

County of Butler

Board of Commissioners

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COUNTY GIVES TOUR TO NEW HEAD OF REGIONAL COMMISSION

Butler County conducted a tour today for Vincent Valdes, the new Executive Director for the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, to show him the economic development occurring in the county.

The tour stops included construction work improving the Route 228 corridor and the UPMC Sports Complex, the Pittsburgh Penguins practice site, in Cranberry Township. Butler County Chief of Economic Development and Planning Mark Gordon said the purpose of the tour was to welcome Valdes to the region.

“We wanted to show the diversity of the county,” Gordon said.

The commission secures funding for projects such as the Gateway 228 Project. Valdes said he was impressed by the tour, which began with a presentation in the Cranberry Township municipal building.

“I think it’s remarkable what I’ve seen here,” Valdes said. “I’m taken by the vision.”

Valdes stressed the importance of local governments to execute the planning, which includes providing matching funding, needed to move projects forward. He praised the work done by the county and municipalities.

"I can see a fruitful partnership with the SPC," Valdes said.

The Butler County Board of Commissioners joined Gordon in showing Valdes and U.S. Congressman Mike Kelly the tour stops. Commissioner Leslie Osche, board chairman and Secretary-Treasurer of the SPC, said collaboration between counties and the SPC is essential.

"Today highlights the value of our engagement and leadership as a team in the Southwest Pennsylvania Commission and the importance of regional collaboration with surrounding counties in bringing investments to the region and a return on investment for our taxpayers," Osche said.

Commissioner Kim Geyer agreed such collaboration moves projects forward, pointing out the cooperation between the county and Adams, Cranberry and Middlesex townships that was required for the Gateway 228 Project.

"We've been working in collaboration with our municipalities," Geyer said.

Geyer said the county is dealing with current needs as well as ones that were not addressed for decades. Commissioner Kevin Boozel emphasized the need for the county to support infrastructure projects across the county, so they're successful.

"It's important for Butler County to be collectively behind projects no matter where they are in the county," Boozel said.

Kelly said the tour exhibits the growth in the county.

"We're in such an expansion mode," Kelly said.

Kelly stressed the importance of the planning counties such as Butler undertake in securing funding.

"You have to map it out," Kelly said.