Welcome to the NEPA Alliance Annual Report for the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year that ended June 30, 2016.

The NEPA Staff has accomplished all of the goals set by our funding partners, and we continue to serve our region with quality business, community and government services.

- NEPA Business Development Programs successfully created or retained 1,228 jobs in our region.
- NEPA’s Business Finance Center loaned $1,075,500 leveraging another $2,105,505 for business expansion in the region.
- NEPA’s International Business Development Program completed the year at 123% of the goal established by the Commonwealth Office of International Business Development (OIBD) NEPA clients reported sales of $56,579,013 and created/retained 200 jobs.
- NEPA’s government contracting program (PTAC) supported 807 jobs from $108,823,879 in government contracts awarded in our region.
- The NEPA Alliance Business Finance Corporation (NEPA-BFC), our affiliate Small Business Administration (SBA) Certified Development Corporation, has closed one loan and is moving toward closing two additional loans in a total SBA combined amount of $485,000.
- 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 2017-2020 in the amount of $508 million and completed a Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).
- NEPA manages the NEPA PREP Partnership (Partnerships for Regional Economic Performance), which is a collaboration of thirteen (13) economic development agencies within our region, which received state funding of over $1.1 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 211 nonprofit entities within our region.
- NEPA completed work on the Plymouth Township Act 47, Distressed Municipality Project.
- NEPA’s Defense Transition Partnership served 65 DoD dependent business clients transition into new domestic and foreign business markets.
- NEPA and NCAC leveraged a $110,000 grant to help with the formation and growth of the Greater Pike Community Foundation and the Carbon County Community Foundation.
- NEPA and the Blue Ribbon Task Force successfully secured $107,050 from the Pennsylvania Military Community Enhancement Commission supporting Tobyhanna Army Depot.

These are a few of NEPA’s successes for Fiscal Year 2015-2016. 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
Meghan Loftus - Community Services Specialist

Business Development Services
Thomas Pellegrini - Vice President
Michael Horvath - Senior International Business Manager
Karen Ostroskie - Senior Government Procurement Manager
Frank Migneco - Government Procurement Manager
David Nat - Business Finance Manager
Deborah Phillips - International Business Manager
Stephen Ursich - NEPA Business Finance Corporation 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 Gionchetti - Transportation GIS Specialist
Lee Ann Chamberlain - Administrative Assistant

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

CARBON COUNTY
Nicole Beckett
Kathy Henderson
Commissioner Wayne Nothstein
Harold Pudliner
Joseph Sebelin

LACKAWANNA COUNTY
Lou Abitabilo
Philip Condon
Tom Donohue
John McNulty
Commissioner Jim Wansacz
(George Kelly Alternate)
Alex Stark

LUZERNE COUNTY
Stephen Barrouk
Paul Maher
Mary Malone
County Council Linda McClosky Houck
(Tim McGinley Alternate)
Kevin O’Donnell

MONROE COUNTY
Paul Canevari
John Casella
Michael Gildea
Chuck Leonard
Commissioner John Moyer
(Charles Garris Alternate)

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

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

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

AT-LARGE
Matthew Connell
Michael Bean
Ricky Durst
Larry Malski
Michael Pacyna
John Wiercinski

EX-OFFICIO
Charles Barber, NCAC Board Chair
Jeffrey Box, NEPA President & CEO
Bill Scranton, PNE Board Chairman
(John Augustine Alternate)

EMERITUS
Phyllis Brandwene
David Donlin
Mahmoud Fahmy
Ernest Preate
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

NEPA continued its core function 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 (DCED), NEPA staff provides technical and proposal development assistance to those organizations seeking ARC grant assistance.

Projects Approved
July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEPA Alliance - PREP</td>
<td>$ 400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEPA Alliance - Energy Resource Center</td>
<td>$ 45,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCAC Community Foundation Initiative</td>
<td>$ 110,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King’s College – Enhancing Chemistry &amp; Education for Undergraduates</td>
<td>$ 50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Conservation &amp; Efficiency Initiative – Monroe County</td>
<td>$ 110,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Scranton Center for Rehabilitation Education Equipment Project</td>
<td>$ 90,883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schuylkill Economic Development Corporation – Tidewood Industrial Park Roadway Improvement</td>
<td>$ 939,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scranton School For The Deaf &amp; Hard Of Hearing Children</td>
<td>$ 25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Birch Extension &amp; Maplewood Forest Radii Expansion</td>
<td>$ 469,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$ 2,239,733</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Several additional projects are also under consideration at ARC.
The Defense Logistics Agency award for the 2015-2016 contract term, along with matching funds from the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, brings the total program award to $506,000.

The PTAC uses a set of professional performance measurement criteria to determine client and mission value/success.

For the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, the PTAC achieved the following results:

- Initial Counseling Sessions: 96
- Follow-up Counseling Sessions: 1,315
- Participated Events: 19
- Total Attendance (at all events): 786
- Prime Contract Awards: $10,442,318
- Subcontract Awards: $7,381,561
- Total of All Awards: $108,823,879

**NEPA GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING SHOWCASE 2016 A WIN-WIN FOR ATTENDEES**

On June 16, 2016, the annual Government Contracting Showcase (GCS) was held at the Woodlands Inn & Resort in Wilkes-Barre, PA. The event, attended by regional legislative representatives, Commonwealth staff, contract officers and buyers, and small businesses, exceeded both the PTAC’s and clients’ expectations. The half day event included 20 exhibitors which included representatives from economic development organizations, government agencies, and private businesses. The GCS attracted over 100 attendees.

Pennsylvania Department of General Services Secretary Curt Topper was the GCS luncheon keynote speaker. He discussed how the Commonwealth does business and its impacts on our communities.

Prep Partners at the GCS Exhibit area: Tom Pellegrini, NEPA Alliance; Colleen Reardon, NEPIRC; and, Nick DeAntonio, The University of Scranton SBDC.

**NEPA ALLIANCE PTAC SUCCESS STORIES**

Northeast Infrastructure, LLC, a certified Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business, was recently awarded a contract by the Department of Veterans Affairs to complete a study of the Northport Veteran Affairs Medical Center’s New York Campus potable water supply. Under the $935,284 contract award, Northeast Infrastructure, LLC will identify all "dead legs," the isolated sections on process piping no longer maintaining a flow of liquid, on the domestic water distribution lines and provide record drawings of the plumbing systems. The study will produce a full set of as-built drawings depicting the existing layout of the entire domestic water system of the Northport Center’s New York campus, comprising a total square footage of 1,100,000.

Performance Biomedical LLC, a certified Veteran Owned Small Business, was recently awarded a contract by the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide durable medical equipment services to veteran beneficiaries of the VA Medical Center’s Prosthetics and Sensory Aids Services operated out of the Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center. This success story is a result of the Northeast Partnership for Regional Economic Performance (PREP) partners, working in concert with an entrepreneur, bringing their expertise together to achieve this contract award. The business development support services offered by the PREP partners, specifically CAN DO, Inc.; NEPA Alliance; and, Wilkes University Small Business Development Center, included proposal development and review, pricing, and securing a facility location.

Pictured from left: Frank Migneco, NEPA Alliance; Andrew Seder, Senator Lisa Baker’s Office; Wayne County Commissioner Wendell Kay; Wayne County Commissioner Brian Smith; Bob Suhosky, Northeast Infrastructure, LLC; Karen Ostroskie, NEPA Alliance; Congressman Tom Marino; Wayne County Commissioner Jonathan Fritz; and Jeffrey Box, NEPA Alliance.

Pictured from left: Pat Ragan, Congressman Barletta’s Office; Frank Migneco, NEPA Alliance; Ken Okrepkie, Ben Franklin Technology Partners and CAN BE, Inc; Committee Chairman; Ronald Carter, Performance Biomedical LLC; James Kelshaw, CAN DO, Inc.; Dorothy Lane, Wilkes University Small Business Development Center; Katie Fricchione, Senator Bob Casey’s Office; Kevin O’Donnell, CAN DO, Inc.; and, Brad Hurley, Senator John Yudichak’s Office.
The NEPA Business Finance Center includes nine (9) loan products as well as the NEPA Alliance-Business Finance Corporation (NEPA-BFC).

The NEPA loan products provide low cost, fixed-rate financing generally up to 50% of the total financing requirements with a maximum loan amount of $2,000,000 for real-estate. Job retention/creation criteria apply.

The NEPA Alliance Business Finance Corporation is a SBA-504 lender. There are numerous advantages associated with the program including subordinate lien position; fixed interest rates that are market based; longer repayment terms with a maximum 20 year loan maturity. The loan structure of a 504 loan preserves working capital as the borrower’s cash equity can be as low as 10%. Many business sectors can qualify for this program.

Loan Program Results:
- Counseled 250 entrepreneurs and small businesses
- Approved 16 loans for a total of $1,821,726
- Closed 10 loans for a total of $1,075,000
- Leveraged $2,105,505 in private/public financing
- Retained/created 242 jobs

Casey Dental received a loan in the amount of $80,000 from the Appalachian Regional Commission Loan Fund for the purchase of new dental equipment, as well as an upgrade to the company wide computer system.

NEPA Alliance and the Economic Development Administration (EDA) presented Child Development Council of NEPA with a loan in the amount of $150,000 for working capital, which was used for operational expenses.

NEPA ALLIANCE PTAC CLIENT OF THE YEAR:

A NEPA Alliance PTAC client selected for the Client of the Year Award is one whose business practices and professional conduct are beneficial to federal/state/local governments, conducts business in a professional and ethical manner, reinvests in the local economy and its people, and helps to promote Northeastern Pennsylvania as a vibrant place to do business. The NEPA Alliance PTAC presented the Client of the Year Award for 2016 to Ron Carter, President & CEO of Performance Biomedical LLC.

Pictured from left: Paula Terpak, NEPA Alliance PTAC; Jeffrey Box, NEPA Alliance; Ron Carter, Performance Biomedical LLC; Karen Ostroskie, NEPA Alliance PTAC; and, Frank Migneco, NEPA Alliance PTAC.
The International Business Development Program was involved in the “Make It In America” (MIIA) initiative with other Northeastern Pennsylvania Partnership 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, 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.

As part of this initiative, NEPA staff represented and promoted investment in the CORE PA region at the 2015 U.S. National Aerospace FDI Expo in Los Angeles, CA; the 2016 Australasian Oil & Gas Exhibition & Conference in Perth, Australia; and Bauma 2016 in Munich, Germany.

NEPA also coordinated the visit of four foreign journalists as part of the CORE PA Mining, Oil & Gas Familiarization Tour in October 2015. Designed to highlight the assets of the region, the Familiarization Tour introduced the journalists to local companies through facility tours, presentations and networking opportunities. Five companies directly participated in the tour while numerous others were noted through presentations emphasizing supply chain and the region’s historic ties to the sector.

NEPA continued to serve as the Regional Export Network (REN) for the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development’s Office of International Business Development. As the REN, NEPA serves as the local contact for businesses to access the export services provided through Pennsylvania’s global network of Authorized Trade Representatives.

### 2015-2016 Outcomes (Performance Metrics)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Companies Assisted</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Clients</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work Orders Entered</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Export Clients Reporting Sales</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Export Sales Reported</td>
<td>$56,579,013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Export Actions Reported</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Access Program Grants Awarded</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Access Program Total Amount Approved</td>
<td>$40,504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Goal Achieved</td>
<td>113%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jobs Supported</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NEPA’s International Business Development Program hosted an International Traffic in Arms (ITAR) and Export Administration Regulations (EAR) seminar in April 2016. Twenty-eight individuals attended this two-day seminar sponsored by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Defense Transition Partnership.

Staff also continued its work as part of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Defense Transition Partnership team, working with U.S. Department of Defense dependent companies to strengthen and diversify their businesses.

**The Northeastern Pennsylvania Defense Transition Partnership team meets with Summit Aerospace USA Inc.**
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 and the Research & Information Center that provide valuable services to nonprofits, local governments and businesses.

NEPA ENERGY RESOURCE CENTER

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

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, grants, rebates, tax credits) and grantwriting assistance to increase the likelihood of project implementation.

Energy Resource Center Impacts
- Assessments Completed: 11
- Estimated Lifecycle Energy Savings: $689,115
- Grants/Loans Leveraged: $112,000
- Act 129 Rebates Leveraged: $87,142
- Annual Kilowatt Hours Savings: 997,287

COMPARATIVE FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

NCAC received an ARC Area Development grant for $110,000 to provide program support and technical assistance to two new foundations, the Carbon County Community Foundation and the Greater Pike Community Foundation.

NCAC and NEPA Alliance presented a $32,000 Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) check to the Carbon County Community Foundation to serve as the catalyst for its formal incorporation process.

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.

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.

- A NEPA Grantmakers Forum was held on April 20, 2016. There were 31 grantmakers in attendance who learned about the “5 Best Practices of Extraordinary Grantmakers.” The group discussed creating a culture of innovation, having an abundance vs. poverty mentality, streamlining operations, intentionally learning and improving, and collaborating with other funders for greater impact.

- NCAC negotiated a bulk purchase price for NEPA Grantmakers and nonprofits. Organizations can purchase GuideStar Premium, GuideStar Charity Check, or both. The total savings is $1,150 per organization.

NCAC Program Totals 2015-2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nonprofit Counseling Sessions</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource Center Visits</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop Attendees</td>
<td>514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customized Funding Searches</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Proposal Reviews</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonprofit Start-Up Assistance</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demographic &amp; Statistic Assistance</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Assistance Provided</td>
<td>725</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 provides the most current statistical and demographic information that meets the clients’ needs.

**Information Requests**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Requests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Service/Nonprofit Orgs</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Businesses</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic/Research Inst.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Citizens</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>61</strong></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 FY 2015-2016, NEPA conducted six economic impact analyses for clients within the region.

**PROJECT HIGHLIGHT – EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY BUSINESS ACCELERATOR EXPANSION PROJECT**

An economic impact analysis was conducted for East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania as part of its submission of an application for federal funding of its business accelerator expansion project.

The impact from construction, which is based on the state economy, will be an estimated 15 jobs supported, which can be full-time or part-time, over the 2016-2017 construction period, and an estimated economic activity of $2.3 million in 2017 dollars. The estimated impact on the Monroe County economy from the operation will grow from 18 jobs supported with an economic activity of $3.0 million in 2017 to 186 jobs supported with an economic activity of $37.7 million in 2021.

**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 received two grants from the Pennsylvania Military Community Protection Commission. One was a $25,000 grant for the Military Installation Public Relations & Outreach Initiative that is designed to increase the profile of Tobyhanna Army Depot throughout the region and Commonwealth. The other was a $50,000 grant for developing a Strategic Plan for the Task Force and updating the Economic Impact Analysis of Tobyhanna Army Depot.

- NEPA also received an additional $32,500 in funding to host a legislative briefing, update the economic impact of Tobyhanna Army Depot, produce a video describing the impact of the Depot on the regional economy and host a focus group on the new website. The legislative briefing provided an update on the BRTF initiatives and the potential for a BRAC in 2019. The briefing was held on June 3, 2016 at the Holiday Inn Wilkes-Barre East Mountain. The focus group on the new website was held on June 22, 2016 at the NEPA Alliance office.

**N.E. PA DEFENSE TRANSITION PARTNERSHIP**

The N.E. PA Defense Transition Partnership is a new initiative designed in collaboration with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) and the NEPA Partnership for Regional Economic Performance (PREP) team members.

The initiative is designed to provide support to Department of Defense (DoD) contractors and supply chain vendors to diversify their products and services in the wake of decreased DoD spending and sequestration. The partnership will provide direct support for the development of market diversification plans to create new opportunities and jobs for local businesses that have experienced decreased DoD contracts. Furthermore, the initiative provides support for displaced workers who have been furloughed by Tobyhanna Army Depot and other DoD contractors. The initiative is being funded by $2.9 million grant through the DoD Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA).

NEPA and the initiative partners are actively working with 65 clients under the initiative.
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:

- Assist and advise NEPA with assessing the transportation needs of the MPO counties;
- Reviewed and approved the four-county regional 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update which funded $508 million in highway and bridge projects, transit system improvements and other transportation programs over four years; and
- Rank and recommend projects for grant programs including the Transportation Alternatives Program and Green Light-Go Program.

LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN
The NEPA MPO completed its first multi-modal Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for the four-county MPO region in March 2016. The Long Range Transportation Plan identifies the major transportation projects, programs and policies needed for the next twenty-five years and establishes the vision and goals that will guide future decisions affecting transportation facilities, infrastructure and services in the region.

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 Counties. NEPA staff has completed the local bridge collection information in all five counties, and the data collection effort on local roadways is ongoing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Asset Data Collection</th>
<th>2015-2016</th>
<th>Project Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bridges Inventoried</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road Segments Collected</td>
<td>3,091</td>
<td>3,091</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COMmuter SERVICES
The NEPA MPO has engaged Commuter Services and is now providing services to reduce traffic congestion by helping commuters find alternatives, other than driving alone, by reaching out to employers so they can help their workforce find those options. Commuter Services operates in the four MPO counties.

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 2015-2016 year, NEPA has completed a number of transportation mapping projects, created an online map gallery and participated in GIS education activities in the region by becoming GeoMentors.

LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LTAP)
NEPA coordinates the PennDOT Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) 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.

2015-2016 LTAP Training

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LTAP Courses Held</th>
<th>Individuals Trained</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>320</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 www.Focus81.com website to provide commuters and travelers with the most current information about the I-81 corridor in Northeastern Pennsylvania;
- Conducted a media campaign to increase awareness about Focus 81 and direct the traveling public to the Focus 81 website;
- 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 announcement of the Scranton Beltway project to improve connections between I-81 and the PA Turnpike Northeast Extension;
- Collaborated with the I-81 Multi-State Coalition and attended the I-81 Multi-State Coalition Annual Meeting in Shippensburg, PA.

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 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;
- Supported efforts to improve safety and increase capacity along I-80 corridor.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN
NEPA has updated the MPO’s Public Involvement Plan including a Title VI/Environmental Justice Plan and Limited English Proficiency Plan. These plans will be used to guide the development and public input aspect of the LRTP, TIP Updates, Coordinated Transit Plan and other major planning initiatives requiring public outreach and citizen input.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE
NEPA provides a number of specialized services designed to assist local governments including: project funding searches, grantwriting, meeting facilitation/administration, project consultation, etc. The following highlights 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: Dallas Borough, Dallas Township, Franklin Township, Harveys Lake Borough, Jackson Township, Kingston Township and Lehman Township. 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 works equipment that was awarded at $400,000 in July 2015;
  - NEPA prepared two Local Share Account grant applications for a public works equipment storage facility and a Stormwater Management MS-4 equipment and mapping project in December 2015;
  - NEPA worked with the BMCP to complete a multi-municipal police study through the Department of Community and Economic Development. Six of the seven BMCP municipalities participated in the study.

- **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 guiding the Township back to financial health. This past year, taking final actions and steps toward an exit of the Act 47 Program, a Public Hearing was conducted by DCED representatives on March 19, 2016 to receive final public testimony required to exit Act 47 Distressed Status. On May 3, 2016, DCED Secretary Davin signed the documents at a ceremony at the Plymouth Township Municipal Building formally releasing Plymouth Township from Distressed Status, marking the end of a very successful project.

COORDINATED TRANSIT-HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN
The NEPA MPO initiated an update of its Coordinated Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan. The plan identifies the region’s public transportation needs, particularly those of persons with disabilities, senior citizens, minorities, limited English proficiency and low income populations. The plan will also provide prioritized recommendations for improving public transportation services in the four-county NEPA MPO area within the financial constraints of the region’s transportation budget. The updated plan is expected to be completed by Fall 2016.
The NEPA Alliance Regionalism 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 recipient was Mohegan Sun Pocono for their impact on the economy and involvement in the community. Michael Bean, President, Mohegan Sun Pocono accepted the award.

Pictured from left are Mary Beth Wood, NEPA Board Chairperson; Brandon Igdalsky, Pocono Raceway; Mike Bean accepting the Regionalism Leadership Award on behalf of Mohegan Sun Pocono; and Jeffrey Box, President & CEO, NEPA Alliance.