issues affecting their communities through this multi-municipal cooperative group.
  - In 2014, NEPA prepared a Local Share Account (Gaming Funds) grant application for $885,000 for public safety and public works equipment.
  - NEPA continued to assist the BMCP with the administration of the $200,000 Local Share Account grant awarded in 2013 for Public Safety Equipment and the $975,000 Local Share Account grant awarded in 2012 for the Back Mountain Emergency Management Building and Supplies.

- **Plymouth Township Financial Recovery Plan:** The Township of Plymouth (Luzerne County) was declared a financially distressed community under Act 47 (Distressed Communities Act) in July, 2004 by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). NEPA was awarded a contract for the preparation of a financial recovery and implementation plan by the Commonwealth and has since been providing Recovery Plan Coordinator services. In accordance with a Recovery Plan Update adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2010, a home rule charter was prepared for and adopted by the Township to improve the structure of the Township’s governance and operations. Still recovering from flash flooding and Susquehanna River flooding events, the Township continued to progress well with most disaster recovery infrastructure projects now completed, and are concluding the process of receiving federal recovery expense reimbursements, while pursuing further grant assistance. NEPA staff is also assisting the Township with a strategy to address sewer system improvements and continues to engage in discussions with DEP, DCED and Borton-Lawson Engineering to resolve the matter. An Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Update is being initiated. This past year, the Township continued with an extensive federal-state funded acquisition/demolition program of flood prone residential structures. The Township again ended its fiscal year with a modest fund balance and continues to strengthen its fiscal position for an exit of the Distressed Municipalities Program in the coming year.
OUR MISSION

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance (NEPA)
is a regional multi-county economic development
agency providing leadership, planning, expertise
and services to regional and local governments,
businesses, institutions and individuals through
innovative and beneficial collaborations and
partnerships to enhance the economic development
and quality of life of the area.

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