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SEDA-COG is a publicly funded development organization based in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania and serving an 11-county region. We help the counties – and the communities and citizens within them – address challenges related to their economies and infrastructure, and we assist them in responding to new opportunities in such areas as energy, technology, market development, transportation, and locally-based resources.

## State Officials Visit Region for Three Busy Days of Tours, Workshops, & Meetings

Lock Haven, Lewisburg, Sunbury, and Selinsgrove were among the region's many communities welcoming state officials and staff as part of the recent [DCED on the Road/Job1st Tour](#). The three-day event was a combined effort of the Pennsylvania Departments of [Community and Economic Development \(DCED\)](#), and [Labor & Industry](#). It included company tours, workshops, visits to economic and community development

projects, and business roundtable meetings. SEDA-COG oversaw the event locally in our capacity as coordinator for [Central Region PREP \(Partnerships for Regional Economic Performance\)](#).



Kicking off the event, C. Alan Walker, Secretary, DCED, announced a [Keystone Communities](#)

Lewisburg's Campus Theatre welcomed state officials for the beginning of their three-day event.

grant of \$232,000 to Lewisburg for trees, lighting, curbs, and sidewalks. Samantha Pearson, Lewisburg's Elm Street Manager, said the visit by state officials was a great opportunity to maintain an on-going dialogue. "It's important to us to be on the Secretary's radar," she said. Her comments were echoed by Natasha Gorham, Downtown Manager in Lock Haven, where DCED staff visited riverfront development and toured the central business district. State grants have been used for façade improvements in the City and, to date, seventeen façade projects have been completed, making downtown Lock Haven ".....more welcoming, more comfortable....," according to Ms. Gorham.

Sunbury's riverfront development also received a visit from state officials, including [Diane McGraw, Director of](#)

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## Penn State is going to Ireland. Are You?

Are you planning to be at Penn State's [football game in Ireland](#) on August 30? The Nittany Lions will meet the Knights of the University of Central Florida in Dublin's Croke Park.

In conjunction with the game, activities are being planned to bring Pennsylvania business people together with Irish companies who want to do business in the Keystone State. If you're going to the game, [click here and let us know](#).



The Nittany Lions open the 2014 football season in Dublin, Ireland.

We'll keep you updated on opportunities for networking, business forums, and matchmaking, and send you information about [Pennsylvania's Authorized Trade Representative](#) for Ireland and the United Kingdom. Be sure to include your name and contact information.

Enjoy the game and have a great – and profitable – trip to Ireland.

## Financing News . . .

The [Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#) has completed the financing of a \$1,140,000 SBA 504 loan for the purchase of a hotel in Harrisburg. CH Harrisburg, LLC has purchased a 76-room [Comfort Inn](#) on Allentown Blvd. In addition to the SBA 504 loan, financing has been provided through cash equity, [M & T Bank](#), and a [TEAM loan](#) through SEDA-COG and the Commonwealth. The SBA 504 loan was approved by the [SEDA-COG Local Development Corporation](#) before submission to SBA for final action. The hotel underwent extensive renovations in 2011, inside and out. Owners plan on retaining nine full-time employees at the hotel and creating ten new jobs as a result of the project.

For more information on SEDA-COG's Business Development Financing program, call or [e-mail John Reichard](#), 570-524-4491, ext. 7251, or [visit us on the web](#).

## Byte-sized News . . .

Construction [is well underway](#) on a permanent parking area in Williamsport at the Hepburn Street River Walk access area. Completion is anticipated by June 1. The project's cost is being shared by the City, Lycoming County, and SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority.

# # #

The state's unemployment rate declined by two-tenths of a percentage point in March, while the labor force increased by 12,000. [More details are available here.](#)

# # #

SEDA-COG's 2014-2015 Directory is available, for those who appreciate paper-based information. It's a pocket-sized, thumbnail description of the services we offer, and includes a complete listing of our Board of Directors, staff, special committees, and organizations. [Click here to request a copy](#) and be sure to include your name and address.

# # #

Berwick's one-mile trail at Test Track Park [is nearing completion](#). Funding support includes a Mini-Grant from the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership.

## Upcoming Events & Activities

[Click on the date for more information](#)

### Government Contracting Seminars

Chambersburg – June 5

Gettysburg – May 14

Harrisburg – May 8, 21 & 28; June 12, 18 & 25

Lewistown – May 20

Lock Haven – May 13

Williamsport – June 30

York – June 10

### Roadway Maintenance & Safety Training for Municipalities

Bloomsburg – May 15

Lewisburg – May 7; June 12

Northumberland – May 14

### SEDA-COG Board of Directors

Lewisburg – May 28

### SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority

Lewisburg – May 14

### SEDA-COG Metropolitan Planning Organization

Lewisburg – May 30

### Traffic Sign Assessment & Inventory Workshop

Danville – May 8