

## MOUNT UNION PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE PROJECT

The comprehensive and multi-faceted revitalization of a central corridor through the center of Mount Union Borough is designed to address blight, provide safe passage for a job-producing rail line, improve water and sewer service reliability, create a beautified recreational space, rehabilitate housing, and spur additional community investment. Like many large and costly visions, the Mount Union Pennsylvania Avenue Project involves many partners and phases.



The failed street and wall lean precariously toward rail cars that once again run on the EBT Railroad tracks.

In 2015, many joined in this effort. Mount Union Borough funded the service of professionals at Keller Engineers, Inc. to design and oversee phase one of the street and wall reconstruction project, which relocated water and sewer lines. This step was



A complex network of water, sewer and stormwater lines crisscross under Pennsylvania Avenue.

necessary to ensure continued services when the wall is demolished or should collapse. A \$500,000 Competitive Community Development Block Grant

secured by the County Planning and Development Department in October of 2014, and supplemented by \$250,000 in 2015, funded this phase. D.J. Wisor & Sons, Inc. completed the project on schedule and under budget for \$327,839. Mount Union used a portion of the CDBG grant for Keller Engineers to conduct exploratory core borings needed to refine construction design and to oversee the balance of the project.

The Director of The East Broad Top Railroad Preservation Association, Inc., Larry Salone, transformed the pot hole and

weed covered railroad property into the first phase of the Linear Park as envisioned in Mount Union's Development Strategy of 1989. Railroad cars appeared on newly rehabilitated rail lines; a paved walking path was created; and fresh sod created a "Clean and Green" space through the center of town. The Mount Union Area Volunteer Fire Company and Mount Union Area Municipal Authority supported the effort by watering the new sod.



Newly constructed sewer lines located under temporarily paved sidewalks and street. A paved lip against the face of the wall prevents stormwater from causing further damage.

Collaborating agencies filed four additional grant applications in 2015 that have not yet resulted in funding

awards. The Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission filed a pre-application for Appalachian Regional Commission funds for \$600,000 for street and wall reconstruction. The County Planning and Development Department requested an additional \$600,000 from PennDOT's Automated Red Light Enforcement grant. These two applications would have provided an additional \$1.2 million dollars toward the street and wall reconstruction project, estimated to cost approximately \$2.3 million. The Center for Community Action requested a \$350,000 grant from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh for housing rehabilitation in Mount Union, Mapleton and Shirley Township. Huntingdon County also filed a request for \$250,000 in Greenways, Trails and Recreation Grants to continue the linear park improvements safely across the public streets, and to redevelop the Mount Union Area Historical Society's pocket park located adjacent to the Linear Park.

Concerted efforts will continue throughout the next several years until the final phases of this project are complete.



Before & After East Broad Top Railroad Preservation Association, Inc. Investment