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Rahall Transportation Institute Presents Information on Economic Impact on the State Coal Industry

Huntington, WV – On Monday, November 26, 2012, [Rahall Transportation Institute \(RTI\)](#) Chief Operating Officer, Frank Betz attended the WV Legislature Joint Committee on Economic Development meeting in Charleston, WV to discuss issues relating to the impact of economic changes on the state coal industry.

[RTI](#) is currently working with the WV Development Office (WVDO) and the Office of Coalfield Community Development (OCCD) on an Enterprise GIS economic development application. The application will allow WVDO and OCCD to access, manage, disseminate and display both spatial and non-spatial data using available client and mobile connections.

“The goal of the project is to facilitate the identification of ideal sites for development in coalfield counties by assisting the OCCD in fulfilling its mission to provide long-term economic viability after mining, as well as to identify post-mine development opportunities within a mining permit,” Betz explained during the presentation.

Betz also shared with attendees that [RTI](#) is working with the OCCD on a system to facilitate Land Use Master Plan (LUMP) updates by counties with surface mining operations as mandated by Senate Bill #603, passed in 2001. The goal of the project is to assist counties in updating their LUMPs in a streamlined manner to stay in compliance with state law and to promote sustainable land use planning to cultivate community development needs.

About RTI:

The Nick J. Rahall, II Appalachian Transportation Institute (RTI) is a leader in multimodal transportation and economic development in West Virginia and the surrounding 13 state Appalachian Region. RTI is recognized by the U.S. Department of Transportation for transportation excellence focused on applied technology, research, education, outreach and training. RTI is also the lead research institution in the Multimodal Transportation and Infrastructure Consortium (MTIC) funded through the Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

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Links: [RTI Project Overview Presentation](#)