



## 2017 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS and FORWARD PLAN of the TriState Infrastructure Council

### Background

Spurred by globally-significant oil and gas development in the Appalachian basin, petrochemical, plastics, and related manufacturing industries and business activity are widely expected to expand in the Ohio-Pennsylvania-West Virginia region in the coming decade. Industrial growth requires a sound transportation and infrastructure network. This network includes pipelines, locks and dams, railways, roads and bridges, water and sewer, building sites, storage and loading/unloading facilities, broadband, and air service, among others. And whereas most of these assets are present in the broader region, gaps will need to be filled and assets upgraded if growth opportunities are to be fully realized.

The TriState Infrastructure Council was founded to serve a broad-based business community across geographic boundaries during the critical next few years by identifying and impacting investments in infrastructure projects, primarily through public-private-partnership (P3) mechanisms while serving as an information clearinghouse. Council members are listed in Table 1.

**Table 1 – TriState Infrastructure Council Member Companies**

AECOM	FirstEnergy	Michael Baker International
Babst Calland	Geosyntec Consultants Inc.	NOVA Chemicals
Benedum Foundation	Hull Inc.	PJ Dick Trumbull Energy Services
Colliers International	JPMorgan Chase	The Klaber Group
DQE Communications	Mascaro Contracting, L.P.	Trimodal Terminal, L.P.
Duquesne Light Co.	McCarl's Inc.	Weavertown Environmental Group
Energy Storage Ventures, LLC	McClymonds Supply and Transit	Wellsville Terminal



## Conclusions

During the first nine months of its work, the TriState Infrastructure Council met monthly to hear from experts, review infrastructure data and reports, and identify gaps in our region's transportation and infrastructure network. Table 2 includes a list of speakers.

**Table 2 – Speakers and Presentations to the TriState Infrastructure Council  
January – October 2017**

Speaker	Topic
Allegheny Conference on Community Development and Pittsburgh Regional Alliance	Economic development opportunities and organization's plans to capitalize
Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth	Economic development opportunities and organization's plans to capitalize
Appalachia Storage Hub representative	Natural gas liquids storage project
Babst Calland	Environmental considerations for NGL storage
Babst Calland and Colliers Real Estate	Brownfields development
Energy Storage Ventures/Mountaineer Gas Storage	Natural gas liquids storage project
Engineering firms, AECOM and Michael Baker	National public-private partnership experience
First Energy	Ohio's site certification program
Great Arrow Builders	Community Readiness, specifically housing
Investment bank, JP Morgan Chase	National public-private partnership experience
Marcellus Shale Coalition	Shale production and policies
Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development	Economic development opportunities and agency plans to capitalize
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Public-Private Transportation Partnership Office	Process and case studies for P3 financing
Pennsylvania State University's GIS	TSIC database
Port of Pittsburgh Commission	Locks & Dams operations and funding
Congressman Rothfus	Federal infrastructure funding
Shell Chemical	Ethane cracker project update
TeamNEO	Economic development opportunities and organization's plans to capitalize
Trimodal Terminal, West Virginia	Site Visit regarding site development/infrastructure issues/opportunities
West Virginia Department of Commerce	Economic development opportunities and agency plans to capitalize
West Virginia Development Office	Economic development opportunities and agency plans to capitalize



The conclusions of our work are summarized below.

1. Locks & dams reliability – The challenges with maintaining our locks and dams are well-documented and widely recognized. The TriState Infrastructure Council would be remiss to ignore the long-standing needs of the river transportation system that is vital to both construction and operation of the petrochemical and other major industries. The system of more than 230 locks along 12,000 miles of rivers is at risk of failing in places like the Ohio River Valley from decades of underinvestment.
2. Sites and site-specific attributes – Our analysis identified several key gaps in our region's sites, including the widespread availability of sites with a combination of barge unloading, multi-rail access, and access to available water and sewer infrastructure. The mechanisms to identify the sites and attributes that are available vary significantly across the tristate region. The availability of emission reduction credits for permitting new manufacturing facilities could also prevent certain sites from attracting specific businesses that need those credits to expand or relocate.
3. Natural gas liquids pipelines connectivity and storage – Just as the natural gas industry's well infrastructure and associated gathering and processing facilities grew with the industry, natural gas liquids storage and an interconnected liquids pipeline network will need to develop along with the downstream industry. The Council closely monitored the various storage options now under consideration in the region and actively supported several projects now under development.
4. Community readiness – Activity in Ohio River Towns in all three states should see opportunities for growth from downstream development. However, many are in need of upgrades to housing stock and related community assets.
5. Regulatory atmosphere and public sentiment to support growth – Whereas high profile anchor projects like Shell and PTT receive priority attention from regulators, many other projects can be delayed through inaction by government authorities. The TSIC made an impact in advocating for timely permits and competitive fiscal policies with local and state governments for several member companies. The connectedness of a wide range of projects throughout the energy-to-manufacturing supply chain is not well understood by local authorities and a sense of urgency is needed with permitting authorities so that capital investment can flow.



## **What's Next?**

Throughout the remainder of 2017, the Council solicited input from a range of public officials and other stakeholders in Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia on our conclusions from 2017 and plans for 2018.

Going forward, we will work together on the following projects:

1. Update the GIS database and provide TSIC members direct access to GIS professionals to implement queries of the data;
2. Support site developers and expanding/new businesses with regulatory and public advocacy through an Energy-to-Manufacturing "seal of approval";
3. Identify several P3 projects to advance that address the Community Readiness and/or Site Attribute gaps;
4. Through regular meetings and other communication opportunities, provide a forum to share information on regional developments and network with a broad-based set of participating businesses, advancing a vision for the tristate region's future growth.