Dear Friends of NEPA Alliance,


This past fiscal year was one of many challenges and successes. We continue to successfully serve our beautiful region of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

- NEPA Business Development Programs successfully created/retained 980 jobs in our region.
- NEPA’s Business Finance Center loaned over $2.1 million, leveraging another $5,217,804 for business expansion in the region.
- The NEPA International Business Development Program completed the year at 123% of its goal established by the Commonwealth Office of International Business Development and reported sales of $52,208,972 and created/retained 127 jobs.
- NEPA’s Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) supported 656 jobs from $84,375,835 in government contracts awarded in our region.
- The NEPA Alliance Business Finance Corporation, our affiliate Small Business Administration (SBA) Certified Development Corporation, closed one loan and anticipates closing two additional loans for a total combined amount of $888,500.
- The NEPA Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) serving Carbon, Monroe, Pike and Schuylkill Counties with transportation planning, has successfully adopted a TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) for 2015-2018 and is engaged in a Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).
- 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.

- NEPA PREPared for business marketing campaign concluded, with the creation of a website and marketing materials for PREP.
- The Nonprofit & Community Assistance Center (NCAC) provided training or assistance to 297 nonprofit entities within our region.
- NEPA successfully transferred forty-two acres of land to the United States Government supporting Tobyhanna Army Depot.
- NEPA has completed work on the Plymouth Township Act 47, Distressed Municipality Project.
- NEPA initiated the Northeast PA Defense Transition Partnership.

These are a few of NEPA’s successes for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. The pages that follow chronicle the services that we provide to Business, Community and Government in the counties of Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Schuylkill and Wayne.

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.

Mary Beth Wood
Board Chairperson
2014 - 2016

Jeffrey Box
President & CEO
OFFICERS
Mary Beth Wood, Board Chairperson
Bud Quandel, 1st Vice-Board Chairperson
Phil Condon, 2nd Vice-Board Chairperson
Dave Farrington, Treasurer

Stephen Barrouk, Assistant Treasurer
Joe Sebelin, Secretary
John Casella, Assistant Secretary
Matt Connell, Past Board Chairperson

DIVISIONS
Executive Leadership
Jeffrey Box - President & CEO

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

Community Services
Kurt Bauman - Vice President; Executive Director, NCAC
Steven Zaricki - Research & Information Manager

Business Development Services
Thomas Pellegrini - Vice President
Michael Horvath - Senior International Business Manager
Paul Macknosky - Business Finance Manager
Frank Migneco - Government Procurement Manager
David Nat - Business Finance Manager
Karen Ostroskie - Senior Government Procurement Manager
Deborah Phillips - International Business Manager
Paula Terpak - Business Development & Government Procurement Specialist
Donna Brdaric - Administrative Assistant

Transportation Planning Services
Alan Baranski - Vice President
Kate McMahon - Transportation Services Manager
Daniel Yelito - Transportation Services Manager
Annette Ginocchetti - Transportation GIS Specialist
Jason Hollister - Transportation GIS Specialist
Lee Ann Chamberlain - Administrative Assistant

Operations
Donna Hritz - Manager
Michael Skowronski - Information Technology Manager
Louise Tracy - Administrative Assistant/Receptionist

CARBON COUNTY
Stanley Costello
Kathy Henderson
Commissioner Wayne Nothstein
Harold Pudliner
Joseph Sebelin

LACKAWANNA COUNTY
Lou Abitalbo
Philip Condon
Tom Donohue
John McNulty
Commissioner Jim Wansacz
Alex Stark

LUZERNE COUNTY
Stephen Barrouk
Bob Lawton
Paul Maher
Mary Malone
County Council Linda McClusky Houck
Kevin O'Donnell

MONROE COUNTY
Paul Canevari
John Casella
Matthew Connell
Chuck Leonard
Commissioner John Moyer

PIKE COUNTY
Dave Farrington
William Kerstetter
Commissioner Matthew Osterberg
Fred Suljic
Peter Wulforst

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY
Robert Carl
Micah Gursky
Michael McCord
Bud Quandel
Commissioner Frank Staudenmeier

WAYNE COUNTY
Commissioner Jonathan Fritz
Mark Graziaio
Dave Hoff
Craig Rickard
Mary Beth Wood

EX-OFFICIO
Charles Barber, NCAC Board Chair
Jeffrey Box, NEPA President & CEO
Ron Maloney, PNE President

AT-LARGE
Anna Cervenak
Mahmoud Fahmy
Ernest Prete
Michael Bean
Larry Malski
Wayne Michel
Michael Pacyna
Eltgad Roces

EMERITUS
Phyllis Brandwene
David Donlin
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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 Business 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 designated Local Development District (LDD) for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development, NEPA staff provides technical and proposal development assistance to those organizations seeking ARC grant assistance.

Project Approvals July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEPA PREP</td>
<td>$400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEPA Energy Resource Center</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rush Twp / Lincoln Drive</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanitary Sewer Extension</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne County Business Technology Enterprise Center</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misericordia University Equipment Update</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition; several other projects are pending ARC approval.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE (PREP)

The NEPA Regional PREP initiative continued its mission of serving business clients in Northeastern PA. As its core objective, the regional PREP delivers integrated services to businesses that ensures 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. In the past year, key activities have included:

PREP Partners implemented the following regional initiatives:

- Continued utilization of Executive Pulse which is a shared Customer Relations Management System. Nearly 3,900 entries were made into this system;
- Jobs 1st / Regional Workforce / Economic Development Collaborative;
- Discovers & Developed in PA – Raising Regional Awareness of PREP;
- Make It In America - Encourages foreign and domestic businesses to invest in rural areas of Pennsylvania;
- Department of Defense – Development of market diversification plans for businesses impacted by reduction in defense spending. Displaced workers will also be assisted through this project.

Additional Impacts:

- PREP Partners sponsored 139 training workshops that were attended by 2,368 individuals;
- 644 new clients were assisted by PREP Partners and 1,046 clients received counseling;
- 115 referrals and 63 joint calls were conducted by PREP Partners;
- 48 loans were closed;
- 61 business plans were developed;
- 110 location leads were provided.

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
During the month of August 2014, the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) awarded the NEPA Alliance’s Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) a modification to the “Solicitation for Cooperative Agreement Application” Contract which awarded the PTAC an additional $92,559. These unmatched funds supported the development of the PTAC Learning Center. The following technology was acquired through the award: two LCD touch screen display panels and stands; six laptop computers and associated licensed software; six training tables; and, twelve training style chairs.

The initial DLA award for the 2014/2015 contract term, along with matching funds from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), brings the total program award to $582,559.

On April 9, 2014 the annual Government Contracting Showcase (GCS), held at the Northampton Community College – Monroe Campus, met both PTAC and client expectations with two dynamic keynote speakers, increased the number of sponsors (5) and exhibitors (24), and included three business centric educational sessions.

**July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 Results**

- Initial Counseling Sessions: 173
- Follow-up Counseling Sessions: 1,102
- Sponsored Events: 13
- Participated Events: 20
- Total Attendance (at all events): 2,317
- Prime Contract Awards: $67,085,418
- Subcontract Awards: $17,290,417
- Total of All Awards: $84,375,835

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**PTAC Sponsored Events**

NEPA PTAC staff had the pleasure of taping two on-air segments for WBRE’s Veterans Views. Pictured above are Frank Migneco, NEPA PTAC, Karen Ostroskie, NEPA PTAC, Judge Thomas Munley, Veterans Views Host, and, Larry Moran, Veterans Views Producer.

NEPA PTAC staff participated in both days of the highly successful Tobyhanna Army Depot’s Industry Day. Major General Bruce Crawford met with NEPA PTAC staff and thanked them for the services provided to Tobyhanna Army Depot’s clients. Pictured above are Major General Crawford, United States Army; Karen Ostroskie, NEPA PTAC, Paula Terpak, NEPA PTAC, and, Frank Migneco, NEPA PTAC.
**BUSINESS FINANCE CENTER**

**NEPA Loan Program Results:**
- Counseled 256 entrepreneurs and small businesses
- Approved 18 loans for a total of $2,011,000
- Closed 19 loans for a total of $2,189,752
- Leveraged an additional $5,217,804 in private/public financing
- Retained/created a projected 197 jobs

**SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

**504 LOAN PROGRAM**

**NEPA-BFC Results:**
- Approved one loan for $255,500
- Closed one loan for $368,002
- Leveraged an additional $937,334 in private funds
- Created a projected 18 new jobs

Without NEPA Alliance’s guidance and help, we could not ever imagine completing the purchasing process. NEPA helped us in so many ways; I would not able to list everything.

- Jerry & Angel Jie, Chestnut Grove Resort

“The Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance has been an awesome service to local manufacturers.”

- Lydia Amodea, Vice-President, Heritage Sign & Display

NEPA closed on two loans to Hawk Mountain Lab, Inc. located in West Hazleton, PA. PREP Partners and others are pictured above.

The first closed SBA 504 loan from the NEPA BFC to Mann Lake Ltd. for $580,000 was lent to this business for its expansion into Luzerne County.

Susquehanna Brewing Company received a $140,000 loan from NEPA. The various organizations involved in this transaction gathered to present a check to the business.
MAKE IT IN AMERICA
The International Program assisted in a Foreign Journalist Familiarization (FAM) Tour for the plastic industry as part of the Make It In America project. Five (5) foreign journalists from France, India, Netherlands, Denmark and the United States had the opportunity to learn about the plastic industry in northeastern Pennsylvania. The journalists toured Greiner Packaging in Pittston, PA and Technical Process & Engineering, Inc. in Lehighton, PA. They also participated in company briefings by Acton Technologies, Inc. and Flontech USA both of Pittston, PA; Highwood USA in Tamaqua, PA; and, Architectural Polymers in Palmerton, PA.

NEPA INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

2014 -2015 Outcomes (Performance Metrics)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Companies Assisted</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Clients</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work Orders Entered</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Export Actions</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clients Reporting Sales</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Export Sales Reported</td>
<td>$52,208,972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jobs Supported</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Goal Achieved</td>
<td>123%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2015 PARIS AIR SHOW
The International Program supported and assisted five northeastern Pennsylvania companies, Acton Technologies Inc. in Pittston, PA; MegaPhase, LLC in Stroudsburg, PA; Summit Aerospace USA in Mount Pocono, PA; USM Aerostructures Corporation in Wyoming, PA; and Vitrius Technologies in Wilkes-Barre, PA to attend the 2015 Paris Air Show, June 15 - 20, 2015 in Le Bourget, France. These five companies introduced their business products and services to the foreign companies. The group also met with other multi-national Pennsylvania companies at the show.

16TH ANNUAL WORLD TRADE PA INTERNATIONAL WEEK
Thirty-nine northeastern Pennsylvania companies had over 150 one-on-one meetings with Pennsylvania’s Trade Advisors from the Arab Gulf, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, France, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and the United Kingdom on September 22, 2014 at the Mohegan Sun in Plains, PA to learn what it takes and the assistance that is available to be successful in these markets.

The luncheon speaker was Mr. Perry Loh of Loh Enterprises in Clarks Summit, PA. Mr. Loh spoke on the assistance provided to his business and financing export sales.

GOVERNOR’S IMPACT AWARD
Congratulations to Lockheed Martin in Archbald, PA for receiving the 2015 Governor’s ImPAct Award for exporting. The NEPA International Program assisted the Northeast Partnerships for Regional Economic Performance partners in nominating local businesses for this prestigious award presented by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development and the Team PA Foundation.

ISRAEL DEFENSE MEETING
The International Program arranged for several northeastern Pennsylvania companies in the defense industry sector to meet with a delegation of Israel Defense officials and business executives in Harrisburg and Philadelphia. The meetings allowed for these companies to introduce themselves to the delegation and learn the products and services the Israel government and businesses are looking for and need to source.
COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Community Services Division highlights NEPA’s emphasis on community development, nonprofit assistance, research, telecommunications and energy conservation and efficiency initiatives.

NEPA ENERGY RESOURCE CENTER

The NEPA Energy Resource Center provides technical assistance and training, empowering communities and organizations to make informed energy consumption decisions.

Through the Energy Resource Center, 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 grantwriting assistance to increase the likelihood of project implementation.

Energy Resource Center Impacts
- Assessments Completed: 8
- Estimated Lifecycle Energy Savings: $948,961
- Grants/Loans Leveraged: $149,000
- Act 129 Rebates Received: $69,134
- Annual kWh Savings: 992,656
- Workshop Attendees: 201

NONPROFIT & COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE CENTER

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. 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 NCAC Community Awards Program was held June 11, 2015 at the Hilton Scranton & Conference Center. George Stark, Director of External Affairs, Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation, served as the keynote speaker. In total, award recipients received $5,500 in donations. 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 2014-2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nonprofit Counseling Sessions</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource Center Visits</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop Attendees</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customized Funding Searches</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Proposal Reviews</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonprofit Start-Up Assistance</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demographic &amp; Statistic Assistance</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Assistance Provided</td>
<td>324</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

Information Requests

- Public Service/Nonprofit Organizations: 37
- Businesses: 19
- Government: 12
- Academic/Research Institutions: 2
- Private Citizens: 2
- Total: 72

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 FY 2014-15, NEPA conducted seven economic impact analyses for clients within the region.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT - MOHEGAN SUN ARENA AT CASEY PLAZA

One of the clients was the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority, the owner of Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza. The Authority, along with SMG, the arena management company, requested an economic impact analysis to be used in making the case for state funds, which will be used in construction of the proposed Savory Concessions and Bar. This impact, which was based on the state economy, is 48 jobs supported, which can be either full-time or part-time, and an estimated economic activity of $7.5 million in 2015 dollars. The estimated impact from the operation of the restaurant and bar during 2016 on a 15-mile radius region, with the center being the arena, is $860,000 in economic activity and 11 jobs supported.

An economic impact analysis of the arena itself, which included operation and visitation, was also conducted and was based on the same 15-mile radius region. The estimated impact during 2013 is $62.6 million in economic activity and 1,341 jobs supported.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

NEPA was the lead agency in a statewide broadband effort which provided online computer training to local governments, nonprofits, small businesses, first responders, libraries and residents. The Pennsylvania Online Broadband & Technology Training (OBTT) program offered more than 100 free online courses in a wide range of topics such as online marketing, website development, cloud computing, QuickBooks, Microsoft applications, business skills, and project management. The courses were available from February 2014 through January 31, 2015 when the program officially closed. The program was funded through the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED), as a component of a larger initiative funded in part by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE

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 for over four years. In June 2015, NEPA officially transferred the property to the Department of the Army.

- NEPA Military Installation Strategic Planning Initiative – NEPA received a $50,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Military Community Protection Commission to develop a Strategic Plan for the Blue Ribbon Task Force and to update the Economic Impact Analysis of the Tobyhanna Army Depot.
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 convened: the NEPA MPO Technical Planning Committee and the NEPA MPO Policy Board. The committees:

- Assisted with assessing the transportation needs of the MPO counties;
- Reviewed and approved the four-county regional 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update which funded $564,639,604 in highway and bridge projects, transit system improvements and other transportation programs;
- Ranked and recommended projects for grant programs including the Transportation Alternatives Program and Green Light-Go Program.

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 LRTP 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 closely with NEPA and the MPO Committees, with completion expected in 2016.

LOCAL ASSET DATA COLLECTION
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. NEPA staff has continued collecting local bridge information in all five counties and has continued to meet with municipal officials to review the data collection. Data collection efforts on local roadways will intensify in the upcoming year.

COMMUTER SERVICES
The NEPA MPO has engaged Commuter Services to provide services to reduce traffic congestion by helping commuters find alternatives, other than driving alone, and by reaching out to employers so they can help their workforce find those options. An agreement between the NEPA MPO and Commuter Services was finalized this year and a rollout of services is expected in Fall 2015.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS)
GIS is a computer application used to store, view and analyze geographic information through a number of formats, including computer generated maps. GIS helps spot trends, highlight customer bases, and manage projects, along with numerous other applications. During the 2014-2015 year, NEPA has significantly developed its GIS technical capabilities with staff, hardware and software resources to enhance transportation planning and project programming services.

LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LTAP)
NEPA coordinates the PennDOT LTAP Program throughout our seven county LDD region serving local governments with road maintenance and safety training sessions. Services available through LTAP include 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.

Local Asset Data Collection
- Bridges inventoried in 2014-2015: 369
- Bridges inventoried to date: 863
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 www.Focus81.com 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;
- Coordinated with PennDOT on the opening of the first roundabout at the I-81 Avoca/Airport Interchange;
- Collaborated with the I-81 Multi-State Coalition;
- Provided review and input to a Beltway Study aimed toward increasing usage of the PA Turnpike Northeast Extension to alleviate traffic congestion within the targeted corridor.

SAFE 80 TASKFORCE

The Safe 80 Taskforce is a broad coalition of business, community and government leaders that 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 and maintains the www.Safe80.org website. 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, grant writing, meeting facilitation/administration, operational assessments, project consultation, etc. The following summaries highlight the 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 year, Harveys Lake Borough joined the Partnership becoming the seventh municipality. This group works to jointly address issues affecting their communities through this multi-municipal cooperative group.

**This year:**

- NEPA prepared a Local Share Account (Gaming Funds) grant application for public safety and public works equipment that was awarded at $350,000 in October 2014;
- NEPA worked with the BMCP to initiate a multi-municipal police study through the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). Six of the seven BMCP are participating in the study.
- NEPA continued to assist the BMCP with the administration of previous Local Share Account grants awarded in 2011, 2012 and 2013. These grants funded the Back Mountain Regional Emergency Management Building, public safety and public works equipment and supplies. The Back Mountain Regional EMA Building was opened in Fall 2014.

**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 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. Still recovering from flash flooding and Susquehanna River flooding events, the Township continued to work well with all disaster recovery infrastructure projects now completed, and are concluding the process of receiving federal recovery expense reimbursements, while pursuing further grant assistance. NEPA staff has also assisted the Township with a strategy to address sewer system improvements and continues to engage in discussions with the Department of Environmental Protection, 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-county 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.
**NEPA ALLIANCE REGIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD**

The NEPA Alliance Regional Leadership Award is presented annually to an agency, group or individual demonstrating a significant contribution to regional growth, development or cooperation within the seven county NEPA region. This year’s award winner was Anna Cervenak for her many years of service to NEPA Alliance and Northeastern Pennsylvania. Anna recently passed away and her commitment and understanding of regional community and economic development was truly her passion. NEPA Alliance is grateful to have had such a wonderful advocate, Board Member and Board Chairperson.

Pictured to the right are Mary Beth Wood, NEPA Board Chairperson; Anna Cervenak accepting Regional Leadership Award from Layne Crothers, M & T Bank; and, Jeffrey Box, President & CEO, NEPA Alliance.

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**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.

www.nepa-alliance.org