

Press Release



For business editors

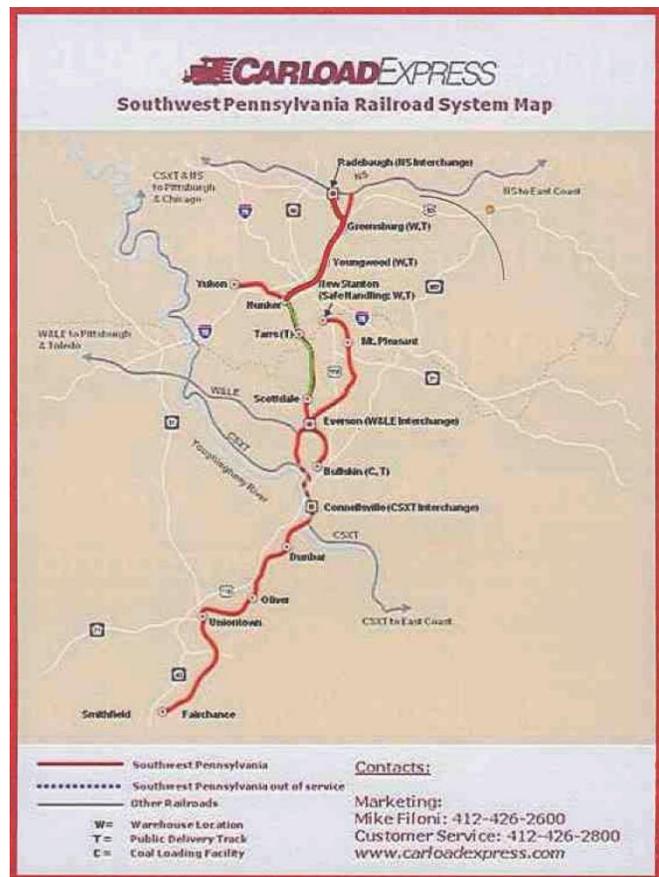
Westmoreland County Receives \$1,100,000 RTAP Grant for Replacement of Rail

An important infrastructure project to benefit business and industry - invests in long term hard rail transportation asset in Westmoreland County.

GREENSBURG, Pa., May 18, 2016 – The Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation’s (WCIDC) Board of Directors, Gina Cerilli, Ted Kopas, and Charles W. Anderson announced today the approval of a Rail Transportation Assistance Program (RTAP) grant funding application, submitted through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Bureau of Rail Freight, Ports and Waterways (BRFPW) program, in the amount of \$1,100,000. The RTAP grant, administered by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Transportation (PennDOT), is for the completion of the third and final phase of the Radebaugh Rail Relay project. Phase 3 represents approximately 5.5 track-miles of welded rail and associated hardware, to be installed between Alverton and Scottdale.

“Investing in Westmoreland County’s rail freight network as an invaluable asset and

is essential to connect local business to the global marketplace,” said Commissioner Gina Cerilli, who also serves as chairman of the county industrial development corporation. “This project will ultimately benefit business and industry thanks to the efforts of the county’s short-line



freight hauler, Southwest Pennsylvania Railroad.”

The 33-mile railroad was purchased by the WCIDC in 1995 including a site located at the county’s major transportation hub near New Stanton known as Westmoreland Logistics Park – Rail Freight Terminal. Located adjacent to RIDC Westmoreland (former Sony facility), the [Westmoreland Logistics Park](#) is a rail freight transload terminal designed to take advantage of the railroads for freight movement. The county’s terminal operator is Savage Safe Handling, a full-service, bulk product transportation, and toll processing company that operates some of the largest rail-to-truck transloading facilities in the United States. “The county’s rail-to-truck transloading facility is a significant regional asset that provides not only Westmoreland County customers the benefits of both rail and trucking services, but businesses throughout western Pennsylvania,” adds Commissioner Ted Kopas, who also serves as vice chairman of the county industrial development corporation. The 33-mile track is home to Southwest Pennsylvania Railroad (SWP), a short-line freight hauler of Carload Express, Inc. that connects users of the facility to an international rail network.

“The continued rehabilitation of the SWP railroad is another example of the county’s creative public/private partnership arrangements between the WCIDC and SWP, and by keeping approximately 42,876 long haul trucks per year off the Commonwealth’s roadways, safety is improved on our highways,” said Commissioner Charles W. Anderson, who also serves as secretary of the county industrial development corporation.

Work on the rail line will be done during the 2017 construction season and once completed the



mountain grades of the Radebaugh Subdivision will be modernized with welded rail.

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