



2024: *Building Momentum*

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Pittsburgh Pa., February 6, 2024 - Master Builders' Association of Western Pa. (MBA), Announces Support for Governor Josh Shapiro's Statewide Economic Development Plan in the 2024-2025 Budget

Master Builders' Association of Western Pa., the leading advocate for the construction industry, whose members are responsible for 80 percent of all commercial construction in the region, proudly expresses its support for Governor Shapiro's groundbreaking economic development plan unveiled this week.

"Governor's Shapiro's economic development plan is a visionary roadmap that reflects a deep understanding of the unique needs and potential of our Commonwealth. MBA proudly supports this initiative, which not only recognizes the contributions of the construction industry to the Commonwealth's economy, but also charts a course for sustained growth and competitiveness," said Dave Daquelente, MBA executive director.

MBA believes that Governor Shapiro and DCED Secretary Rick Siger's vision for economic growth demonstrates a profound understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing Pennsylvania, and offers solutions that will have a direct and positive effect on the construction industry in the region.

"This Ten-Year Strategic Plan for Economic Development outlined by the Governor underscores a commitment to fostering innovation, creating jobs, and positioning Pennsylvania as a global leader in economic development—all areas that dovetail with MBA's mission to build momentum for our industry and the region," added Daquelente.

Highlights of the economic development plan include:

1. **Site Development Investments:** Governor Shapiro recognizes the critical role that pad-ready sites play in attracting investment into our Commonwealth. Investing in these sites ensures a steady availability of world class real estate for high growth companies. MBA members stand ready to help build out these future sites.

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2. **Workforce Development:** MBA commends the Governor for prioritizing workforce development initiatives. By investing in education, training, and upskilling programs, the plan ensures that Western Pennsylvania will have a highly skilled and adaptable workforce ready to meet the demands of the economy. Doubling Down on Workforce Training and Pre-Apprenticeship and Registered Apprenticeship Programs is the right approach. MBA's successful, #BuildWPA workforce development campaign ([www. buildwpa.com](http://www.buildwpa.com)), has been dedicated to workforce development. MBA is prepared and ready to help with initiatives in this area.
3. **Innovation and Research:** The commitment to fostering innovation and research within priority industries is a testament to Governor Shapiro's forward-thinking approach.

These initiatives position Pennsylvania as a hub for cutting-edge advancements, attracting both talent and investment. MBA and its contractor members look forward to collaborating closely with Governor Shapiro and legislative leadership to bring this ambitious economic development plan to fruition, helping to build a thriving future for Western Pennsylvania. .
#mbabuildingmomentum.

About MBA: Master Builders of Western Pennsylvania, Inc., is a trade association whose membership includes more than 255 of the top general contractors, construction managers, specialty contractors, and service and supplier companies supporting our region's commercial construction industry. Collectively, MBA membership accounts for more than 80 percent of the commercial construction in the Pittsburgh area. Since 1886, MBA has been a strong, influential, and single voice for the industry. MBA has awarded more than \$800,000 in scholarship support to students interested in a career in the construction industry.. MBA is affiliated with Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) representing over 32,000 members nationwide. This affiliation affords MBA membership with an even stronger industry voice and broader access to services, resources, and activities available on a national level. For more information, including the 2023 Member Report visit (www.mbawpa.org).