

PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS

# **A MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN**

for the

**“Fueling a Revolution” (FAR) &**

**“Mountains of Fire” (MOF)**

**Journey Areas**

**Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area**

Joy Wright Abbott

Hometown Planning & Design - Pittsburgh, PA

# PLAN GOALS

- Inventory industrial, cultural heritage, tourism, recreation, and natural resources.
- Identify interpretive themes and opportunities.
- Set priorities for investment.
- Develop strategies for expanding & promoting heritage conservation & tourism throughout the region.

# FAR / MOF FACTS & FIGURES

COUNTY	LAND AREA	POPULATION	% change	DENSITY	Med Hhd\$	Medn Home Val	Poverty	Bldg Permits
Fayette	790	146,142	-1.70%	188	\$29,415	\$63,900	15.90%	273
Greene	576	39,808	-2.10%	71	\$31,622	\$56,900	14.60%	144
Washington	857	206,406	1.70%	237	\$40,372	\$87,500	9.70%	1,004
Westmoreland	1,025	367,635	-0.60%	361	\$39,837	\$90,600	9.40%	1,236
	<b>3,248</b>	<b>759,991</b>						
Allegheny	730	1,235,841	-3.60%	1755	\$41,346	\$84,200	10.80%	2,511
Pennsylvania	44,817	12,429,616	1.20%	274	\$42,952	\$97,000	10.60%	49,665
	7%	6%						

# PLANNING PROCESS

- Steering Committee
- Public Meetings
- Heritage Inventory
  - Site visits
  - Data Collection
- Mapping
- Plan Development
- Plan Adoption

# **INTERPRETIVE THEMES**

**Industrial (r)Evolution**

**Major Industry**

**Transportation**

**Immigration & Ethnic Traditions**

# **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- **Strengthen hubs for tourism.**
- **Strengthen physical connections.**
- **Secure significant resources.**
- **Facilitate inter-municipal cooperation.**
- **Build awareness of heritage resources.**
- **Build capacity of local heritage groups.**
- **Reinforce sound resource conservation & restoration practices.**

# DEVELOP TOURISM HUBS

**MOF - Greensburg, Connellsville, Uniontown**  
**FAR - Brownsville, Waynesburg, Washington**

Transportation

Identify the market - assets, visitors, volume

Recreation & entertainment

Shopping - Gifts, Gear, Supplies

Identify Lodging types, quantity & needs

Dining Diversity

Conference Centers & Community Gathering Places

Interpretive Centers, Materials & Signage

**Next Generation Hubs:**  
**Monessen? West Newton? Donegal?**

# STRENGTHEN CONNECTIONS

- Invest along trails, river landings, tourist rail lines, scenic byways & heritage corridors.
- Encourage better public access to rivers.
  - Work with USACE, DCNR, Dept of Fish & Game to inventory ferry landings, & boat launches, & evaluate for modern use.
  - Develop river heritage tours.
- Initiate a market study of rail tourism.
- Organize a regional “Rivers, Rails & Trails Summit.”
- Investigate feasibility of Scenic or Heritage Byway status for Route 88/837 (“Meltingpot Scenic Byway”)

# SECURE SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES

- Develop a “10 Most Significant Heritage Resources” List
- Secure extensive & threatened collections
  - Convene meetings with collectors, heritage & community leaders
  - Provide estate planning information & referrals (pro bono?)
  - Provide preservation & archiving information
- Work with museum curators to acquire & exhibit locally significant arts, crafts, artifacts.
- Convene collectors fairs a la *Antiques Roadshow*
  - Offer appraisals & estate planning information.

# REINFORCE CONSERVATION PRACTICES

- In grant-making, give bonus points for:
  - “Green” building practices.
  - Multi-municipal cooperation.
  - Projects developed within a formal planning process.
- Assist water quality & other environmental groups with interpretive programs related to industrial impacts.