

December 1, 2016

Council Connections

Bridging Allegany, Garrett and Washington Counties



Tri-County Council
For Western Maryland

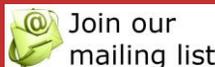
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[Washington County ARC and EDA Project Tour](#)

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Dates to Remember

Monday, December 12
TCCWMD Business Meeting
and Holiday Reception



Notice of Funding Availability

DOT's FASTLANE Program

U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Build America Bureau is now soliciting applications for up to \$850

Washington County Department of Business Development and Washington County Government Host Tour

Members of the Tri-County Council for Western Maryland board of directors, county governments, state representatives, and business leaders from Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties recently toured ARC (Appalachian Regional Commission) and EDA (Economic Development Association) infrastructure and economic development projects in Washington County.

To learn more about the projects and tour locations, visit the interactive map provided by Washington County Department of Business Development [here](#).



**photo courtesy of Washington County Department of Business Development at the Washington County Free Library*

million in Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE) grants. The FASTLANE program was established to fund critical freight and highway projects across the country. The need to support projects improving the Nation's freight system is also highlighted in [Beyond Traffic 2045: Trends and Choices](#). The deadline for submitting applications is **8:00PM on December 15, 2016**.

Programs Advancing Organic Farming Supported

Supporting the development of healthy, organic foods and food practices, and promote the health of our planet. The focus is on organizations that work to increase organic agriculture, provide research and science to develop organic farming practices, teach organic farming practices that promote conservation of resources, and foster the next generation of organic farmers, and more. Visit the Foundation's [website](#) to review the FAQs and learn more about the application process.

Communities that Work Partnerships: New Approaches and Strategies for Economic and Workforce Development

As the economy becomes increasingly dependent on complex technology, automation and reorganization, the nation will face new workforce and economic development challenges. One prominent challenge is the need to provide the skills for tomorrow's workforce. From 2002 to 2014, the share of high-skilled jobs in the economy increased by seven percent; and according to the 2016 OECD report, "[New Forms of Work in the Digital Economy](#)", this trend will become more pronounced in the future. Access to skilled labor is a key factor when companies - domestic or international - choose to invest in the United States.

Across the country, business leaders have shared the concern that America's workforce is not adequately prepared for many of the jobs they desperately need to fill. The availability of a skilled workforce is often cited as a primary factor considered by businesses in their investment decision process.

The Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration is leading an integrated strategy by combining both economic development and workforce development to improve conditions for economic growth. This approach enhances the skills of the workforce in an effort to drive innovation and economic prosperity. Follow [this link](#) for the full release and links to additional information.

