

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/ TRANSPORTATION
ROUNDTABLE
CLEARFIELD COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
AUGUST 30, 2005**

ATTENDEES:

Jodi Brennan, Director of Clearfield County Planning Office
Bonnie Buzzanca, Secretary of Clearfield County Planning Office
Susan Reed, Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee
Rita Bass, Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee
Tom Stojek, Executive Director of Clearfield Foundation
Mike Lawrence, North Central Regional Planning & Development Commission
Amy Kessler, North Central Regional Planning & Development Commission
Mary Koch, Area Transportation Authority
Vickie Rusnak, Penn DOT
Tim Potts, R.J. Corman Railroad Group
Dick Shaffer, Lawrence Township Airport
Bob Shaffer, DuBois-Jefferson County Airport
Justine Bolam-Wright, Appalachian Wood Products
Kevin Bowser, B&P Railroad
Jamie Orcutt, Clearfield County Economic Development Corporation
Dick Castonquay, Manager of Sandy Township
Diane Byers, Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee
Sandy Fink-Barrett, Director of Clearfield County Recreation & Tourism Authority

INTRODUCTIONS

After introducing one another, the question was asked, “who’s missing from this roundtable that should be contacted?” Response from participants included Bike & pedestrian sector (Tri-County Rails to Trails), DuFast & Christ the King Manor.

PURPOSE

County Planning Director Jodi Brennan explained that the input collected at today’s roundtable would be used for the purpose of updating the county’s comprehensive plan. She then briefly explained what a comprehensive plan was and the purpose it serves. She also stressed that they would accept input after the meeting as well and asked for participants to share any data sources or reports that would be useful in the development of this plan. The roundtable participants will be sent the final draft of this comprehensive plan section for final review and comment.

PROCESS

The Director also explained the process in which today’s meeting would be run to obtain this input. The SWOT analysis, a commonly used planning process, would be utilized which simply stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats. These items would then be used to develop a list of goals.

After lengthy discussion, participants developed a list of the following strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats and goals. Participants were then given five stickers, which they used to vote for the top five goals they felt were the most important. Participants were allowed to use more than one sticker per goal if they so desired. These “votes” were then used to prioritize the goals.

STRENGTHS

- Interstate 80 with 6 exits
- Airports (foreign trade zone)
- Existing Transportation Network
- Reliable & available workforce
- Two short rail lines
- Available land and natural resources
- Health & I.T. (DRMC/Lock Haven University/Penn State)
- Tourism & recreational activities (PA Wilds initiative)
- Attractive to retirees (Tax friendly)
- Intermodal facilities
- Location (proximity to major markets)

WEAKNESSES

- Lack of participation in educational activities by workforce
- Abandoned mine drainage
- Lack of articulation among educational facilities
- No community college
- No research & development facilities
- No good north-south highway
- Lack of infrastructure near developable areas
- Regulations (DEP/Federal)
- Limited land use planning
- Too many municipalities not working together (collaborative agreements)
- Need for waste disposal facilities (preferable waste to energy)
- Need for interconnectivity with rail lines
- Inconsistent land uses along rail corridors

OPPORTUNITIES

- PA Wilds
- Growing Greener funds
- Take advantage of natural resources (coal)
- Opportunities for counties to participate in prioritization of transportation projects

- Alternative fuel development (including use of wastes from agriculture, forestry & mining industries)
- Production of remediation materials from waste to energy projects
- Limited opportunity of time for educators to come together to work cooperatively
- County to take more active role
- Tax breaks (KOZ/KIZ)
- Bring new residents into county (immigrants/ diversity)
- Market our way of life
- Opportunity to attract retirees & retain existing ones

THREATS

- Regulations holding up projects (State & Federal)
- Bridge infrastructure deteriorating (regulations affecting increase in costs)
- Price of energy
- Potential loss of commercial airline service
- Tolling interstates
- Funding not keeping up with inflation
- Taxes (archaic structure)
- Healthcare costs
- Continental Divide (affecting water supply/ SRBC)

GOALS (in order of priority as voted on by roundtable participants)

1. Connect B&P railroad with R.J. Corman railroad (14 votes)
2. Develop better north-south highway (13 votes)
3. Increase participation in educational opportunities (12 votes)
4. Streamline infrastructure, smart infrastructure planning/ identify growth areas (11 votes)
5. Develop ways for streamlining project delivery (8 votes)
6. Increase recreational/ tourism opportunities (6 votes)
7. Develop recreation & tourism plan (3 votes)
8. Develop marketing plan for attracting retirees (2 votes)
9. Increase availability & affordability of broadband services (1 vote)
10. Increase cultural activities (0 votes)

Participants were informed that they would receive minutes from this roundtable with the results of the prioritization of goals in the near future. An invitation will follow for a second follow up meeting to develop a plan of action to implement the top 5 goals established at today's roundtable. Participants were encouraged to provide additional goals.

