

Authority OKs agreement to work on Rt. 381 project plans

Josh Krysak Herald-Standard | Posted: Wednesday, July 7, 2010 4:00 am

The Fayette County Redevelopment Authority on Tuesday approved an engineering agreement between the authority and an engineering firm to continue working on design plans for the Route 381 transportation project in Ohiopyle. Ohiopyle Borough is already using a \$1.3 million federal grant through the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) for the project that is designed to clean and control the flow of storm water runoff entering the Youghiogheny River from Ohiopyle.

The \$199,764 agreement approved Tuesday by the redevelopment authority will allow work on designing other aspects of the Route 381 Smart Transportation Initiative to continue.

According to redevelopment authority executive director Andrew P. French, the agreement will allow Sucevic, Piccolomini & Kuchar Engineering Inc. of Uniontown to work on designing a plan for the Route 381 corridor in Ohiopyle that will focus on incorporating all types of travel.

"This project is to integrate all means of transportation, including walking and biking," French said, noting that proposals include specific lanes for bike travel along the road as well as increased safety measures at intersections for foot traffic.

Construction is expected to begin early next year on a \$1.9 million project intended to make it easier and safer for bicyclists, pedestrians and kayakers to cross Route 381, which runs between the borough and the park bordering the river.

Some of the work will be designed to provide safe access to a planned visitors center on Sugarloaf Road.

The authority also conducted the following business Tuesday:

- n Held its annual reorganization meeting, in which Kenneth M. Finney Jr. was elected to retain his position of chairman and James S. Woleslagle was elected vice chairman.

- n Awarded a \$35,274 contract to Stan Rygiel Excavating of Fayette City for a storm sewer improvement project in South Union Township.

n Approved the filing of a pre-application grant request to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Housing Preservation Grant for \$150,000. French said the grant has been obtained by the redevelopment authority for the last 22 years and used in conjunction with other funding for various projects in the county.

n Awarded a \$19,500 contract to M. Lawrence Franty of Uniontown for the demolition of a blighted home at 128 River Ave. in Masontown.

n Approved a \$50,000 loan agreement between the redevelopment authority and the Brownsville Area Revitalization Corp. for the rehabilitation of several houses donated to the county near the intersection of Market and Fourth streets.