

From the Pittsburgh Business Times

:<http://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/blog/innovation/2014/05/monaca-seeks-500k-to-upgrade-roads-ahead-of-shell.html>

May 2, 2014, 11:09am EDT

## Monaca seeks \$500K to upgrade roads ahead of Shell cracker decision



[Justine Coyne](#)

Reporter- Pittsburgh Business Times

[Email](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Google+](#)

The Borough of Monaca is seeking \$500,000 in planning funds from the **U.S. Department of Transportation** to support engineering, permitting, and construction bid documentation on a number of key transportation upgrades.

Dubbed the Monaca Gateway Project, Borough Manager [Mario Leone](#) Jr. said the project covers multiple areas of economic development, including intersection and roadway improvement, connections to [brownfield development](#), trail design and engineering and downtown streetscape upgrades.

In its application, the borough said improving outdated and inadequate road, intersection and trail networks on Monaca's Ohio River waterfront are a linchpin to success in the region's effort to build up manufacturing, particularly if **Royal Dutch Shell's** proposed ethane cracker is built in Beaver County.

"As exciting as this nationally significant project will be, Monaca's infrastructure is not prepared for this massive influx of jobs and manufacturing--as the main Pennsylvania Avenue corridor that connects the manufacturing site to the east toward Pittsburgh is outmoded and lacking capacity to handle the expected traffic," the borough wrote in its application.

Shell projects that there will be a construction vehicle moving across local roads every 4.5 seconds and a truck every one minute during the four-year construction period. With this amount of traffic, Monaca said the street would be unsafe.

Monaca plans to match the TIGER funds with an additional \$240,000 Multimodal Transportation Fund grant from the state and \$120,000 of borough funds.

Justine Coyne covers manufacturing and higher education.