

# BUSINESS BRIEFS

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## New Keystone Opportunity Expansion Zones (KOEZ) Approved

**O**n June 29, 2009 SEDA-Council of Governments, the designated Zone Coordinator for the Central Region Keystone Opportunity Zone (KOZ) Program, received notification from the Commonwealth that four additional sites in three of the regions counties received approval for Keystone Opportunity Expansion Zone (KOEZ) designation. This brings the total to five new KOEZ sites in four counties.

In July of 2008, the legislature re-opened the KOZ program to allowing additional sites to be designated. Applications for new KOEZ designations were due to the Commonwealth by May 1, 2009.



The KOEZ designation, which begins January 1, 2010, provides state and local tax benefits for a period of 10 years for businesses that operate in a KOEZ.

In February 2009, the Northumberland County Commissioners received notification that their submission for a 178-acre vacant and underutilized portion of the Cherokee Pharmaceutical site in

Riverside Borough received approval. The site will serve as a location for future life science companies and KOEZ designation will help it to better compete with other biotech hubs in the Northeast.

The latest approvals that were received on June 29 include the following sites:

Eureka Place Development Project, City of Williamsport, Lycoming County. This project proposes to build a hotel, conference center, parking structure, and a Vision Theater in downtown Williamsport. It is estimated that this project will create 200-300 jobs and invest over \$60 million.

*See KOZ on page 2*

## Municipal Website Hosting Now Available

SEDA-Council of Governments Information Technologies Group (ITG) announces the roll-out of website hosting for municipalities using Microsoft SharePoint. SharePoint is a content management system that is used by many large organizations as a collaboration and productivity tool, making it easy for staff to store, share and manage documents, scheduling, and contacts, and has been increasingly utilized as a high-end website creation and management system.

The choice of SharePoint is the result of a year and a half long SEDA-COG/County Commissioners Association of PA (CCAP) collaborative taskforce project to review and select a replacement for Pennsylvania Dynamic Site Framework (PA-DSF), the website content management system used for many years by SEDA-COG, CCAP and most PAState offices.

SEDA-COG ITG will be migrating all of the current PA-DSF websites to this new platform and

is now able offer SharePoint development and hosting to new municipal clients.

SharePoint offers a lot of functionality and flexibility, built-in tools and specialized web modules, better browser compatibility than PA-DSF and content permissions based security so that what visitors and website administrators can see and edit can be customized.

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Kennedy-King/Moran Project, City of Williamsport, Lycoming County. The site was the location of a County public housing development that was in dilapidated condition. This is a redevelopment project that would include rail and road access improvements to the site and the construction of a 220,000 square foot warehouse distribution center by Moran Industries. The project will provide over \$9 million in investment and create between 30-100 jobs.

Case New Holland Project, Union Township, Mifflin County. This 69-acre brownfield site was the location of the former Case New Holland manufacturing facility that ceased operations in March 2009, leaving 465 people out of work. This project, with the assistance from the Mifflin County Industrial Development Corporation, looks to explore alternatives and options for the site's redevelopment. The incentive of the KOEZ designation will assist in the development and re-use of this large multi-building complex.

Pawling Station Business Park, Penn Township, Snyder County. This is the first site in Snyder County to take advantage of the KOZ program. The 50-acre business park site with complete infrastructure has five to six shovel-ready lots ranging in size from 3.3 to 21.38 acres.

The KOEZ designation will allow the park to remain competitive with other sites in the region allowing for the development of new businesses in the county.

For more information on KOZs, please feel free to contact Jerry Bohinski at 570-524-4491 or by email at [bohinski@seda-cog.org](mailto:bohinski@seda-cog.org)

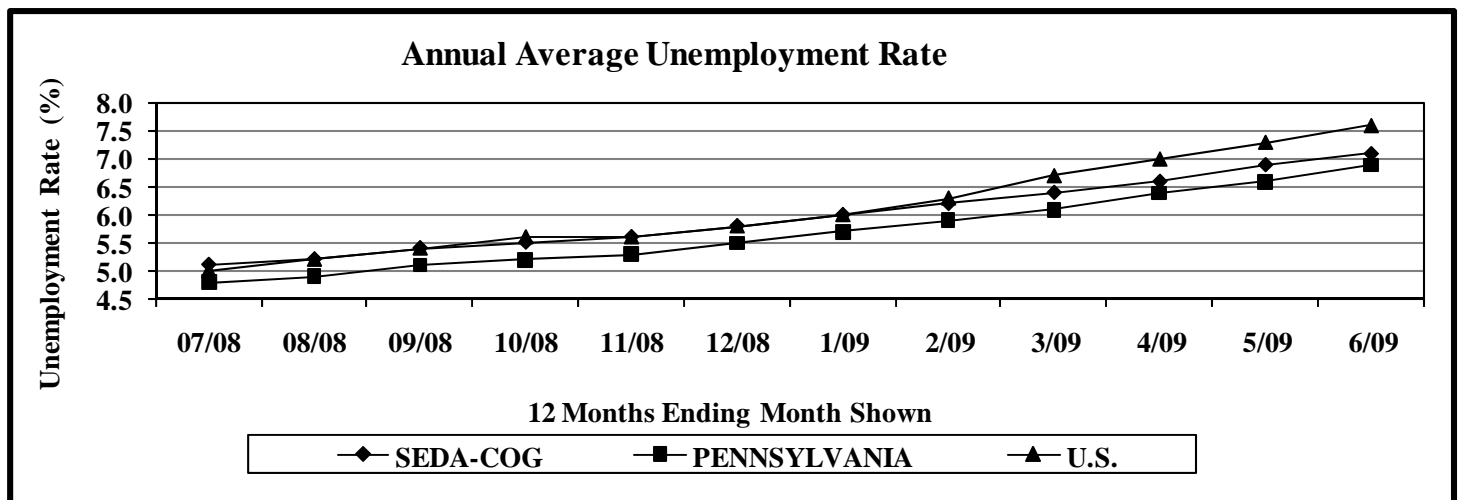


*Pawling Station Business Park, Penn Township, Snyder County. This is the first site in Snyder County to take advantage of the KOZ program.*



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# Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) Update

SEDA-COG partners with PennDOT to provide municipalities in the SEDA-COG region with free training through LTAP (Local Technical Assistance Program). LTAP offers various training courses dealing with roadway maintenance and safety. Technical assistance on road maintenance and safety issues is available from an LTAP engineer free of charge in person, over the phone, or by email. Library materials and technical information sheets are also available. PennDOT has been providing LTAP services to Pennsylvania municipalities since 1983.

LTAP is based on the premise that new technologies and procedures developed at the state and federal level should be transferred to local municipal officials and employees for the purpose of improving the overall transportation system.

The goals of the LTAP program are to increase municipal expertise, improve safety for client and public, increase professional communication, disseminate information, promote the implementation of research, provide tailored training materials, and meet municipal government needs.

SEDA-COG staff coordinates closely with municipal officials to ensure that their training and technical assistance needs are being met. The value of LTAP services is shared with area municipalities through personal meetings, newsletters, flyers, websites, and

marketing by staff at county conventions, equipment shows, conferences, etc.

The following LTAP classes have been scheduled; additional classes may be sponsored at the request of municipalities. To register for any of the classes or learn more about other LTAP activities in the SEDA-COG region, please contact Steve Herman at 570-524-4491. Please check the LTAP website at [www.ltap.state.pa.us](http://www.ltap.state.pa.us) for classes in other regions.

## Upcoming LTAP Classes

Road Surface Management:  
**September 11**, 8:00–3:00,  
Patton Township Building, State College

Traffic Signals:  
**September 22**, 8:00–3:00,  
Bloomsburg Town Hall, Bloomsburg

Common Sense Solutions to Intersection Problems:  
**October 22**, 8:00–3:00,  
SEDA-COG Office, Lewisburg

Winter Maintenance:  
**November 17**, 8:00–3:00,  
Point Township Building, Northumberland

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## ITG from page 1

If a municipality is in need of a new website, or would like to change their current website hosting to a system their own staff can manage, contact William Flather at 570-524-4491 or by email at [wflather@seda-cog.org](mailto:wflather@seda-cog.org).

SEDA-COG's Information Technologies Group works with counties, municipalities, and nonprofit organizations to offer other IT services. For more information about ITG's other services, contact Jim Baker at [jbaker@seda-cog.org](mailto:jbaker@seda-cog.org) or by phone at 570-524-4491.

**Websites/Web Applications:** Custom Site Design, E-Commerce, Content Management, and Custom Web Applications/Databases.

**Tech Support Hotline:** For computer problems municipalities can call the Tech Support Hotline at 570-522-7279. In most cases the first half hour is free.

**On Site Technical Support:** For a small fee, we diagnose computer problems on-site and repair the machines. We can also help design and install or renovate

a computer network. We are able to set-up contracts with budget payment plans to insure rapid response when needed that will fit into a monthly budget.

**Purchasing Assistance:** SEDA-COG can help purchase machines and peripherals.

**Grants of up to \$400 for Broadband equipment and service.** (Limited Availability) We will be accepting grant applications for BFRR's (Bona-fide Retail Request) as an upgrade for municipalities from dial-up. If accepted into the program, municipalities then contact the service provider. After the service provider completes the work, send SEDA-COG the bill and we reimburse up to \$400.

**Computer training:** Microsoft Win7/Vista/XP OS, Microsoft XP/2000 OS, Microsoft Office 2007/2003.

**Donation Machines:** SEDA-COG offers used desktops/notebooks (limited supply) that have been taken out of service, stripped and reloaded with an operating system. Municipalities & boroughs can request donation machines through their County Commissioners.

# Woolever Brothers Transportation Partners With LVRR

Woolever Brothers Transportation Inc., in Montoursville, is one of the few companies that deliver 120-foot utility poles to New York City, and they're using the Lycoming Valley Railroad (LVRR) as part of their northeastern U.S. distribution network.

Three utility pole companies, McFarland Cascade, located in Washington, North Pacific Pole & Piling in Oregon, and Bell Lumber & Pole in Minnesota have been LVRR customers since 2005. The LVRR railroad was named by the American Short Line & Regional Railroad Association for teaming up with Woolever Brothers to develop this new line of business. Recently the LVRR accepted its first load of inbound poles from Bell Lumber & Pole.

Utility poles come into the Northumberland rail yard on the Norfolk Southern Railroad. From there, they're shipped to the Newberry Yard in Williamsport via the LVRR. Finally, Woolever Brothers distributes them to their customers in seven states.

Williamsport and the Newberry Yard are good distribution hubs, with access to major routes that serve the northeastern region of the country.

Woolever Brothers Transportation, Inc. was founded in the late 1930's and has been transporting utility poles for the last 20 years. Not only can their experienced drivers handle the busy traffic and narrow streets of New York City; they're equally adept on a winding country road, headed to a remote

transformer location or a power project.

Woolever Brothers has acquired the right kind of equipment for this specialized type of delivery. Self-unloading trucks are needed, as well as expandable "stretch" trailers which can accommodate 120-foot utility poles.

The market for utility poles would seem to be finite, but when poles are damaged by ice, snow, and rain, they have to be replaced. Even if weather damage isn't apparent, utility poles are replaced on a regular basis. Telephone and utility companies are not the only customers for poles, they're also used to hang sports netting for driving ranges and fitness courses.

Woolever Brothers can be contacted at 1-800-332-8507.

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