

August 17, 2006 Groundbreaking for Murtha Drive

For Immediate Release

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Groundbreaking for Murtha Drive

Waynesburg, PA - On Thursday, August 17, 2006 Greene County will celebrate with an official "Ground-Breaking" at the Murtha Drive project site. The construction of Murtha Drive to connect State Route 21 and State Route 2026 (Rolling Meadows Road) has remained a top priority for the Greene County Commissioners and is closer than ever to beginning construction. In addition to the new roadway construction, improvements along SR 21 will not only allow better and safer access to and from Interstate 79, but will also enhance the local transportation network. Both projects are critical to serve a growth area of Greene County and several key economic development projects, including EverGreene Technology Park, home to R.J. Lee and the new Armory; the Greene County Airport and future Airport Business Park; and the Waynesburg Crossings retail center, which is currently under development.

"The County Commissioners came to me about two years ago with a plan that identified this Project as a Transportation priority for Greene County, and I'm delighted to be back today for the ceremonial ground breaking," said Congressman John Murtha. "This is a critical first step in our efforts to open up opportunities for economic expansion and job creation in the Waynesburg area."

It is anticipated the Waynesburg Crossings development will provide 350,000 square feet of retail space on 114 acres of land, and would be the premier retail center in the region. The site has previously been underutilized and has been targeted by both Greene County and Franklin Township for economic development. This property is currently zoned E-1 (Economic Development). Current estimates include over 800 jobs directly created by the development at full build-out. County Commissioner Chair, Pam Snyder, stated, "This Board of Commissioners is very appreciative for all the support our projects have received. We are looking forward to the 2007 completion of Murtha Drive, SR 21 Improvements and the anticipated opening of Waynesburg Crossings."

Construction commenced on July 19, 2006 to prepare the site for utility relocation associated with the construction of Murtha Drive. PennDOT is expected to open bids for the Murtha Drive project on August 31, 2006. The State Route 21 construction project will be bid in the early fall of 2006. All construction is to be completed in the fall of 2007.

Thanks to U.S. Congressman John Murtha, Governor Edward G. Rendell, Senator J. Barry Stout, Representative Bill DeWeese, PennDOT and the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC), all funding is in place for the project.