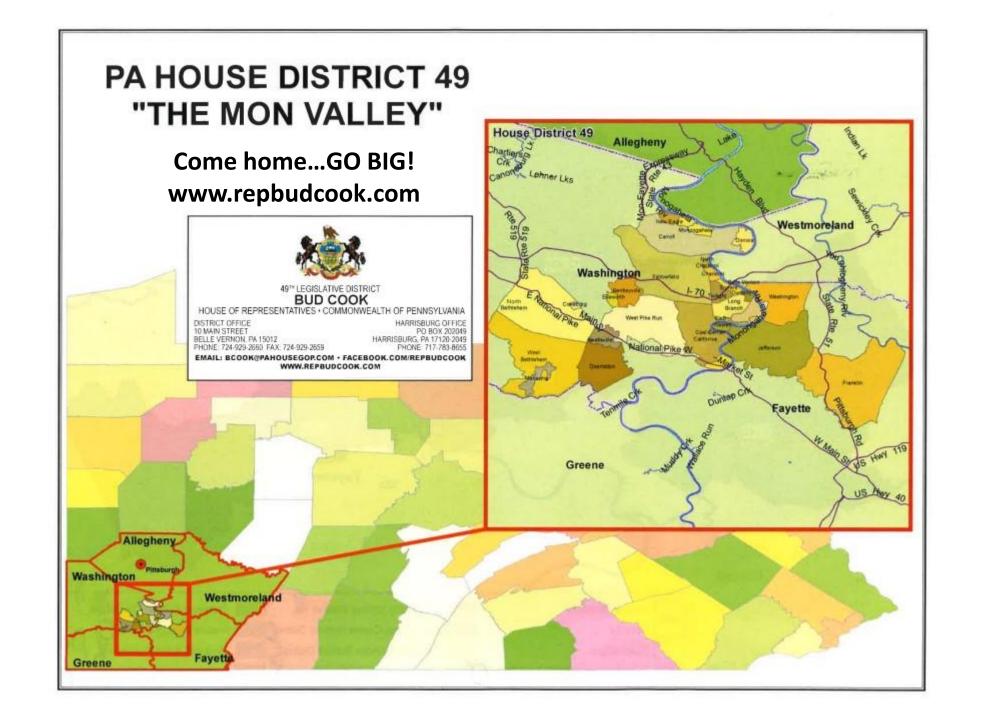
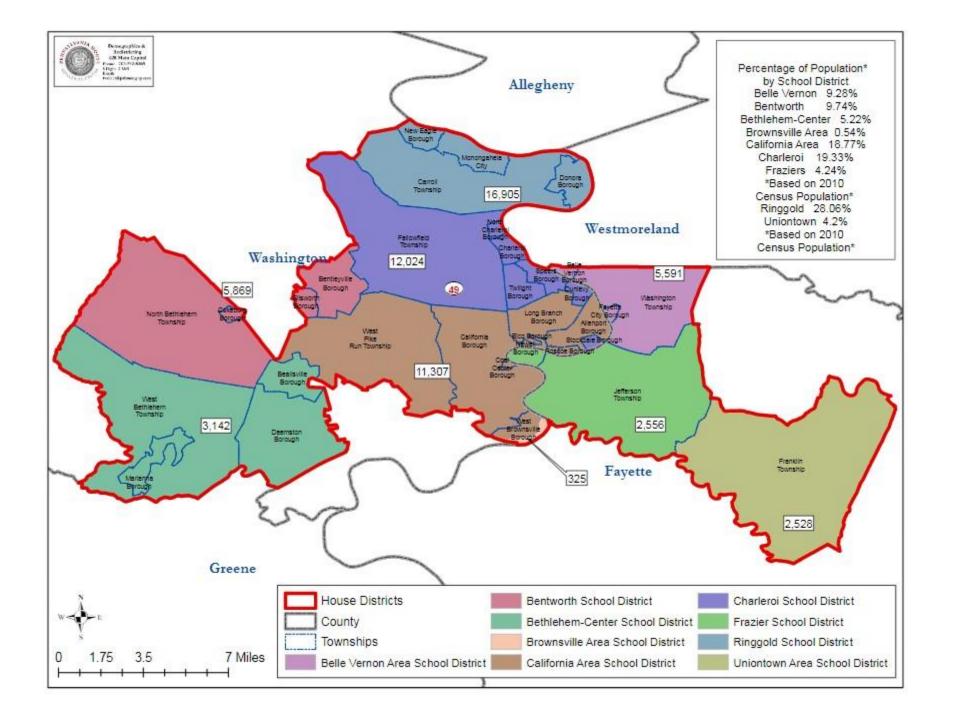


# www.RepBudCook.com

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"Marketing the Mon Valley"
Agenda

Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup>
6 - 7:30p.m.

Donora Borough Building

RSVP through

www.visitmonvalley.com

# Welcome to Donora

Positive Sparks in our Community	Borough President, Dennis Gutierrez
Meeting Objectives	Bud Cook, ep 1BCEP.com
Donora's Music in the Park 2016	Joe & Ruth Cialone, & Lions Club
How two individuals and a Service Organiza	ation saved "Music in the Park"
Monongahela Chamber of Commerce	Tony Bonatti, Chamber President
Why are so many events successful in Mono	ongahela?
Γhe Marianna Way	Jason White, Founder and President MOA
How the Marianna Canoe Race Started and race in the State! And beyond!	Became the Largest Anything that floats
Open Discussion	.Attendees
How can we jointly promote the collective	Mon Valley as a Destination in 2017?

Wrap up; assign tasks and set date, time and location for next meeting!



The Mon Valley Independent

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2019 - A7

# **Cook hosts tourism, travel summit at Cal U**

Representatives from around the region attended the event

By JIM BUSCH
For the Mon Villey Independent

State Rep. Bud Cook welcomed local tourism officials, state conservation officers and interested cirizens to his first Travel and Tourism Summit. The event was held Saturday at California University of Pennsylvania's Convocation Center Cook, R-West Pike Run Township, hosted.

the summit to discuss how to identify local attractions and activities and promote them tobring more tourist dollars into the region.

Cook's 49th district encompasses communities in Washington, Payotte and Westmore-

Cook spoke about the relationship between tourism and the economic revitalization of the region. He recalled how when he first asrived in Harrisburg, he had difficulty describing exactly where his district was and what it had to offer. He pointed out that the 49th lies at the function of five counties. Cook said, "45,000 cars cross the Charleroi-

Speers bridge everyday."
"We need to give those people a reason to

get off the interstate and spend some of their money in our area. Tourism is the second largest industry in the Commonwealth ofter re. All we want is our fair share of unnsylvania," Cook sald.

Serving as secretary of the House Travel and Tourism committee has shown Cook that addressing the challenge of attracting more tourism is a regional problem, he said.

your happiness.' My colleagues in the House. from both parties, realize we need to work together to bring people willing to spend their money in that pursuit to southwestern Penn-



the \$40 billion travel and tourism brings to State Rep. Bud Cook, R-West Pike Township, greets the audience at his inaugural Travel and Tourism Summit at California University of Pennsylvania's Convocation Center.

since her organization was founded in 1951.

noted that tourism adds \$1.8 billion to the arexcise tax on the sale of all firearms and smof information on the commission's programs consistent some of the successes local commended that tourism adds \$1.8 billion to the account of the successes local commended has the Noticeal Pick Steam Show, the Markett business of the more from Pitchungh, the visiter's commence from Pitchungh and Pitchun He wants the tourism summit to be an an Detroit, Philosolophia, Cleveland and New research on the state's wildlife and habitats. York City, Nemanic pointed out that the Lau- They immage more than 480 different species Tripe Kline, representing the Washington rel Highlands are located within a five hour of birds and mammals pills 1.5 million acres in fishing and husting by offering educations

or of the six most important events in American program the same of the six most important events in American have created ican history. Kine said to being fourniss to the faurel Highlands. In ican history. Kine said.

It whistory Rebellies feedwarf in the control of the Laurel Highlands. In the control of the Laurel Highlands is addition to marketing the region, the Laurel Highlands is a distinct to 2000 people from most than 200 distinct to 2000 people from most than 214 million in grants to local learn to the proposition of the propositio committee's efforts to coax visitors out of for students interested in pursuing careers in tourism industry.

charged with protecting the state's mammals ducing land, so they are reliant on license and Ann Nemanic of the Laurel Highlands Vis- and birds as well as their habitats. As an inde- boat registration fees. seriem is a regional problem, he seed.

The Business through and a finding a series of the series of mineral rights and timber sales. He said many their website www.fishandboat.com and their Today the region horse 2.8 million overnight

Americaes don't resince that agencies like the whole approximation of the said these marking and 6.5 million "day-trippers." She game commission greative a charge of a foderal commission greativ

he cited tourism hubs such as Sulom, Mass. of wildlife, Fari said.

### He said that few people realize the Penn vices offered by his agency. The Fish and which they can loan to those who want to rebring in hundreds of millions of tourism dol- sylvania Constitution guarantees the right of Boat Commission is an independent agency the sport. Into every year.

Cook cloud a study which astess the biggest
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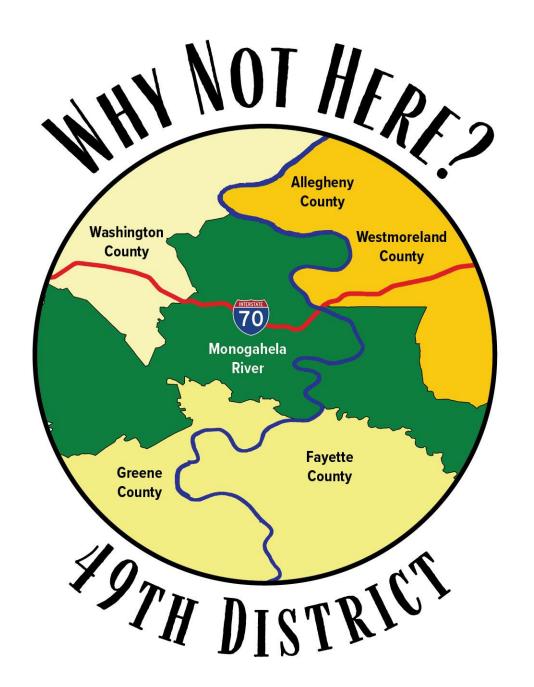
"Why on give the girls of fitting," be said.

scurces provide residents with a wide range

counter the national decline in the popularity Trips Klina, representing the Washington County Community Foundation, discossed the Washington Windowy Rebellion Festival and its impact on the county. The event case the washington Windowy Rebellion Festival and its impact on the county. The event case the state of the state o

nicipalities on projects that will promote fin

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Representative Bud Cook 49th Legislative District Pennsylvania House of Representatives Media Contact: Michelle Swab

mswab@pahousegop.com RepBudCook.com / Facebook.com/RepBudCook

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 29, 2021

### Why Not Here?

By State Representative Bud Cook (R-Washington/Fayette)

Southwest Pennsylvania, especially the 49th District, is a great place to raise a family, work and enjoy a high quality of life. Our greatest asset is our community that feels like a tight-knit family. On top of that, we have the Mon Valley Hospital, California University, Monongahela River and many outdoor recreation activities to offer. Who wouldn't want to live here?

We have nine school districts in the 49<sup>th</sup> District, and there is a trout stream in every one of them. There are 19 sportsman/outdoor clubs that are extremely popular among residents. Every town has a local park, and many have multiple outdoor facilities. We've even begun the process to create biking and walking trails throughout the district.

Not only is our present and future great, but we have a rich history. The Whiskey Rebellion started right here in 1794. During that time, the U.S. government decided to raise money for the national debt by creating a liquor tax. Distilleries refused to pay and attacked federal revenue officers who attempted to collect.

There are many things we do not have in Southwestern PA; however, we need to embrace the things we do have that make us unique. Those assets are what will draw families and businesses to our great area. It is my mission to lead our district in taking three actions: identifying our local assets, attractions and activities; creating action plans by county officials; and working as a community to promote Southwestern PA's five-county area as a destination for tourists.

Four years ago, my office started to ask each town to identify the assets, attractions and activities that made them stand out. In the 49th District, there are 33 boroughs and townships, and the City of Monongahela. We have requested a contact point for each community to help us identify unique aspects of their area. A single community may not offer much, but as a district, we have a lot to be proud of that would label us a destination.

Also over the last four years, we have attempted to partner with leaders in Fayette and Washington counties. The Fayette County Commissioners have been a joy to work with—beneficial and productive meetings have taken place. It has been more of a challenge to work with the Washington County Commissioners as they have been reluctant to assist in our efforts

since July 2017; however, we will not stop trying. We are still requesting that Washington County Commissioner Diana Irey Vaughan takes a meeting with the state representatives of Washington County to discuss travel and tourism plans and opportunities. I serve as secretary of the House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee, and I understand how implementing attraction plans can be successful.

The Speers/Belle Vernon Bridge is the heart of the 49<sup>th</sup> District, which includes parts of Fayette and Washington counties. But also connected are the counties of Westmoreland, Allegheny and Greene. These five counties make up Southwestern Pennsylvania and I want to lead the charge in getting us all to work together in making our area the place to be in PA.

I am committed to putting progress ahead of politics and encouraging leaders and constituents in my area to do the same. When working towards one goal, it is important to work together across geographic lines AND party lines – and that goal is attracting businesses and families to our area. After all, why not here?



Powered by: LONG NYQUIST - ASSOCIATES

# PA's Fastest & Slowest Growing Legislative Districts

The 2020 Census revealed the fastest and slowest growing State Legislative districts. The Pennsylvania Index, our gauge of Pennsylvania's public companies, saw their combined value increase by 1.8%. Pennsylvania digital interest in Afghanistan exceeds that of the Covid-19 vaccine. What \$300,000 buys in Coraopolis and New Columbia. The Tweet of the Week highlights coal. The Podcast of the Week highlights sleep. The US Treasury needs a Public Affairs Specialist in Pittsburgh. The PA Fish and Boat Commission needs a Social Media Coordinator in Dauphin. Exelon delivers hands-on internships. In major shift, Pa. panel votes to count incarcerated people in home districts, not state prisons. The Science of Masking Kids at School Remains Uncertain. School bus driver shortage continues in western Pennsylvania. Most face masks won't stop COVID-19 indoors, study warns. Wolf admin unexpectedly pulls the plug on controversial revamp of Pa. safety net program. Assabiya Wins Every Time. \$320,000 Homes in Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Rhode Island. The Dresden Job. Radio Transmissions From Police Helicopter's Chase Of Bizzare Craft Over Tucson Add To Mystery. Enjoy!

# Census

# 2020 PA Legislative Census

# Slowest Growing Districts: House

State House District	Incumbent	Party	2020 Population
110	Tina Pickett	R	56,862
1	Pat Harkins	D	56,861
35	Austin Davis	D	56,841
49	Bud Cook	R	56,408
64	R. Lee James	R	56,000

Source: Gianni Hill



Mon Valley Coal and Steel Heritage Trail Feasibility Study



# Study Purpose - Vision for the Trail

The Mon Valley Coal and Steel Heritage Trail will provide an outdoor recreational opportunity for the residents of eastern and central Washington County as well as visitors to the region. The proposed multi-use trail will be accessible for activities such as walking, jogging, bicycling, cross country skiing, etc. for users of all ages, socio-economic status, and abilities. Intended to improve health, transportation, economic development, and the overall quality of life for the residents in the region, the trail will also be designed in a manner that is sensitive to the neighboring properties along the corridor.

# **Findings**

During fieldviews to complete the physical inventory and evaluation, it was noted that the rails, railroad ties, and ballast are still in place for the entire length of the proposed corridor. The trail corridor consists of potential segments that can be used for future phasing of the project. Each segment has similar characteristics and are identified as follows:

- Marianna / West Bethlehem Township to Cokeburg Junction (Somerset Township) this segment is the most overgrown and has been inactive for the longest period of time
- Ellsworth to Bentleyville the trail corridor runs through both of these boroughs in this segment and has more of an urban / suburban feel
- Fallowfield Township to Carroll Township north of Bentleyville, the corridor follows Pigeon
  Creek in Fallowfield Township to SR 0481 (Scenic Drive) in Carroll Township, which is the end
  of the inactive portion of the rail line
- SR 0481 to the City of Monongahela this segment starts at the Eastman / Flexsys facility (Carroll Township) and ends in the City of Monongahela at the Norfolk Southern Main Line
- SR 0481 to the Borough of Donora this segment was the former Pittsburgh & West Virginia Railroad – Donora Branch (Donora Southern RR); starting near Sudan in Carroll Township and running through Black Diamond and Victory Hills

## **Structures**

Preliminary assessments of the structures along the proposed trail corridor were conducted. Fieldviews identified seventeen (17) existing or removed bridges, two (2) tunnels, and two (2) culverts. It was determined that it is feasible to rehabilitate all of the existing bridges for trail use. The two (2) missing / removed bridge structures can either be replaced with new bridge structures or retrofitted to crossings at grade.

## Intersections

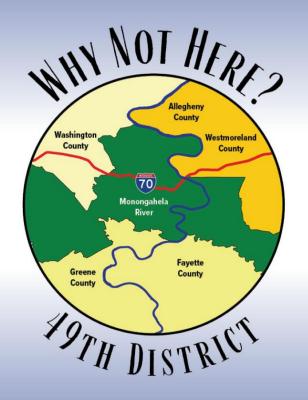
There are twenty-one (21) intersections of the proposed trail corridor and state / local roads that were observed during fieldwork by the Project Team. Twelve (12) of the intersections were at-grade and the other crossings were either structures that carried the trail corridor over the roadways or structures that the trail corridor went underneath.

# Next Steps / Recommendations

- Identify a lead organization entity, non profit, municipality, etc. to enter into discussions with Norfolk Southern (the present owner) to discuss their interest in selling the property, or portions of the property and determine the cost of the property
  - If NS is willing to sell the property, determine if they will be removing the rails and ties
- Determine which funding sources (grants) are most appropriate to assist with various phases
  of the proposed trail development acquisition, construction, etc.
- Coordinate with each municipality along the trail corridor to determine their interest and support for maintenance and operation activities
  - Identify local groups, trail organizations, etc. who may be willing to help
- Reach out to adjacent property owners along the proposed trail corridor to address any of their concerns – trespassing, littering, noise, conflicts with other uses, etc.
- Work with local legislators, businesses, stakeholders, and others who can help to promote and complete the proposed trail







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