

Beaver County Times

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Hopewell docking project gains funding

By: Larissa Theodore
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HOPEWELL TWP. — A former Hopewell Township mill site has been awarded a combined \$2.5 million in funding for brownfield development, state legislators announced Friday.

The state grants will go toward building a docking facility on the Hopewell portion of the former LTV Corp. site, also located in Aliquippa. The dock construction is expected to part the waters so that new and existing companies can use the Ohio River for shipping, not to mention the existing rail and roadways.

The former LTV site sits on a 556-acre parcel of land along the Ohio River and runs from Aliquippa through Hopewell, Center Township and Monaca. The site is a designated Keystone Opportunity Zone, and local officials say they expect the site rehabilitation to bring hundreds of new jobs to Beaver County.

State Sen. Elder Vogel Jr., R-47, New Sewickley Township, secured a \$1.25 million portion of the grant for the upgrades, and Reps. Jim Christiana, R-15, Beaver, and Jim Marshall, R-14, Big Beaver, gained another \$1.25 million commitment.

The legislators met with property owner Chuck Betters on Friday to discuss the plans. Betters has a permit in hand to build the docking facility, but the permit expires after December. Vogel said that's why it was so important to get the funding now to avoid having to repeat the permit process.

"This is the shot in the arm Beaver County has been looking for," Vogel said. "This will make the former LTV brownfield site incredibly attractive for economic redevelopment ..."

Christiana said that improving the infrastructure adjacent to the old steel mill will help attract new businesses and ultimately bring more jobs to Beaver County.

"This site once employed thousands of hard-working area residents. It now has zero productivity and zero jobs ..." Christiana said.