

ANNUAL REPORT

2025

**HUNTINGDON COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION**

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HUNTINGDON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Scott Walls, Chairman
Patrick Reeder, Vice Chairman
Jeff Thomas, Secretary
Heather Fellman, Chief Clerk

HUNTINGDON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Ron Rabena, Chairman
Larry Mutti, Vice Chairman
Lawrence Biemiller, Secretary
Philip Cahill*
Wendy Melius
Bryan Yingling
David Gardner
Rick Walker
Peter Liese

*through 1/2/2026



It is the mission of the Huntingdon County Planning Commission to develop and implement a positive vision for Huntingdon County: one that reflects economic prosperity, a rural and small town atmosphere, protection of natural resources, centers-focused development, greenway corridors, improved highway and communication access, and a high standard of excellence in both personal and community development.

INTRODUCTION

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

In 2025, the Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department continued its commitment to strengthening communities through thoughtful planning, effective grant administration, and strategic collaboration. Staff provided consistent support to the Huntingdon County Planning Commission, ensuring regular meetings, accurate documentation, and timely follow-up to advance countywide planning objectives.

A significant focus throughout the year was the administration of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The department successfully managed the 2025 CDBG application process, including public participation requirements, coordination with municipal partners, and submission of required documentation. Ongoing grant administration activities ensured compliance with federal and state regulations while supporting local infrastructure, housing, and community development projects.

The department also played a key role in hazard mitigation and resilience planning. Staff coordinated with consultants, municipal and community stakeholders, fiscal offices, and state and federal agencies to advance hazard mitigation planning efforts, manage invoices, and support reimbursement processes. These efforts ensure the county and its municipalities reduce risk, improve preparedness, and remain eligible for pre- and post-disaster funding.

Throughout 2025, staff maintained strong partnerships with municipalities, consultants, county departments, and state agencies. By providing technical assistance, guidance, and administrative support, the department helped local governments navigate complex planning and funding requirements while advancing projects that enhance quality of life across Huntingdon County.

Overall, 2025 reflected a year of steady progress, accountability, and service. Through diligent planning support, effective grant management, and continued collaboration, the Planning and Development Department remained focused on fostering sustainable growth and resilient communities throughout the county.

Planning and Development Department Staff

Laurie J. Nearhood, Planning Director

Jen Bellis, Community Development Administrator

Jayne Reck, Assistant Community Development Administrator

Jodi Gutshall, Office Manager/Secretary (through 1/23/2026)

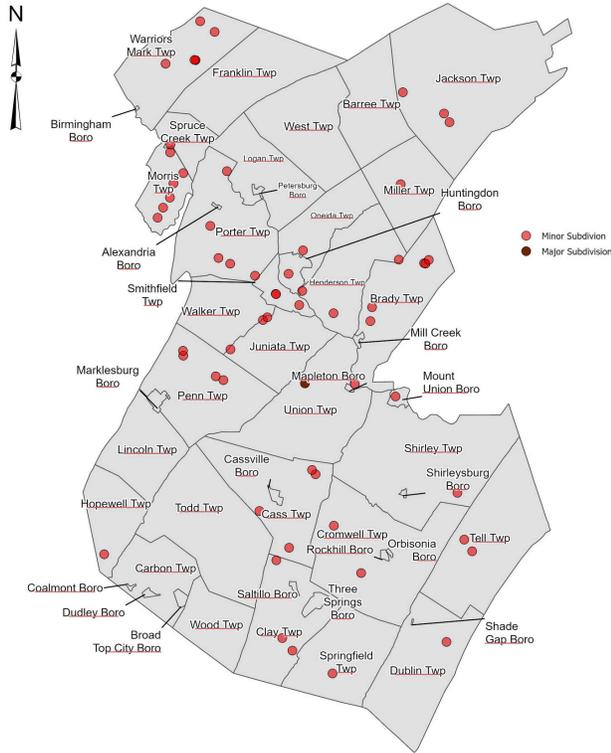
The Department is funded by the County General Fund's Planning and Zoning and Planning Grants (Community Development Block Grant/CDBG) line items. Below are detailed budget reports for 2025 and 2026.

General Funds

2025 Budget \$ 194,350.00	2025 Expenditures \$194,746.40	2026 Budget \$202,500.00
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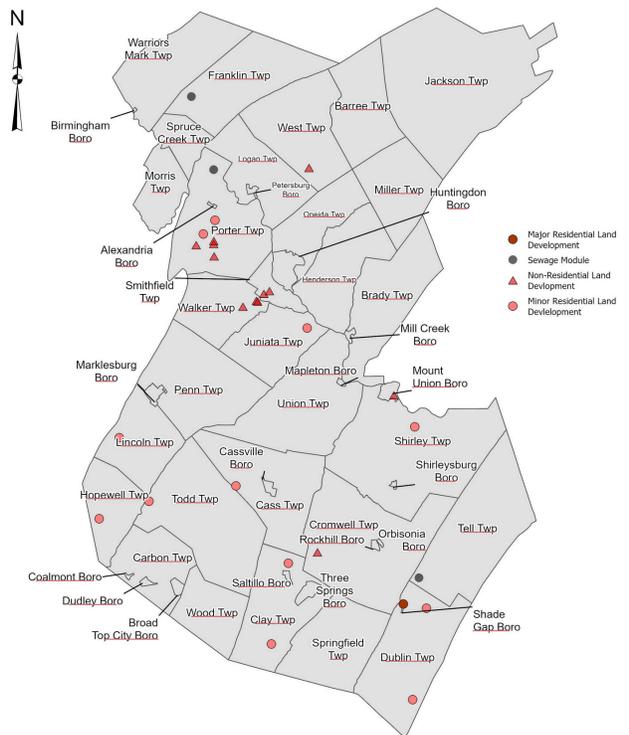
Planning and Zoning Budget Report	2025 Budget	2025 Expenditures	2026 Budget
Personnel	\$87,400.00	\$86,883.17	\$89,400.00
Office Expenses	\$5,600.00	\$5,395.83	\$5,700.00
Materials and Supplies	\$1,000.00	\$760.01	\$1,000.00
Other	\$3,500.00	\$5,842.48	\$5,000.00
Capital Outlay	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00	\$4,000.00
Total	\$99,000.00	\$99,881.49	\$105,100.00

Planning Grants Budget Report	2025 Budget	2025 Expenditures	2026 Budget
Personnel	\$94,000.00	\$93,903.15	\$96,000.00
Office Expenses	\$1,150.00	\$961.80	\$1,200.00
Materials and Supplies	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Other	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Total	\$95,350.00	\$94,864.95	\$97,400.00



**HCPC Subdivision
Review Locations 2025**
Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania

Prepared by: HCMD 2/2026



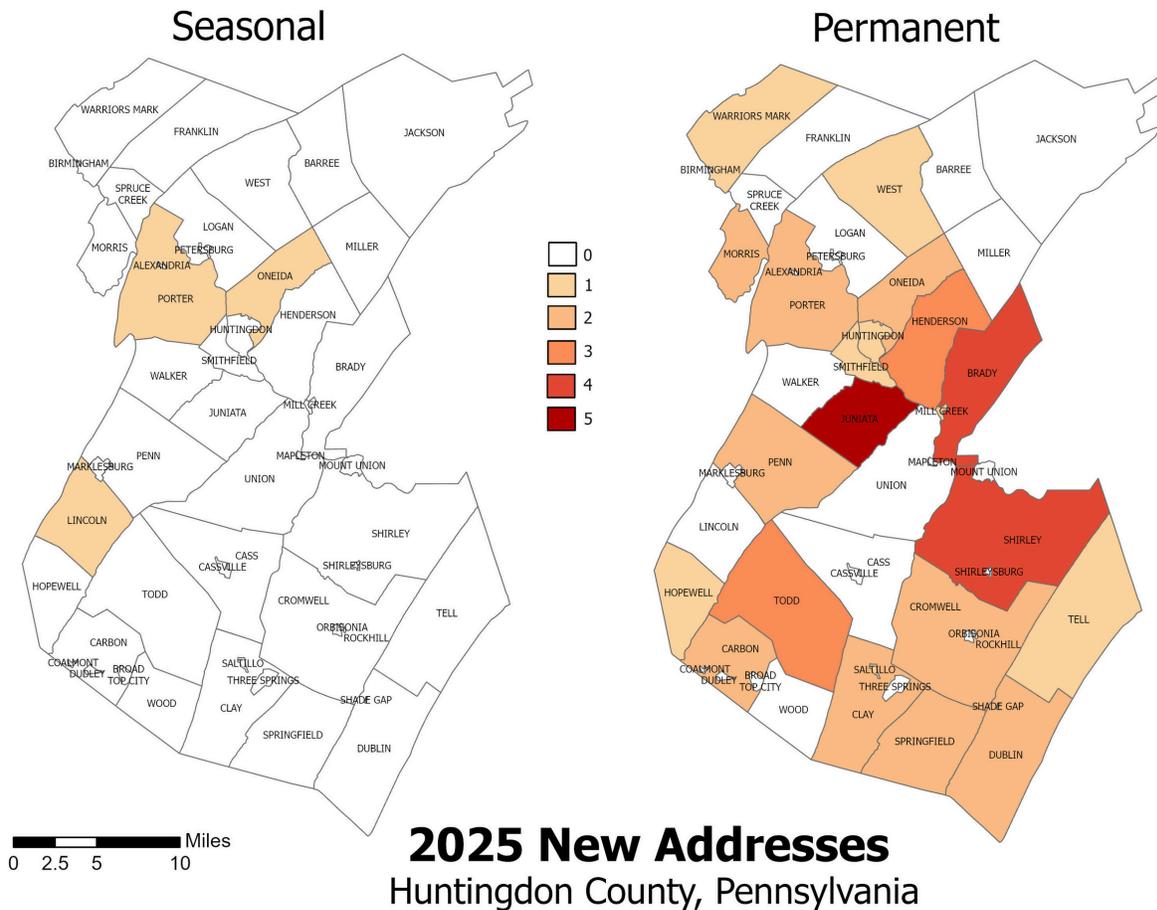
**HCPC Land Development
Review Locations 2025**
Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania

Prepared by: HCMD 2/2026

Building Activity:

Permanent and Seasonal Addresses

Addresses issued by the County Mapping Department are used to track new housing. In 2025, 48 new residential addresses were assigned: 45 for permanent and 3 for seasonal, an increase from the 42 permanent in 2024 but a decrease from the 13 seasonal in 2024.



Prepared by: HCMD 2/2026

Deed Transfers

The number of deeds created and transferred for both new and existing properties is monitored as an indicator of the economic well being of the County. The County Register and Recorder's office reported a total of 1,399 deeds recorded in 2025, an increase from the 1,295 deeds recorded in 2024.

Grant Administration

2025 was full of ebbs and flows for the CDBG staff. While there was minimal project activity occurring at the beginning of the year and more administrative duties taking place, the second half of the year was very busy with successful completion of 5 projects. Jen and Jayme had their first on-site monitoring in July with their DCED grant manager, Sarah. She commended them for their efforts to comply with the highly regulated federal CDBG program, and their professionalism and dedication to administering the program for the benefit the of residents of Huntingdon County. This visit also gave them the opportunity to ask questions and gain valuable insight and information directly from Sarah. The ladies also attended the Rural Rising Symposium held at Juniata College in March and attended the CD&H Practitioners Conference held at the Penn Stater in May. Jen and Jayme look forward to more community development and improvement opportunities that they can provide for the residents of Huntingdon County. The following are descriptions of the CDBG projects that were completed in 2025:

Huntingdon County

FY 2023

Habitat for Humanity (19 E. Garber Street) – Mount Union

This County project was done in partnership with the Huntingdon Area Habitat for Humanity. The original intent of this project was to renovate two properties, but with unforeseen staffing concerns within Habitat for Humanity, they opted to forgo the second property and solely focus on 19 E. Garber Street. The renovation of this property was nothing short of amazing. The house had to be gutted to the frame, and the entire layout of the space was reconfigured and rehabilitated to a safe and livable environment. There was also extensive electrical and plumbing work that was completed prior to any building or reconstructing of the structure. It was with great pleasure that CDBG staff attended the open house and dedication event for the house as the new owner and her family were able to move into their new home in November. The funded amount for this project was \$111,500.20, but because it came in under budget, the remaining \$8,428.98 will be reallocated to another County project bringing the total CDBG funding spent on this project to \$103,071.22.



Huntingdon County

FY 2024

Jonathan Love Memorial Park Upgrades – Wood Township

This County project involved the purchase of various pieces of park and playground equipment and metal roofing to complete some much-needed upgrades to the Jonathan Love Memorial Park in Wood Township. CDBG staff met with members of the CCAW (Citizens Community Association of Wood) who are overseeing the park upgrades to get their ideas and details of what was needed to improve community members and visitors' time at the park to make it more useable. With remaining funds from the Habitat project, additional funding was able to be added to this project to complete the roof on both dugouts, as well as the concession stand and obtain a new climber for a complete playground upgrade. The roofs were completed in October, and all components were received where they are being stored until Spring for assembly and installation. In total, CDBG funding was able to secure a new swing set with 2 double bays, belt swings (3) and one infant swing, recycled plastic benches (8), 6' recycled plastic picnic tables (10), 8' ADA accessible recycled plastic picnic table (1), a large playground climber and two recycled plastic trash receptacles. The final funded amount for this project was \$46,634.80.



Huntingdon County

FY 2023 & 2024

MUMA-Green Avenue Waterline Replacement – Shirley Township/Mount Union



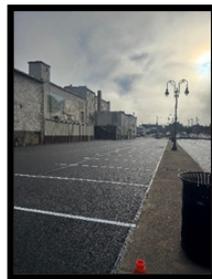
This County project was anticipated to be a 2024 & 2025 project, but with the changes to the 2024 allocation and the small amount of funds in 2023 released due to the removal of the second Habitat property, this project was able to be completed with 2023 & 2024 funds instead. The bid opening for this project was in August with McClellan Brothers awarded the contract. Work started shortly after and completed in November. This project consisted of replacement of the waterline which will offer better water pressure to the residents of that street, as well as offering adequate capacity to tie in an additional area later. There was also the addition of a fire hydrant at the end of Green Avenue which will offer support to fire companies if ever needed. The total funded amount for this project was \$189,816.00.

Huntingdon Borough

FY 2022 & 2023

7th Street Parking Lot Rehabilitation – obo Huntingdon Borough

This Borough project involved the milling of the entire 7th Street lot, offering spot-based repairs, paving of the lot, repainting the parking spot lines and ADA designated requirements, new signs and posts, and attention was given to drain inlets and grates. Bids were opened in August with Grannas Brothers awarded the contract. The project was bid substantially below budget allowing funds to be redistributed to other “back pocket” projects within the Borough. The total funded amount for this project was \$98,415.81.



Smithfield Township

FY 2021 & 2022 & 2023 & 2024

Storm Sewer Improvements Phase East – obo Smithfield Township

The preliminary portion of this project consisted of closed-circuit television inspection of the existing storm sewer lines, as well as cleaning and jetting. This portion of the project was completed in October 2024. The second tier of this project went out to bid in July with Guyer Brothers being awarded the contract. The sewer lines,



following the report from the CCTV portion, provided ample evidence of problem areas needing attention where damages were repaired, replaced and/or heavily cleaned to ensure proper drainage was attained. This project was completed in December. The total funded amount for this project was \$306,429 (this included the CCTV portion and repair/rehabilitation).



**Planning and Community Development Grant Summary
ENTITLEMENT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS**

FY 2021	AMOUNT
Pennsylvania Ave Restoration-completed December 2024	\$206,680.00
HB 6 th Street Parking Lot Rehab-completed September 2023	\$103,964.00
ST Housing Rehab-completed March 2024	\$21,905.00
ST Storm Sewer Improvements Phase East -CCTV portion completed October 2024 & Repair/Replacement completed December 2025	\$58,065.00
Total	\$390,614.00

FY 2022	AMOUNT
HB 6 th Street Parking Lot Rehab-completed September 2023	\$4,922.21
Bricktown Senior Center Upgrades-completed April 2024	\$10,196.50
Westminster Place Outdoor Upgrades-completed April 2024	\$3,154.25
Pennsylvania Ave Restoration-completed December 2024	\$33,763.50
HB 7 th Street Parking Lot Rehabilitation-completed October 2025	\$95,234.54
MUMA – W. Davis/W. Garber St. Waterline-completed July 2024	\$155,305.00
ST Storm Sewer Improvements Phase East -CCTV portion completed October 2024 & Repair/Replacement completed December 2025	\$83,149.00
Total	\$385,725.00

FY 2023	AMOUNT
Pennsylvania Ave Restoration-completed December 2024	\$49,561.00
Habitat for Humanity – Mount Union-completed November 2025 **	\$111,500.20
7 th Street Parking Lot Rehabilitation-completed October 2025 **	\$24,850.46
ST Storm Sewer Improvements Phase East -CCTV portion completed October 2024 & Repair/Replacement completed December 2025	\$83,175.00
MUMA – Green Ave Waterline Replacement-completed December 2025	\$38,253.80
Detwiler Field Lighting Upgrades-project start date TBD	\$78,497.54
Total	\$385,838.00

FY 2024	AMOUNT
ST Storm Sewer Improvements Phase East -CCTV portion completed October 2024 & Repair/Replacement completed December 2025	\$82,040.00
Jonathan Love Memorial Park Upgrades-purchases completed October 2025	\$46,634.80
MUMA – Green Ave Waterline Replacement-completed December 2025 **	\$151,562.20
Detwiler Field Lighting Upgrades-project start date TBD **	\$66,502.46
HCC – ADA Chair Lift-project start date TBD	\$7,422.00
Library ADA Improvements-project start date TBD	\$27,746.54
Total	\$381,908.00

** Revision/Modification Pending

Partnership for Economic Progress (PEP)

The County Commissioners established PEP in 2000, with the vision of “improving the economic health and quality of life of Huntingdon County residents by fostering and enhancing community education and innovation, agency communication, and coordination and promotion of a positive image of the County.” To implement this vision, the group works towards a common strategic plan. In 2025, PEP continued to meet quarterly to discuss opportunities, challenges and implementation of the following strategic priorities:

1. Supply Chain: Support Existing Businesses by Promoting Crossover Businesses;
2. Business Development: Assist Businesses by Providing a Host of Services;
3. Infrastructure: Promote 21st Century Infrastructure Provide to Businesses;
4. Workforce Development: Attract, Retain, and Educate the Workforce; and
5. Marketing: Market the County to Employers, Investors, and Employees.

PEP members and stakeholders include the Huntingdon County Commissioners, State Senator, State Representative, Huntingdon County Business & Industry, Inc., Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce, Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau, Huntingdon County Planner, Huntingdon CareerLink/Employment & Training, Huntingdon County Career & Technology Center, Huntingdon Area School District, Juniata Valley School District, Mount Union Area School District, Juniata College, Penn Highlands Community College, Penn State Cooperative Extension, East Broad Top Foundation, Center for Community Action, Huntingdon Borough, New Day Charter School, Penn Highlands Healthcare and representatives from industry sectors such as insurance, housing and banking.

HCBI Board of Directors and Business and Economic Development Committee

The Huntingdon County Business & Industry (HCBI) mission is “to promote economic development throughout Huntingdon County.” The Planning Director participates in public sessions of the Board of Directors, reporting on community and economic development activities of the Planning Department. The Business and Economic Development Committee addresses economic development matters regarding business development, transportation, and infrastructure. The Planning Director participates in the Committee.

HCBI Revolving Loan Fund

Developed as part of the County’s Enterprise Zone, the EZ Revolving Loan Fund supports for-profit businesses located within the designated Enterprise Zone. Eligible activities include acquisition/renovation of land and buildings; purchase of machinery, equipment and inventory; training; working capital; and payment of professional fees and services. Planning Department staff coordinate with HCBI to deposit monthly loan payments, disburse funds for loan closings, provide bank statements and facilitate payment of monthly reimbursement for administration of the loan program.

Community Development Block Grant Staff:

- Attended Rural Rising Symposium, Juniata College
- Attended CD & H Practitioners Conference, Penn State
 - Overview of HUD Community Planning & Development Programs
 - State/HUD Regulation Changes/DCED Policies
 - Section 3 - Community Services Block Grant, Workforce Development
 - Street Outreach: Low-Barrier Shelter
 - Annual Reporting/AppC
 - Flood Resiliency - Disaster Recovery
 - Setting Up a Community Housing Development Organization
 - US Interagency Council on Homelessness Updates
 - ABCs of American Community Survey Data
 - Housing First Fundamentals
 - From Application to Contract on the First Try
 - Building Strong Rehabilitation Programs
 - Unlocking Potential: Strategic Use of Leveraged Funds

Planning Staff:

- Attended Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association Annual Conference, Harrisburg Hilton
 - Overcoming Barriers to Active Transportation Planning
 - How to Bridge the Digital Divide After Snatching Defeat from the Jaws of Victory
 - Lodging at a Crossroads: Short-term Rentals, Leveling the Playing Field & Ensuring Fairness and Safety in a Changing Ecosystem
 - Fast Fun Fervent: Transportation
 - Artificial Intelligence in Community Planning: Enhancing Efficiency and Effectiveness for Public Sector Planners
 - Trails as Resilient Infrastructure: How Trails can Support Pennsylvania's Communities
 - PA Housing Plans and Advocacy
 - History, Implementation and Benefits of Expanded Western PA Passenger Rail Service
 - Civic Pride & Civic Apathy
 - Energy...What You Need to Know and What You Need to Do
- Participated in Large-Scale Solar in Pennsylvania: 2025 General Update, Penn State Extension Webinar
- Participated in Revised Baseline Reports Training, NTIA/BIP Awardees, Virtual
- Participated in Program Income and Expenses Training, NTIA/BIP Awardees, Virtual
- Attended Grid-Scale Solar Workshop, PSATS, Smithfield Volunteer Fire Company
- Participated in Data Center Development Discussion, Penn State Extension, Virtual

Broad Top City Borough

Staff and the Planning Commission reviewed and submitted comments on a revision of the Borough's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.

Cromwell and Springfield Townships

Staff responded to several inquiries and provided clarification regarding development permit, floodplain, solar and subdivision and land development regulations.

Huntingdon Borough and Smithfield Township

CDBG Staff coordinated with municipal staff and engineers to discuss current and future entitlement CDBG projects.

Jackson Township

Staff received and responded to a request regarding the process for developing a zoning ordinance.

Marklesburg Borough Authority, Mill Creek Borough, Oneida Township, Saltillo Borough

CDBG staff reviewed potential projects and demographic information to determine project eligibility for FY 2025 CDBG Entitlement funding.

Three Springs Borough

Staff and the Planning Commission reviewed and submitted comments on the Borough's newly drafted Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.

Walker Township

Staff and the Planning Commission reviewed and submitted comments on a solar energy system regulations amendment to the Township's Zoning Ordinance.

Warriors Mark Township

Staff and the Planning Commission reviewed and submitted comments on a commercial district amendment to the Township's Zoning Ordinance.

All Municipalities with FEMA Special Flood Hazard Areas (Floodplains)

Staff notified municipalities that the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) would begin municipal compliance reviews after July 1, 2025. This review, called a Community Assistance Contact (CAC), is intended to audit compliance with the Floodplain Management Act. The importance of municipal participation was emphasized since non-participation in the review and in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) risks the loss of state funding, including Liquid Fuels.

Huntingdon County Board of Realtors

The Planning Director discussed Smart Growth as part of the September 24, 2025 meeting of the Board of Realtors. The presentation included the goals of Smart Growth, the importance of comprehensive planning and ordinance adoption; and the status of county and municipal planning efforts and ordinance adoption.

Act 13 Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund

One provision of Act 13 that directly impacts Huntingdon County is the establishment of a Legacy Fund, which allows each county in the Commonwealth to receive a share of the Marcellus Shale drilling impact fee based upon County population. These funds are intended for “the planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation, and repair of greenways, recreational trails, open space, natural areas, community conservation and beautification projects, community and heritage parks, and water resource management. Funds may be used to acquire lands for recreational or conservation purposes and land damaged or prone to damage by storms or flooding.” These funds may be leveraged with other funding sources to complete a project and mostly serve as gap financing.

On January 14, 2025, the Huntingdon County Commissioners authorized a round of \$30,000.00 in Act 13 Legacy Grant funding for municipalities, non-profits and recreational organizations. The County Planning Commission received and reviewed eleven applications for Act 13 funding totaling \$79,386.81. During their April 29, 2025 meeting, the Huntingdon County Commissioners approved the Planning Commission’s recommendations to fund the following projects:

Concrete Renovations (Three Springs Pool)
Three Springs Borough
\$2,385.00

Pennsylvania Avenue Wall Mural Project
Mount Union Borough
\$5,300.00

Woodcock Valley Community Little League Field Update
Walker Township
\$5,830.00

Orbisonia Ball Field Update (SHC Youth Baseball)
Cromwell Township
\$6,485.00

Community Building and Grounds Re-Beautification Project
Cassville Borough
\$10,000.00

Huntingdon County Hazard Mitigation Plan

Continuing work that kicked off in June 2024, MCM Consulting Group, Inc. drafted the Hazard Mitigation Plan in coordination with the Local Planning Team and municipal representatives. The planning process included identification and prioritization of hazards that may affect the county and its municipalities; assessment of vulnerability to these hazards; identification of mitigation actions and projects to reduce vulnerability; and development of an implementation strategy. Twenty-three natural and human caused hazards were identified as highest risk.

The Draft Plan was presented at a February 21, 2025 Public Meeting. Following a July 1, 2025 submission for PEMA review, the Plan was submitted for FEMA review on July 15, 2025. FEMA questions, requirements and recommendations were addressed resulting in resubmissions on September 18th and November 13th.

FEMA's Plan Approvable Pending Adoption (APA) notification was received November 24, 2025. Based on FEMA review, 43 of the County's 48 municipalities were identified as eligible to adopt the Plan as their municipal Plan. The Huntingdon County Commissioners adopted the Plan on December 9, 2025. By December 31, 2025, 27 of the 43 eligible municipalities had adopted the Plan. Planning Department and Emergency Management Agency staff will continue outreach efforts in 2026 to obtain the remaining 16 adoptions.

The following goals are included in the Plan:

- Reduce potential injury/death and damage to existing community assets due to floods, flash floods, and ice jams.
- Reduce potential injury/death and damage to community assets due to all hazards.
- Promote disaster-resistant future development.
- Promote hazard mitigation as a public value in recognition of its importance to the health, safety, and welfare of the population.
- Improve response and recovery capabilities.
- Protect critical infrastructure.

Municipal Solid Waste Management Plan Update

The South Central Counties Solid Waste Agency (SCCSWA), representing Huntingdon, Bedford, and Fulton Counties, oversees municipal waste disposal and recycling capacity for the three counties. Following the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's October 18, 2024 approval of the Plan, Planning staff coordinated outreach to obtain agreements from landfills and transfer stations identified in the Plan. As of October 28, 2025, the successful outreach identifies landfill capacity to serve the three counties through 2034. Remaining capacity is to be reviewed each year through 2034 with the next full Plan Update anticipated to begin in 2030.

Alleghenies Ahead, Shared Strategies for a Stronger Region

The six south-central counties served by the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission (SAP&DC) - Blair, Bedford, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon and Somerset - collaboratively developed the award-winning multi-county Comprehensive Plan, Alleghenies Ahead. The Plan, adopted by the Huntingdon County Commissioners on July 3, 2018, identifies five Action Plan priorities for Huntingdon County:

- broadband and cellular service
- collaboration and coordination
- business and workforce development
- housing and blight
- recreational amenities and natural assets



The Planning Commission, Planning Department and stakeholders continue to assist with implementation of these priorities. Discussions regarding who, how and when to begin the required ten year Plan update began in 2025.

Huntingdon County Active Transportation Plan

Adopted by the Huntingdon County Commissioners on September 12, 2023 and then on January 16, 2024 as part of the County's Comprehensive Plan, the County's Active Transportation Plan embodies Huntingdon County's active transportation vision of improving walking, bicycling, wheeling and paddling connections to favorable destinations and increasing safe and accessible opportunities for Huntingdon County residents so they can be more physically active.

Huntingdon County Active Transportation Committee (ATC)

Created by the Huntingdon County Commissioners on November 28, 2017 and reconvened on February 11, 2022, the ATC consists of 15 voting members and four ex-officio members from public and private sectors. The ATC is responsible for raising awareness of bicycle and pedestrian planning concerns. The ATC meets monthly and provides semiannual reports to the Planning Commission. The Planning Director and the ATC Vice Chairman participated in a PennDOT Public Officials Meeting regarding plans for a bridge project on Meadow Gap Road. The project's impact to users of the Standing Stone Trail was noted.

Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) Implementation

Section 302 of the MPC requires submission of comprehensive plans and plan amendments to contiguous municipalities for comment. Section 305 of the MPC requires school districts to submit proposed actions related to the location, demolition, removal, sale or lease of any school district structure or land to county planning agencies for recommendation. In 2025, the County Planning Commission provided comments regarding the updated Mifflin County Comprehensive Plan and the proposed sale of the Mapleton Elementary School.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Every two years, Huntingdon County participates in the update to the the TIP in cooperation with Bedford, Fulton, Huntingdon and Somerset Counties, the Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission's (SAP&DC) Rural Planning Organization (RPO), PennDOT District 9-0 and PennDOT Central Office.

In December 2024, Huntingdon County submitted highway and bridge recommendations for the FY 2027-2030 TIP. Following an August 2025 PennDOT discussion of county priorities, Planning staff reached out to Union Township to request their consideration of reprioritizing the Harmony Church Road Bridge over the Bankstown Road Bridge due to bridge ratings. The Union Township Supervisors agreed and the Planning Commission made a recommendation to reprioritize local bridge recommendations. The following local bridge recommendations were approved by the County Commissioners on September 23, 2025 and submitted to SAP&DC and PennDOT District 9-0:

- 1) Bankstown Road Bridge (T-421) over Hares Valley Creek in Union Township
- 2) Globe Run Road Bridge (T-520) over Globe Run in West Township

The Bankstown Road Bridge is included in the FY 2027 - 2030 Draft TIP, which was approved by the RPO's Rural Transportation Coordinating Committee on December 10, 2025. It is anticipated the TIP will become effective in October 2026 following public hearings in May 2026 and approval in late June 2026.

Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

The Southern Alleghenies RPO's LRTP contains a 20-year vision for the region's transportation system; identifies transportation assets; highlights present and future transportation needs; and provides goals and objectives to fulfill those needs. The LRTP guides decisions during development of the Twelve Year Plan (TYP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The RPO, in coordination with PennDOT and Bedford, Fulton, Huntingdon and Somerset Counties, developed and adopted the FY 2022-2042 LRTP on October 17, 2022.

With the FY 2027-2047 LRTP to be adopted in November 2027, the LRTP Steering Committee kick-off meeting was held October 21, 2025. Stakeholder outreach and a public survey are anticipated in early 2026.

County Planning Directors Association of Pennsylvania (CPDAP)

An affiliate of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP), the CPDAP works with federal, state and local partners to provide pertinent news, updates, and education on topics that have an effect on county planning. While the CPDAP formally meets four times yearly, all participating members are part of a messaging group that regularly keeps in contact with updates and planning-related questions. The County Planning Director is a member of this organization.

Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission (SAP&DC)

The Planning Director represents the County on several SAP&DC committees, including the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), the Rural Transportation Technical Committee (RTTC), and the Long Range Transportation Plan Steering Committee. The County Commissioners sit on the Rural Transportation Coordinating Committee (RTCC). The RTTC and the RTCC have key roles in review and approval of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the Twelve Year Plan (TYP) and the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

County-Municipal Project Review

Two municipal subdivision and land development ordinances, two municipal zoning ordinance amendments, and one county comprehensive plan were reviewed in 2025.

Local government and state agencies submitted a total of 74 project notifications, including 31 under Act 14; 25 under Act 67 and 68; and 18 under Act 127. For example, these notifications included 14 DEP County Notifications of Planned Land Development for Chapter 102 Permits; 14 DEP NPDES Permit applications; 3 NEPA Section 106 Effect on Historic Property Reviews; 11 comprehensive plan/land use consistency requests along with 12 letters of support for applications to funding sources that included DCED GTRP; DCED Small Water and Sewer; DCNR C2P2; Southern Alleghenies Regional Mini-Grant; DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund; Statewide Local Share Account; and the U.S. Department of Transportation PROTECT Program.

Federal-State Project Review

Under the Intergovernmental Review Process (IRP), 16 funding requests to federal agencies were received in 2025: 13 from the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to the US Environmental Protection Agency; one from DEP to the US Department of Energy; one from DEP to the US Department of Labor; and one from DEP to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The Community Improvement Awards are sponsored by the Huntingdon County Planning Commission, the Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce, and Kish Bank. The Planning Commission and the Chamber's Community Improvement Committee jointly review nominees, with final selection made by the Huntingdon County Planning Commission. Categories for the 2024 Awards were New Construction; Preservation: Historic; Preservation: Adaptive Reuse; Community Spirit and 20 Years of Continuing Excellence.

Five awards were presented when the twentieth annual Community Improvement Awards were announced during the Planning Commission's February 27, 2025 Annual Dinner Meeting. Recipients of the 2024 Awards included:

New Construction - Juniata College, Statton Learning Commons

Originally constructed as the L.A. Beegly Library in 1963, the building underwent a full renovation to meet the evolving needs of student learners and to better serve the broader community. The Statton Learning Commons is a 42,000 square-foot, multi-level academic facility that serves as a central hub for student learning, collaboration, and innovation.



Preservation: Adaptive Reuse - McGraw Contracting, LLC Office Remodel

McGraw Contracting, LLC purchased what had been a carpet store building and completely changed its appearance, creating a sharp-looking, contemporary headquarters that accommodates both customers and the company's needs. This growing business made the essential move to a 14,000-square-foot space marking a significant upgrade from their previous 1,000-square-foot space and transforming the old Fike Brothers building into their new office and warehouse with significant community visibility.

Community Spirit - Warriors Mark Historical Society Pavilion

Don Baney was born and raised in Warriors Mark. His family owned a crop farm in Frog Town just past Conrads Farm. After completing school, Don went to college and studied Floral Design. He and his wife, Peg, owned and operated Baney's Flower Shop in Tyrone for 55 years before they retired. Don always loved Warriors Mark and upon his passing, Peg ensured his memory would make a lasting impact on Warriors Mark. A pavilion was erected in Don's memory for the Warriors Mark Historical Society. The pavilion provides the historical society with many opportunities. It will allow them to present community programs and presentations and to host children's activities such as movie nights, Easter egg hunts, Halloween activities, picnics and much more.

Preservation: Historic - Huntingdon Borough Town Clock Restoration



The project began in 2016 when the clock's electrical modifications from 1958 failed and the clock stopped. The complete repair, construction and restoration from the clock faces at upper level of the clock tower to the clock workings at ground level allows the public to see and hear the time as well as view the mechanical workings of a 1910 tower clock that has been a part of Huntingdon's history since 1872.

20 Years of Continuing Excellence - Bonney Forge Corporation

In honor of the 20th Anniversary of the Community Improvement Awards, this Continuing Excellence award recognized a prior awardee for continued commitment to the essence of the embodiment of the Community Improvement Awards. Bonney Forge Corporation, a 2005 awardee honoring the company's outstanding landscape design and maintenance surrounding the 200,000 square foot Mount Union Plant, received the 20 Year Award.

County Planning Commission Members Recognized

In addition to the Community Improvement Awards, Planning Department staff presented awards to Ron Rabena, Larry Mutti and Bryan Yingling for their 20+ years of dedicated service.



