

Legislative Committee & Port of Pittsburgh Commission Report – Scott Harshman (Port of Pittsburgh), Chair; Legislative Committee: Scott Harshman, Pat Kelly, and George Petrus

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:

1. **Waterways Council, Inc.’s Hill Day on Feb 8th:** Attended by David Podurgiel, Robert McCallister, Shane Checkan, Josh Konesni, James Guttman, Scott Harshman and Mary Ann Bucci
Priorities:
 - Continue to support Upper Ohio River Navigation System & Lower Mon Projects
 - Oppose additional taxation, tolling, and lockage fees
 - Expressed appreciation for the 65/35 cost-share change and permanency, and potential opportunities to take it to 75/25 cost-share
2. **Congressional Appropriations**
 - Both of our US Senators, Bob Casey and John Fetterman, are accepting programmatic and congressionally directed spending Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations Requests with submission **deadlines of March 17th**
 - Congressman Guy Reschenthaler, Mike Kelly, and GT Thompson are also taking requests - Checking with the offices of Chris Deluzio and Summer Lee as well
3. **Beaver County Chamber of Commerce’s Congressional Breakfast with Congressman Chris Deluzio is Tuesday, April 11th at 7:30am - Location TBD**
4. **US Army Corps planning Allegheny River meeting later this month and this spring**
5. **Governor Josh Shapiro’s first state budget was presented on March 7:**
 - Proposes total budget for 2023-2024 Fiscal year of \$44.4 billion – 3.6% increase
 - Includes a \$23.8 million investment in workforce training and apprenticeship programs and strengthening skills-building programs
 - Contains no new tax increases and calls for the elimination of mobile phone taxes

PORT OF PITTSBURGH COMMISSION:

1. **Recent events: USCG Industry Day, IRPT Ohio River Basin Meeting, Pittsburgh Traffic Club**
2. **Grant funding opportunities**
 - USDOT Port Infrastructure Development Program (open – due 4/28), FEMA Port Security Grant Program (open – due 5/18), USDOT MARAD Marine Highway Program (open – due 4/28 – **OHIO RIVER INTERESTS ONLY**), PortPitt Small Grants (coming soon) & PortPitt CMAQ (open)
3. **United States Marine Highway Program** – partnered with the City of Morgantown and submitted application for new Route Designation for Mon & Allegheny Rivers - **pending**
4. **Workforce Development** - Appalachian Regional Commission POWER Planning Grant
5. **Will be hosting “Our Three Rivers” program through Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Carnegie Mellon University the morning of the following Wednesdays: May 3, May 10, May 17, May 24, May 31 and June 7**
6. **US Army Corps of Engineers’ Inland Waterways User Board meeting tentatively scheduled to take place in Pittsburgh on April 13**
7. **OpenTug** - a digital platform to connect marine operators, terminals, and shippers – gave presentation at PortPitt’s most recent Board of Directors meeting

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