

WORKING TO CONNECT PITTSBURGH TO WASHINGTON, D.C.—THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS, NOT OVER THEM

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT ALLEGHENY PASSAGE

and member organizations of the Allegheny Trail Alliance

Volume 10, Number 1

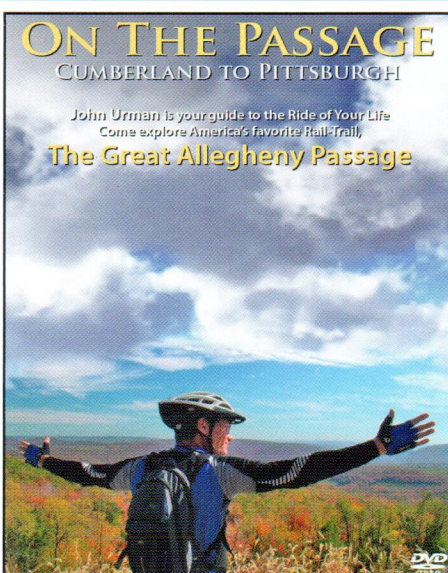
Summer 2010



JOB photo

Bridges at Whitaker (above) and Port Perry (see inside) were trucked in from Minnesota, assembled on railroad cars, and placed simultaneously on the morning of July 7.

## Momentum Builds Toward 11.11.11



"On the Passage," a 30-minute video by award-winning film maker John Urman, premiered at a Melwood Screening Room party in July. To order the DVD, go to [www.GAPtrail.org](http://www.GAPtrail.org)

Exciting progress toward the completion of the Great Allegheny Passage to Pittsburgh was accomplished on July 7 when two bridges were set in place, almost simultaneously. Both cross active rail lines along the Monongahela River.

In Whitaker, a 170-foot, 62-ton bridge now crosses six sets of tracts operated by Norfolk Southern (NS) and Union Railroad Company. And in the Duquesne RIDC Industrial Park, a 110-foot, 37-ton bridge crosses three sets of NS tracks.

Both the ATA and Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato have embraced a goal of completion to the Forks of the Ohio by Nov. 11, 2011.

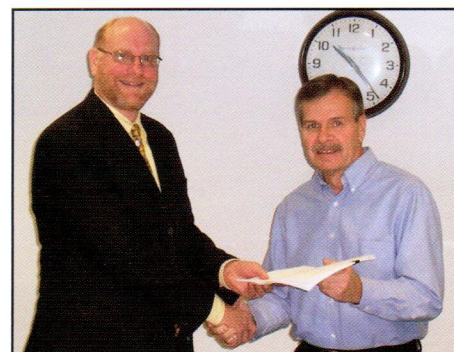
"Getting to this point required a tremendous, intensive effort over three years," said ATA President Linda Boxx.

Both bridges were engineered and fabricated by Contech Bridge Solutions of Alexandria, Minnesota, delivered in nine

sections, and reassembled on rail cars.

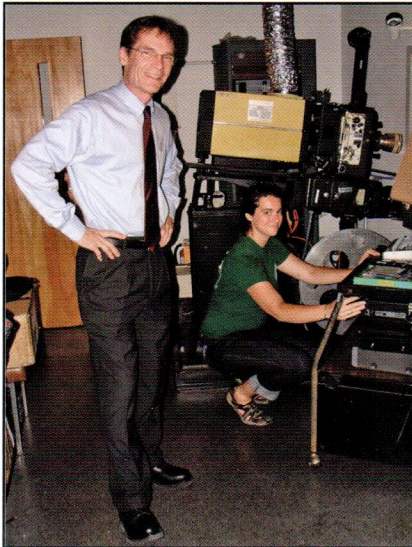
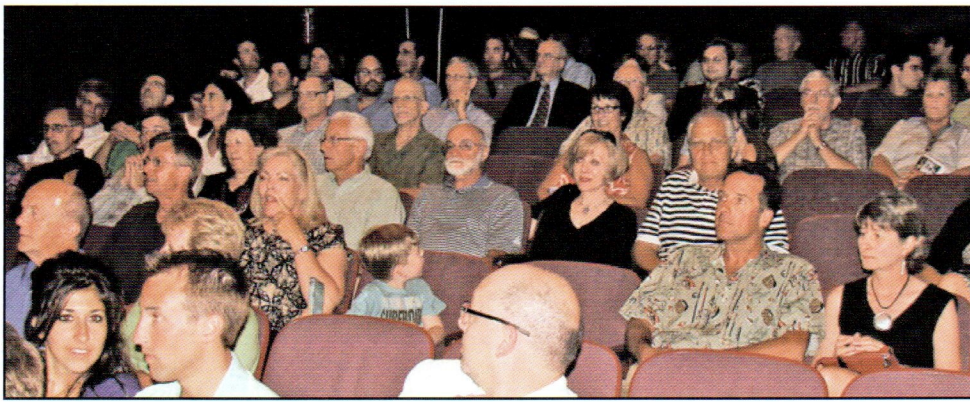
P. J. Dick/Trumbull of the North Side is the prime contractor and Century Steel of Dravosburg is the crane operator. The

*continued on page 3*



Andy Baechle (left), Allegheny County Parks Director, accepts deeds and easements from Norfolk Southern's John Foley which permitted the building and placement of the two bridges. The deal took nearly three years to consummate.





JOB photos

About 100 people attended the premier of "On The Passage" at the Melwood Screening Room in Oakland, making July 7 a red-letter day in GAPland. The private party was organized by the ATA and gave viewers the chance to meet film maker John Urman (lower left). Two years in the making, "On the Passage" is a companion to Urman's acclaimed "On the Canal," together covering the 335-mile "Ride of Your Life." Both can be ordered from [GAPTrail.org](http://GAPTrail.org).



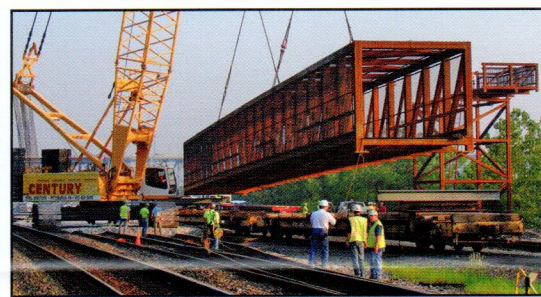
The Port Perry Bridge (above) was placed w



JOB photos

DUQUESNE TUNNEL, funded by Allegheny County, opened last fall connecting the Riverton Bridge and McKeesport to RIDC Park in the former Duquesne Works of U.S. Steel. Made of prefabricated concrete, the 60-foot tunnel eliminates a 1/4 mile detour that would have sent cyclists up across and around the new roadway. Cutting the ribbon are (l-r) Allegheny County Council member Bob Macey, County Executive Dan Onorato, Duquesne Mayor Phillip Krivacek, ATA president Linda Boxx, and Steel Valley Trail president Hannah Hardy.





JO'B photos

in the same time window.

Workmen hook up and "pick" the 170-foot-long, 62-ton Whitaker Bridge, one of two bridges placed on July 7.

# Two Bridges, Film Premier Thrill Trail Fans

*continued from page 1*

Whitaker Bridge was lifted by a track crane and the Port Perry Bridge in Duquesne was lifted by a hydraulic crane. The two bridges are separated by about two miles. Trail using U. S. Steel's former coke gas pipeline will connect the two bridges and should be under construction by fall.

There will be significant ramp work and decking for the bridges, which will continue throughout the summer and into the fall. This area is off-limits to trail users and spectators. This new trail section will likely be open for public use in early 2011.

"Once we got the green light from Norfolk Southern, we had to complete the surveys and acquisition documents, work on the design and construction of the bridges

and ramps, coordinate the schedules of two railroads, the manufacturer, the prime contractor and the crane operator," said Boxx.

"We had a fiber optics line to tiptoe around, drainage issues to deal with and drive more than 80 80-foot-long piles into the fill to create a solid footing. Kudos to Jack Paulik (Regional Trail Corporation project manager) for his skill and tenacity."

## MEDIA BUZZ

The setting of the bridges touched off a media buzz focusing on the last remaining section of trail to be acquired, a .8-mile stretch through Sandcastle. At presstime, newspaper reports indicated movement there, so keep your fingers crossed!

The Great Allegheny Passage is a 150-mile, non-motorized trail connecting Pittsburgh to Cumberland, MD, mostly on abandoned rail lines. Trail is complete from Duquesne to Cumberland, a distance of 135 miles. In Cumberland, it connects to the C&O Canal Towpath, offering off-road,

nearly level hiking and biking experience for a total of 335 miles.

## "ON THE PASSAGE" EARNS NOTICE

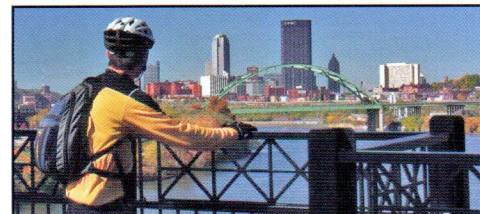
Premiered on the same day as the bridge settings, "On the Passage" is a 30-minute film by John Urman who picks up the Great Allegheny Passage at the end of the C&O in Cumberland and skillfully guides you on to Pittsburgh. The film has already earned Award of Distinction at the 2010 Videographers Awards in the hotly contested Travel Documentary category.

To see a web trailer, visit [youtube.com](http://youtube.com) and search "Great Allegheny Passage." It will be the result at the top. To order, the DVD (\$15) go to [GAPtrail.org](http://GAPtrail.org)



Jack Paulik

JO'B photo

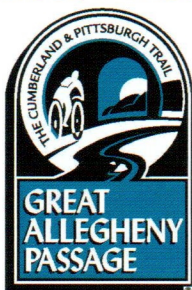


John Urman on the Hot Metal Bridge.

John Urman photo



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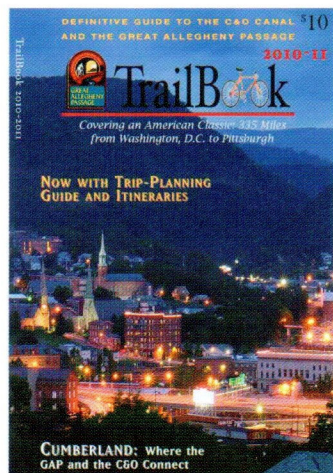


Paul g Wiegman

**New McKeesport Trailhead** – Celebrating the trailhead opening at McKee's Point Marina in April are (l-r) Bike Patrolman Eli Tubin, Rob Robertson, PennDOT District 11 Executive Dan Cessna, Allegheny County Councilman Bob Macey, Steel Valley Trail's Hannah Hardy, RTC Project Manager Jack Paulik, Mayor James R. Brewster, Commission President Linda Brewster, State Rep. Bill Korts, Tim Joyce, Bob Baum, Beth Bendel, and Bike Patrolman Joe Lynn.

## ATA Trail News

Summer 2010



## New TrailBook Best Edition Yet

The 2010-11 edition of TrailBook is the best edition yet. Published by the ATA, the definitive guide to the GAP and the C&O Canal Towpath has been expanded and reorganized to make it more user-friendly.

New trip planning information, FAQs, and increased coverage of the towns along the way makes TrailBook essential for trail users and trail businesses.

Read in all 50 states and 15 nations, TrailBook continues to grow with the trail. You can get TrailBook through amazon, eBay, or, best of all, through the ATA website at [www.GAPtrail.org](http://www.GAPtrail.org)

### HELP CLOSE THE GAPS IN THE GAP

*Any amount welcome!*

*Copy and mail, or go to [GAPtrail.org](http://GAPtrail.org) and donate through PayPal.*

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Please make check payable to ATA/RTC  
and mail to: ATA, P.O. Box 501, Latrobe, PA 15650

### ATA Trail News © Summer 2010

Trail News is published by the Allegheny Trail Alliance (ATA). The ATA is a coalition of the seven trail-building organizations whose purpose is to assure the construction, maintenance and use of the multiple purpose, non-motorized trail from Pittsburgh, PA to Cumberland, MD where it will join the C & O Canal Towpath to Washington, DC. To subscribe or unsubscribe, contact ATA:

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