



THE GREATER CUMBERLAND COMMITTEE

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ONE REGION · ONE VISION · ONE FUTURE

The background of the cover is a scenic landscape photograph. The top half shows a sunset or sunrise over a range of mountains, with a sky transitioning from purple and pink to yellow and orange. The bottom half shows a dense, green forest of trees in the foreground, with more mountains visible in the distance. The text '2019 ANNUAL REPORT' is overlaid on this image. '2019' is in a large, semi-transparent purple font. 'ANNUAL' and 'REPORT' are in a large, white, 3D-style font with a drop shadow. The letters of 'ANNUAL' and 'REPORT' are filled with a detailed image of a forest, showing individual trees and foliage.

2019  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD CHAIR



How shall we work together for the greater good? As we near the beginning of a new decade and the celebration of TGCC's 20th anniversary, this important question continues to inform the vision and mission of this organization, which for nearly two decades has served as the only regionally-focused organization serving the 5-county, tri-state region. Since the beginning, our motto, *To create one region, with one vision, for one future*, has served as our north star and has been the guiding principle for TGCC's program of work.

Our ability to think and plan for the future of our region with wisdom, imagination and with the long view in mind, has been integral to the success of our signature projects. Our work in convening leaders, cultivating and nurturing important relationships and collaborating for the greater good, recognizes that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, and that we must truly work together if we are to achieve a robust regional economy made up of vibrant and prosperous communities.

As you will see in the pages that follow, despite our many transitions this year, we were able to continue moving the needle on key projects critical to the economic prosperity of this region. To that end, we think you will agree that TGCC continues to be a good shepherd of the North/South Appalachian Highway project and that we play a critical role in the development of the I-68 Regional Alliance.

As you read about our 2019 successes and 2020 goals, we hope you will be inspired to want to share your time, talents, and expertise with us. As we drive success in executing our vision and mission, we will continue to grow TGCC's ability to influence and positively impact our regional economy. And with your help, we can continue to lead the region forward toward greater vitality and prosperity.

Thank you for your continued support. May we all enjoy a prosperous 2020!

**JENNIFER WALSH,**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**TIMI HADRA,**  
BOARD CHAIR



THE GREATER CUMBERLAND COMMITTEE

ONE REGION · ONE VISION · ONE FUTURE

## OUR INQUIRY: HOW SHALL WE WORK TOGETHER FOR THE GREATER GOOD?

### OUR INSPIRATION:

*To create one region, with one vision, for one future, by convening leaders, cultivating relationships and collaborating for the greater good.*

#### ONE REGION

the core footprint: Allegany, Garrett, Bedford, Somerset and Mineral Counties

#### ONE VISION

the ability to think about or plan the future with imagination and wisdom

#### ONE FUTURE

the importance of taking the long view

#### THE GREATER GOOD

*the whole is greater than the sum of its parts – Aristotle*  
creating a vibrant and prosperous region

### THE FOUR C'S

TGCC'S SIGNATURE STYLE OF ENGAGEMENT

**CONVENE | CULTIVATE | COLLABORATE | CREATE**

#### CONVENE

meet, gather, get together . . . because relationships matter

#### CULTIVATE

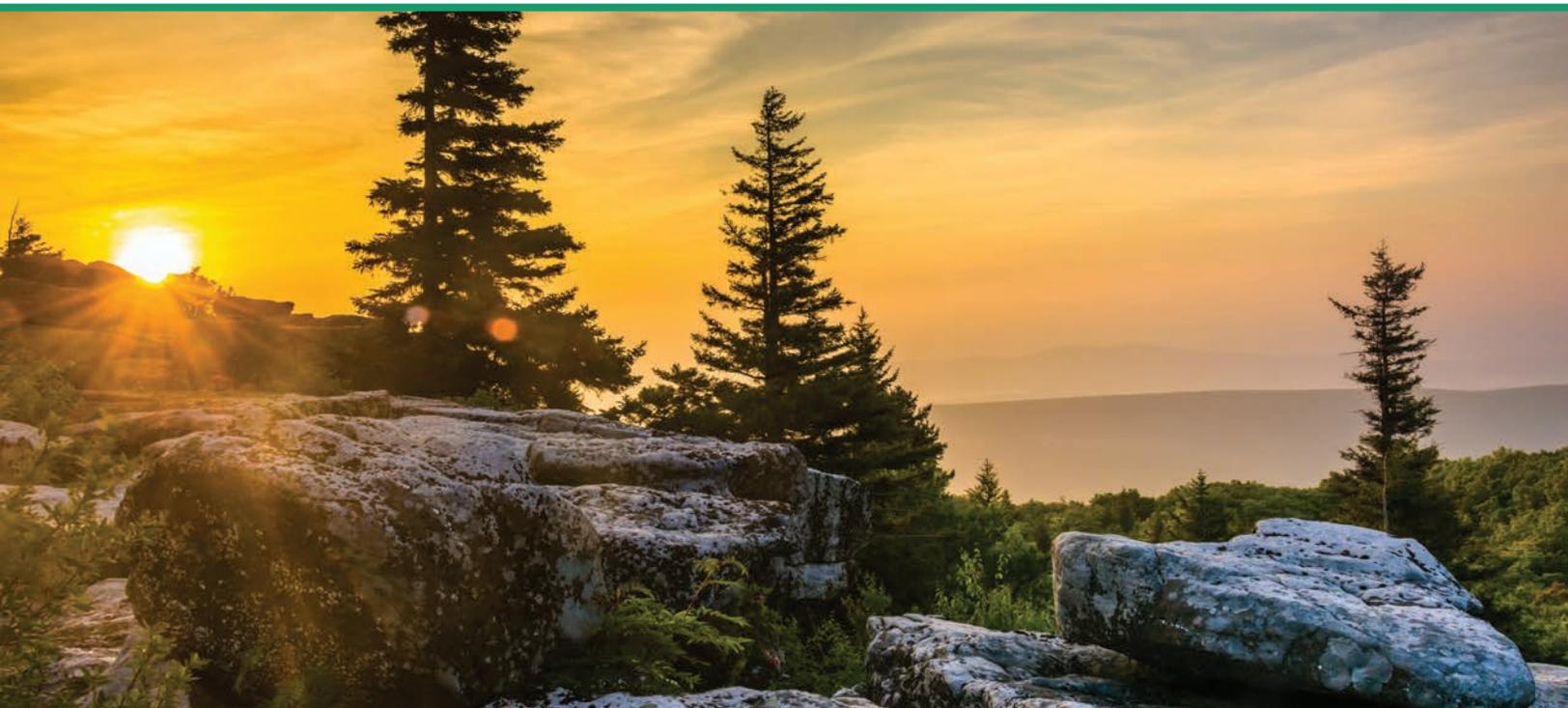
to nurture and help grow; when you cultivate something, you work to make it better

#### COLLABORATE

a willingness to work together to achieve a common goal

#### CREATE

One Region, with One Vision, for One Future



"TGCC's vision and commitment to a completed north/south corridor throughout the past decade has been a key component in the significant success achieved to date—completion of 11 miles of 219 from Meyersdale to Somerset and the current construction of 1+ miles adjacent to I-68 near Grantsville, Maryland".

—**Maryland Senator George Edwards**

"I applaud the TGCC team for their dedication, commitment and true understanding of how to gracefully manage this complicated project that involves decision making at the local, state and federal level. There is no other single project that will have as much impact on the growth and prosperity of our region than completion of the north/south corridor and TGCC's commitment to shepherd this project to completion is critical to its success."

—**G. Henry Cook, President & CEO, Somerset Trust Company**

"Community partnership and stakeholder input are crucial to the transportation planning process. The MDOT State Highway Administration appreciates the continued collaboration with The Greater Cumberland Committee and its active, consistent advocacy for transportation safety, mobility and access in Western Maryland."

—**Scott Pomento, Director, Ofc. of Planning & Preliminary Engineering, Maryland Dept. of Transportation**

"The completion of Route 219 south is simply the most important issue facing Somerset County and the surrounding tri-state region. The completion of a north/south transportation corridor connecting the two major east/west corridors will have a resounding impact on the future economic growth of this region. The fact that three states, multiple counties and a large number of municipalities are all working together to complete it, should prove just how important this is to our region."

—**Ron Aldom, Executive Director, Somerset County Chamber of Commerce**

"The Greater Cumberland Committee is prioritizing the regional infrastructure we need to ensure that western Maryland can attract investment and create jobs. This organization has been a great partner in pushing for smart policies to help our economy grow and in galvanizing stakeholders to work toward our shared goal: a thriving tri-state region."

—**US Congressman David Trone**

"While many may not realize what happens behind the scenes, it takes an extraordinary level of collaboration to successfully bring a regionally-significant transportation project like US 219 from start-to-finish. TGCC has been a catalyst for collaboration, and continues to play that convening role that is so important to success."

—**Craig Turner, Executive Director, Continental 1**

## 2019 SUCCESSES

### NORTH/SOUTH APPALACHIAN HIGHWAY (US 219 N & US 220 S) WORK GROUP & COALITION

Momentum is building within our signature project, the North/South Appalachian Highway Work Group and Coalition, and there are many opportunities developing at the local, state and federal level that will help advance this critical infrastructure project. In 2019, we forged many new relationships and allies in our effort to advance the completion of the north/south corridor and we are pursuing new funding opportunities at the state and federal level. 2019 highlights include:

- Organized quarterly meetings in LaVale, Maryland with MDOT SHA officials to review the status of both legs of the north/south corridor and identify key strategies and milestones that will advance this project. TGCC's request that MDOT engage PennDOT to cooperate in a bi-state INFRA 2020 grant application was accepted and a letter was forwarded to PA in October seeking PA's engagement in this historic opportunity.
- Meeting in Senator Cardin's DC office with key transportation staffers representing Senators Cardin (MD), Van Hollen (MD), Capito (WV) and Congressman Trone (MD).
- At TGCC's request, a meeting of our tri-state Representatives was hosted in Washington, DC by Congressman Trone. TGCC Work Group members and Congressmen Trone (MD), Brown (MD), Joyce (PA), Thompson (PA), Perry (PA), and McKinley (WV) were in attendance. A key outcome included an agreement by the Representatives to support legislation restoring dedicated funding to the ADHS.
- TGCC Letter to Governors Wolf, Hogan and Justice requesting support of state and federal funding for completion of the north/south corridor signed by 24 signatories representing state and local elected officials, county government, chambers of commerce and economic development organizations.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the opening of the 11 miles of 219 between Somerset and Meyersdale, PA. Local business owners, including G. Henry Cook, Chairman & CEO, Somerset Trust Company; Lee Murdy, CFO, Bill Miller Equipment Sales; Tom Moran, Corsa Coal Corp.; and Shawn Kaufman, Director of Human Resources, Riggs Industries, Inc., shared their stories of the significant positive impacts the 11 miles has already had on their businesses and the anticipated growth expected from the completion of the corridor. The late John Vatauvuk, a longtime member of the North/South Coalition was remembered and celebrated for his tireless efforts as a champion of this project.

# LETTER FROM THE NORTH/SOUTH APPALACHIAN HIGHWAY WORK GROUP CHAIR

In 1965, the Appalachian Development Highway System was established by Congress as a necessary step to generate economic development in the rural and terrain-challenged areas of the nation's 13 Appalachian states. Bourne from a series of visits to this part of the country by John F. Kennedy as he campaigned for the 1960 presidential election, the concept of providing a transportation network within our country's most impoverished—and under-connected—communities, set the stage for building a system of highways totaling 3,090 miles. Nearly 55 years later, almost 91% of the ADHS has been built, bringing access to markets and building economic prosperity in rural Appalachia. Unfortunately, for the tri-State region served by TGCC, critical sections of the ADHS and its connecting routes, remain uncompleted.

TGCC, founded as a regional organization determined to inspire increased economic development opportunities, adopted the completion of the North/South Appalachian Highway as its signature project in 2008. This transportation corridor envisions US 219 N connecting I-68, near Grantsville, Maryland to the Pennsylvania Turnpike in Somerset, Pennsylvania and US 220 S, near Cumberland, Maryland, to Corridor H, near Scherr, West Virginia. Several economic impact studies of this proposed dual-leg corridor have projected the creation of 10,000 permanent jobs and 20,000 construction and construction-related jobs.

Since adopting the completion of the North/South Appalachian Highway as its priority project, significant milestones have been achieved, including—

- completion of 11-miles of US 219 N from Somerset to Meyersdale
- beginning construction of 1.2 miles of roadway in Maryland that will connect a completed US 219 N to I-68
- reinvestment by Maryland and West Virginia to complete initial environmental impact studies and advance the US 220 corridor project
- development of a Tri-State Coalition, representing business, civic and elected leaders from Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia to serve as champions of this project
- leading the effort to enact an Act of Congress, providing funding for the construction of critical miles of US 219 N

To date, our efforts to complete the North/South Appalachian Highway have resulted in \$500 million investment dollars. As significant as our accomplishments have been, our work is far from done. But, a renewed energy and an expanded network of critical contacts have been developed in the last year. Focusing on the complete build-out of this economic impact project, our Work Group has developed strategic plans for each of the two legs (US 219 N and US 220 S) that leverage opportunities unique to each leg and provide the best options to move the entire project forward.

On behalf of the North/South Appalachian Highway Coalition and Work Group, we thank you for your continued support of this project.

Sincerely,

**COLLEEN PETERSON,**  
NORTH/SOUTH APPALACHIAN HIGHWAY WORK GROUP CHAIR





## 2019 SUCCESSES

### I-68 REGIONAL ALLIANCE

TGCC is playing a critical role in the creation of the I-68 Regional Alliance which has the potential to expand the economic base of the I-68 region and to attract new investment into our economy with the goal of improving the quality of life and creating wealth in our communities. The Alliance is a public/private partnership representing economic development organizations, chambers of commerce, tourism and visitors organizations as well as industry partners. TGCC will serve as the incubator for the Alliance and our Executive Director will work closely with its members to create a system of governance and ways of working that inspire our members to build trust with one another, share important information and commit to a process of collaboration which results in outcomes that are advantageous to both the individual members as well as to the region as a whole.

- Agreed on an identity – I-68 Regional Alliance
- Selected three industry sectors on which the region will focus:
  - Lifestyle Manufacturing
  - Aerospace Supply Chain
  - Information Technology
- Developing:
  - Regional website
  - Industry sector action plans
  - I-68 Regional Alliance governance plan

*“TGCC is the glue that can hold the entire region together. With the leadership demonstrated by the TGCC Board and staff, the region is starting to work as a true partnership that will help create a better future for all. What we’ve begun to build with the I-68 Regional Alliance could not have happened without TGCC.”*

**—Al Delia, Vice President for Regional Development & Engagement, Frostburg State University**

## EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Participation in our Committees is one of the most important ways members can engage in TGCC's mission to serve the greater good. The mission of the Education and Workforce Development Committee is to convene key stakeholders across education and business to focus on strategies to develop a competitive and skilled workforce for jobs in demand in the tri-state region. This Committee, chaired by Allegany College of Maryland President, Cynthia Bambara, consists of regional college presidents, county school officials, workforce development specialists and local business representatives from across the region.

We meet 5 to 6 times a year to discuss best practices, share programs of work, and provide updates on grant opportunities, successes and achievements and opportunities for collaboration between the participants, their organizations and their students. We know from our members that these regular meetings provide a unique venue to work collectively and with a more unified approach on solving workforce issues which face all of our communities.

*"TGCC is very proud of the relationships and network that have been created as a result of this Committee and know it provides an invaluable opportunity and experience for its members to connect, build relationships, share and grow."*

—Cynthia Bambara, President, Allegany College of Maryland

Of notable interest in 2019, were the following achievements from across the tri-state region:

**WORK ETHIC DIPLOMA PROGRAM:** a partnership between the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce and Garrett County Public Schools. The Work Ethic Diploma Program was created to address the challenges of the business community to find reliable employees with the appropriate essential skills. To qualify for a Work Ethic Diploma, participating Garrett County students must earn a minimum of points in criteria such as Attendance, GPA, Community Service/Internship Project and Teamwork, among others. There is also an optional Drug Free component that will be noted on diplomas for participants meeting that criteria. Students who earn a Work Ethic Diploma benefit by receiving guaranteed job interviews from participating employers as long as they meet the related job qualifications and if hired receive

at least a \$.50/hour higher starting wage than an employee with the same skill set who has not earned the Work Ethic Diploma. Thirty-two students from Northern and Southern Garrett County High Schools graduated from the 2019 inaugural class with diplomas. Thirty-six local businesses signed commitment forms as partners. This program serves as an inspiration to the region and will continue to be a best practice model moving forward.

**TACKLING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC:** A Community Resilience Approach project - Allegany College of Maryland (ACM) announced that the Maryland Opioid Operation Command Center (OOCC) has provided it with a prevention and education grant of \$443,274 for this project. The OOCC grant will support evidence-based therapeutic and educational services (educational events, workshops and mentorship opportunities) for more than 2,000 individuals in Allegany County and across the state through the ACM Center for Continuing Education and Workforce Development. Working closely with local opioid prevention and treatment programs, the Tackling the Opioid Epidemic project utilizes a stress and trauma-relief model developed by The Center for Mind-Body Medicine (CMBM) to build a culture of resilience and a community-wide support system. The project will teach simple but proven tactics that build personal resilience while reducing the stigma associated with addiction. It addresses the physiological and psychological root causes of addiction while introducing non-pharmacological approaches to address pain and chronic physical and mental illness.

**SAGE:** Students enrolled in West Virginia University Potomac State College's Sustainable Agriculture Entrepreneurship (SAGE) program find themselves making apple cider, tapping trees for maple syrup production, cultivating indoor shiitake and oyster mushrooms, managing bees for honey production, and most recently growing lavender for profit. All this in addition to the management of livestock including goats, swine and cattle along with the operation of farming equipment that's needed to maintain the College's three farms. SAGE was created to give students a real-life, practical hands-on education and to prepare young farmers with an entrepreneurial mindset in the ever-changing 'farm-to-table' landscape. Students learn about biological processes in commodity and specialty crops and livestock, conventional and progressive farming methods and materials, working with natural resources and the environment, and the value of building a sustainable brand and business venture.



## 2019 SUCCESSES

### MEMBERSHIP MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The 2019 Membership Meetings were chalked full of special guests and highlighted our own programs of work as well as other exciting economic development projects and initiatives in the region. A few highlights included:

A fireside chat and Q&A with Len Foxwell, Chief of Staff for Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot, concerning the burgeoning regional craft beer and wine industry. Foxwell shared challenges with the craft brew laws at the state level and proposed legislation supported by the Comptroller's office intended to retain and attract more craft brewers and to make Maryland businesses more competitive with its neighboring states. A robust discussion followed which included several local regional winery and brewery and restaurant owners, including: Gregory Bender, The Corner Tavern and Café; Kristan Carter, Toasted Goat Winery; Tony Cornwell and Denise Partsch Cornwell, Locust Post Brewery; Cory McCagh and Sean McCagh, 1812 Brewery; Chuck Park, Charis Winery; and Susan Walker, Whitehorse Brewing. Foxwell noted that tourists are using Beer Aps to find local breweries and wineries and are willing to travel more than 50 miles to visit a craft brewery for a few hours then go to a local restaurant for dinner which indicates that breweries are not competing with traditional restaurants but rather are supporting them. A grassroots effort to create a craft wine/brew trail is already underway and these efforts can be supported by the actions of the I-68 Regional Alliance.

In April, a five-member panel made up of key stakeholders discussed the regional economic impacts and legal, tax and HR implications of the growing medical cannabis industry. The panel

included William Valois, Chief Operating Officer of Grow West; Jim Pyles, Director of Emergency Services at Allegany County Government and Past Commissioner of the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission; Matthew Gilmore, Esquire, Geppert, McMullen, Paye & Getty; Trish Hall, Compliance Officer, Grow West; and John Smyth, Sr. Managing Director, CBIZ MHM, LLC and Smyth & Pyles, LLC. The discussion revealed that the medical cannabis industry is a rapidly growing sector of our regional economy bringing good paying jobs, often with benefits such as health insurance, paid time off and sick leave. In Cumberland, Maryland, Grow West employs 79 full-time and 13 part-time employees. Other growers in the region include Green Leaf Medical, LLC, located in Bedford, Pennsylvania and Harvest Health and Recreation located in Hancock, Maryland.

Garrett County Robotics Team 1629 (GaCo) joined us in June to demonstrate their interactive award winning robotics program. GaCo is a First Robotics competition team from both Northern and Southern Garrett High Schools with the vision of having every young person in and about Garrett County be STEM ready. Chuck Trautwein and his team of rotating GaCo students teach STEM based lessons to every 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade classroom in Garrett County. The team has logged 10,000 miles in the last 15 years, 5,000 of which were traveled in 2018 alone. In 2019, GaCo received an ARC grant to support its expanded vision of STEM ready children throughout all of Appalachia. Congressman David Trone also attended the June meeting and commended the GaCo team for their STEM accomplishments and innovative approaches to fostering early leadership and essential skills training as well as preparing our young people for jobs in the science and technology fields.

# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

For nearly 20 years, TGCC has been leading the tri-state region forward because of the generosity of our members. Thank you for your leadership, your time and for your financial commitment. It is with your support that our role in regional economic development is possible.

## ALLEGANY COUNTY, MD

Peter Bajc, AES Warrior Run-CC  
John H. Balch, PharmaCare of Cumberland-CC  
Dr. Cynthia Bambara, Allegany College of Maryland-CC  
Carl O. Belt, The Belt Group-CC  
Matthew Brewer, Bennett Brewer & Associates, LLC.-CC  
Mirjhana Buck, Wells Fargo Advisors-CC  
Rick Collins, MBS Keystone-CC  
Dr. Eric Davidson, UMCES-Appalachian Laboratory-CC  
Skylar Dice, Rocky Gap Casino Resort-CC  
Thomas B. Finan, Jr., Private Investor-CC  
Dustin Freas, Care Ventures, Inc.-CC  
Mark Fulchino, Fundamental Lifetime Care-CC  
J. Matthew Gilmore, Geppert, McMullen, Paye & Getty-CC  
Steve Jenkins, Allegany Coal and Land Company-CC  
Kim Leonard, Bella, Inc.-CC  
Mike Marchini, CBIZ-CC  
Dr. Ron Nowaczyk, Frostburg State University-CC  
Dr. Jeffrey Poland, Lifetime Eyecare Center-CC  
Barry Ronan, Western Maryland Health System-CC  
John Smyth, CBIZ/Smyth & Pyles-CC  
Tracy Smyth, Luxury Leasing-CC  
David Turnbull, Turnbull, Hoover & Kahl-CC  
William Valois, Grow West-CC  
Cliff Wendricks, Ironworkers Local Union 568-CC  
Roy "Bucky" Whiteman, Progressive Physical Therapy-CC  
Stephen C. Wilkinson, Stephen C. Wilkinson, LLC-CC  
John Will, Standard Bank-CC  
Briana Willetts, Willetts Systems-CC  
John Yoder, Walter N. Yoder & Sons, Inc.-CC  
Sarah Willetts, Noonan & Willetts-ENT  
Jeremy Irons, The Belt Group-AM  
Jeff Kirk, Allegany College of Maryland-AM  
Lee Fiedler, former Mayor, City of Cumberland-HON  
Wayne Spiggle, Retired-HON  
Colleen T. Peterson, TGCC Executive Dir. (2006-2011)-HON  
John Emerick, Retired-LL  
Bill Atkinson, Maryland Department of Planning and ARC-PiP  
Jeff Barclay, Allegany County Economic Development-PiP  
Stuart Czapski, Allegany County Chamber of Commerce-PiP  
Paul Kelly, Cumberland Economic Development Corp.-PiP  
Leanne Mazer, Tri-County Council of Western MD-PiP  
Juli McCoy, County United Way-PiP  
Wendolyn McKenzie, HRDC-PiP  
Jim Pyles, Allegany County Dept. of Emergency Services-PiP  
Deidra Ritchie, Canal Place Preservation Authority-PiP  
Leah Shaffer, Community Trust Foundation-PiP  
Ryan Shaffer, Potomac Highlands Airport Authority-PiP  
Elizabeth Stahlman, City of Frostburg-PiP  
Courtney Thomas-Winterberg, Allegany County Department of Social Services-PiP

## BALTIMORE, MD

Pam Ruff, Maryland Economic Development Association-PiP  
Andrew Sargent, Maryland Department of Commerce-PiP

## GARRETT COUNTY, MD

Shawn Bender, Beitzel Corporation-CC  
Kendall Ludwig, CurlyRed-CC  
Bill Meagher, Lakeside Creamery-CC  
Dr. Richard Midcap, Garrett College-CC  
Phil Rodeheaver, First United Bank & Trust-CC  
Frank Vitez, Phenix Technologies-CC  
Bill Grant, Retired-LL  
Nicole Christian, Garrett County Chamber of Commerce-PiP  
Michael Hough, Garrett County Economic Development-PiP  
Duane Yoder, Garrett County Community Action Agency-PiP

## PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

Robert Caret, University System of Maryland-HON  
Brit Kirwan-HON

## ERIE COUNTY, NY

Craig Turner, Continental 1-PiP

## ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PA

Michael Delligatti, M&J Management Corporation-CC

## BEDFORD COUNTY, PA

Kellie Goodman Shaffer, Bedford County Chamber of Commerce-PiP  
Bette Slayton, Bedford County Development Association-PiP

## BLAIRE COUNTY, PA

Reynolds Baldwin, L. S. Fiore Construction-AA

## CAMBRIA COUNTY, PA

Linda Thomson, JARI-PiP

## FULTON COUNTY, PA

Jim Crowder, FirstEnergy-CC

## SOMERSET COUNTY, PA

G. Henry Cook, Somerset Trust Company-AA  
Ron Aldom, Somerset County Chamber of Commerce-PiP  
Josh Boland, Somerset County Econ. Development Council-PiP

## WEST MORELAND COUNTY, PA

David Friend, Laurel Renewable Partners, LLC -CC

## HARDY COUNTY, WV

Charles Terrell, Eastern WV Community & Tech. College-AA

## MINERAL COUNTY, WV

Timi Hadra, IBM-CC  
Ish Sparkman, Automated Packaging Systems-CC  
Jerry Brode, Northrop Grumman-CC  
Wayne Hatcher, Potomac Valley Hospital-CC  
Terry Stephens, Retired-LL  
Kevin Clark, Mineral County Development Authority-PiP  
Randy Crane, Mineral County Chamber of Commerce-PiP  
Troy Ravenscroft, Mineral County Schools-PiP

## PRESTON COUNTY, WV

Randall Underwood, Clear Mountain Bank-CC

CC=Corporate Council;  
AA=Area Affiliate;  
AM=Associate Member;  
ENT=Entrepreneurship;  
PiP=Partner in Progress;  
LL=Leadership Legacy;  
HON=Honorary

A very special thank you to our North/South Appalachian Highway Partners for their additional financial commitment to this critical program of work:

- G. Henry Cook, Somerset Trust Company
- Jerry Brode, Northrup Grumman
- Kim Leonard, Private Investor
- Linda Thomson, President and CEO, JARI
- Garrett County Government
- Allegany County Government
- Somerset County Government

# ROADMAP TO 2023

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: PROMOTING A VIBRANT AND PROSPEROUS REGION



### TGCC'S SIGNATURE PROJECT THE NORTH/SOUTH APPALACHIAN HIGHWAY (US 219 N & US 220 S)

- Advance the completion of the north/south corridor
- Meet with federal elected officials representing Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia to educate and seek support for restored dedicated funding for the completion of the ADHS and in particular, Corridor N (US 219 N)
- Grow the North/South Appalachian Highway Coalition—business, government and civic leaders
- Develop stronger relationships with WV DOT and ensure Tier II studies for US 220 S continue with the support of MDOT SHA
- Pursue a bi-state INFRA grant opportunity
- Maintain significant engagement with local, state and federal elected officials in MD, PA and WV and with the staff of the Appalachian Regional Commission
- Foster relationships with other transportation coalitions in the Appalachian Region, including SAP&DC, the Alabama Coalition for Regional Transportation and Applied Research Center of Alabama, and the Corridor H Authority
- Increase budget via new and innovative funding strategies

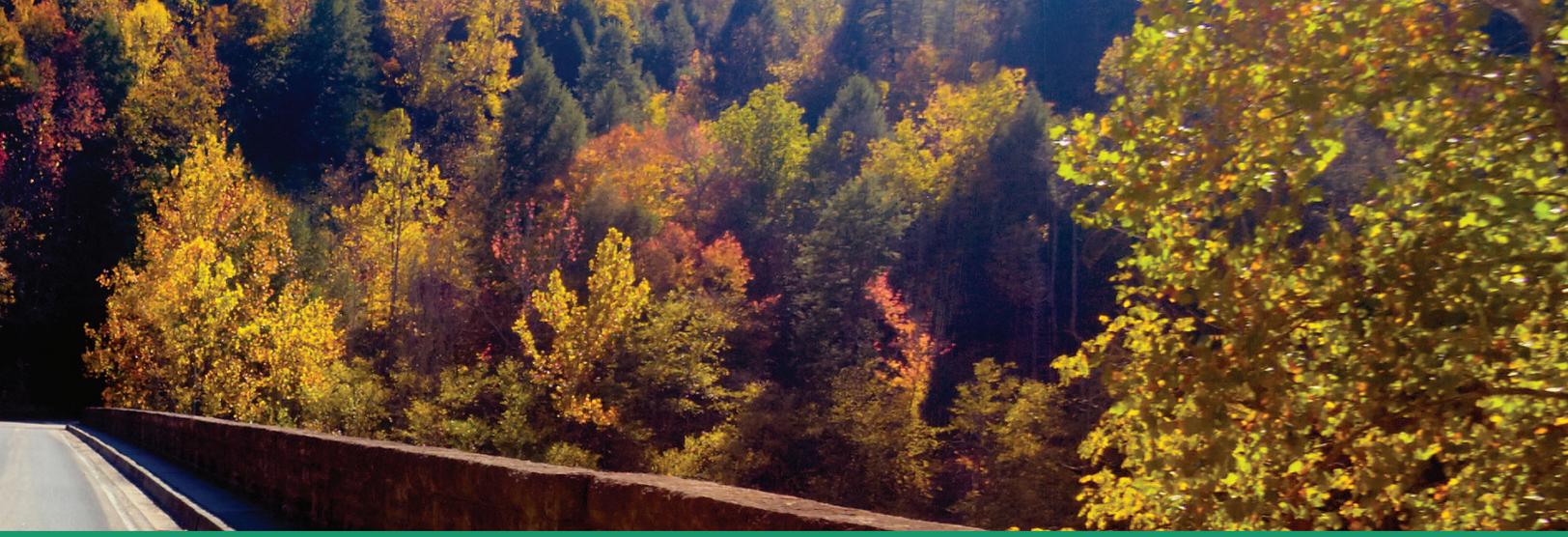


### I-68 REGIONAL ALLIANCE TGCC AS INCUBATOR

- Formalize governance framework, elect 3 representatives from each geographic county to serve on Alliance Board, recommend Chair of Alliance Work Group to serve on TGCC Executive Committee and develop Work Group budget
- Build a robust regional BRE program to increase jobs and capital investments in the region
- Develop relationships with site consultants
- Market our natural and cultural assets as a region from downtown revitalizations to recreational tourism
- Ignite entrepreneurship and small business development
- Host economic development roundtable/visioning session with Congressmen Trone, Joyce and McKinley regarding regional economic development challenges and opportunities

*"I am very fortunate to have been given the opportunity to work with the Greater Cumberland Committee. It is very gratifying for me to see the energy and dedication of the Team and to get to be a part of that effort. I am extremely impressed with their no-nonsense approach toward achieving the mission of TGCC, rolling up their sleeves and getting to work making a real difference."*

**—Tom Smith, Transportation Consultant, former WV Secretary of Transportation and Commissioner of Highways; Senior Transportation Advisor at the Appalachian Regional Commission and Federal Highway Administration**



### EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

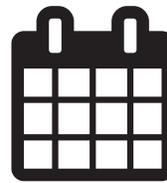
- Convene regional college presidents, county school officials, workforce development specialists and local business representatives from across the region to discuss best practices, share programs of work, and provide updates on grant opportunities, successes and achievements and opportunities for collaboration between the participants, their organizations and their students
- Develop a strong public-private partnership between educational institutions and private industry leaders to focus on strategies to develop a competitive, skilled workforce for jobs in demand in the tri-state region

*“TGCC adds such great value through its ability to bring together area leaders to work on regional challenges and opportunities. TGCC’s Education and Workforce Development Committee is a perfect example – regularly convening the college presidents, the superintendents, and other educators has allowed us to bring diverse perspectives to bear on everything from the opioid crisis to improving the transition from secondary to postsecondary institutions.”*

**—Richard Midcap, President, Garrett College**

*“The I-68 Regional Alliance is a powerful example of what can happen when communities come together to collaborate across state lines. This is nothing new, but can be especially challenging in rural communities with smaller budgets and staff. It’s great to see this multi-state region collaborating to become stronger together and attract more business investments to the area.”*

**— Sandy Dubay Sponaugle, Platinum PR**



### MEMBERSHIP VALUE AND SERVICES

- Grow member participation in committee work, member meetings, business roundtables and other important events
- Increase awareness of TGCC as the only regionally-focused economic development organization
- Host monthly member meetings, quarterly business roundtables and other visioning sessions, to include briefings from economic development experts and discussions on leadership skill development
- Biennial Greater Good Award
- Quarterly newsletter highlighting regional successes and opportunities
- Coordinate meetings with state officials at PACE and Mineral County Days
- Develop community capacity, focusing on strategies that will strengthen the skills, expertise and potential of current and emerging leaders with an emphasis on innovative and creative problem solving and with the greater good as our guiding principle
- Celebrate TGCC’s 20th Anniversary

# 2019 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**TIMI HADRA**  
Partner, IBM and TGCC Chair



**CLIFF WENDRICKS**  
Business Manager, Ironworkers  
Local 568, TGCC 1st Vice-Chair



**ROY "BUCKY"  
WHITEMAN, JR., MBA**  
PT, Owner, Progressive Physical  
Therapy, TGCC 2nd Vice-Chair



**PHILIP RODEHEAVER**  
Market President, First United Bank  
and Trust, TGCC Treasurer



**BRIANNA WILLETTS**  
Vice President Strategic Development,  
Willetts Tech, TGCC Secretary



**BILL MEAGHER**  
Owner, Lakeside Creamery,  
TGCC Immediate Past Chair



**COLLEEN T. PETERSON**  
Retired, TGCC North/South  
Appalachian Highway Work Group, Chair



**CYNTHIA BAMBARA**  
President, Allegany College of Maryland,  
TGCC Education and Workforce  
Development Committee, Chair



**SHAWN BENDER**  
Chief Operating Officer, Beitzel  
Corporation/Pillar Innovations,  
TGCC Energy Work Group, Chair



**JOHN SMYTH, CPA/PFS, CFP, RFC**  
Senior Managing Director, CBIZ/Smyth &  
Pyles, TGCC Member-at-Large



**DAVID TURNBULL**  
President, Turnbull, Hoover and Kahl,  
TGCC Member-at-Large



**KIM LEONARD**  
Retired, TGCC Member-at-Large



**J. MATTHEW GILMORE, ESQ.**  
Geppert, McMullen, Paye, and Getty,  
TGCC Member-at-Large

## TGCC STAFF



**SHARON CORWELL**  
Executive Assistant



**JENNIFER WALSH, ESQ.**  
Executive Director



**SARAH SAGAL**  
TGCC Intern



**DAVE MOE**  
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