

ANNUAL REPORT

2008



FALLEN FIREFIGHTER



Die Cut Window

FIGHTERS BRIDGE



EASTGATE
Regional Council of Governments

Executive Director's Message

As we do each year, we use this annual report as a tool to review the agency activities and accomplishments for the previous calendar year. In calendar 2008, our normal work program activities were supplemented by a few additional endeavors. We pursued and eventually received the designation as the Local Development District for Ashtabula, Trumbull, and Mahoning Counties that were added to the Appalachian Regional Commission. We passed our FHWA Certification Review in August, began preparations for the reauthorization of the highway act, worked closely with our sister agencies in Ohio and those in neighboring western Pennsylvania on a number of programs, and prepared for the federal stimulus programs that would follow in 2009. Specifics on those efforts follow in this Annual Report.

In-house we also experienced change, with Jim Wells retiring after more than 28 years at the agency and Tim Yova returning to Eastgate to manage the "Issue 2" program that Jim had overseen since 2002. We continued to diversify, just as our valley continued to adjust to new economic challenges and changing attitudes. We have increased our emphasis regarding sustainability, green technologies, and alternative transportation modes. Our environmental programs will expand in 2009 thanks to the support we have received from our state legislators and Ohio EPA. We look forward to new responsibilities under future transportation legislation. We also look forward to the role we anticipate we will play in making decisions that will affect not only our region, but the "megaregion" that encompasses the great lake states.

As always, we thank our member communities in Ashtabula, Mahoning, and Trumbull Counties for their continued support and look forward to serving you in 2009 and beyond.

John R. Getchey, P.E.
Executive Director

Chairman's Message

As we think about how things change and how time seems to fly by, we speak of 2008 as last year, but it was only a few months ago and a real world of difference. In the spring of 2008, our minds were on other things. Today, we see challenges in government and in our economy. While some of us that have lived in the Mahoning Valley for longer than we care to admit, have seen times and changes close to those we see today. What we are experiencing is uniquely different. There has been one constant through all of our good and bad times. Eastgate has been there for us in so many ways. Its dedicated staff continue to provide the regional leadership that makes a difference in these difficult times in the lives of citizens that we represent. It was a pleasure to serve as Chairman of the General Policy Board in 2008. The true professionalism of John Getchey and his knowledgeable staff has made the difference between a regular government agency and an outstanding performer. The skills of Patti Atwood made all things run smooth and effortless, like being on cruise control. Her everyday knowledge and organization skills made the chairmanship an easy task, and enjoyable. Eastgate is truly a bright star in our community, especially in these trying times. As we move forward and upward, our thoughts go to the leadership that Eastgate has provided, and the skill that will be needed in times to come. What better organization to lead us through this, and provide a brighter future for our communities and our citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this great organization.

Fred Hanley
Hubbard Township Trustee

Our Mission Statement:

Eastgate provides a regional forum to discuss issues of mutual interest and concern, and to develop recommendations and plans to address those issues. All of this in hopes of leading to a common goal of improving the quality of life for the residents of the Mahoning Valley.

Eastgate Regional Council of Governments is a voluntary association of local governments in northeast Ohio. Ashtabula County, Mahoning County, Trumbull County, and all cities, villages, and townships in the counties are members. Although our members are unique, they share many common interests. Eastgate brings communities together to create a unified voice in areas such as transportation, water and air quality, land use planning, and local infrastructure projects.

Eastgate Regional Council of Governments is directly responsible for a variety of federal, state, and local planning and project implementation programs. As the Metropolitan Planning Organization and Areawide Water Quality Management Agency for Mahoning and Trumbull Counties, and the designated Economic Development District, Eastgate continues to maintain required certifications and planning documents to qualify the region for federal and state funding. Other major areas of responsibility include: State Capital Improvement Program administration for the District 6 Public Works Integrating Committee, Administration of the Local Development District of the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Government Marketing Assistance Program, intergovernmental review, designated air quality planning agency, administration of the regional Rideshare Program, administration of the Clean Ohio Program, and local project sponsor for the Mahoning River Dredging Project Feasibility Study.

Eastgate Regional Council of Governments General Policy Board is the governing body of the agency. The board consists of elected and appointed representatives from our member communities, as well as the Ohio Department of Transportation, the Western Reserve Transit Authority, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and the Eastgate Citizens Advisory Board. General Policy Board meetings are held quarterly.

The Finance/Executive Committee, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and the Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) also help guide agency plans and programs. The Finance/Executive Committee is comprised of elected officials from the GPB and is responsible for budget development and review, as well as fiscal recommendations to the GPB. The TAC is comprised of engineering and planning officials from the area who assist with the development of technical studies and project implementation programs. The CAB, comprised of residents from the area, considers methods and techniques to maximize and insure citizen representation and participation in Eastgate's planning activities.

The above boards and committees, along with the Executive Director and Eastgate's staff, work together to find regional solutions for the challenges of our region.

Funding the Future

Planning for the Region

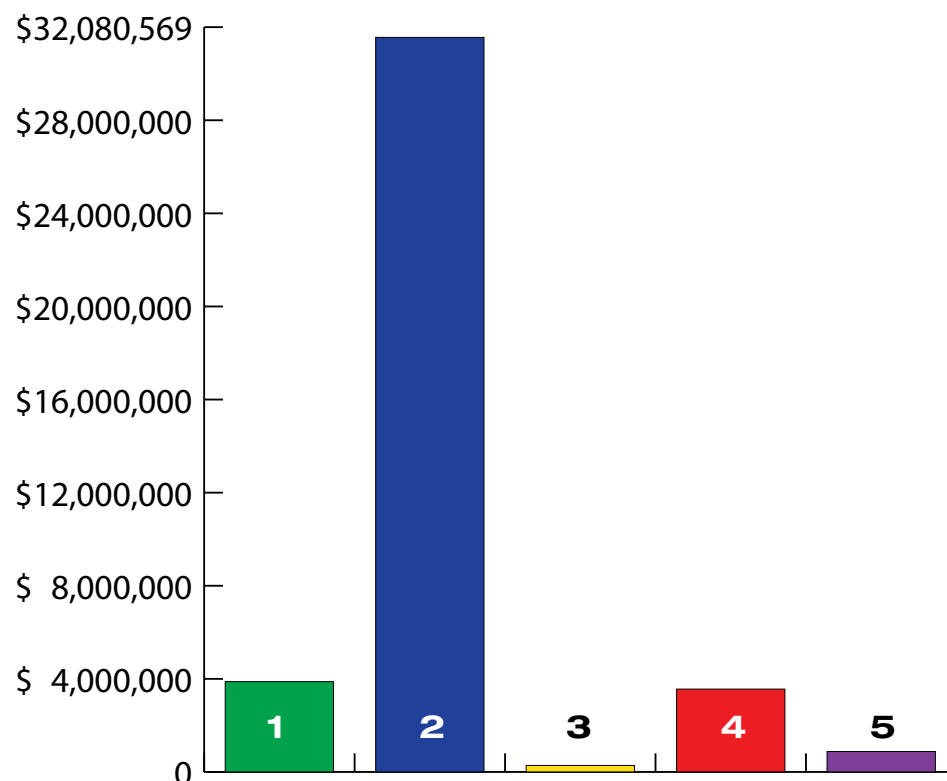
Over \$40 Million in Federal Funds Obligated for the Valley

As the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Mahoning and Trumbull Counties, Eastgate is required to prepare a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP is a plan listing all of the short-range transportation projects to be completed in a certain time frame. The Fiscal Year 2008-2011 TIP provides a comprehensive listing of highway, bridge, and transit system improvements within the planning area that will be utilizing federal and state funding. These improvements, listed first in Eastgate's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), must also be listed in Eastgate's TIP to receive funding. Maintaining the TIP and LRTP continues to keep Mahoning and Trumbull Counties eligible to receive federal and state transportation funds.

Approximately \$40.6 million in federal funds were obligated for forty transportation projects in the Mahoning Valley between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008.

The breakdown of expenditures by project type shows:

Project Type	Federal Funding	Percentage
1. Roadway Capacity	\$ 3,941,500	9.7 %
2. Road Operation and Maintenance	\$ 32,080,569	78.9 %
3. Bike/Pedestrian	\$ 126,000	0.3 %
4. Transit	\$ 3,571,112	8.9 %
5. Planning/Engineering	\$ 899,839	2.2 %



Open for Business in 2008

City of Hubbard Citywide Signal System Upgrade

This project was an upgrade to the U.S. Route 62/S.R. 7/S.R. 304 signal system within the City of Hubbard. The upgrade allows the signal system to operate in multiple time of day/day of week patterns or as part of a traffic responsive closed loop system. Operating in a more efficient manner, the proposed improvements will reduce vehicle emissions and improve air quality.



Mahoning Avenue Resurfacing Project

This project included resurfacing of Mahoning Avenue between Meridian Road and Meander Reservoir. The project length is 5.8 miles, and includes pavement markings, handicap ramps and removing the abandoned railroad crossing west of Meridian Road. Total project cost was \$2,500,000.

U.S. Route 224/Lockwood Boulevard/Tippecanoe Road

The purpose of this project was to improve safety and reduce delay at this heavily traveled intersection. The U.S. Route 224 west approach is now six lanes consisting of two through lanes in each direction and dual left turn lanes. The U.S. Route 224 east approach remains six lanes, consisting of four through lanes (two in each direction), a left turn lane, and a right turn lane. The Lockwood Boulevard north approach was widened to six lanes, comprised of three through lanes (two north bound and one south bound through lane), dual left turn lanes, and a right turn lane. On the Tippecanoe Road south approach, the project widened the road to four lanes consisting of two through lanes (one through lane in each direction), a left turn lane, and a right turn lane. Traffic signals were upgraded to accommodate the additional lanes. Total project cost was \$4,700,000.



Fallen Firefighters Memorial Bridge

(Formerly Spring Common Bridge)

The bridge, originally built in 1949 by the Mt. Vernon Bridge Company, was re-opened on October 17, 2008. Work included rehabilitation and resurfacing of the bridge deck, minor structural and sidewalk repair, and painting of all structural steel. Total construction cost was \$5,164,226.



The South Raccoon Road Pedestrian Sidewalk

The installation of the pedestrian sidewalk and elevated boardwalk will provide a safe walking corridor for Austintown Township students and residents. The project limits are from the intersection of South Raccoon Road/Burkey Road to the intersection of Viall Road/South Raccoon Road. The concrete walk is 4 feet wide, and the wooden boardwalk is 6 feet wide. The project complies with all American with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Ohio Department of Transportation Design requirements. Total project cost was \$200,000.



Serving the Region

Promoting Alternative Modes of Transportation for the Valley



It's as easy as Point, Click, and Ride!

As the price of gasoline began to climb past the \$3 per gallon range, Eastgate increased its efforts to promote the Rideshare program. Public service informational articles appeared in the local newspapers, as well as radio announcements that aired on various Clear Channel stations. These efforts resulted in successful Rideshare commuter matches.

The goal of Rideshare is to reduce the number of single occupancy vehicles in congested areas by providing information on carpool, vanpool, and transit service to residents of our region. Eastgate is pleased to offer OhioRideshare as a free ride matching service to the residents of northeast Ohio. OhioRideshare is a cooperative service offered by Eastgate, the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS), and the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA). It gives residents from 13 counties in Northeast Ohio the ability to identify potential carpool partners through a GIS web-based system. Everything is done directly on the internet with the user in control of the personal information that is shown to other carpoolers. Individuals interested in establishing a potential carpool may contact one another by e-mail to discuss transportation needs. The website offers features such as mileage tracking, cost savings calculator, and the approximate amount of air pollutants reduced by ridesharing. Now, finding a carpool partner is as easy as Point, Click, Ride! Please visit our rideshare website at www.OhioRideshare.com. The website is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Individuals who do not have an e-mail address or access to the internet may still participate in the program by calling Eastgate.

Meeting State Requirements for Public Transit

Eastgate's Transportation Development Plan (TDP) is prepared each year in order to meet state requirements for regional planning. The TDP gives a five year overview of scheduled capital improvements, fare structures, route schedules, environmental justice, and budgetary information for public transit providers within the Eastgate urbanized area. The Fiscal Year 2009-2013 TDP was published in August 2008. Copies of the TDP are available on our website, or at Eastgate.

Assisting those in Need ~ Vehicles Provided Using Specialized Transportation Program

Each year, Eastgate administers the Specialized Transportation Program (STP) for our urbanized area. This competitive capital grant program is sponsored by the Federal Transit Administration to assist the elderly and people with disabilities to obtain transportation in areas where it is unavailable or insufficient. The STP program provides funding to purchase small buses, vans, and/or computer equipment. Eligible applicants for the program are private nonprofit organizations and qualifying public entities.

The annual STP grant application workshop was held on November 18, 2008. Seven agencies attended the meeting. This year, representatives from the TESCO Corporation brought a light transit vehicle and a modified mini-van to the workshop for the agencies to view. Award letters to successful applicants will be sent out in 2009.

Serving the Region

Pavement Rating Workshop

In 2008, Eastgate and the Ohio Department of Transportation hosted a Pavement Condition Rating (PCR) Workshop at Youngstown State University. The instructors were from ODOT's Office of Pavement Engineering. ODOT uses a visual inspection to rate the pavement condition of roads. A range from 1-100 is used, with a score of 100 equaling perfect pavement. By conducting the survey every two years, ODOT is able to track the roads in need of repair or paving. The goal of this workshop was to encourage and assist local communities to create and utilize a pavement rating system. The rating process can assist with the maintenance and paving of local roads. Everyone attending received a pavement condition rating manual, and a copy of the Local PCR Access Database software.

The workshop began with an overview of the pavement rating process and explanations of the rating method. ODOT then reviewed the different types of pavement distress (cracking, patching, potholes, etc.). A field exercise followed where participants were able to visually inspect a few sections along some local roads. A worksheet was used to write down the pavement conditions.

After the exercise, ODOT introduced everyone to the Local PCR Access Database software. ODOT then demonstrated how to create new road sections and enter the pavement information collected from the field exercise. The software automatically generated a rating for the road sections. Once all ratings are completed in the field and entered into the computer, a clear and concise report can be produced showing the pavement condition for every road segment in a community.



A Safer Mahoning Valley

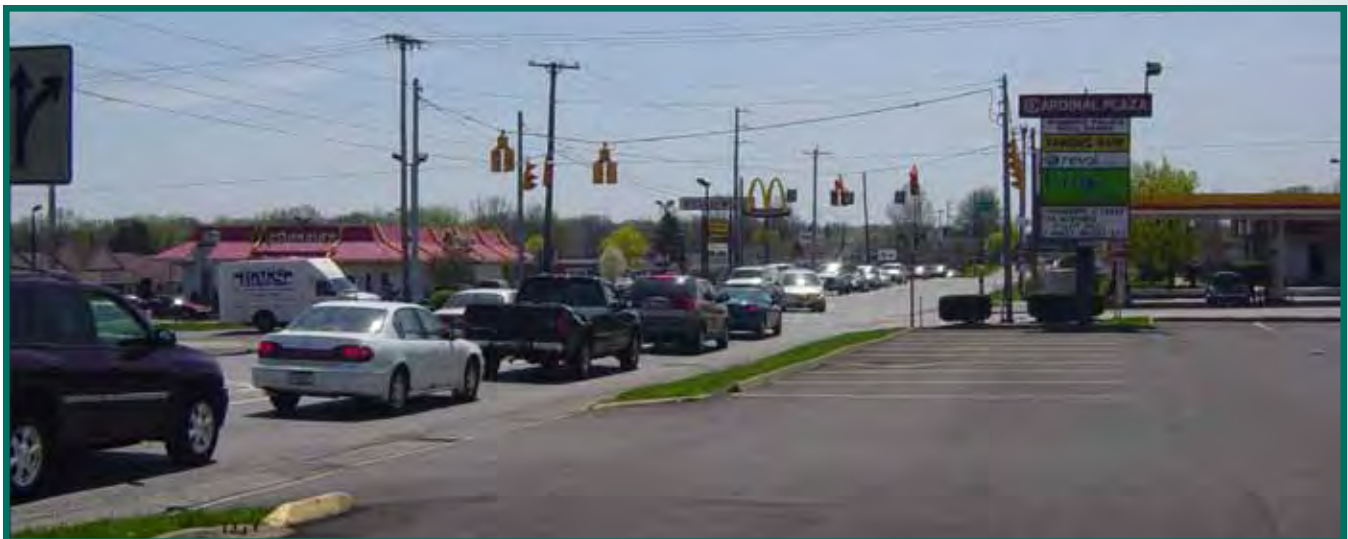
Eastgate's Safety Program Provides Studies to Help Reduce Accidents

Traffic accidents are a major concern due to the high costs associated with injuries and property damage. Another side effect is the roadway congestion caused by accidents. In 2007, there were over twelve thousand accidents throughout Mahoning and Trumbull Counties. In an attempt to reduce the number of accidents, the State of Ohio administers a safety program to help fund projects at high accident locations. To help local communities receive safety funds, Eastgate maintains a large database of crash data. Each year the Ohio Department of Transportation maps approximately 80 percent of the accidents throughout Mahoning and Trumbull Counties. Eastgate receives the data and continues by mapping the remaining 20 percent. In 2008, Eastgate mapped crashes occurring between 2004 and 2007. Over these four years, there were over fifty thousand total accidents within both counties, and Eastgate mapped over eight thousand of that total. Mapping the accidents enables Eastgate and our local communities to visualize a number of safety problems and identify potential safety projects.

Eastgate also used the crash data to make special maps showing certain types of accidents. For example, last year Eastgate produced maps for Mahoning and Trumbull Counties showing fatal crashes, alcohol related crashes, motorcycle related crashes, and deer related crashes.

Eastgate Studies the Raccoon Road Corridor

Last year, Eastgate completed the Raccoon Road Crash Analysis Report. The study analyzes a four-mile section from Mahoning Avenue to US 62, as well as those signalized intersections that fall between. The corridor was divided into seven segments and six intersections, and had a combined total of three hundred and forty-three accidents. The corridor study was able to identify the highest crash areas, analyze crash patterns, and determine appropriate countermeasures.



Serving the Region

Eastgate Coordinates with our Neighbors in Pennsylvania

SAFETEA-LU legislation requires that urbanized areas with a population over 200,000 prepare a Coordinated Public Transit-Human Service Transportation Plan to receive assistance from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in any of the following grant programs: (FTA) Section 5316 Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC), FTA Section 5317 New Freedom (NF), and FTA Section 5310 Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities. Eastgate's urbanized area incorporates two states for transit planning activities, and has three operating transit systems in the Youngstown, OH-PA urbanized area. Two designated recipients were named for the urbanized area to be eligible for transit assistance in FTA's JARC and NF programs. The Western Reserve Transit Authority was named the designated recipient to apply for FTA JARC and NF funding in Ohio, and the Mercer County Regional Council of Governments was named for the City of Sharon urbanized area in Mercer, Pennsylvania. Any agency applying for FTA Section 5310 grant program (the van program) administered by Eastgate for the Ohio Department of Transportation Office of Transit, is required to participate in the coordinated plan to be eligible for funding.

The OH-PA Coordinated Public Transit-Human Service Transportation Plan for Mahoning, Trumbull and Mercer Counties was finalized in April 2008. The following project sponsors provided financial and planning assistance to develop the coordinated plan: Eastgate Regional Council of Governments, Western Reserve Transit Authority, Niles Trumbull Transit, Mercer County Regional Planning Commission, Mercer County Regional Council of Governments, and the Shenango Valley Shuttle Service. In cooperation with all the project sponsors listed above, an Advisory Committee was developed to assist the project sponsors with the development of the transportation coordination plan. The advisory committee includes a cross section of representatives from the public and private sector in the OH-PA urbanized area.

An extensive regional community outreach effort to develop the coordination plan included several public forums, workshops, and focus groups with older persons, persons with disabilities, and low income individuals. The community outreach efforts were highly publicized by the media and attracted private and non-profit organizations, government officials, and members of the general public in Mahoning, Trumbull, and Mercer Counties.

Eastgate's Procurement Program Helps Local Companies Receive Federal Contracts Worth Close to \$8 Million

The Procurement Program has completed 22 years of providing government contracting assistance to local companies. In 2008, the program's active client base of 227 companies successfully competed on, and won, 24 federal government contracts worth close to eight million dollars. These contracts resulted in a positive impact on dozens of jobs throughout the Mahoning Valley, and have increasingly resulted in new business for companies located in Mahoning, Trumbull, and Columbiana Counties.

The program continues to offer extensive one-on-one counseling and technical assistance for all businesses interested in the federal marketplace. We provide orientation to the federal procurement system, help with developing marketing strategies, identification of bidding opportunities and seminars on technical subjects. We continually provide our clients with updated information on new and revised government regulations and initiatives.

The Traffic Counting Program

During 2008, Eastgate completed one hundred and seventy-three traffic counts throughout Trumbull and Mahoning Counties. Each year, Eastgate receives requests from local communities and agencies to perform various types of traffic counts. Traffic studies can consist of 24-hour volume counts, speed counts, truck counts, or intersection counts. Last year, Eastgate's main focus was conducting traffic counts at approximately one hundred and fifty public rail crossings throughout Mahoning and Trumbull Counties. Rail crossing safety is a high priority for the State of Ohio. In 2006, there were one hundred and forty-four motor vehicle/train crashes in Ohio resulting in eleven deaths. The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio maintains a database of all public railroad crossings throughout the State, and the number of cars crossing is an important part of the database. Traffic volumes at crossings can determine the need for lights, gates or other safety upgrades.

During 2008 the following organizations and communities requested traffic counts:

Trumbull County	Mahoning County
Trumbull Co. Engineers	Mahoning Co. Engineers
Trumbull Co. Sanitary Engineers	Youngstown
Warren	Struthers
McDonald	Campbell
Lordstown	Austintown Township
Newton Falls	Jackson Township
Brookfield Township	New Middletown
Orangeville	Beaver Township
Weathersfield Township	Green Township
Champion Township	Milton Township
Vernon Township	
Southington Township	
Hubbard Township	
Bazetta Township	



Planning for a Cleaner Environment

Eastgate's Environmental Planning Advisory Committee Discusses Regional Environmental Issues

~The Region's Forum for Environmental Planning Issues

Throughout 2008, Eastgate's EPAC met four times to learn about and discuss relevant, regional environmental issues. We started the year off right with a presentation by the Sustainability Program Manager for the City of Cleveland, detailing their local sustainability and energy efficiency efforts and how the Mahoning Valley can gain useful information from what Cleveland has learned. Hopefully some seeds of change were planted after hearing about the great progress our neighbor to the north has made. In April, the committee learned about Ohio EPA rules and best practices for stream and ditch cleaning and Phase II Stormwater Implementation. July's meeting was very well attended due to a presentation by Dovetail Solar on solar and wind technology. The meeting provided such great information that the Trumbull County Commissioners followed up with Dovetail on performing a cost estimate analysis for solar panels on a county building. Our final educational meeting in 2008 was on Emergency Response measures in the Valley, with presentations from both the Mahoning County Office of Emergency Management and the Mahoning Valley Sanitary District. All in all, a great year's worth of information!

Residents of Ohio Vote for Clean Ohio Fund Once Again

~ Ohio Voters pass the ballot initiative extending the program

There was an obvious silence in land preservation efforts around Ohio in 2007 as funding for the Clean Ohio Fund ran dry. In 2000, Ohio voters approved a four-year bond issue called the Clean Ohio Fund to allocate funding for projects in the categories of: open space conservation, farmland preservation, Brownfield revitalization, and trails. Unfortunately, after years of successful projects across the state, the Fund was depleted. Then during the November 2008 elections, Ohio voters once again passed a ballot initiative extending the Fund with another \$400 million bond program. Mahoning and Trumbull Counties wasted no time in starting up another round of the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund. Round 5 began in October of 2008 with a call for pre-applications due in the same month. The final application submission would not be due until the beginning of 2009, but the amount requested in funding through the pre-applications received in October 2008 was significant. The continued interest in land conservation proves that the bi-partisan statewide effort to pass the Ballot Initiative was a success, the Clean Ohio Fund is good for our economy, our health, and our way of life. Eastgate looks forward to many more years of administering the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund program.



The Region's Air Quality

EPA Officially Designates Counties as Meeting the Ozone Standard

On March 12th, 2008 the US EPA met its requirements of the Clean Air Act by signing the most stringent 8-hour standard ever for ozone, revising the standards for the first time in more than a decade. The agency based the changes on the most recent scientific evidence about the effects of ozone, the primary component of smog. The new primary 8-hour standard is 0.075 parts per million (ppm). The previous standard was 0.08 ppm.

The United States has made significant progress reducing ground-level ozone across the country. Since 1980, ozone levels have dropped 21 percent as EPA, states and local governments have worked together to improve the quality of the nation's air. EPA expects improvement to continue, as a result of landmark regulations such as the Clean Air Interstate Rule, to reduce emissions from power plants in the East, and the Clean Diesel Program, to reduce emissions from highway, nonroad and stationary diesel engines nationwide.

EPA selected the levels for the final standards after reviewing more than 1,700 peer-reviewed scientific studies about the effects of ozone on public health and welfare, and after considering advice from the agency's external scientific advisors and staff, along with public comment. EPA held five public hearings and received nearly 90,000 written comments.

What did the new standard mean for the Valley? Although Eastgate's forecasters, Sonoma Technology, Inc., predicted the number of days reaching the Air Quality Advisory Day threshold (>100 AQI) for ozone in the Valley would increase from 3 days to 22 days under the new standard, in 2008 our area only reached the Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups level on 4 days. In 2008, Eastgate declared 13 days as Air Quality Advisory Days as opposed to 15 in 2007. So, it is good to remember that air quality in Ohio has consistently improved over the past 30 years. What keeps changing is the standard by which U.S. EPA defines "clean." Please log onto our air quality web site at www.mahoningvalleyair.org for more details.

Communities Continue to Sign Green Pact

In July the first signing of the Trumbull-Mahoning Green Pact became a reality. Representatives from the Trumbull County Commissioners, Liberty Township, Lordstown, Weathersfield, and Niles gathered during a Commissioner's meeting to put pen to paper showing their support of green initiatives in the Valley. The City of Warren also signed the Pact at a later time.

The Green Pact articulates ten goals signee's are asked to work to accomplish, ranging from "Greening Public Fleets" to "Building Green Facilities and Reducing Energy Consumption". While not a binding contract, supporters will be given the opportunity to attend educational workshops and will have proof of their desire to "go green" which just may come in handy while applying for many types of grants.

The signing ceremony for Mahoning County officials and several more Trumbull County officials is scheduled for January 2009. Eastgate is proud to be the regional gathering place for sustainable initiatives, education and commitments in the Mahoning Valley.



Trumbull County Officials Sign Green Pact.

Planning for a Cleaner Environment

A Year for the 208 Plan

Fiscal Year 2008 centered on completing the 208 Water Quality Management Plan (208 Plan) update. Though funding presented an obstacle at times, Eastgate remained committed to producing a thorough document representative of current environmental trends. Eastgate worked with local government officials, planning agencies, health departments, and watershed groups to restructure the 1970's plan and form relevant regional recommendations and policies. The final outcome of this collaboration is a plan highlighting the water quality issues in our region, promoting the protection of our area's critical resources (i.e. surface drinking water sources, wetlands, and riparian corridors), and an in depth discussion of the home sewage treatment systems utilized in our region and the impacts failing systems have on water quality.

Goals for the original 208 Plan were developed based on needs to curb point source pollution and collect and treat municipal wastewater. Since the late 1970's, water quality improved with the development of wastewater treatment plants. This improvement left new goals to be established to compliment the update of the 208 Plan. The following goals were created for the continual development and update of the 208 Plan:

- The plan should utilize a regional watershed approach to protect the region's surface waters and the watersheds that feed into them by coordinating resource agency efforts as the basis for management planning;
- The plan should be protective of the environmental gains our region has achieved and continue to reinforce the benefits of such gains by promoting the further protection of the planning area's critical resources;
- The plan should incorporate and reinforce protective measures utilized by governing agencies and outline additional measures to assure the region's water resources achieve state attainment standards;
- The plan should provide a locally driven ideal for development density that supports existing infrastructure and is supportive of water quality protection and protection of the region's other critical resources; and,
- The plan should serve as an educational tool for local officials and the public on regional water quality management issues.

Eastgate's work, as well as involvement in local watershed group committees, and supporting roles in outside agency committees, will ensure the goals of the 208 Plan are met. In April, the 208 Plan was submitted to the Ohio EPA to undergo the process for state certification. It is currently still within the process and awaiting final certification by Governor Strickland. As a living document, the 208 Plan will be regularly updated, and all updates will be posted on the Environmental Program's section of Eastgate's website.

Public Works Projects in the Valley

Over the last 24 years, Mahoning and Trumbull Counties have received over \$200 million for a vast array of public works projects. In 2008, (Program Year 2009) forty-four projects totaling \$12.98 million were chosen for funding by the District 6 Public Works Integrating Committee.

The District 6 Public Works Integrating Committee (D6PWIC), who is tasked with evaluating and selecting public works projects to receive State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP) and Local Transportation Improvement Program (LTIP) funds had a more challenging job than normal in 2008. This was because the Commissioners of the Ohio Public Works Commission provided the District Integrating Committees with twice as much funding for the State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP). The D6PWIC received \$8.95 million for Program Year 2009 projects. The SCIP is funded by the sale of bonds, and this has been the case since 1987; however, this is the first time that additional funds have been available. Since 1989, the Local Transportation Improvement Program (LTIP) has been funded by a \$0.01 gasoline tax. D6PWIC received \$2.865 million for LTIP projects for Program Year 2009. Eastgate staff serves as both Administrator to the D6PWIC, and as a Liaison between the D6PWIC and the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC). Since 1987, the communities in District 6 have received over \$200 million in SCIP, LTIP, and Small Government funds to complete infrastructure projects that would be very difficult to fund using only local sources.

In Program Year 2009, awards were made to fund twenty-six SCIP projects. These include five sanitary sewer projects, five storm water projects, two bridge projects and fourteen road projects. Many of the road projects also had drainage/storm water improvements as part of the funding request. The Committee also chose five applications to be "Bubble" projects. These projects, consisting of three storm water, one sanitary sewer, and one water treatment project will proceed as soon as funding permits. Also chosen for funding were three SCIP loan projects, consisting of one waterline, one storm water, and one sanitary sewer project. In addition to the twenty-six grant and three loan projects, the remaining two Program Year 2008 SCIP bubble projects were also funded. The SCIP projects will proceed as soon as the OPWC is able to get funding agreements to the applicants. In most cases the projects will be able to proceed in March or April 2009. In all, the SCIP projects total over \$9.055 million.

The Committee chose eleven highway and/or bridge projects to be funded using LTIP funds. These projects total \$2.825 million. Also chosen were three "Bubble" projects that will proceed after the eleven primary projects, and as soon as funding levels permit. LTIP projects will receive their notices to proceed in July of 2009.

The D6PWIC submitted the ten highest scoring Small Government (less than 5,000 population) Projects to the OPWC in December 2008. The OPWC Small Government Committee will meet in February 2009 to choose the best projects for funding. Needless to say, since projects from all over Ohio are vying for funding, the competition is fierce. District 6 had two projects that were awarded funds: the villages of McDonald and Sebring.

Economic Development in the Valley

The Youngstown Business Incubator Receives National Recognition in 2008

Partially funded through a U.S. Economic Development Administration grant, the Youngstown Business Incubator has grown into a nationally recognized success. Throughout 2008 the good news kept coming. In April, ABC News featured Turning Technologies on their popular Ahead of the Curve series, adding to the firm's national recognition. Previously, Turning Technologies received the coveted 4Star Quality Award from PC Magazine, Inc. when the publication ranked them the fastest growing software company in the country, and they topped the Weatherhead 100 list.

On May 19th, 2008, the new \$6 million Taft Technology Center was officially opened. The center is located adjacent to the Incubator and is the new home of Turning Technologies and other accelerated companies from the YBI program. The EDA contributed \$2 million towards the new center, showing continued federal commitment to the incubator and its success. Due to the demand for space, the YBI began a \$3 million renovation of the Semple Building, adjacent to the Taft Center, to house more of their accelerated companies. And in 2010, they will begin renovations of the Wells Building which is located on the other side of the Incubator.



Also in May, the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration announced twenty-nine finalists for the EDA Excellence in Economic Development Awards. In the category of Excellence in Urban or Suburban Economic Development, according to the EDA, "nominations are evaluated to determine how effectively they utilize innovative, market-based strategies to improve urban or suburban economic development results." Much to our delight, Youngstown Edison Incubator Corporation and Youngstown Central Area Community Improvement Corporation's Taft Technology Center, were finalists for this award.

Ohio's Third Frontier program granted funding for two Youngstown Business Incubator portfolio companies in 2008. First, Syncro Medical Innovations received a \$350,000 grant to help bring to market the company's proprietary medical feeding tube technology. Youngstown State University received \$2.1 million for the creation of the Center for

Excellence in Advanced Materials Analyses in collaboration with the Ohio Supercomputer Center, and Fireline TCON, Inc., an Incubator portfolio company.

Finally, in July, the national public policy organization PolicyLink released a report, To Be Strong Again: Renewing the Promise in Smaller Industrial Cities which stated: "The Youngstown Business Incubator, which has turned the city into a hot spot for business-to-business software development, is creating jobs and reversing the 'brain drain'. Against all odds, YBI has made Youngstown the place to be for B2B software developers." The Business Incubator is a great asset to the area, and is continually growing.

Spotlight on Eastgate

Eastgate Celebrates Accomplishments of One of Our Own

On May 28, 2008, James T. Wells, Eastgate's Director of Special Projects retired after 28 years of dedicated service. Prior to holding that position, Jim was Eastgate's Director of Transportation. An open house was held at Eastgate to celebrate his accomplishments, and to share in a good hardy laugh at some of the more humorous stories that occurred in his nearly three decades of working for Eastgate. We wish Jim and his family all the best.



James T. Wells

Director Serves as President of OARC

Eastgate's Executive Director, John Getchey, served as the President of the Ohio Association of Regional Councils (OARC) in 2008. OARC is comprised of twenty-one regional agencies that serve over 1,500 local governments representing over 10 million residents in the state of Ohio. OARC's mission is to coordinate voices at a state and federal level; to strengthen the role and authority of regional councils; and to collaborate, coordinate and solve problems in the areas of transportation, environment and land use planning within the framework of state policy. OARC works very closely with FHWA, ODOT, OEPA, EDA, ODOD, and other Federal and state agencies in accomplishing these tasks. In January of 2009, Mr. Getchey was elected to a second term as President of OARC. Other officers of OARC for 2009 are Howard Maier, Executive Director of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency who will serve as Vice President and Robert Lawler, Transportation Director of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission who will serve as Secretary-Treasurer.

OVI Taskforce Recognition

Eastgate was recognized by the Mahoning County OVI Task Force for our commitment and support in helping to make the roads in Mahoning County safer by reducing alcohol and drug related crashes.

Member Spotlight

Joe Warino Named Fellow at National Society of Professional Engineers

Joe Warino P.E., P.S., Mahoning County Sanitary Engineer, was named one of thirty-five engineers in the National Society of Professional Engineers 2009 class of Fellows. The Fellow membership grade was established in 2000 to honor active National Society of Professional Engineers members who have demonstrated exemplary service to the profession and the community.

The County Engineers Association of Ohio Recognizes Two Eastgate Members

John Latell, P.E., P.S. who served as Trumbull County Engineer from 1994 to 2008 was recognized with a Lifetime Membership Award in 2008 by the County Engineers Association of Ohio (CEAO).

Mahoning County Engineer Richard Marsico served as the President of the CEAO for 2008.

Reaching Out

In 2008, Eastgate continued our commitment to provide a proactive public involvement process that provides complete information, timely public notice, full public access to key decisions, and supports early and continuing involvement of the public in developing the Transportation Improvement Program, the Transportation Plan, and other plans developed by Eastgate. The following is just a partial listing of our outreach in 2008:

In early 2008, Governor Strickland created the Ohio 21st Century Transportation Priorities Task Force in an effort to assist Ohio in envisioning its future transportation system. The Task Force itself is comprised of sixty-two representatives from both private and governmental sectors, all working together to balance the movement of freight and people, generate economic development, and to create jobs. They were also given the task of attempting to determine how to best finance Ohio's future transportation system.

To roll out the Governor's Task Force agenda, seven statewide regional meetings were held at various locations across the state. The public was invited to take part in a mixture of presentations regarding transportation related issues, and were given the opportunity to suggest what they felt Ohio's "future" emphasis areas should be with respect to linking all modes of transportation. Kathleen Rodi, Eastgate's Director of Transportation, and Ed Davis, Transportation Systems Program Manager, participated in the Ohio Department of Transportation's Northeast Regional Task Force Meeting, which was held at the John S. Knight Center in Akron, Ohio. Eastgate's presentation focused on Multimodal Opportunities within our planning area including:

the Youngstown/Warren Regional Airport, the Mahoning River Corridor of Opportunity, the B&O Station, the Western Reserve Transit Authority, the General Motors Lordstown Complex, and the Jackson Township Industrial Park.

Others participating in the Task Force meeting from the Eastgate area included James Ferraro, Executive Director-WRTA, who was one of the moderators presiding over the event, and William D'Avignon, Youngstown's Director of Community Development and Planning, who gave a presentation on "Right-sizing Cities." Mr. Ferraro was designated to be a member of the Promoting a Multi-Modal Transportation System Committee.



Bill D'Avignon, Director of Community Development for the City of Youngstown, speaks to the crowd.

Eastgate Invited to Participate in the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Planning Partners' Meeting

Eastgate was invited to participate in PennDot's Fall Planning Partners' meeting that was held at the Hilton Garden Inn at Southpointe, in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. Executive Director John Getchey, and Kathleen Rodi, Eastgate's Director of Transportation, attended the three-day working session along with more than two-hundred PennDot District Planning and Programming Managers from the Commonwealth, and several others from outside Pennsylvania.

Representing the state of Ohio, John Getchey and Howard Maier, the Executive Director of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency in Cleveland, Ohio were presenters at the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) and Regional Planning Organizations (RPO) Round Table plenary session. For the MPO/RPO plenary session, they were joined by Steven Gayle, from the Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study, Binghamton, New York. Eastgate's presentation topics included: General Policy Board composition; the Ohio's Association of Regional Councils (OARC); and interaction with OARC, ODOT, Multi-Purpose Agencies and other MPO's within Ohio. Also discussed was the collaborative partnership and coordination between Eastgate and ODOT's District 4 office such as: MPO quarterly meetings, fatality crash reviews, TIP project review meetings, air quality and State Implementation Plan interagency consultation, fund transfers and partnerships, project monitoring and implementation, Operating Vehicle Impaired (OVI) Task Force, and ODOT's Project Development Process for Major, Minor, and Minimal Projects.

Federal Agency's Recertify Eastgate

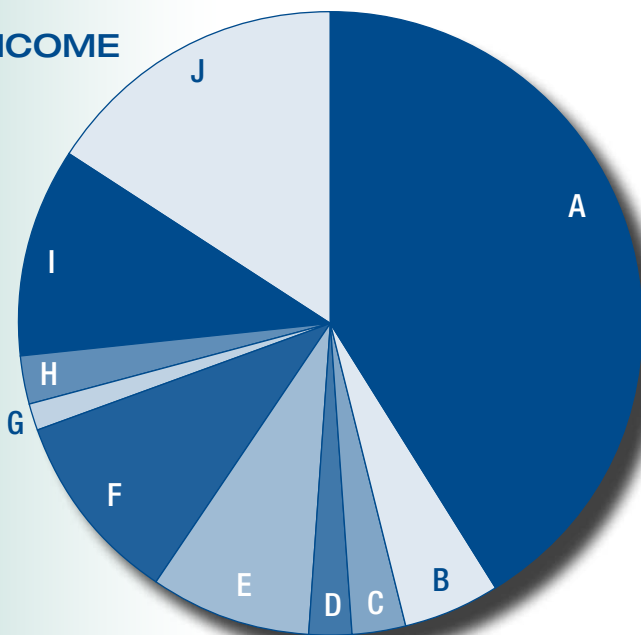
On August 26 & 27th, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) met with Eastgate to certify that the agency continues to meet the Federal Compliance and Planning Regulations for the Youngstown-Warren Transportation Management Area (TMA). Other participants included the Ohio Department of Transportation's Central and District Four offices, transit providers represented by the Niles Trumbull Transit System and the Western Reserve Transit Authority, and public input represented by the president of the Northeast Homeowners and Concerned Citizens Association. The certification consisted of a review of planning products, a site visit, and will conclude with the preparation of a Certification Report to be issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation Review Team. The report is usually issued within six to nine months after the site visit, and documents the results of the review process and reflects any commendations and/or recommendations that ought to be expanded and/or improved within Eastgate's TMA to either the overall planning process, or a specific area of concentration. The last certification review was held in July 2004, and was conducted on a three year cycle. However, with the passage of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act - A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), the review is now scheduled for every four years and FHWA and FTA must jointly certify the transportation planning process in each TMA. Items discussed included:

- Summary of 2004 FHWA/FTA Recommendations and Eastgate's Compliance Efforts
- Status of Regional Transportation Planning - Committee Structure, Memorandums of Understanding, Interstate/Intraregional Coordination, Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Freight and Safety Planning Efforts in the Region
- Congestion Management Process and Intelligent Transportation Systems
- Fiscal Constraint in the LRTP and TIP
- Non-Motorized Planning - Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning

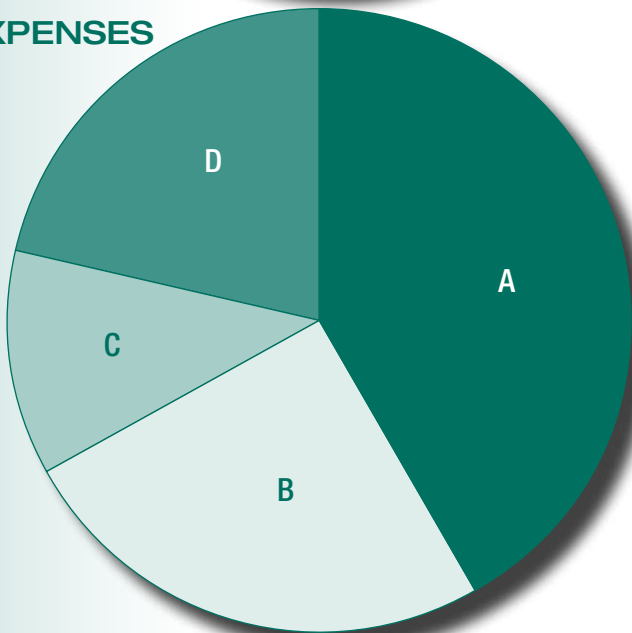
Eastgate Planning Funds

Federal, State, and local funding to support the Eastgate planning programs are provided through a number of sources. Our Transportation Program planning funds are provided by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). Our Environmental Planning Program funds are provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the Ohio EPA. Federal funding from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the Federal Department of Defense help to support our Economic Development and Federal Procurement Programs. The local dues provided by our member communities and the administration fees from our State Capital Improvement Program and Clean Ohio Programs are used to match the Federal and State program funds and to implement local planning activities. The funding data shown is for State Fiscal Year 2009.

INCOME



EXPENSES



BUDGET TABLES

SFY2009 INCOME TABLE

A) FHWA*	\$ 779,413
B) ODOT*	\$ 97,427
C) EDA	\$ 52,628
D) RIDESHARE (CMAQ)	\$ 40,000
E) STP PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION/SPECIAL STUDIES	\$ 160,000
F) AIR QUALITY (CMAQ)	\$ 190,000
G) FEDERAL WATER QUALITY (604B)	\$ 25,796
H) FEDERAL PROCUREMENT (DOD/MVEDC)	\$ 47,360
I) FY2008 STP/CMAQ CARRYOVER	\$ 202,390
J) LOCAL**	\$ 298,953

TOTAL \$ 1,893,967

SFY2009 EXPENSES

A) SALARY	\$ 792,060
B) FRINGE	\$ 479,671
C) OVERHEAD	\$ 218,301
D) CONTRACTS & OTHER PROGRAM DIRECTS	\$ 403,935

TOTAL \$ 1,893,967

* Includes FY09 Funds & FY08 Carryover Amounts

** Local includes member dues and State Capital Improvement Program Administration

Eastgate Regional Council of Governments General Policy Board - 2008

Chairman: Fred Hanley Hubbard Township Trustee	Mayor Arthur Magee City of Hubbard
Vice-Chairman: Mark Buccilli Mahoning County Engineer's Office	Richard Marsico Mahoning County Engineer
Mayor Michael Chaffee Village of Lordstown	Commissioner John McNally, IV Mahoning County
Eric M. Czetti ODOT District 4	Mayor Mary McNatt Village of Beloit
Mayor Jack Dill City of Campbell	Mayor James Melfi City of Girard
Mayor Larry Ellis Village of Craig Beach	Mayor Curt Moll City of Cortland
James Ferraro WRTA	Mayor Michael O'Brien City of Warren
Commissioner Frank Fuda Trumbull County	Mayor Allen Patchin Village of West Farmington
Warren Harrell Citizens Advisory Board	Commissioner Dan Polivka Trumbull County
Commissioner Paul Heltzel Trumbull County	Mayor Tim Scafuse Village of Poland
Mark Hess City of Niles	Bill Skowronski Ohio EPA, NE District
Mayor Glenn Holmes Village of McDonald	Mayor John Smith Village of Sebring
Mayor Ralph Infante City of Niles	Mayor Norm Sommers Village of Washingtonville
Mayor James Iudiciani Village of Lowellville	Mayor Terry Stocker City of Struthers
Mayor Harry Kale Village of New Middletown	Bill Totten City of Warren
Mayor William Kay City of Canfield	Commissioner Anthony Traficanti Mahoning County
Alan Knapp Trumbull County Planning Commission	Mayor Jay Williams City of Youngstown
John Latell Trumbull County Engineer	Heflin Willingham Citizens Advisory Board
Mayor Patrick Layshock City of Newton Falls	
Commissioner David Ludt Mahoning County	

Eastgate Regional Council of Governments Technical Advisory Committee - 2008

<i>Chairman:</i> Mark Buccilli Mahoning County Engineer's Office	Misty Koletich Mahoning-Trumbull Pollution Control	Richard Roller Youngstown Area Community Action Council
<i>Vice Chairman:</i> Randy Smith Trumbull County Engineer's Office	Jack Krompegel Mahoning County Engineer's Office	Charles Shasho City of Youngstown
Eric Czetti ODOT - District 4	John Latell Trumbull County Engineer	Bill Skowronski OEPA
Bill D'Avignon Youngstown City Planning	Richard Marsico Mahoning County Engineer	Chuck Tieche City of Canfield
Rex Fee Trumbull County Sanitary Engineer's Office	Mayor Jim Melfi Girard	Bill Totten City of Warren
Mark Hess City of Niles	Jack Noble ODOT District 4	Joseph Warino Mahoning County Sanitary Engineer
David Imbrogno Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District	Tom Nugen WRTA	Terry Thomas Community Bus Services, Inc. non-voting member
Alan Knapp Trumbull County Planning Commission	Michael O'Shaughnessy Mahoning County Planning Commission	

Eastgate Regional Council of Governments Citizens Advisory Board - 2008

Chairman: James J. Pirko	Robert Freeland	Celeste Liberato
Vice Chairman: Ray DeCarlo	Daryl Gordon	Frank McClain
Jim Bolchalk	Joe Grenga	Don Moler
George Brundage	Fred G. Hanley, Jr.	Sister Martha Reed
Nancy Brundage	Warren Harrell	Michael Saxon
Fred Cannell	Victoria Hendrix	Jack Slanina
Jim Converse	Robert Horvath	Thomas Smalls
Thomas Cooksey	Gerald Hurayt	Jim Thompson
Yoko Marie Dawson	Paula Kohler	Heflin Willingham
Adeline Fields	Dick Lane	Stephen Zugay

Eastgate Regional Council of Governments Staff- 2008

John R. Getchey, P.E. Executive Director	Mirta Reyes-Chapman Program Manager	Procurement Program Norma Webb Procurement Program Director
Administrative Staff Patricia Atwood Director of Administrative Services	Randy Samulka Senior Planner	Public Outreach Lisa Pompeo Public Information Administrator
Jane Shorokey Secretary/Accounting Clerk	Kathy Zook Senior Planner	State Capital Improvement Program Jim Wells Director of Special Projects
Transportation Staff Kathleen Rodi Director of Transportation	Comprehensive Planning Tim Yova Director of Comprehensive Planning	
Ken Sympton Director of Highway Planning	Stephanie Dyer Environmental Planner	
Paul Crabtree Transportation Planner	Jenny Geilhard Planner	
Ed Davis Program Manager	Rachel McCartney Senior Planner	



EASTGATE
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