



Infrastructure as the Foundation of Economic Development: The North/South Appalachian Highway

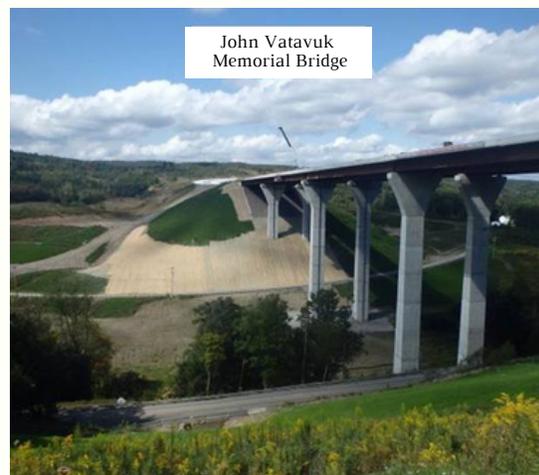


"The results of our efforts have been extraordinary..."

For over a decade, TGCC has served as the coordinating organization across 3 states and multiple counties with the goal of advancing the North/South Appalachian Highway as a priority economic impact project. The results of our efforts have been extraordinary, including the investment of \$500M in new road construction. Endorsing this significant transportation corridor as its signature project in 2009, the leadership of TGCC wisely adopted a few basic organizing principles which remain the foundation of successfully achieving project milestones: (1) creating unique strategies to advance each leg of the Highway; (2) developing a coalition of transportation professionals, elected officials and business leaders to guide actions toward progress; and (3) maintaining a disciplined commitment to achieving results without the expectation of recognition. This project has defined TGCC's philosophy that embracing the greater good is the key to collaboration and success. - **Colleen Peterson**, Chair, North/South Highway Work Group

TGCC was formed with the mission to identify and promote issues that affect the entire tri-state region. We have made significant progress in moving forward the North/South Appalachian Highway which will deliver more commerce to our area. We are now on the forefront in the development of the I-68 Regional Alliance to enhance regional economic development activity along our East/West interstate. These are grueling and tedious projects involving coordinating agendas at 3 state levels, numerous local levels and at the Federal level. With a little more patience, we will one day reap the benefits of the thousands of hours spent by so many working silently behind the scenes. - **David Turnbull**, Turnbull, Hoover & Kahl

Act 102 of 2019 was the enabling legislation that renamed the U.S 219 Buffalo Creek Bridge after John Vataavuk, who served as a Somerset County Commissioner from 2008 until his passing, I am so thankful for the time I had to work alongside John, He was a tireless advocate for 219, so I'm thrilled that one of the most impressive structures on this section of 219 now serves as a reminder of John's hard work. He fought continuously to complete 219 all the way to the Maryland border, and I will use his passion to see it completed. - **Pennsylvania State Senator Pat Stefano**





(Shelley Miller)

Our recent zoom meeting showcased the critical importance of the North/South corridor not just to our region, but also for the entire footprint of the Appalachian Regional Commission's footprint; TGCC's resources could not be aimed at a better project. - **Tom Finan**, TGCC Founding Member

The Route 219 project started when I was still in school. As time has gone by, the need for completing this vital north south corridor becomes more obvious. Working with TGCC, as a convener and leader in this effort, has brought us together with movers and shakers from throughout the Appalachian Region and has compounded all of our strengths and our focus. - **Former US Congressman Ron Klink**, Nelson Mullins, Lobbyist

Final completion of U.S. Route 219 will be a significant step in completing the dream of the U.S. Interstate Highway System started by President Dwight Eisenhower sixty-five years ago. However, we owe it to future generations to finish the job.- **Michael Frazier**, Pendulum Strategies; Lobbyist

The Greater Cumberland Committee is committed to the economic development of our region. The organization not only supports required development initiatives but becomes involved in their executions. - **Kim Leonard**, TGCC Founding Member

"No single organization could accomplish nearly as much as we will through the continuation of this already-successful collaboration."

The multi-state, multi-stakeholder ADHS Alliance TGCC formed and is leading effectively has already proven beneficial with the re-establishment of annual ADHS funding from the federal government. The Alabama-based Coalition for Regional Transportation is a proud partner in this effort and we believe firmly that no single organization could accomplish nearly as much as we will through the continuation of this already-successful collaboration. - **Michael Staley**, Alabama Coalition for Regional Transportation

PennDOT District 9 and Maryland DOT – SHA were partners in the completion of the US 219 – Meyersdale to I-68 PEL study that was completed in 2016. We are looking forward to building upon that relationship by continuing to advance this regionally significant multi-state project. A project of this complexity will require extensive coordination between both states, including the various resource and permitting agencies within each state. Based on the experience we've had with the PEL study, I am confident that this team is well prepared for the challenge. - **Thomas Prestash**, P.E., District Executive, PennDOT Engineering District 9



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I hope you've enjoyed this round up of photos and quotes from a few of our key partners on this critical infrastructure project. We'll be back this fall to share news from the region and updates on all of our programs of work. Have a lovely summer!

Link to Zoom Speaker Series Recorded Presentations: <https://bit.ly/2U4FO5F>

Buffalo Creek Bridge Video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c25mjO6y7f0&t=103s>