

2016 Annual Report



Juniata River
Blueprint
COMMUNITIES®

Mapleton



1. Way-finding Signage
2. Street Landscaping
3. Street lighting
4. Facade Updates
5. New Sidewalks
6. Signage for Post Office and OIP
7. Bike Lane

Mount Union



1. Wrought Iron Fence
2. Trees
3. Way-finding Signage
4. Bollard Lights
5. Benches
6. Flexible space for Arts Festival, Farmer's Market, etc.

Shirley Township



1. Outdoor Seating
2. Sidewalks
3. Landscaping
4. Way-finding Signage
5. Business Development
6. Trans-load facility and Stone Driveway

Huntingdon County Planning Commission

MISSION STATEMENT

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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Subdivision and Land Development</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Community Development</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Economic Development</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Education</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Municipal and Agency Partnerships</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>County Assistance</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Comprehensive Plan</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Transportation Planning</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Agency Liaison and Coordination</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Organization and Management</i>	<i>25</i>

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

Proper maintenance and implementation of the *Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan* requires continuous data collection and analysis. Data collected by the Planning Staff includes: Building and Subdivision Activity, Deed Transfers, Municipal Contacts, Municipal Land Use Ordinances, and Population and Socio-Economic Characteristics.

SUBDIVISION ACTIVITY (LOTS SOLD)

The number of new subdivision lots recorded indicates the level of land development occurring within the County. This information is valuable when determining the need for public services.

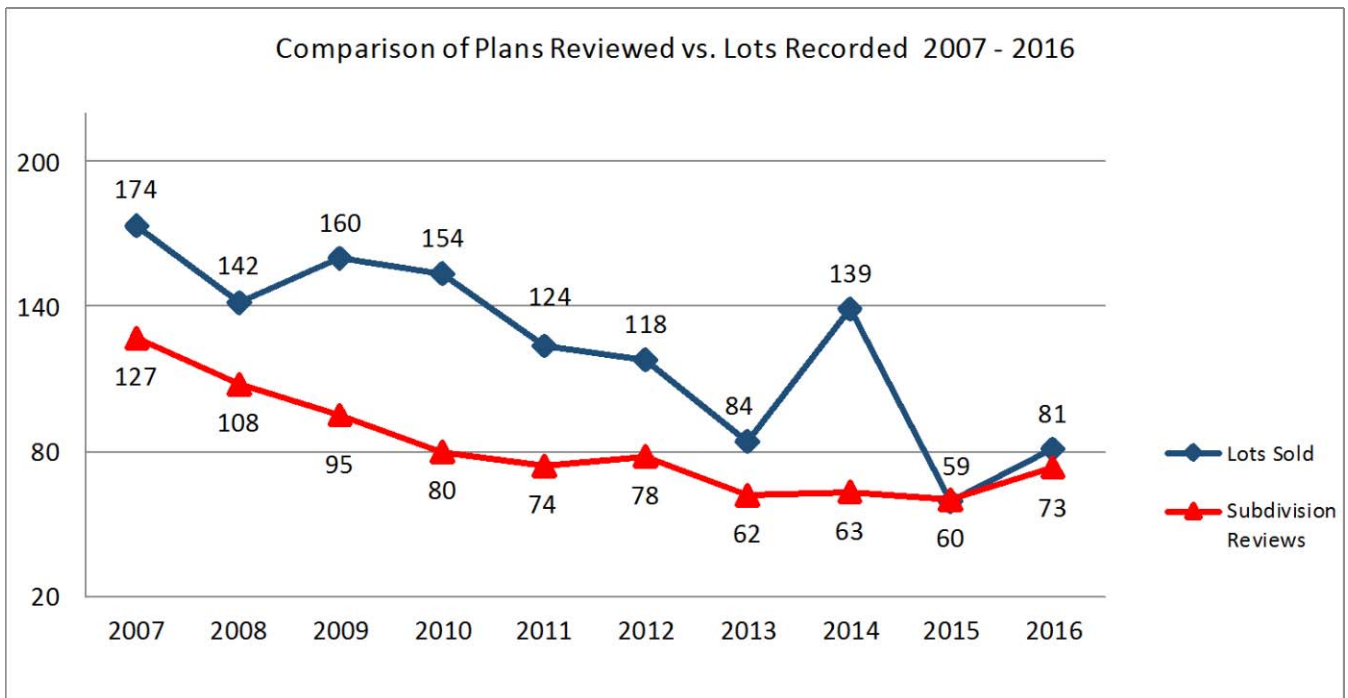
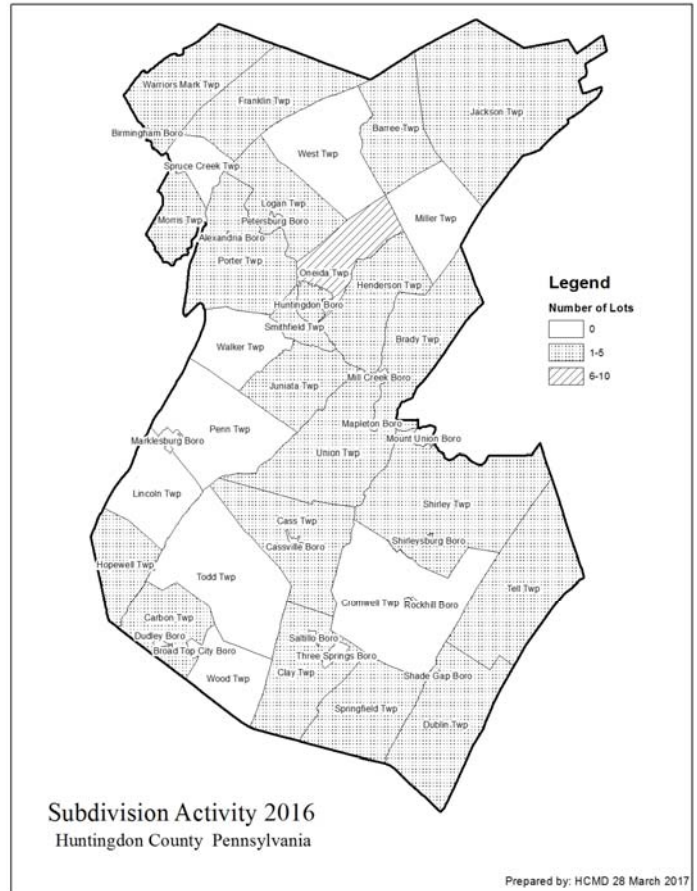
Subdivision activity reflects the actual number of deeds recorded in the Courthouse (sale of lots) rather than the platting of lots referenced on page 2.

During 2016, 81 new lots were recorded in Huntingdon County. This is an increase of 37.3% from the 59 lots recorded in 2015.

The chart on this page illustrates a ten-year history of new lot activity and subdivision and land development reviews, while the map illustrates the intensity of development in each municipality.

In 2016, the municipalities with the highest levels of activity were:

- Todd and Walker Townships, 10 new lots each;
- Oneida Township, 6 new lots; and
- Cass and Shirley Townships, 5 new lots each.



SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS

Section 502 of the *PA Municipalities Planning Code* gives the Planning Commission authority to review and comment on subdivision and land development proposals submitted to local municipalities. The Commission also comments on consistency with *Act 537, the PA Sewage Facilities Act*.

The Planning Commission reviewed a total of 73 subdivisions and land developments in 29 municipalities in 2016, up by 13 since the 60 reviewed in 2015. These included 2 major subdivisions, 1 major residential land development, 1 non-residential land development sketch plan, 4 non-residential land developments, 63 minor subdivisions, and 2 minor land developments encompassing 74 lots and 1,588.7 acres. The maps on this page illustrate the distribution of these proposals.

The two major subdivisions reviewed in 2016 were:

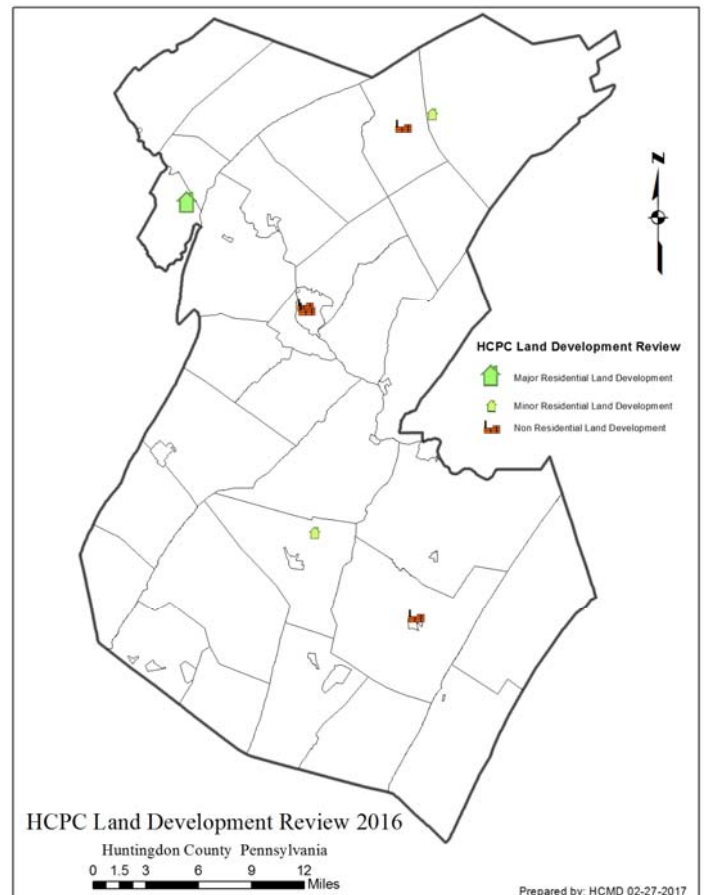
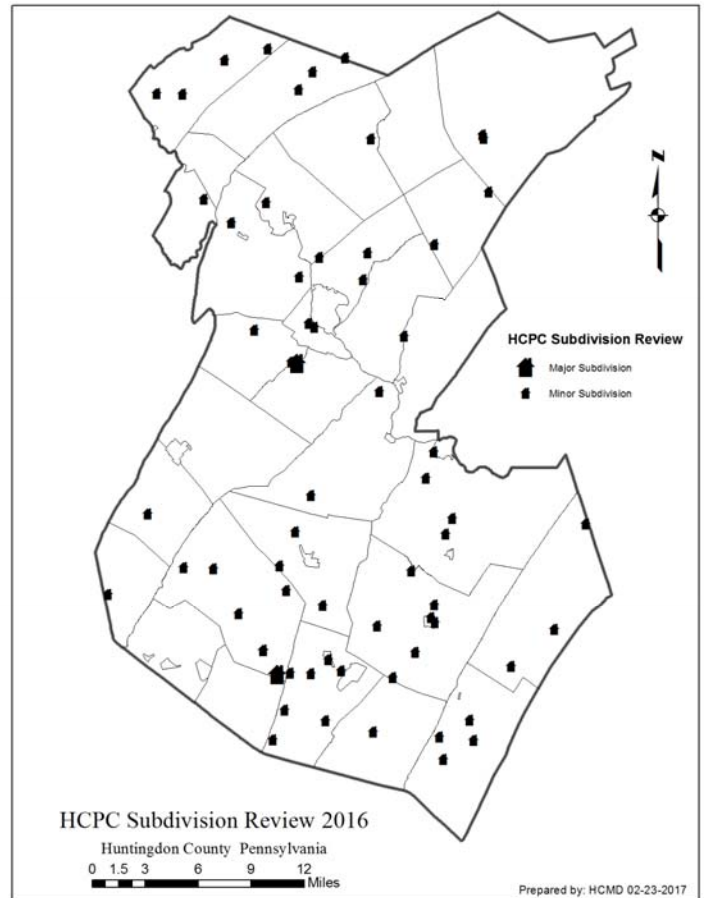
- Douglas O., Sr. and Lori M. Kent & David L. and Sally A. Keller Subdivision, Juniata Township - 6 lots, 55.955 acres; and
- Marlin W. Watkins Subdivision, Todd Township - 4 lots, 66.473 acres.

The major residential land development reviewed was:

- Emily Estates, Morris Township, 70.082 acres, creation of an 81 cottage adult-living community with a 14,560 square foot club house.

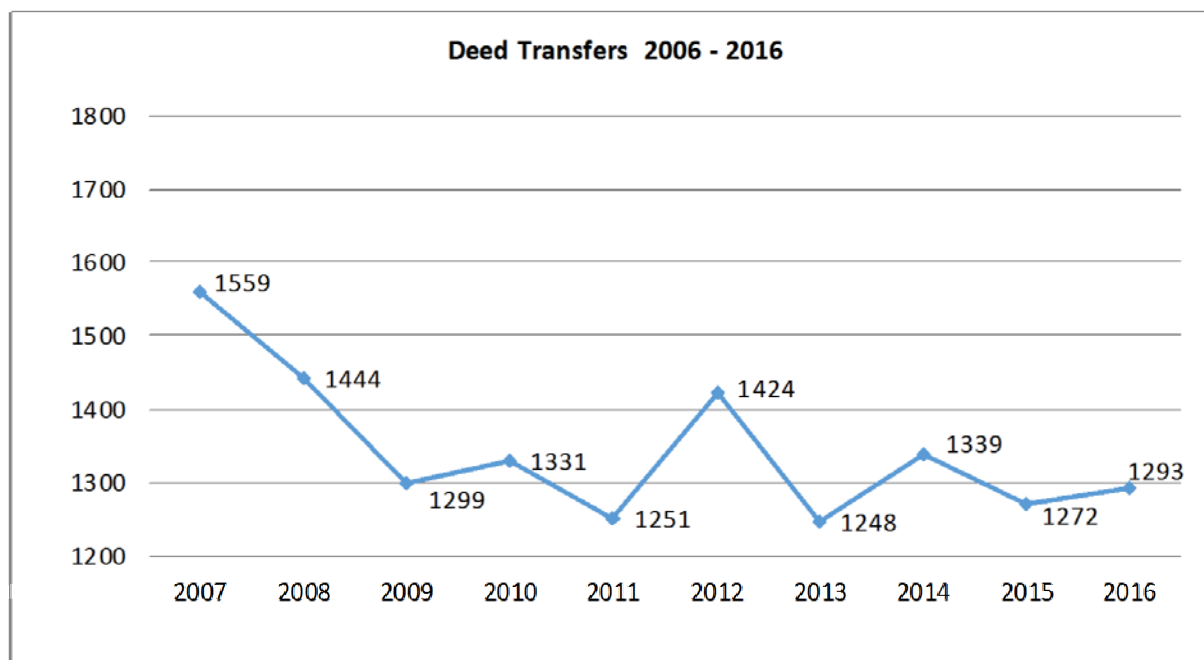
The four non-residential land developments reviewed were:

- MaryMart Family Limited Partnership, Cromwell Township, 0.89 acres, construction of a 3,895 square foot building with restaurant and fuel center;
- Winton Hill Athletic Complex & Campus Stormwater Improvements, Huntingdon Borough, 21.64 acres, upgrade existing soccer complex to include synthetic turf, a 6,725 square foot field house, fixed seating, six new tennis courts; and construction of a large storm water basin and creation of a new riparian buffer along Muddy Run;
- New IMSA Building, Juniata College, Huntingdon Borough, construction of an 11,000 square foot, 2 story arts building; removal of tennis courts; construction of walkways, patios, accessible parking and site for a future sculpture; and
- Shaver's Creek Environmental Center, Barree Township, 4.9 acres, removal of smaller buildings, addition of new buildings, reconfiguration of parking and entrance drop-off area, and new on-lot septic system.



DEED TRANSFERS

The number of deeds transferred for both new and existing properties is monitored as an indicator of the economic well-being of the County. The Huntingdon County Register and Recorder's Office reported that the total number of deeds transferred in 2016, both existing and new, showed a 1.7% increase from 1,272 in 2015 to 1,293 in 2016.



BUILDING ACTIVITY

For 2016, the Department used electrical permits reported by Valley Rural Electric Cooperative (VREC), new addresses issued by the County Mapping Department, building permits reported by Bureau Veritas, and building permit reports from the County Assessment Department to determine new housing starts.

Valley Rural Electric issued a total of 48 electrical permits in 18 municipalities for seasonal and year round housing, while the Huntingdon County Mapping Department issued a total of 84 addresses in 28 municipalities for seasonal and year round housing.

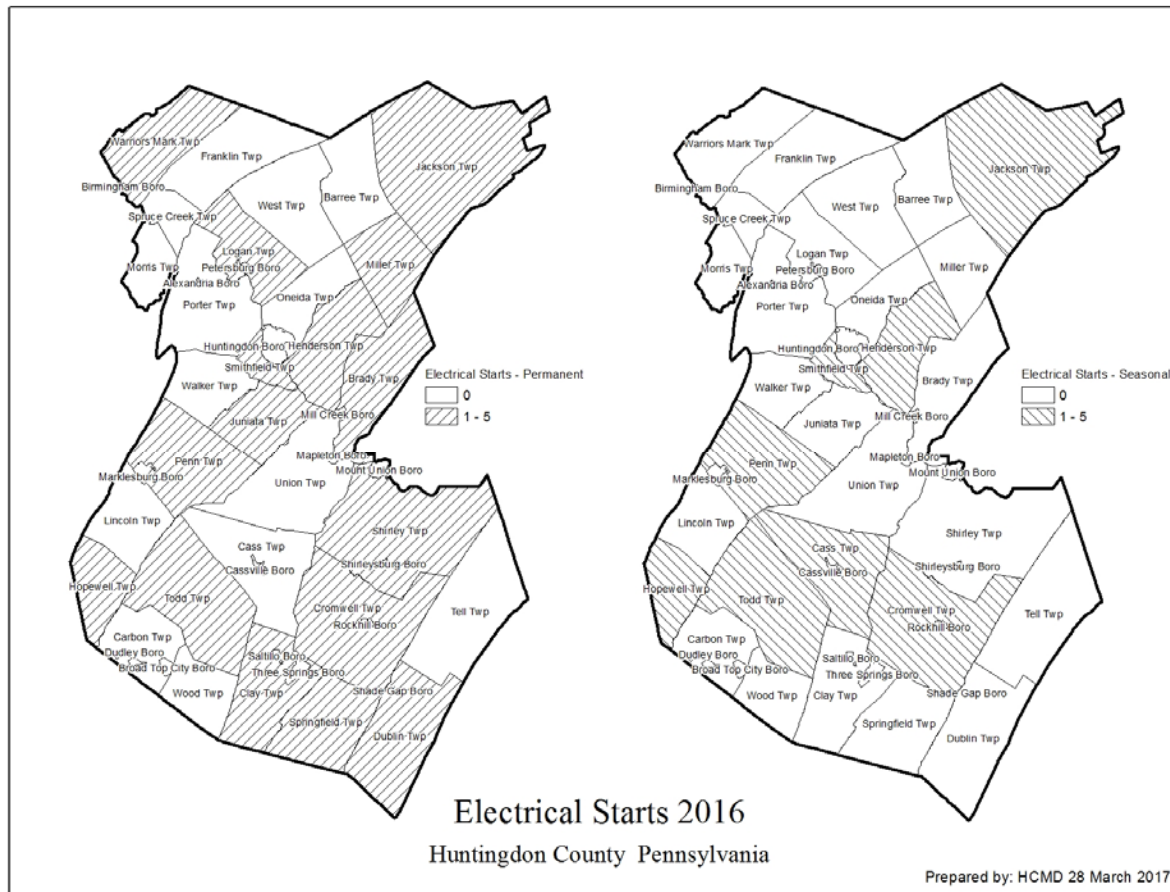
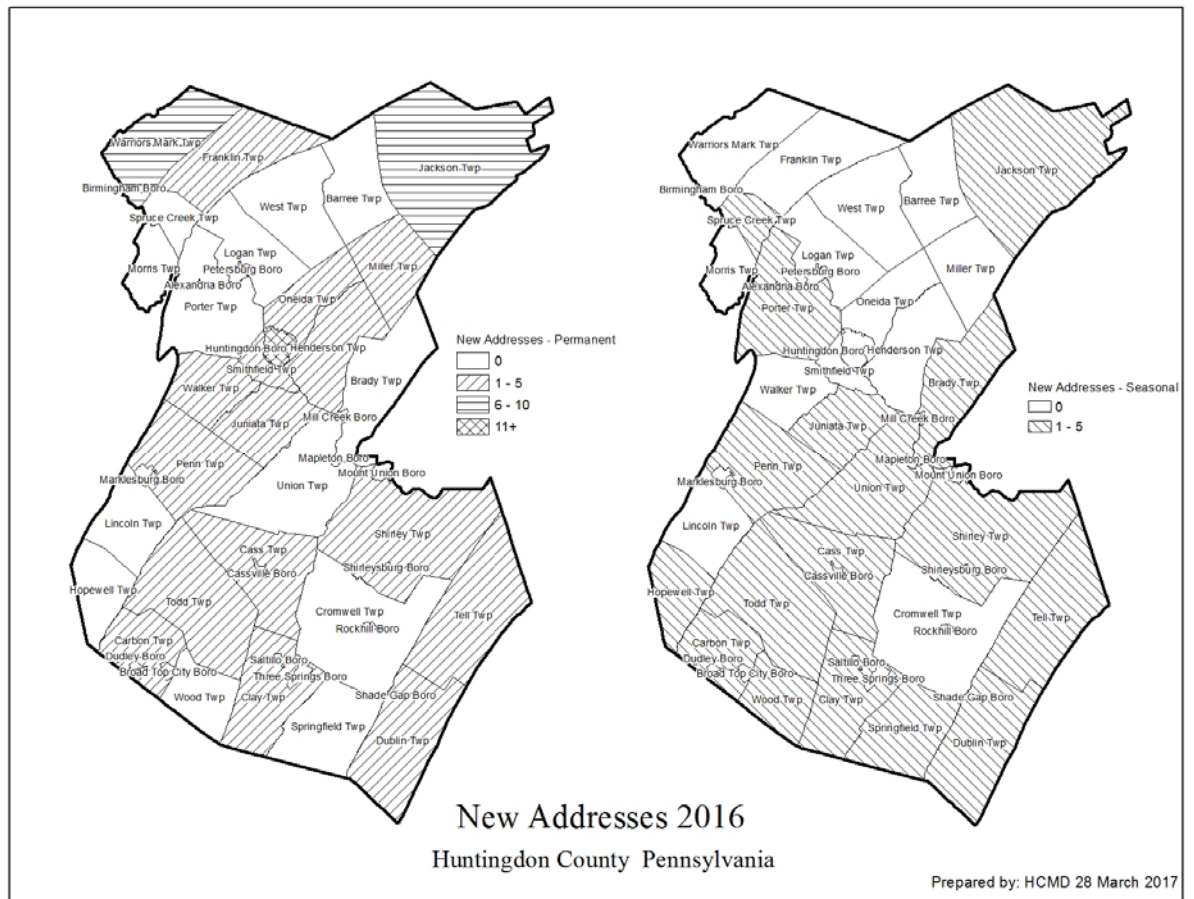
The new-home data from these sources includes conventional, modular, and mobile homes.

Data for building activity in all 48 municipalities is available in the Planning Department.

Municipality	County Addresses	VREC Electrical Permits	Bureau Veritas Estimated Building Permits	County Assessment Building Permits
Huntingdon Borough	15	N/A	0	0
Penn Township	4	7	N/A	3
Shirley Township	4	2	N/A	5
Todd Township	3	6	N/A	1
Jackson Township	7	4	N/A	0
Warriors Mark Township	6	1	1	0
Cromwell Township	0	3	N/A	3
Dublin Township	3	3	N/A	0
Henderson Township	2	3	N/A	0
Miller Township	1	3	N/A	0
Smithfield Township	1	3	N/A	0
Cass Township	5	2	N/A	0
Clay Township	4	2	N/A	1
Brady Township	4	1	1	0
Juniata Township	4	2	N/A	0
Walker Township	3	0	N/A	0
Springfield Township	2	2	N/A	1

BUILDING ACTIVITY - PERMANENT AND SEASONAL

The Mapping Department issued 27 addresses for seasonal housing. The highest total number of seasonal addresses (4) were issued in Brady Township, while the highest number of new addresses for permanent housing (15) were issued in Huntingdon Borough. The next highest number of addresses issued for permanent housing were in Warriors Mark and Jackson Townships with 6 addresses each.



Valley Rural Electrical Cooperative (VREC) issued 18 electrical permits for seasonal housing, including 15 conventional homes and 3 mobile homes. Todd Township had the highest number of electrical permits for seasonal conventional housing - 5. The most electrical permits (7) were issued in Penn Township - 4 for seasonal and 3 for permanent homes.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Department assists municipalities and non-profit organizations in meeting community development needs by applying for and administering various State and Federal grants, including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Program.

GRANT ASSISTANCE

Community Development Block Grant project implementation focused on three projects in 2016: Smithfield Township Levee Culvert Rehabilitation, Courthouse First Floor Restroom Accessibility Improvements, and Stormwater Improvements in Rockhill Borough.

GRANT ADMINISTRATION

In addition to completing CDBG funded activities, staff worked in collaboration with other agencies to identify sufficient funding to complete the Pennsylvania Avenue Blight Remediation Project in Mount Union Borough. Specifically, staff met at the project site and in Hollidaysburg with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to discuss funding options to demolish and reconstruct the wall. The funding plan was to cooperate with Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission staff. Regional staff prepared and applied for \$600,000 in Appalachian Regional Commission funding, while County staff completed an application for an additional \$600,000 in Automated Red Light Enforcement funds. These grants are needed to complete the efforts initiated with Competitive CDBG funding in the amount of \$750,000. The total estimated project cost is \$2.3 million. Keller Engineers is preparing a more precise estimate based on geotechnical core samples extracted from immediately in front of the existing deteriorated wall. Huntingdon County provided additional CDBG Entitlement funds including \$38,000 from FY 2014 and \$40,000 from FY 2015.

Department staff worked extensively with the Huntingdon Borough CDBG Program in 2016. In addition to filing the FY 2016 CDBG application on behalf of Huntingdon Borough, Huntingdon County entered into an agreement with Huntingdon Borough to administer the balance of funds remaining in FY 2011, 2012 and 2013 CDBG contracts. There is currently no inter-municipal agreement regarding the FY 2014 contract. County staff prepared and conducted a Request for Proposals for the Borough to procure Stiffler & McGraw Engineering for the Blair Field Parking Facility Improvement Activity. Staff prepared extensive budget revisions to shift funding to be available for this project, which involves installing new storm drains throughout the parking lot, removing the patchwork of existing pavement, and

installing a permeable GeoCell grid backfilled with compacted stone. Despite efforts to complete the activity during 2016, the project extended into 2017 due to applications for a General Permit 11, a NPDES permit and an Archaeological Phase One Study. Staff also assisted Huntingdon Borough staff with completion of annual and semi-annual report forms as well as with an on-site performance review monitoring conducted by the PA DCED.

EXPANDED ADMINISTRATION ACTIVITIES

The entire staff of the Planning and Development Department has taken on a number of administrative duties over the past year. PA DCED has made numerous changes to ensure that every county is following grant program guidelines properly. Throughout the year, there are now desktop and on-site financial monitorings.

The PA DCED remotely monitors financial procedures compliance by “desktop” monitorings that are done several times a year on invoices selected at random by DCED to ensure that grant expenditures are properly documented.

In 2016, Huntingdon County’s CDBG Program had its first on-site financial monitoring since 1994. Janet Monismith of DCED’s Financial Management Center spent a day with the Department reviewing financial record keeping procedures from procurement, to payroll, to CDBG invoicing. Special emphasis was placed on cost pooling and allocation of expenditures across multiple funding sources. Along with the above monitorings, DCED also increased reporting requirements. In addition to ten detailed annual and semi-annual reports, beginning in 2016, CDBG grantees must also submit a new quarterly report to DCED.

At the most recent Community Development & Housing conference, DCED announced that a new electronic compliance monitoring tool called Monitoring Activity Progress Review (MAPR), will be used beginning with all FY 2015 CDBG contracts. Through the MAPR system, grantees upload documentation of 23 compliance steps for each CDBG-funded activity. Through the MAPR report, DCED seeks to identify grantee progress toward meeting contract goals, to ensure appropriate and adequate oversight of expenditure of federal dollars, and to identify potential areas of focus to assist grantees with building capacity in the administration of grant programs. Staff provided follow-up information to the PA DCED regarding the KPMG monitoring, which took place in 2015. However, results of the KPMG performance review are still pending.

COURTHOUSE RESTROOM RENOVATION

In 2013 and 2014, the Huntingdon County offices of the Prothonotary, Recorder of Deeds, and Register of Wills were renovated and expanded into the former footprints of the Treasurer's office and the Assessment office on the first floor of the Courthouse. In order for the County to meet code and acquire its occupancy permit, the entirety of the First Floor will need to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. At the time of the Courthouse renovations, neither the men's nor women's restrooms were compliant. The Borough's building code inspectors worked with County officials to allow an extension of the building permit until the County was able to acquire the funds to design the needed upgrades to the restrooms, and to install the recommended upgrades. In 2014, the County successfully received a CCAP P-CoRP Loss Prevention Grant for the restroom analysis. CES Engineering of Petersburg was awarded the design contract on June 2, 2015. The project was designed through the end of 2015 and put out for bid in 2016. The County was also able to add this project to their Three-Year Community Development Plan. Between the P-CoRP grant and the CDBG grant, most of the project would be paid for with grant funds and not general fund dollars.

The project consisted of renovating the men's and women's restrooms on the first floor of the Courthouse. There were several items, such as stalls that were not large enough, missing grab-bars, toilets that were too high off the floor, etc. that would need to be modified to make the project truly ADA accessible.



The biggest hurdle in the project was the width of the doorway into the men's room. The doorway would need to be widened just under a foot to make the clearance needed to fit a wheelchair through the door. For this reason, the existing historic door to the restroom would not be wide enough, and a new one would need to be built. The County then hired Kirk Fredendall to put together detailed door specifications to build the door to mimic the appropriately sized women's restroom door on the other side of the corridor. WSL, Inc. was ultimately selected to complete the renovations. WSL subcontracted with JWI Millwork to build and install the new door. All the work was approved by PHMC and completed in early 2017. The County was then cleared to once again secure an occupancy permit.



STORMWATER PROJECTS DOMINATE CDBG ACTIVITY IN 2016

While stormwater projects consumed just four percent of Huntingdon County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds over the past two decades, both CDBG-funded projects that were implemented in 2016 focused on eliminating stormwater hazards.

The Smithfield Township Supervisors, who received a FEMA Levee Accreditation – Final Levee Evaluation Report that was completed by Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc. in 2014, chose to use a total of \$59,411 in FY 2014 and FY 2015 CDBG funds for restoration of levee culverts that were installed through the base of the levee when it was constructed in 1976. The purpose of the culverts is to allow stormwater that accumulates behind the levee to drain into the floodway. Check valves on the floodway side of the levee prevent floodwaters from flowing through the culverts into the protected areas.



CDBG Project Engineer, Tom Levine oversaw the videotaping of the condition of the interior of the culvert



pipes. Nine of the fourteen culverts in the levee system were significantly damaged and in need of restoration. To protect the levee's structural stability and integrity, disturbance of the compacted levee soils was prohibited. Therefore, State Pipe Services, Inc. of Cranberry Township, PA was hired to clean the pipes and to use a cured-in-place "slip lining"

technology to reinforce the culvert walls from within. The team sprayed an epoxy into the pipe, then inflated a bladder which forced the thin protective coating to line the inside of the pipe and harden, thus sealing all cracks in the pipes. A total of 676 linear feet of pipe was restored.

Huntingdon County assisted Rockhill Borough Council through the CDBG Program to redirect stormwater drainage from Saddle Back Ridge that caused chronic traffic hazards on High, Cherry, and Willow Streets. While gravel washouts caused minor concerns during most of the year, hazards increased during winter months when the stormwater froze on streets and driveways. Stiffler, McGraw & Associates designed the stormwater project, which was advertised for bid twice due to insufficient project funding. The \$30,000 grant from FY 2011 was supplemented with an additional \$44,868 from FY 2012 for a total project of \$74,868. G & H Anderson Excavating, LLC won the bidding process and, in December of 2016, completed this construction project, which included installation and replacement of approximately 450 linear feet of storm drain pipe and 9 new or replacement stormwater inlets.



The photo at left shows one source of water on the roadway, which was eliminated through installation of the new catch basin shown in the photo on the right.

THE HOME STORY: CHAPTER 1

In 2012, Huntingdon County received a \$350,000 HOME Investment Partnership Program grant for owner-occupied housing rehabilitation. The project started in 2014 with Weatherization, Inc. looking for qualified low- and moderate-income applicants. The goal was to provide assistance to approximately 12 homeowners. This is not a “House Beautiful” effort but is meant to ensure that the homes are safe and that major components of each house (plumbing, electrical, heating, etc.) are in good working

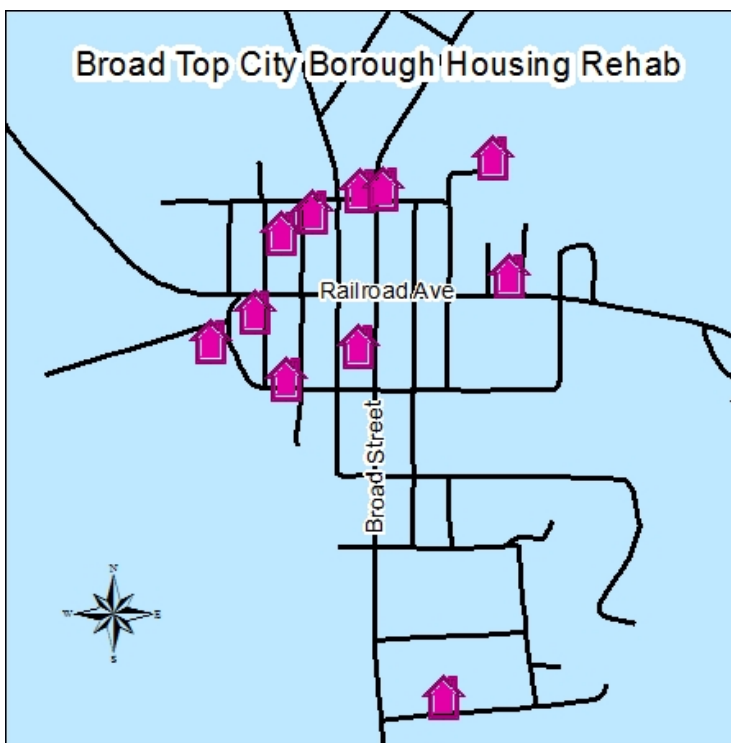
order. In addition, each substantial part of a home such as windows, doors, porches, roofs, appliances, are to be verified that they are in good working order and will remain that way for at least five years.

When the contract between the County and Weatherization abruptly ended, the Planning and Development Department received intake information that needed to be updated and verified to determine that each applicant owned their home and that they met income guidelines. For easier management, the 12 homeowners were divided into three sets of four.

The outlay for each home is budgeted at roughly \$25,000 with a five-year forgiveness loan. As long as the homeowner remains in the house for five years, there is no payback. Even if the homeowner dies and the home stays in the family, there is no need to repay the money; however, if the house is sold, part of the money needs to be repaid according to a prorated schedule.

On October 21, 2016, Department staff visited the first four houses and conducted a walk-through, taking numerous photos of each home, inside and out.

Staff prepared two Requests for Proposals (RFPs), which the Commissioners approved, one for an inspector to perform lead, asbestos, radon, and mold testing, and the other for an inspector to evaluate the entire house and prepare work write-ups for inclusion in bid documents.



Staff contacted dozens of contractors to determine their interest in becoming pre-certified. Program regulations require that contractors must have at least one EPA-certified Lead Inspector/Risk Assessor, be certified as an EPA Lead Renovator following lead-safe practices, carry liability insurance, and be registered and in good standing with the Attorney General.

Since many local contractors are not EPA certified in Lead-Based Paint (LBP) work, and since some of the homes may not have LBP, the Department created a list of contractors who may be able to do work in non-lead homes. If enough contractors

are interested in learning more about LBP issues and express enthusiasm for a “Get the Lead Out” workshop led by the EPA Region 3 Lead Coordinator, the Department will organize this workshop in 2017.

During this period, Huntingdon County’s 2009 Housing Rehabilitation Guidelines were also being updated to conform with the latest requirements from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. The main consideration in housing inspections is which is wiser -- to repair or replace malfunctioning systems or features in each home.

There is a concurrent HOME program in Wood Township being administered by the Center for Community Action (CCA). It is anticipated that these two HOME grants will fund substantial improvements in these sparsely-populated areas. Not only do these projects help the people whose homes are upgraded, but they also help raise property values in neighborhoods where the rehabilitations occur.

By the end of 2016, the County had an Agreement with Michael Baker International, Inc. to perform the lead, asbestos, radon, and mold inspections and the Department was getting close to finalizing a second Agreement with SEDA-Council of Governments to do the whole house inspections.

The project will continue into 2017 with all 12 homes expected to be rehabilitated.

Planning and Community Development Grant Summary

MISCELLANEOUS GRANTS		
HOME Investment Partnership Program	2013 - Broad Top City Borough Housing Rehabilitation	\$350,000
Emergency Shelter Grant	2014 - Huntingdon House & Center for Community Action	\$75,737
Smithfield Township Entitlement	2014 - Entitlement CDBG	\$84,913
Competitive Community Development Block Grant	2012 - Mapleton Area Sewer Plant Rehabilitation	\$375,224
Competitive Community Development Block Grant	2013 - Mount Union Pennsylvania Avenue Water & Sewer	\$750,000
Competitive Community Development Block Grant	2014 - Mapleton Water System Improvements	\$556,000
Competitive Community Development Block Grant	2014 - Wood-Broad Top-Wells Water and Wastewater System Improvements	\$750,000
Keystone Historic Preservation Project Grant	2015 - Huntingdon County Courthouse Tower Phase I	\$50,000
Keystone Historic Preservation Project Grant	2016 - Huntingdon County Courthouse Tower Phase II	\$70,850
Housing Preservation Grant	2016 - Broad Top City Borough Housing Rehabilitation	\$23,000

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS			
Activity	2013	2014	2015
Birmingham Borough Water Line Replacement**	\$188,462	\$0	\$0
Smithfield Township Mt. Vernon Avenue Stormwater **	\$68,497	\$12,740	\$67,310
Smithfield Township Levee Rehabilitation**	\$0	\$57,173	\$2,238
Mapleton Water Line Looping	\$0	\$81,296	\$0
Petersburg & Other Spot Blight Elimination	\$0	\$45,000	\$0
Mount Union Pennsylvania Avenue	\$0	\$38,000	\$0
County Courthouse Accessibility**	\$0	\$26,000	\$0
Huntingdon Borough Sidewalk Rehabilitation	\$0	\$0	\$47,044
Huntingdon Borough Curb Cuts	\$0	\$0	\$40,000
Spruce Creek & Countywide Blight	\$0	\$0	\$25,552
Wood-Broad Top Wells Water/Sewer	\$0	\$0	\$76,000
Mapleton Reservoir Upgrades	\$0	\$0	\$47,000
Mount Union Pennsylvania Avenue	\$0	\$0	\$40,000
Past Three Years Budgeted	\$256,959	\$260,209	\$260,209
* activity underway ** activity complete			
	2016	2017	2018
Mapleton Sidewalk Replacement	\$50,000	\$0	\$0
Birmingham Water Line Replacement	\$137,811	\$0	\$0
Three Springs Reservoir Improvements	\$0	\$150,000	\$0
Shade Gap Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades	\$0	\$0	\$30,000
Shirley Home Walk In Cooler/Freezer	\$0	\$0	\$30,000
Todd Township Building Accessibility	\$0	\$0	\$40,000
Next Three Years Budgeted	\$187,811	\$150,000	\$100,000

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) defines Economic Development as creat[ing] conditions for economic growth and improved quality of life by expanding the capacity of individuals, firms, and communities to maximize the use of their talents and skills to support innovation, lower transaction costs, and responsibly produce and trade valuable goods and services. Economic Development requires effective, collaborative institutions focused on advancing mutual gain for the public and the private sector. Economic Development is essential to ensuring our economic future. The role of the Department is to positively influence economic development policy and promote professional communication among members of key partners.

PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC PROGRESS (PEP)

The County Commissioners established the Partnership for Economic Progress (PEP) in 2000. This group has been meeting bi-monthly over the past few years with the vision of “improv[ing] the economic health and the 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.”

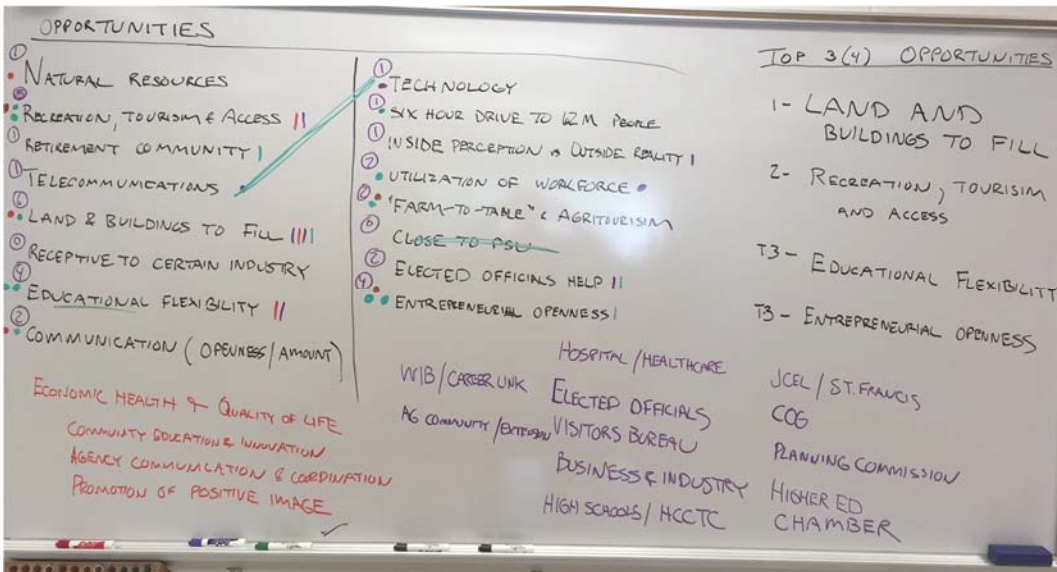
In order to implement that vision, the PEP group had done a few different strategic planning exercises since its inception to establish strategic priorities. The latest Strategic Plan was adopted by PEP in 2009.

longer Strategic Planning Retreat was held to look back on the history of PEP and to help gauge the direction of the future of PEP.

After several meetings, new strategic priorities were starting to take shape into five major categories: Supply Chain, Business Development, Infrastructure, Workforce Development, and Marketing. Each category had three objectives:

Support Existing Businesses by Promoting Crossover Businesses

- Assist the State Correctional Institutes with Locally Supplied Services
- Identify Existing Businesses Supplied Goods/Services to Target Locally Sourced Businesses
- Promote Full Range of Agricultural Products, such as Value-Added, Farm-to-Table, and Agritourism



Assist Businesses with Development by Providing a Host of Services

- Explore, Develop and Offer a Host of Capital Available for Entrepreneurs and Expanding Businesses
- Explore, Develop and Offer Tax Incentives for Businesses (KOZ, LERTA, etc.)
- Promote the Development of Professional and Family Housing

Starting in 2014, the focus on updating the group’s Strategic Plan was spearheaded by the primary professional staffing, County Planning Director, Mark Colussy. Colussy led the group into the Strategic Planning process by pointing out that the outdated goals and objectives needed to be updated.

The group agreed to analyze the County’s eight major employment industries’ economic producers by hearing separate presentations over a two-year period. Once all eight presentations were made, a

Promote 21st Century Infrastructure Provided to Businesses

- Work with Telecommunications Companies to Expand Cell Phone and High Speed Internet Services
- Lobby for Roadway Improvements
- Reactivate, Promote, and Utilize Rail Service for Distribution of Goods to Market

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (cont...)

Attract, Retain, and Educate the Workforce

- A. Work with Educational Institutes to Provide Degrees and Credentialing in Areas of Businesses' Needs
- B. Analyze Desires of Youth to Provide a Desirable Place to Live, Work, and Play
- C. Develop a High School Graduates Network to Promote Area to Alumni

Market the County to Employers, Investors, and Employees

- A. Develop and Utilize Targeted Marketing Campaigns for Business Developers, Future Workforce, Visitors, and Local Residents
- B. Improve the Image and Identity of the Community in the Local and Regional Media
- C. Market Properties and Buildings Available for Business Development

Work on the Strategic Plan is continuing into 2017. PEP is looking to align the local priorities and objectives with the Southern Alleghenies Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The next steps in the process include finalizing and adopting the priorities, and then identifying stakeholders not currently involved with PEP to include in the process, establishing a committee for each of the five major priorities, and electing chairpersons to report to PEP regarding committee accomplishments and implementation.

PEP MARKETING

One committee of the Partnership for Economic Progress (PEP) is the Marketing Committee. Over the past two years, the Marketing Committee had conducted 10 "Listening Sessions" in 10 of the 11 Planning Regions of the County. Each Listening Session provided an opportunity for Committee members to ask community residents a series of questions:

1. What are 3 positive adjectives that best describe your community?
2. What do you value most about your community?
3. What do the people in your community do well?
4. When friends and family come to visit, where do you take them?
5. What do your friends and family who come to visit say about the area in which you live?



6. If you meet someone in Florida, where do you tell him/her that you live?
7. What is unique about your area? How is it different than other areas?
8. What are the success stories in your community?
9. How would you like to be able to describe your community 10 years from now?

Once this data was collected, it was compiled to help the Committee develop themes. Once themes were generated, three separate Branding Strategies were developed and shown in three of the highest-attended listening session locations and to Marketing Professionals. The Committee received a lot of helpful feedback to help determine what was good about each branding strategy. The Committee will then look to convert the top branding strategy into a useful media kit that includes key data, branding themes, and marketing ideas for various non-profits, businesses, and other key stakeholders to use when marketing themselves in parallel to what the County is going to market themselves as. The Committee also anticipates creating branding videos via CGI Communications that can be placed on the County webpage and the webpages of other stakeholders. Consistent marketing will be helpful in advancing a common theme.



EDUCATION

It is a goal of the Planning Commission to provide information to the public concerning planning and development issues as well as local trends in growth and development. The various methods listed below are ways in which Department Staff fulfill this responsibility.

STUDENT INTERNSHIPS

In 2015, Mark Colussy and Amy Wise, formerly with HCB&I, met with Professor Tim Kelsey of the new Penn State Scholarship, Sustainability & Civic Engagement Program (SSCEP) in anticipation of Huntingdon County's participation in this Program, which was paused for a year while Penn State worked to secure funding. The Program did resume in 2016, and both Mark and Amy worked with a separate intern. The Program was seen as being more valuable than a typical internship due to the fact that the students would research the community they would work in during the Spring semester; they would work in the community during the Summer semester; and then, in the Fall semester, they would present reports on their findings to the next round of students. Mark was paired with Eden Henry and Amy was paired with Megan Thompson. Their major project was to research the possibility of linking the Fire Trail between Mapleton and Mount Union to other existing trail networks.

PUBLICATIONS

In 2016, the Planning and Development Department published several documents, including the *2015 HCPC Annual Report* and the updated *Huntingdon County Land Development Guide*.

HUNTINGDONCOUNTY.NET

Department staff continued to maintain the web site with the support of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP).

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Most inquiries the Department received were regarding municipal contacts and ordinances, flood plain data and grant availability. Most of these requests came from municipal officials, realtors, engineers, residents of Huntingdon County, and those interested in relocating to Huntingdon County.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Maureen Safko collaborated with Victoria Bourret of the Pennsylvania Housing Alliance on a home ownership and fair housing booth at the Outdoor Show held at the Huntingdon County Fairgrounds.

Lou Ann Shontz, Recycling Coordinator, distributed recycling information at the Huntingdon County

Fair and Huntingdon Borough's Mayfest, and she presented information at area schools and senior centers.

PMPEI TRAINING

Mark Colussy was certified in two different courses by the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute (PMPEI). Mark attended two Train-the-Trainer courses: The Course in Community Planning on April 8 and 9, 2016; and The Course on Subdivision and Land Development (S&LD) Review on May 20 and 21, 2016. Being certified in this training will allow Mark to Co-Teach either Course in the future. There is a possibility that one or both of these Courses could come to Huntingdon County soon. The Course in Community Planning covers five main teaching units: The MPC, Planning Agencies, Comprehensive Plan, Plan Implementation, and an Effective Planning Commission. The Course in Subdivision and Land Development Review has eight main teaching units: A Planning Approach to S&LD Review, Rationale for S&LD Regulations, Overview of the Review Process, Red-Penciling a Plan, Project Design Standards, Between Preliminary and Final Approval, Better Project Design, and Using S&LD Review in Planning.

Mark will now be able to use his new certification to train new planners and planning commission members on the basics of land-use planning. Mark is still working on ways to educate the County Planning Commission, and this land use planning training will only add to the depth of their training.

EDUCATOR IN THE WORKFORCE - JOB SHADOWING

Helen Pyzowski of the Huntingdon CareerLink had approached Mark Colussy regarding a new program the CareerLink was developing. This is a two-phased project to bring professionals into the Career and Technology Center to conduct mock interviews with various students about their prospective career paths. The second phase was to have a teacher from the Mount Union Area School District shadow Mark for two days to glean a better perspective regarding career paths that are available for their students to consider. Mark was paired with Ken Burton. This shadowing experience proved fruitful in multiple ways, as Ken would later agree to serve on the County's Comprehensive Plan Update Steering Committee.

MUNICIPAL AND AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS

With the approval of the Huntingdon County Commissioners, the Planning and Development Department may provide assistance to municipalities and agencies upon request. Such requests typically involve development of subdivision, zoning, and building permit ordinances; preparation and administration of grant applications; requests for proposals for professional services and various planning studies.

INDIVIDUAL MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE

Department staff worked directly with the following municipalities in 2016:

Broad Top City Borough and Carbon Township

Staff attended the Senior Housing Symposium in Breezewood, PA to discuss the Broad Top City KOZ. A follow-up meeting held in Broad Top City included a tour of the KOZ site to determine suitability.

Huntingdon Borough

Staff attended meetings with Borough Staff and the Community Development Committee to discuss CDBG administration. Through April, staff provided assistance with updates to the Borough's website.

Juniata Township

Staff met with Township Supervisors to discuss Township Ordinances.

Mount Union Borough

Staff attended meetings to assist with implementation of the Borough's Strategic Plan.

Shirley Township

Staff attended a Township meeting to provide an update on the Blueprint Communities project.

Warriors Mark Township

Staff provided assistance with Township website updates. Staff also met with Township Supervisors to discuss the FEMA FIRM update and the possibility of working with the Army Corps of Engineers to update the Dry Run Hollow Watershed.

Smithfield Township

Staff attended meetings with Township Staff and Supervisors to discuss CDBG administration and Act 13.

HUNTINGDON COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS

An agreement to complete Environmental Review Reports (ERRs) on behalf of the Huntingdon County Housing Authority (HCHA) was first signed on December 2, 1997. Many modernizations or improvements to the five facilities operated by the HCHA cannot receive money from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) until it is ascertained that no environmental damage will be done during the work; however, if it appears that there might be adverse ecological effects, the Report must include mitigation measures to be taken to avoid or minimize these effects.

The ERRs researched potential impacts such as wetlands, historic properties, floodplains, endangered species, farmland, toxic sites, coastal zones, and scenic rivers to be sure these natural resources are not diminished by each project. If a building is more than 50 years old, a consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer is necessary. If the soil will be dug up on previously undisturbed ground, an Environmental Assessment is required. Both of these take additional time.

In 2016, the new Planner I, Iona Conner, completed four reviews and started a more extensive one requiring an Environmental Assessment. It is anticipated that this Review for drainage improvements and sidewalk replacements at Chestnut Terrace in Mount Union will be completed in the spring of 2017.

The four ERRs completed in 2016 include:

1. Improved street lighting at Green Street Village;
2. Parking lot repairs at Hartman Village;
3. Window replacement and purchase of HCAC-owned, free-standing air conditioners at Taylor Apartments; and
4. Security upgrade through installation of cameras at Crawford Apartments in Huntingdon and at Taylor Apartments, Chestnut Terrace, and Hartman Village in Mount Union; plus a computer system upgrade in the main office on Federal Drive in Mount Union, which serves all five facilities.

All of the above work will be funded by FY 2016 HUD Capital Funds.

PA HOUSING AFFORDABILITY AND REHABILITATION ENHANCEMENT GRANT (PHARE)

In June 2015, Huntingdon County was awarded a \$125,000 PHARE grant. Huntingdon County is working hand-in-hand with the Center for Community Action (CCA) to expend the funds to fulfill the purpose of the grant, which is to provide rental and utility options for older adults, low- and moderate income families and people with special housing needs to prevent homelessness.

As of 2016, 72 households have been served with the \$95,493.01 that has been expended on the program thus far.

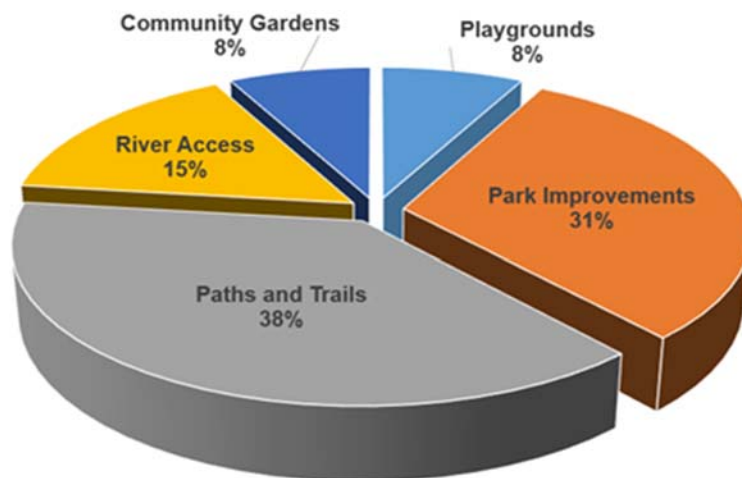
EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG)

An Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) in the amount of \$75,737 was awarded to Huntingdon County on November 25, 2014 to provide financial assistance to Huntingdon House and the Center for Community Action. The ESG was a two-year grant. Huntingdon House received \$25,000 to provide assistance with essential services and health and safety issues. The Center for Community Action received \$48,000 directed towards rapid rehousing and homelessness prevention. The remainder of the grant was used for administration costs. The contract was finalized and closed out in November 2016.

ACT 13 LEGACY FUND

One provision of Act 13 that directly impacts Huntingdon County is the establishment of a Legacy Fund (Section 2315(a.1)(5)), 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 drainage by storms or flooding.”

Since September 3, 2013, the Huntingdon County Commissioners have made a total of \$30,000 available each year, with a maximum award of \$10,000 per project. The Planning Commission has been appointed to accept and review applications, and make recommendations to the County Commissioners.



2013 - 2016 Huntingdon County

In 2016, two applications totaling \$19,585.00 were received and reviewed by the Planning Commission. Recommendations were forwarded to the County Commissioners, who awarded \$10,000.00 each to Shirleysburg Borough for ballfield improvements and a Borough sign and to Shirley Township for creation of a park and riparian buffers in the Business Park.

Of the \$98,345.53 approved for eligible municipal projects since 2013, \$38,951.70 has been spent. Projects have been approved in Alexandria, Broad Top City, Cassville, Huntingdon, Mount Union and Shirleysburg Boroughs; and in Morris, Porter, Shirley and Smithfield Townships.

LITTLE JUNIATA RIVER FIRM UPDATE

The last Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) that were adopted in Huntingdon County occurred in October of 2012. This Map Update was part of the Map Modernization Project. It is not often that these maps are updated, as Warriors Mark Township learned while trying to fix the error on the maps in the Dry Hollow area. Substantial amounts of hydraulic and hydrologic analysis need to be done to any watershed for FEMA to consider updating the FIRMs. Tyrone Borough, just west of Warriors Mark Township in Blair County, had been on a quest to update the FIRM maps in the Borough. Tyrone was able to get the Army Corps of Engineers to assist in the analysis and work needed to submit to FEMA. FEMA reviewed the information and ultimately published draft FIRMS for the entire watershed affecting the Borough. That watershed also impacts Warriors Mark Township, Birmingham Borough, Spruce Creek Township, and Morris Township.

JUNIATA RIVER BLUEPRINT COMMUNITIES (JRBC)

The JRBC's 5-Year Strategy built on the Goals and Objectives collaborating with the Outcomes the Community desired. Since the Core Team presented the 5-Year Strategy to the community, they have been working on implementation realizing that the key to success in implementing projects is to make sure key stakeholders in the community know about the project. The Core Team decided that it was critical to hold additional public meetings after the 5-Year Strategy was developed. The first public meeting focused on building a visual inventory of properties in the communities by analyzing maps of the communities so that strategies could be made to target improvements. The Core Team realized that efforts moving forward are to activate stakeholders to take ownership of the completion of the projects in the 5-Year Strategy.



The following are all the projects that had some movement in 2016:

- ◆ Community Tool Shed (Iona Conner)
- ◆ Mapleton Pool (Ilona Ballreich)
- ◆ Mount Union Infill Development (Dwight Rittenhouse)
- ◆ Riverwalk (Jeremy Crouse & Planet LoveJoy)
- ◆ Way Finding Signage (Ilona Ballreich)
- ◆ Community Informational Signage (Rick Rogers)
- ◆ Farmer's Market (Tiffany Crouse, Laura White)
- ◆ Adopt-a-Park (Jerry Dunkle)
- ◆ Mount Union & Mapleton Boat Launches (Jane Sheffield)
- ◆ Pennsylvania Avenue & Linear Park (Mark Colussy, Maureen Safko, Larry Salone)
- ◆ Entrepreneurial Communities (Mark Colussy, Bob Reitman)

In order to move forward with the projects in the 5-Year Strategy, the JRBC Core Team applied for a Mini-Grant from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh in the amount of \$5,000. This grant allowed the JRBC region to market their plan and region by doing a number of outreach strategies. The

Mini-Grant funded the creation of an interactive map, locating projects on a Story Map. This Story Map, generated with the assistance of the Mapping Department, is a great visual tool showing a description and photo of each project. The Story Map was linked on the newly created JRBC webpage at www.JRBlueprint.org. Another part of the project involved the generation of renderings of each of the three communities, highlighting what some of the projects from the 5-Year Strategy could look like if actually completed. The renderings were created by Hannah Breidenbaugh, a PSU Architecture student, who also assisted by creating a brochure to be mailed to all the homes in the three communities. The final component of the project involved printing window clings and yard signs for placement in homes and businesses supportive or supported by the JRBC.

The Core Team is continuing to look for stakeholders and community members to move forward one of the other 70 projects in the 5-Year Strategy. The JRBC Core Team continues to urge community members to become involved in implementing the community-driven vision for the future.

COUNTY ASSISTANCE

Many Department activities are Countywide in nature and benefit all municipalities equally while other activities assist the County Commissioners in non-planning areas.

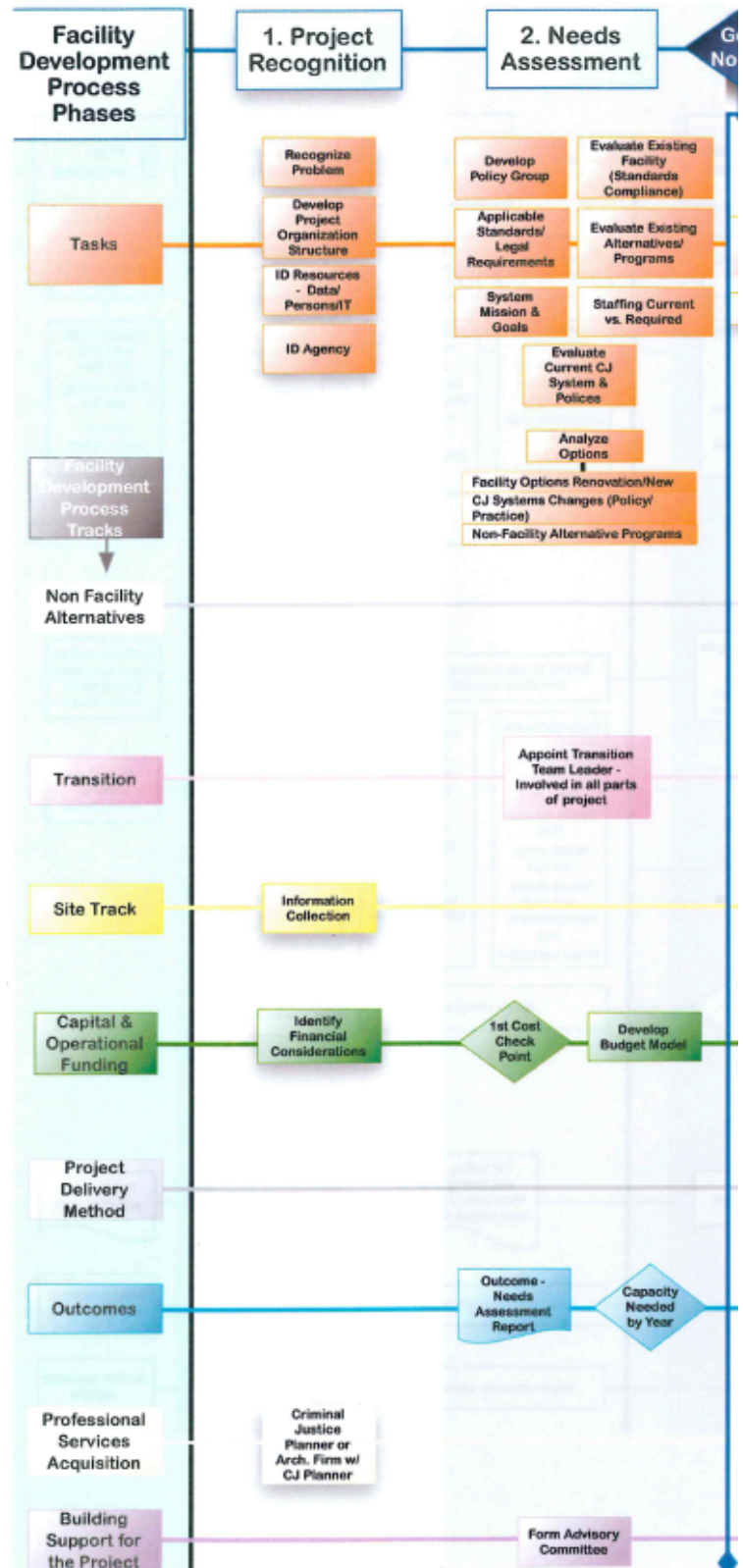
CJAB CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM STUDY

The Huntingdon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) operates with the vision “to enhance the safety and quality of life for the citizens of Huntingdon County.” CJAB’s 2013 strategic plan process identified their top fifteen priorities. Number one on the list was a study for a new prison, and number six on the list was a study for new prevention opportunities. With the growing need to conduct a study, CJAB recommended that the County Commissioners hire an independent consultant to help with the planning process and to complete a comprehensive Criminal Justice System study. Mark Colussy was asked to be the consultant’s liaison to the County.

Jim Robertson of VRJS, known for his development of the Facility Development Process, which breaks the Criminal Justice Study into three major phases, got the contract for the first two stages of the nine-step process, Project Recognition and Needs Assessment. Initially, the project unfolded in two key areas:

Project Organization and Interviews: VRJS has organized the project to reflect the goals and outcomes that have been discussed to date. VRJS has conducted key interviews with policy makers of the criminal justice system. It is anticipated that future interviews may be required as the project moves forward.

Data Analysis: VRJS submitted a comprehensive data request to the County aimed at answering many questions collected during interviews and the project kick-off meeting. More time than originally anticipated has been required to pull the data from the system and organize it in a format for analysis. VRJS did an analysis of the inmates released in 2014 and found that the data contained several errors or conflicts and would not yield the best analysis. Therefore, VRJS requested data for the years 2010 and 2015 for analysis. The 2010 and 2015 data was provided in PDF format and converted to an Excel file for analysis. Once that data analysis was completed, more analysis was required of those inmates with the longest length of stay (over 91 days). Those inmates consume the most “bed days” and therefore have the greatest impact on future population projections. Any steps that can be taken to shorten that length of time must be explored as a part of the needs assessment process. To complete that analysis, the docket file on each inmate was downloaded and is in the analysis process.



Next Steps: VRJS anticipates that the docket analysis on the inmates with length of stays over 91 days will be completed in early 2017. Once completed, VRJS will be able to present that information to the County by the end of March 2017.

In summary, the project has started slower than anticipated, but this delay will not affect the ability to make informed and data-driven decision. It is better to collect and evaluate accurate data than to rush the conclusions.

RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE

Lou Ann Shontz, Recycling Coordinator, provides educational programs for all Huntingdon County schools and major events that occur within Huntingdon County.



During 2016, the Recycling Coordinator prepared several reports and grant applications: the County's Solid Waste Annual Report, a DEP 901 Planning Grant and Household Hazardous Waste Grant, a 902 Grant for new recycling equipment, a DEP 903 Grant for Recycling Coordinator expenses, and a DEP 904 Grant for materials that were recycled in 2016 through the Bedford-Fulton-Huntingdon Counties Recycling Program.

The Bedford, Fulton and Huntingdon County Drop-Off Recycling Program marketed 1,122.59 tons of recyclables. Huntingdon County Drop Off sites collected 509.13 tons, 45% of the total. The Huntingdon County Voluntary Curbside Recycling Program collected 279.11 tons.

County residents continued to strongly support the collection of Household Hazardous Waste, with the fall collection resulting in 23,634 pounds or 11.82 tons. In addition, 14,705 pounds or 7.35 tons of office paper was recycled from various County offices.

The Recycling Coordinator continues to be an active member of the Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania (PROP), serving on their Educational Committee. She is also an active member of the South Central Counties Solid Waste Agency, the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, and Keep Huntingdon County Beautiful.

ARC 911 GRANT ADMINISTRATION

An assessment conducted in 2014 showed that Bedford, Blair, Fulton, and Huntingdon Counties were in need of upgrading their telephone equipment

due to end-of-life notices from the manufacturer, and two of the Counties (Bedford and Huntingdon) needed to replace their Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system due to an end-of-life notice being issued on it as well. The Region (initially the Counties of Bedford, Blair, Fulton, and Huntingdon) met and discussed ways to work cooperatively together to increase efficiency with a secondary benefit of eventual cost savings. The assessment was able to determine that, by utilizing their existing towers, an intra-county network could be created by upgrading some existing paths and adding five new microwave paths for the creation of an inter-county or regional Emergency Services network.

All of these efficiencies reduce the length of time currently required to have first responders arrive on the scene of a citizen's emergency. There also are some financial windfalls from sharing technology and services. Some of the immediate estimates indicate that by sharing telephone and CAD technology across the region a capital cost savings of \$1,115,165.63 can be realized by the region because they will not be purchasing all of the same technology and equipment.

The four counties executed an inter-governmental agreement in February 2015. A grant request to the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) was submitted for assistance in obtaining the new CAD software and the sharing of the telephone switch that Blair County purchased and installed in mid-2014. That grant was awarded effective July 1, 2015.

Mark Colussy became involved in this project due to the fact that, even though SAP&DC could assist with writing the grant, a local person on behalf of Bedford or Huntingdon County would be needed to administer the grant. The County Commissioners requested that Mark do the grant administration.

This is the first phase of technology-sharing across the region. It is anticipated that, between the cost savings to be realized with the technology sharing and the new 911 funding revenue stream of \$1.65 per device/per month, there will be sufficient funds to maintain the technology that is now being implemented. It is further anticipated that these four counties will have a Phase 2 of technology-sharing that will involve Automatic Location Information databases, network redundancy and public safety radio systems. It is also anticipated that the technology-sharing will expand beyond the initial four counties with the potential of upwards of an additional six to eight counties eventually participating in the technology-sharing.

COURTHOUSE TOWER PRESERVATION PROJECT: PHASE ONE COMPLETED

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission provided a Keystone Historic Preservation Grant in the amount of \$50,000 in October 2015, which the Huntingdon County Commissioners matched equally to fund implementation of the first phase of the Preservation Plan prepared by Strosser Architecture and Conservation, Inc.

Structural repairs to the interior of the tower included sistering 24 rafters where the north side of the base of the tower joins the mansard roof. Exterior preservation efforts were limited to the uppermost level of the tower, which houses the bell. A water tight patch of copper sheeting was soldered to repair a hole in the copper dome, which was cleaned and painted with Sheffield copper colored paint and coated with a protective clear sealant.



Wood siding and trim was prepared and painted a two tone scheme. Trim is white to match PVC railings, while horizontal siding is painted to match the stone base of the courthouse. The rubber roof was removed. Rotted subflooring was replaced with marine-grade plywood. White Firestone roofing with a 25-year warranty was installed.

The project was successfully completed on schedule and under budget by contractor, C & D Waterproofing of Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania for \$87,130 with architectural fees of \$11,830. Construction began on April 19th and was completed on July 1, 2016. Photos on this page document the work completed.

Staff applied for and received another Keystone Historic Preservation Grant in 2016 in the amount of \$70,850 to fund Phase II of the construction work, which is scheduled for completion in 2017.



Above: Old Rotted Wood Railing

Below: New White Vinyl Railing



Above: Rotted Post Base

Below: New Water Resistant Post



Above: Minor Structural Bracing

Below: Minor Sheathing Repair



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The comprehensive plan has been the cornerstone of American planning theory and practice since the early 1900s. Pennsylvania law requires counties to develop and adopt a comprehensive plan. It contains the basic policies that will guide the future growth and development of the community. The plan is of a general nature, long-range in outlook, and includes all factors affecting growth and development. The comprehensive plan serves three principal functions: 1. it is a statement of goals, a listing of objectives, and a vision of what could be; 2. it is an educational tool, helping everyone who uses it understand the conditions, problems, and opportunities of the community through the provision of factual information; and 3. it serves as a guide to public and private decision-making, thus, shaping the future of the community.

A comprehensive plan by itself is not a solution to all the problems and concerns of a community. The value of a well-prepared plan is derived from the process of preparing the plan and the implementation of the plan after it is prepared. The plan should focus attention on the major issues and concerns of a community and establish a basis for debate, discussion, and conflict resolution. The plan should never be regarded as a finished project, to be completed every ten years or so, but as a community-based planning process.

Continuity Through Conservation II, The Plan is Huntingdon County's blueprint for the future, detailing the vision, goals, objectives, policies and plans for the next twenty years. It is our goal that Huntingdon County achieve economic prosperity while retaining the qualities of rural and small-town living. The Plan was developed between 1996 and 2000 by a team of consultants and the staff of the Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department. The Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan is made up of the following documents:

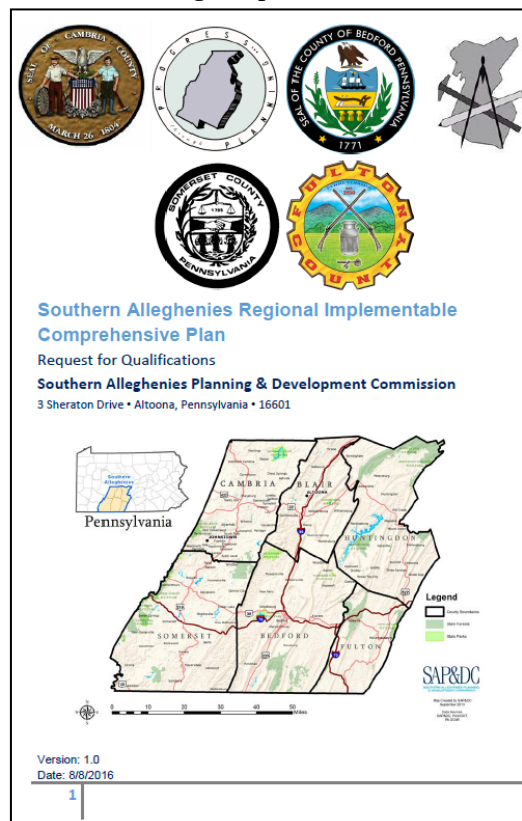
- *Huntingdon County Heritage Plan, 1996*
- *Continuity Through Conservation II, Part I, Background Studies, 1997*
- *Continuity Through Conservation II, Background Studies Supplement, 1999*
- *Continuity Through Conservation II, Part II, The Plan, 2000*
- *Huntingdon County Intergovernmental Action Plan, 2001*
- *A Comprehensive Economic Analysis for Huntingdon County, 2003*
- *Huntingdon County Natural Heritage Inventory, 2004*
- *Continuity Through Conservation II, 2007 Supplement*
- *Infrastructure Investment Strategy and Water Supply Plan, 2007*
- *Southern Alleghenies Greenways and Open Space Plan, 2007*
- *Huntingdon County Heritage Plan, 2015*

The *2007 Supplement* updated the land use plan, developed an infrastructure investment strategy, developed a model zoning ordinance and developed an updated zoning ordinance for Huntingdon Borough.

MULTI-COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The *Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan, Continuity through Conservation II*, was adopted in 2000 and last given a through update in 2007. The Municipalities Planning Code, Act of 1968, P.L.805, No.247 as reenacted and amended, is the enabling legislation for land use law in Pennsylvania. Under Article II - Comprehensive Plan, Section 302(d) states that "County comprehensive plans shall be updated at least every ten years." Given this timeline, a new Comprehensive Plan is needed in Huntingdon County. Ever since Planning Director Mark Colussy became the Chairman of the SAP&DC Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) in 2014, he brought up this need at a Committee meeting in an

effort for possible coordination with neighboring counties. As it turns out, the majority of the counties in this six county region are in the same situation. After months of negotiation and discussion, SAP&DC staff was authorized by the Board to investigate possible funding sources. The members and staff of the PAC first reached out to Denny Puko of DCED to see if he thought this would be a feasible project. He delightedly



suggested applying for a MAP grant. In order to find an accurate budget number, staff of SAP&DC produced a Request for Information (ROI) for consultants to determine if the project could be done and for what estimated amount of money. After the results were in, all six boards of Commissioners in the Region approved supplying match funds for a grant to complete the project.

The Multi-County Comprehensive Plan Update successfully received the MAP grant award in 2016. Upon receiving the grant contract from DCED, the PAC solicited for Requests for Qualifications (RFQ) from consulting firms to assist the region with the plan update. The RFQ stated a summary of the project:

As a new and innovative planning initiative, SAP&DC and the six County Planning Directors within the region wish to coordinate and consolidate the regional comprehensive planning requirements for the six Southern Alleghenies counties. In order to complete this task, and adopt a more effective and action-oriented comprehensive planning approach that reduces duplication of efforts, strengthens existing partnerships, and better coordinates local planning efforts, SAP&DC in conjunction with the six County Planning Commissions seek to develop a single, Regional Implementable Comprehensive Plan that capitalizes on previous regional planning processes and leverages existing funding opportunities. Utilizing the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development's "Implementable Comprehensive Plan" approach, the Plan will satisfy all existing requirements of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC, Act of 1968 No. 247 as reenacted and amended) as it relates to Comprehensive Plans. To improve measureable impact, the Plan will be driven by the end goal of implementation, and thus organized and prioritized by the region's most critical challenges. The final deliverable will include one comprehensive, regional action plan, as well as an individual executive summary and action plan for each county.

A RFQ was chosen, as it was determined to be a superior process to a RFP, because the PAC was looking to hire the best firm, not the firm that devoted the most into a proposal. Eight firms had submitted qualifications. Each County, as well as SAP&DC staff, reviewed and ranked the submissions. Considering that Qualifications were being evaluated, there was a unique opportunity for a robust interview process. Six of the eight firms were given interviews. The PAC then narrowed

down the six to the final two, and gave the final two consultants a second interview. Ultimately, the PAC unanimously chose czb (sic), LLC. out of Alexandria, VA. Once this had been finalized, the PAC started to develop a mutually agreeable scope of work that would fit within the budget.

czb took an aggressive approach to acquiring regional data to immediately analyze some demographic and housing data in the area. It was not long until a project outline was chosen. Each of the six counties would form a steering committee that would meet every six weeks for a little over a year - between December 2016 through March 2018. czb suggested that between 15 to 20 people be included on the committee with a balance of familiar and fresh faces, people under and over the age of 40, people that both own or do not own a business, an equal share of males and females, a proportionate mix of the ethnicities in the county, and a few elected and non-elected officials. It was critical that those



participating be key stakeholders that would be relied upon to be the driving force in implementing the Plan. Any other stakeholder that did not fit in the core 15-20 people could be interviewed outside the Steering Committee meetings. Each of the six counties that are part of the Plan update conducted their own independent steering committee meetings starting the first week of December 2016.

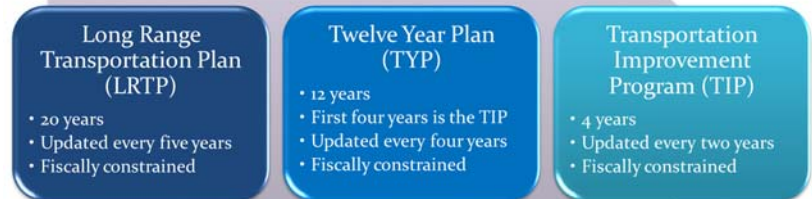
czb and their sub-consultant, Matt Ingalls, developed take-home assignments called "Kitchen Table Conversations" for each Committee member to discuss critical planning ideas with their friends, families, colleagues, and anyone else they have an opportunity to meet with to gain a more intimate, grassroots-style data collection method. A more traditional public open house is slated to be held at the end of May 2017. It is anticipated that at least eight Steering Committee meetings will be held in total, with the initial draft to be ready by the end of 2017, ready for review, edit, and adoption in early 2018.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Transportation Planning exists to facilitate technical information, effective transportation, and efficient movement of people and goods. Transportation Planning shapes urban form, affects economic vitality and impacts quality of life. The Planning & Development Department strives to create better communication among Huntingdon County Municipalities, Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission (SAP&DC)'s Rural Planning Organization (RPO), and with other professional groups. We assess and make recommendations on policies and programs so as to derive the full public benefits of comprehensive and community-based planning that promote personal mobility and travel choices.

2017-2020 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN (TIP)

Every four years, Huntingdon County participates in the update to the region's TIP. The TIP is developed in cooperation with the four rural counties of Bedford, Fulton, Huntingdon, and Somerset, PennDOT District 9-0, PennDOT Central Office, and SAP&DC. The Southern Alleghenies RPO prioritizes, reviews, and



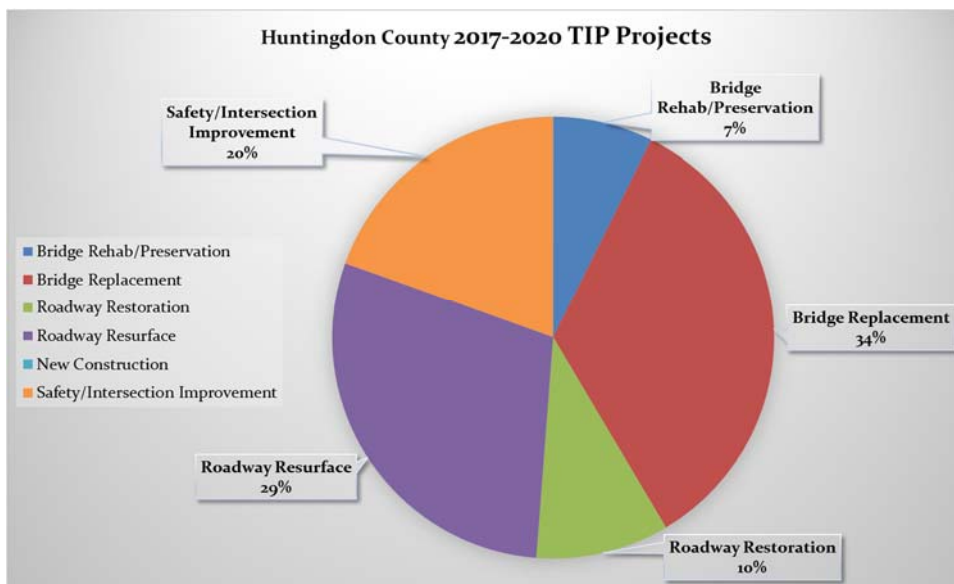
County	State Bridges (>8")	SD State Bridges (>8")	Local Bridges (>20')	SD Local Bridges (>20')
Huntingdon	317	40 (12.6)	57	23 (40.4%)
Region	1,430	205 (14.34%)	264	110 (41.67%)

sources to fund the regions transportation projects, which include safety improvements, traditional roadway resurfacing and reconstruction projects, major construction projects of new facilities, and the bridge network.

approves the final TIP. The TIP is the first four years of the Twelve Year Plan (TYP) and Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), which is 20 years into the future. The TIP contains project-specific information and is fiscally constrained (i.e. cannot include projects which cost more than available funding identified by the Department of Transportation.) The TIP projects expected funding

The County appoints the Planning Director, Mark Colussy to the SAP&DC Rural Transportation Technical Committee (RTTC) meetings to make recommendations to the Coordinating Committee on the TIP. SAP&DC relies on the County to solicit for Transportation Projects, which are reviewed bi-annually by the County Planning Commission. The

Planning Commission votes on recommendations to the Commissioners regarding a list of prioritized projects to be forwarded to PennDOT for consideration and addition to the TIP. A Public Outreach meeting was held on June 16, 2016. Once the RPO formally approves the TIP, the TIP then gets incorporated into the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP). The current FY 2017-2020 TIP went into effect on October 1, 2016. It is critical that transportation needs be continually analyzed for future consideration. The TIP is reviewed every two years, making 2017 the next review period.



TRANSPORTATION PLANNING (cont...)

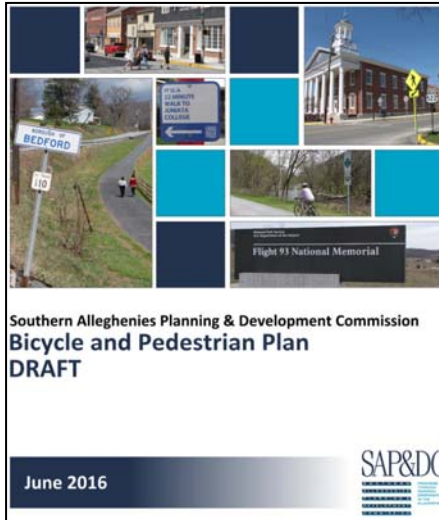
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLAN

The Southern Alleghenies Rural Planning Organization (RPO) is responsible for developing and maintaining the Region's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. The Plan is consistent with the goals set forth in the Southern Alleghenies Long Range Transportation Plan as well as federal and state guidance regarding bicycle and pedestrian modes of transportation.

Planning Director, Mark Colussy, and Sunday Riders Sunday Strollers representative, Valerie Burnett, represented Huntingdon County on the Steering Committee. The *2016 Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan* was adopted by the RPO at the July 20, 2016 Rural Transportation Coordinating Committee Meeting. The Plan includes five major goals:

1. Bolster the Region's bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure so that it is safe to use and enjoy.
2. Ensure our Region's bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure is well maintained.
3. Continue planning for bicycle and pedestrian initiatives.
4. Educate our Region's stakeholders, elected officials, and public at-large of key regional initiatives involving bicycle and pedestrian transportation.
5. Maximize the benefits of transportation investments in the Region.

The Plan specifically highlighted the following potential projects in Huntingdon County: Lower Trail extension to Huntingdon Borough; Walk Huntingdon; connections from Juniata College to downtown; 9/11 Memorial Trail extension; proposed trail linking Mapleton to Mount Union; and improved connections between Huntingdon Borough and Lake Raystown.



Now that the Plan has been adopted, planning is moving into the implementation stage. Formation of an Active Transportation Committee is anticipated in 2017 to fit the regional goals into the local context.

COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSIT - HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN

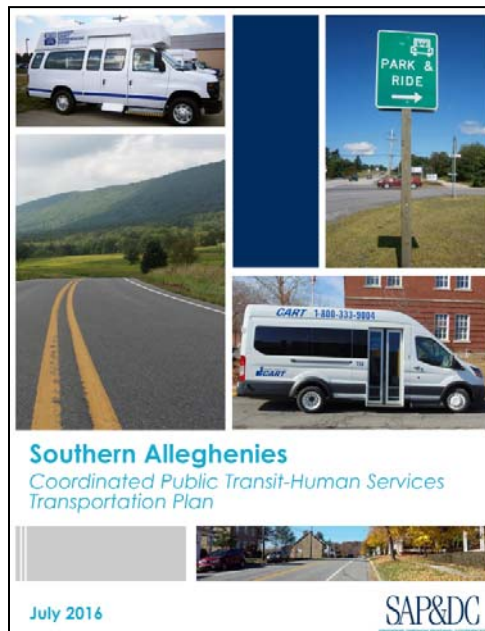
The Southern Alleghenies Rural Planning Organization (RPO) is responsible for developing and maintaining the Region's *Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan* (Coordinated Plan). Federal law requires that projects selected for public transportation funding are derived from the Coordinated Plan. Also, the Coordinated Plan is consistent with the goals set forth in the Southern Alleghenies Long Range Transportation Plan.

The *Coordinated Transit-Human Services Plan* was adopted by the RPO at the July 20, 2016 Rural Transportation Coordinating Committee Meeting. The Plan is made up of seven broad categories that focus on potential solutions and best practices:

1. Education, Information, and Communication;
2. Reliable Transportation, Access to Jobs, and Training for Young, Low-Income Individuals;
3. Access to Areas Outside of Local Destinations;
4. Service Availability and Cost;
5. Funding Program Rules and Regulations;
6. Transportation for Non-Medical Trips; and
7. Transportation Service Quality.

Mark Colussy assisted Southern Alleghenies and Consulting firm, Michael Baker, Intl. with setting up a public meeting at Taylor Apartments in Mount Union, as well as with the Human Services Council

in the J.C. Blair Education Center in Huntingdon on January 20, 2016. Wendy Melius and Amy Wise represented Huntingdon County on the Steering Committee. Plan implementation is underway.



AGENCY LIAISON AND COORDINATION

Coordinating the implementation of the *Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan*, with public and private organizations, is achieved through the following four processes: Agency Liaison, County-Municipal Project Review, Federal-State Project Review, and Subdivision and Land Development Review.

The Planning Commission and its staff coordinate the implementation of planning recommendations with many agencies and units of government. This includes staff participation in many committees and attendance at numerous meetings.

COUNTY PLANNING DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION



The County Planning Directors Association (CPDAP) is an affiliate of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania. The CPDAP provides input on State policy on environmental and land use issues to both the County Commissioners of Pennsylvania and to the Commonwealth.

SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (SAP&DC)



The Planning Director represents the County on several Southern Alleghenies committees, including the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) and the Rural Transportation Technical Committee (RTTC). The County Commissioners sit on the Coordinating Committee (RTCC). The RTCC plays a key role in development of the Transportation Improvement Program.

HUNTINGDON COUNTY BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY (HCB&I)



The Planning Director serves on the HCB&I Economic Infrastructure Committee. The Committee has the goal of advocating, supporting economic issues related to Highways, Rail, Riverview business Center, Telecommunication, Multimodal Transportation, and Economic Development incentives. The Planning Director also serves as an ex-officio member of the Enterprise Zone Revolving Loan Committee.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT AWARDS

Presented at the Commission's Annual Meeting, 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. The 2016 Award categories were Community Spirit, New Construction, Preservation, and Special

Merit. While nominations were open for all categories, no applications were received in the New Construction category.



The eleventh annual Community Improvement Awards were presented at the Planning Commission's Annual Meeting on March 23, 2016. Recipients of the 2015 awards were J.C. Blair Convenient Care Center, Community Spirit; Gage Mansion, Preservation; and First Responders Monument, Special Merit.

The Convenient Care Center is open seven days a week, employs nearly forty people, and includes ten patient exam rooms, a blood draw lab, X-ray facilities, physician offices, and a nursing station. This project re-purposed a 6,200 square foot vacant building space in the Raystown Shopping Center.

This first and only service of its kind in the County has exceeded all projections for use and meets the triple aim of improving access, quality, and affordability of healthcare for all residents of Huntingdon County.

Creation of the Convenient Care Center embodies this Award, filling a need in the community by

improving access to healthcare for everyone and by contributing to economic development growth in the County.

After being vacant for over a year, the Gage Mansion was purchased by John and Angie Thompson and reopened as a bed & breakfast and event venue.

Renovations were made to the 5,800 square foot Mansion, the 1,400 square foot Carriage House, and the overgrown perennial garden. Improvements to the Mansion included the addition of six full bathrooms, individual heating and cooling units for each suite, a new roof on half of the house, and thorough cleaning and redecorating to reflect the historic character of the property. New construction materials in the style and quality of materials in the original structure were utilized, and energy efficient heating and cooling units were installed in each suite.

The rehabilitation of the Gage Mansion embodies this Award by enhancing the attractiveness of the County while maintaining the historic detail of the building and exhibiting the principle of sustainability.

The First Responders Monument, located on Penn Street near the Gateway Garden, was intended as a project to "Save the Bell", referring to the 1797 bell that is the first fire responder notification to volunteer fire fighters in the Borough.

The Bell, placed on the first fire station on Washington Street, was moved to Mifflin Street when the fire company moved. In 2012, the Mifflin Street building was sold and the bell had to be removed. During this same time period, the historic brick Bryan Street entrance to J.C. Blair Hospital was being redone, and the Bryan Street bricks were saved for future use. The bell now sits atop a four-sided stone monument with designs carved on the sides representing firefighting tools. The top four corners of the monument hold American Flags, and a time capsule was placed inside. A brick walkway made of Bryan Street bricks purchased in recognition of past firefighters and responders surrounds all four sides. The Frank P. Hommon American Legion Post #24 provided all of the funding for this project.



This First Responders Monument embodies this Award by preserving history and honoring all emergency responders in the Borough.

COUNTY - MUNICIPAL PROJECT REVIEW

Section 303 of the *PA Municipalities Planning Code (Act 247)* gives the Planning Commission the authority to review and comment on various public facility projects, zoning, subdivision, and other land development ordinances. In addition, Acts 67 and 68 of 2000 provide an opportunity for local municipalities and counties to comment on the consistency of State-funded projects with county and municipal planning and zoning.

Local government and State agencies submitted 13 projects to the Commission for review and comment in 2016. These included 1 effect to historic property inquiry, 2 Growing Greener Grant consistency requests, 1 Environmental Assessment Public Comment Notice, 3 PA Small Water and Wastewater Program Grant Comprehensive Plan Consistency requests, 1 Watershed Restoration and Protection Program Grant Comprehensive Plan consistency request, 1 DCNR C2P2 Grant Letter of Support, 1 municipal subdivision and land development ordinance, 2 blasting schedule notices, and 1 Housing Authority Annual Plan

Comprehensive Plan consistency request.

Additionally, Act 14 requires those applying for water obstruction permits, water quality permits or air quality permits to

notify County Commissioners and municipal officials of all requests for State permits. The Commission received 19 State permit activity notices in 2016.

FEDERAL - STATE PROJECT REVIEW

The Planning Commission reviews projects that use federal funds for consistency with the *County Comprehensive Plan*, under the authority of Executive Order #12372. Under the State-based Intergovernmental Review Process (IRP), the Commission received 27 review requests in 2016.



ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

The Huntingdon County Commissioners created the Huntingdon County Planning Commission in 1962 and hired the first Planning Director in 1971. The County Commissioners have directed the Planning Commission to prepare and maintain a comprehensive plan to guide growth and development in the County and to promote public interest in and understanding of planning and the *Comprehensive Plan*. Volunteers, staff, money and equipment are the resources needed to achieve the objectives of the Huntingdon County Planning Commission.

STAFFING

From January through September, Planning and Development Department staff included Mark Colussy, Planning Director; Maureen Safko, Planner/Grant Administrator; Laurie Nearhood, Office Manager/Secretary; and Taylor Pollicino, Bookkeeper/Secretary. In mid September 2016, Iona Conner was hired as Planner I.

PLANNER I HIRED

Since 2007, there have been only two staff members dedicated to grant administration tasks - the Grant Administrator and the Bookkeeper. Prior to 2007, grant administration staff also included a Planning Technician. In 2012, the County Commissioners approved filling the Planning Technician position. Not long after, that staff member transitioned to the Bookkeeper position and the Planning Technician position was again vacant.

Due to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development's 2015 mandate that counties be tasked with administering all entitlement grants for CDBG programs within their counties and the award of three CDBG Competitive Grants, the Department's workload has increased.

On May 9, 2016, the Planning Director requested that the County Commissioners approve converting the Planning Technician position to a Planner I position with additional job duties. The County Commissioners approved this position. Five interviews were conducted on July 28, 2016 and a recommendation was made to hire Iona Conner. This recommendation was approved on September 13, 2016 with a September 19, 2016 start date.

Iona had been an air pollution inspector in the heart of New Jersey in the 1980s, writing violations (by hand) against polluting companies, and had worked at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Hazardous Waste Management in the Bureau of Community Relations.

For the past 27 years, she worked with her husband running a non-profit organization, and had done grant writing, with occasional success. As an Experience Works Participant Assistant for Huntingdon County, Iona helped place two people in part-time County

training positions so she had some familiarity with the Planning and Development Department and had gotten to know several other County employees.

Although Iona has numerous skills and talents, she has stated that she is learning a whole new career under the expert tutelage of everyone in the Planning and Development Department and loving it.

STAFF TRAINING

Planning and Development staff attend workshops and seminars to stay current with the latest planning and community development trends. Training activities in 2016 included:

- Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association Annual Conference;
- County Planning Directors Association of PA quarterly meetings;
- Southern Alleghenies Planning Advisory Committee bi-monthly meetings;
- Community Development and Housing Practitioners Conference, presented by the Pennsylvania Association of Housing and Redevelopment Agencies (PAHRA);
- CDBG Grant Administrator Training, presented by the Council of State Community Development Agencies (COSCDA);
- Annual Reporting Requirements Webinar, presented by DCED;
- Penn State University SSCEP Internship Meeting with Professor Kelsey and Amy Wise; and
- Courses in Community Planning and in Subdivision & Land Development Review, presented by Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute (PMPEI)

LOOKING AHEAD to 2017

Continue to Seek Pennsylvania Avenue Funding

The Pennsylvania Avenue project in Mount Union Borough has already been partially funded and completed through 2016, but there is still a significant portion of the project unfunded. Searching for funds to meet all the moving parts, requirements, and wishes of the community is paramount to success in revitalizing a significant corridor through the heart of Mount Union.

Implement Blueprint Communities Plan

Assist the Juniata River Blueprint Community (JRBC) in implementing its 5-Year Strategy in Mapleton Borough, Mount Union Borough, and Shirley Township.

Host Entrepreneurial Communities Workshops

The Penn State Cooperative Extension's Entrepreneurial Communities Program will reconvene in 2017. This Program will piggyback off of the JRBC 5-Year Plan and provide the County with an understanding of what successful entrepreneurial communities do to make a thriving business start-up community.

Complete PEP's Marketing Plan

Continue to work with the PEP Marketing Committee to develop a marketing strategy designed to promote a positive image of the County to Visitors, Business Investors and Business Employees, and Residents.

Finalize PEP's Strategic Plan

The Partnership for Economic Progress (PEP) will finalize their Strategic Plan and start implementation.

County Courthouse Clocktower Phase II

Work on the second phase of the Courthouse Clocktower will start in the late spring and be completed by end of the summer of 2017.

Draft the SAP&DC's Multi-County Comprehensive Plan Update

The SAP&DC staff and Planning Advisory Committee will continue to facilitate efforts by the hired consulting firm, czb LLC and the Steering Committee to develop a draft of the multi-county, implementable Comprehensive Plan.

Competitive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-C) Projects

Huntingdon County will continue to move forward with previously awarded Competitive Grants for Mapleton Borough, and the Wood-Broad Top-Wells Joint Municipal Authority.

FINANCIAL REPORT

During 2016, the Planning Department was funded by the County General Fund - \$93,644.00 from the Planning and Zoning Line Item and \$92,849.00 from the Solid Waste and Recycling and Planning Grants Line Items.

Overall, the total 2017 General Fund budget for Planning and Zoning, Solid Waste & Recycling and Planning Grants is 21.3% more than it was in 2016.

Planning and Zoning Budget Report

	2016 Budget	2016 Expenditures	2017 Budget
Personnel	\$81,244.00	\$83,011.94	\$86,762.00
Office Expenses	\$10,700.00	\$11,053.15	\$11,900.00
Materials & Supplies	\$1,200.00	\$626.62	\$1,200.00
Capital Outlay	\$500.00	\$1,085.50	\$1,200.00
Total	\$93,644.00	\$95,777.21	\$101,062.00

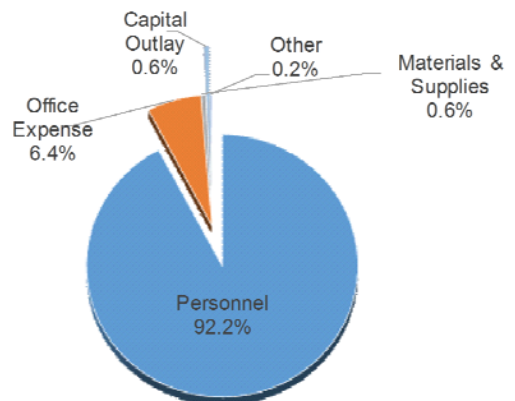
Solid Waste/Recycling & Planning Grants Budget Report

	2016 Budget	2016 Expenditures	2017 Budget
Personnel	\$88,799.00	\$96,369.00	\$120,622.00
Office Expenses	\$3,000.00	\$1,485.74	\$3,200.00
Materials & Supplies	\$500.00	\$502.19	\$700.00
Other	\$550.00	\$346.34	\$600.00
Total	\$92,849.00	\$98,703.27	\$125,122.00

General Fund Totals

2016 Budget	2016 Expenditures	2017 Budget
\$186,493.00	\$194,480.48	\$226,184.00

2016 General Fund Expenditures



HUNTINGDON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Mark A. Sather, *Chairman*

Scott Walls, *Vice Chairman*

Jeff Thomas, *Secretary*

Michelle Cerett, *Chief Clerk* *

** Michelle Cerett resigned in March 2017.*

PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS *

Ron Rabena, *Chairman*

Larry Mutti, *Vice Chairman*

Raymond Barley, *Secretary*

Robert Benson

Jeremy Crouse

Wendy Melius

Philip Cahill

Bryan Yingling

Nancy MacNamara

** Ann Reynolds, Ginny Gill, and Cindy Anderson left the board at the end of 2016.*

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT STAFF

Mark Colussy, *Planning Director*

Maureen Safko, *Planner/Grant Administrator* *

Iona Conner, *Planner I*

Taylor Pollicino, *Bookkeeper/Secretary*

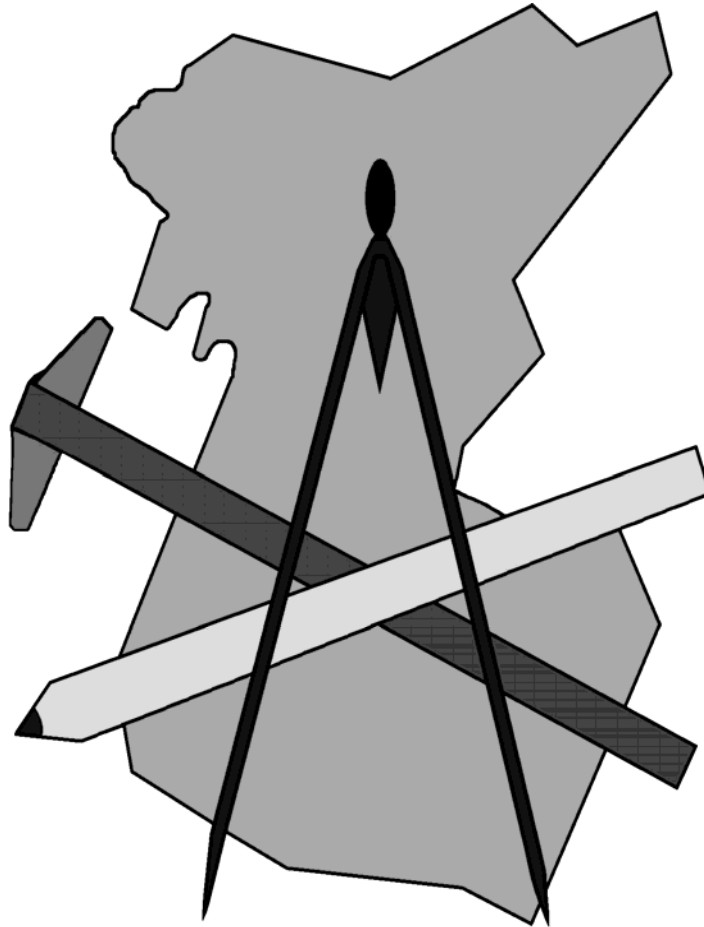
Laurie Nearhood, *Office Manager/Secretary*

LouAnn Shontz, *Recycling Coordinator*

** Resigned effective 4/7/2017*

Huntingdon County Planning Commission

Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department



205 Penn Street, Suite 3
Huntingdon, PA 16652
814-643-5091 - phone
814-643-6370 - fax
planning@huntingdoncounty.net
www.huntingdoncounty.net