BYLAWS FOR THE
EASTGATE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MAHONING RIVER CORRIDOR INITIATIVE

ARTICLE I – NAME AND AUTHORITY

A. Name
1. The name of this committee shall be known as the Mahoning River Corridor Initiative (MRCI), hereinafter referred to as “committee”.

B. Authority
1. The committee is an ad hoc committee of the General Policy Board (GPB), which governs the Eastgate Regional Council of Governments (Eastgate). Information regarding ad hoc committees is outlined in ARTICLE V of Eastgate’s bylaws. The committee shall have authority necessary to carry out its purpose and objectives as delineated in ARTICLE II of these bylaws.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

A. Purpose
1. The purpose of the committee is to improve the quality of life/economic development along the corridor.

2. Objectives
The committee shall be charged with the following objectives, which include, but are not limited to, the following:
   i. Increase utilization of the Mahoning River corridor for business, recreational and preservation activities.
   ii. Make land along the river corridor available for development.
   iii. Make urban areas more attractive to new investment.
   iv. Foster regional cooperation among local governments.
   v. Promote smart growth policies and reduce the trend towards urban sprawl.
   vi. Facilitate the creation of revenue sharing mechanisms between corridor communities
   vii. Coordinate watershed action efforts to improve water quality
   viii. Support the Mahoning River Restoration effort
ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP, TERMS, AND GOVERNANCE

A. Membership

1. The committee shall be composed of eleven (11) members that represent the communities along the Mahoning River and the Mayors of the Mahoning River. New members shall be nominated to and elected by the committee. Any member failing to attend at least half of scheduled meetings in any given calendar year will no longer be in good standing.

The committee shall be composed of the following eight (8) standing members:

i. One (1) representative from Youngstown State University
ii. One (1) representative from the Western Reserve Port Authority
iii. One (1) representative from the Youngstown Warren Regional Chamber
iv. One (1) representative from Trumbull County Commissioners
v. One (1) representative from Trumbull County Planning
vi. One (1) representative from Mahoning County Commissioners
vii. One (1) representative from Eastgate Regional Council of Governments
viii. One (1) representative appointed by the Mahoning River Mayor’s Association

An Alternate may also be designated for each of these 8 positions.

The committee shall be composed of Three (3) at-large positions:

B. Governance

1. The committee shall elect at the beginning of the calendar year a Chair and Vice Chair with terms of two (2) year from the committee membership.
   i. The responsibilities of the Chair and Vice Chair are outlined in Appendix A.
   ii. The Chair and Vice Chair shall be nominated and voted upon by the committee. Chairs may seek reappointment.
2. The Eastgate Executive Director, or their designated assistant, shall serve as the Secretary of the Mahoning River Corridor Initiative, recording minutes of the committee and performing related duties at the committee meetings. This is a non-voting position.
3. The Mayor’s Association’s representative shall serve as the Mahoning River Corridor Initiative Inclusion Officer, ensuring opportunities for all members and full participation in the region. If the Mayor’s Association’s Representative serves as the Chair or Vice Chair, the committee shall elect another member to fill this position.
ARTICLE IV – MEETINGS

A. Meetings
   1. The committee shall meet at least four (4) times per calendar year. Special meetings may be held at other times if deemed necessary. A representative from Eastgate will announce meetings at least one (1) month in advance and distribute an agenda at least one (1) week in advance.
      i. A representative from Eastgate will be present at committee meetings. Eastgate will prepare and maintain a permanent written record of all committee proceedings and shall transmit a copy of minutes to all committee members.
      ii. The agenda for each committee meeting shall be prepared by a representative from Eastgate, along with the Chair. All items desired by members or necessary for inclusion on the agenda shall be submitted not less than seven (7) days prior to the meeting.
      iii. Voting on any items for passage will require an affirmative two-thirds (2/3) majority of members present once a quorum is attained. A quorum is half of membership plus one.
      iv. Members may vote by email. Members voting by email shall email votes for each actionable item to a representative from Eastgate. A majority of votes shall equal half of membership plus one if it is an electronic vote.

ARTICLE V – AMENDMENTS

A. Amendments Committee bylaws may be amended by an affirmative two-thirds (2/3) majority of members once a quorum is attained. Amendments to the committee bylaws shall be ratified by the General Policy Board.

APPENDIX A - CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR DESCRIPTIONS

The Chair has a strategic role to play in representing the vision and purpose of the committee. The Chair ensures that the committee functions properly, that there is full participation at meetings, all relevant matters are discussed, and that effective decisions are made and carried out. In the Chair’s absence, the Vice Chair resumes the Chair’s responsibilities.

Ensure the Committee functions properly
- To plan and run meetings in accordance to the governing bylaws.
- To bring impartiality and objectivity to meetings and decision-making.
- To facilitate change and address conflict within the committee.
- To review governance performance.
- To plan for recruitment and renewal of members of the committee.
Ensure the organization is managed effectively

- To communicate with Eastgate staff.
- To coordinate with the committee to ensure responsibilities are met.
- To provide review to Eastgate staff in administering the Overall Work Program.

Represent the Committee

- To communicate effectively the vision and purpose of the committee.
- To advocate for and represent the committee at external meetings, including the General Policy Board.
- To be aware of current issues that might affect the committee.

Time Commitment: The role of the Chair requires routine contact with Eastgate staff, attending quarterly General Policy Board meetings, and Committee meetings.

Agreed to this 17th day of Oct, 2017 by:

James G. Kinnick, P.E., Executive Director
Eastgate Regional Council of Governments

Mayor Terry Stocker, Chair
Mahoning River Mayor’s Association