Alfred Benesch & Company
400 One Norwegian Plaza
Pottsville, PA 17901
www.benesch.com
P 570-622-4055
F 570-622-1232

Meeting Minutes

Project: Foster Township – 2020 Comprehensive Plan

Project No.: 31016.20

Date/Time: January 16, 2019 – 6:30 PM

Place: Foster Township Building

Attendees: See Attached list

- Robert Sterling Foster Township Chairman began the meeting with an announcement about the need of the Township to develop and new comprehensive plan. Rob announced that the previous Comprehensive Plan is almost twenty years old and that they have completed a large portion of the plan topics successfully.

- Daniel Cook, of Alfred Benesch & Company (Benesch), began presenting the comprehensive plan process, elements and the mapping needed to meet the requirements of the PA Municipal Planning Code (MPC). Dan introduced and passed the attention to Ed Brennan Township Solicitor to speak about the first topic to be covered on the 2020 comprehensive plan, high speed internet.

    - PowerPoint can be found attached with the minutes.

- Edward Brennan began by expressing that he feels that Foster Township has come a long way since the last comprehensive plan. Ed mentioned all the new road's, new municipal building and the development of a police force. Attorney Brennan indicated that the Township now needs to look to the future of the Township. One of the current issues the Township is facing is the need for High Speed Internet.
    - The internet is useful.
        - Kids are often required to have internet to complete certain homework.
        - Colleges and Universities are now offering online courses and degrees.
        - It can be used to look up medical issues when a family member or a friend gets sick.
        - Internet will raise the value of your home. There are certainly home buyers out there who would simply eliminate an area if they cannot be provided internet.
        - Offers the possibility to work from home.

- Ed discussed the need to have a Telecommunications Engineer attend next month's meeting.
    - Keith Hill, P.E. from Consulting Gateway Corporation will help negotiate agreements with internet providers and will make sure the Township understands the options.
- A new survey will be completed to give the internet providers information necessary to work out an agreement.
    - The survey will ask about the internet service you have now, if any. It will cover cost, how often you use it and if you are satisfied with your current internet.
    - A demographical section will cover more personal topics including house hold income. The survey will be completely confidential only the internet provider will get to see the information.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION & DATA

- Public participation will include monthly meetings for the next year to be held on the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm.
- A member study committee will be established to help generate tasks for the comprehensive plan.
- As part of the study, Benesch will conduct key person interviews with selection based on Study Committee input. A tentative list for considerations is found at the end.
- Benesch will prepare a community survey which will be provided to the residents for additional input and provide data to the study committee.
- The recent Census data indicated the overall population of Schuylkill County is decreasing, as well as Barry, Branch, Reilly Townships, and Minersville Borough. Butler Township and Cass Township have had an increase in population in the last 10 years. The census data also shows that Foster Township is decreasing in population, however the census data does not take in the current population of several of the new homes in the Hill Section of the Township.

BENESCH ACTIONS:

- Contact the Schuylkill County Airport and certain businesses in the Highridge Industrial Park to express interest in obtaining high speed internet.
- Obtain a list of the Comprehensive Plan Study Committee members.

Attachments:

- 2020 Comprehensive Plan Meeting #1 Agenda
- 2020 Comprehensive Plan Introduction Presentation.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 2019 at 6:30 PM at the Foster Township Municipal Building.

All attendees are requested to review the above minutes for corrections and/or comments. If no comments or corrections are received, these minutes will become the basis for all official action.

Respectfully submitted,



Jared M. Conville, E.I.T.
Designer II



Daniel P. Cook, P.E.
Project Engineer

cc: All attendees

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Agenda

Project Name:	Foster Township – 2020 Comprehensive Plan
Project Number:	31016.20
Date of Meeting:	January 16, 2019
Time of Meeting:	6:30 PM
Meeting Location:	Foster Township Building
Regarding:	Comprehensive Plan Committee Kick-Off and Public Meeting

1. Introductions
    a. Benesch Staff
    b. Study Committee

2. Comprehensive Plan Presentation

3. Open Discussion Topic – Internet (Edward Brennan)

FOSTER TOWNSHIP COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2019

JANUARY 16, 2019
KICKOFF/PUBLIC MEETING #1

Presented by:
Daniel P. Cook, PE
Jared M. Conville, EIT

benesch

TONIGHT'S AGENDA

1
- Team Introduction
- What is a Comprehensive Plan
- Planning Elements
- Mapping

2
- Potential Focus Areas
- Purpose of Public Planning
- Public Participation
- Surrounding Communities and Entities

3
- Township Previous Planning Goals Completed
- Future Items to Be Completed
- Questions
- Focus Topic

Questions?

TEAM INTRODUCTIONS

Foster Township Supervisors

G. Robert Sterling– Chairman
Christopher G. Rowlands – Supervisor
John A. Carr – Supervisor

Janet Mitchell – Secretary

Foster Township Planning Commission

John Barrett
Edward Costick
Bob Halupa

Planning Consultant

Daniel Cook, PE – Benesch
Jared M. Conville, EIT– Benesch

TEAM INTRODUCTIONS

Study Committee

TBD

WHAT IS A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

- A comprehensive plan is more than just a document disclosing past and present land use trends with a proposed course of action. It is a process of organizing for the future. It creates a blueprint for our land use patterns of tomorrow.
- Community planning is an organized method of thinking about tomorrow. By thinking about how a community changed in the past can help predict what changes might be in store for the future. When this type of thinking translates into action, it needs to be done in an orderly fashion and made part of a routine administrative process.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REQUIREMENTS

- MPC Section 301 (a) requires each municipal, multi-municipal and county comprehensive plan to have nine elements. Collectively these basic elements should present a composite vision of private and public development for the future based on a statement of community development goals and objectives.
- Each and every basic element is linked, interrelated or connected. For example, resident population data equates to housing needs, demographics such as age cohorts can relate to housing types and educational needs, both present and future.
- There are a multitude of interrelationships among and between the required comprehensive plan elements.

PLANNING ELEMENTS

I. Planning Process and the Community
II. Physical Environment and Natural Resources
III. Population Characteristics and Trends
IV. Transportation
V. Housing
VI. Economic Conditions
VII. Land Use Plans
VIII. Draft Alignment Plan
IX. Function and Form of Government

MAPPING

A. Location Map
B. Aerial Map
C. Existing Land Use
D. Existing Zoning Map
E. Defined Green Space /Open Space / State Game Lands / Recreation Area
F. Roadway Classification
G. Steep Slopes
H. Hydrological Features (Wetlands, floodplains, streams, etc.)
I. Proposed Land use
J. Utilities

TOWNSHIP POTENTIAL FOCUS AREAS

A. Residential Redevelopment
B. Recreational Areas
C. Fire Protection
D. Increasing Water Service Capacity
E. Future Highridge Growth
F. Expansion of the I-81 Business Corridor
G. Options for the Exiting Sanitary Sewer System
H. Internet Development
I. Transportation Upgrades
J. Existing Township Equipment Replacement
K. Capital Improvement Planning

PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Purpose of the Public Participation Process

- Assists in determining the Community's needs and interests
- Provides opportunity to voice opinions
- Informs elected officials of citizen needs
- Helps to express broad-based public support for the planning process and the plan proposals
- Provides an opportunity to support, plan and get involved



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Public Participation
  - Monthly Public* – 1st Tonight
  - Member Study Committee
  - Key Person Interviews
- Public Opinion Survey
  - https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Foster2020
  - Door to Door
- Public Outreach
  - #Foster2020

**Meeting frequency may be reduced during the process*



SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES AND ENTITIES

- Barry Township
- Butler
- Cass Township
- Frailey Township
- Hegins Township
- Reilly Township
- Minersville Area School District
- Schuylkill County Planning and Zoning

TOWNSHIP PREVIOUS COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING GOALS COMPLETED

A. Construction of a New Municipal Building ✓
B. Development of a Sanitary Sewer System ✓
C. Implement Water System Improvements ✓
D. Development of a Police Force ✓
E. Update Municipal Equipment ✓
F. SALDO Ordinance Adopted ✓
G. Zoning Ordinance Adopted ✓
H. Building Code Adopted ✓
I. Recreation Improvements ✓
J. Elimination of Dead End Roads ✓
K. Elimination of Dirt Roads ✓-
L. Fire Protection ✓-
M. Increase New Residential Development ✓

FUTURE ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED

- Focus Topics
- Key Person Interviews
- Community Survey
- Development of Updated Plan
- Complete Final Product

QUESTIONS

benesch

OPEN TOPIC DISCUSSION

benesch

FOSTER TOWNSHIP

2020 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

KICKOFF MEETING - SIGN-IN SHEET

Project No. 31016.20

JANUARY 16, 2019 – 6:30 PM

Representative	Municipality / Organization	E-Mail
Thomas Shekula	Foster	EMAIL:
Judy Lewis	Foster	EMAIL: JAHaneyLewis@Gmail.com
DIANE LENICK	BBZ Research Subdivision	EMAIL: jdlenick@verizon.net
Janet Mitchell	Foster twp	EMAIL: Fostertwp@gmail.com
RICHARD BURMEISTER	FOSTER	EMAIL: 901PUBINC GMAIL.com
John Carr	FOSTER	EMAIL:
Allen Schwantz	Foster	EMAIL: atinman1@Verizon.Net
LARRY Gelches	Foster	EMAIL: LGelches@Gmail.com
Carol Sterling	Foster	EMAIL: carolsterling@hotmail.com
Rosalie Gelches	Foster	EMAIL:
ANNA OLEXA	FOSTER	EMAIL:
John Hummel	FOSTER	EMAIL:
Patrick Carr	Foster	EMAIL:

benesch

Representative	Municipality / Organization	E-Mail
Gene Maley	Foster Twp	EMAIL:
Frank Zukas	Sedco	EMAIL: FZUKAS@SED-CO.COM
Dennis Frank	Foster Twp.	EMAIL: dennisjfrank51@gmail.com
Diane Frank	Foster Twp.	EMAIL: dennisjfrank51@gmail.com
JEREMY HOSSLER	FOSTER TWP.	EMAIL: jer_hos27@hotmail.com
Joe ZULA	Foster Twp	EMAIL: JoeZULA11@G.Mail.com
Rich Zula	Foster Twp	EMAIL: rmrz3305@aol.com
Chris Rowlands	Foster TWP	EMAIL: Chris@qvandel@oncrete.com
Rob Sterling	Foster TWP	EMAIL:
ED Brennan		EMAIL:
Jared Conville	Benesch	EMAIL: JConville@Benesch.com
Dan Cook	Benesch	EMAIL: DCOOK@Benesch.com
		EMAIL:
		EMAIL:
		EMAIL:
		EMAIL:

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Meeting Minutes

Project: Foster Township – 2020 Comprehensive Plan – Meeting #2

Project No.: 31016.20

Date/Time: March 20, 2019 – 6:30 PM

Place: Foster Township Building

- Ed Brennan, Foster Township Solicitor began the meeting with an announcement that he has been attempting to get Reading Anthracite to show up to the Township meetings. Reading Anthracite has made several commitments to attend the monthly meetings and however has not been able to attend in person each time. Mr. Brennan held a small meeting in his office with a Reading Anthracite employee and their lawyer; where they discussed Reading Anthracite's idea to develop the Old Airport Road. Mr. Brennan informed them of the urgent need to attend the monthly Township meetings and engage in discussion with the board and citizens. Mr. Brennan announced that SCMA and the County Airport would like to develop the Airport Road. Mr. Brennan believes with these two possible development projects in the future it is now time to begin thinking about providing these locations with water, sewer and even internet.
- Mr. Daniel Cook, Foster Township Engineer mentioned that SCMA has been able to obtain grants for similar projects in the past. Mr. Cook predicts it is difficult to get permission, permitting etc. to run utilities across I-81 to feed the Airport Road.
- Mr. Keith Hill, President of Consulting Gateway Corporation, began announcing who he is and what experience his firm provides. Mr. Hill and Consulting Gateway Corporation have been in the internet business for many years. He has worked on obtaining internet services all over the United States from very rural locations to even bringing better connections to a large portion of the City of Pittsburgh. Mr. Hill prepared a PowerPoint that covered the main points during the meeting.

    - Mr. Hill discussed the importance of having a clear approach when beginning the process of obtaining internet providers' services.
    - One of the first tasks will be to collect existing data and new data to develop Geographic Info System (GIS) mapping. This mapping should include other parties or communities that may be interested in the same thing. Good examples of this would be is Highridge Industrial Park

interested in expanding its internet services or are other communities like Forestville or Heckscherville interested in obtaining better internet services?

- Mr. Hill feels with such a large amount of participation on the surveys he thinks it will be easy to gather the information needed to develop the GIS Mapping.
- More surveys will need to be gathered pertaining many topics.
    - Economic, what is in the future of this area?
    - What service providers are available locally?
    - What are the costs people are willing to pay?
    - What types of internet would be best suited to the community?

- A conceptual Cost Estimate will need to be completed.
- Lastly, a report needs to be developed to assist with the organization and decision process.

Attachments:

- Keith Hill, Consulting Gateway Corporation Presentation.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 15th, 2019 at 6:30 PM at the Foster Township Municipal Building.

All attendees are requested to review the above minutes for corrections and/or comments. If no comments or corrections are received, these minutes will become the basis for all official action.

Respectfully submitted,

Jared M. Conville, E.I.T.
Designer II

Daniel P. Cook, P.E.
Project Engineer

cc: All attendees

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Agenda

Project Name:	Foster Township – 2020 Comprehensive Plan
Project Number:	31016.20
Date of Meeting:	March 20, 2019
Time of Meeting:	6:30 PM
Meeting Location:	Foster Township Building
Regarding:	Comprehensive Plan Committee Meeting

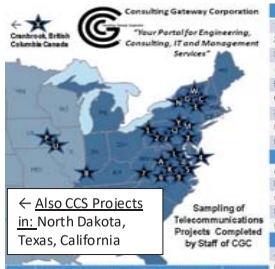
1. Introductions
    a. Mr. Keith Hill, Consulting Gateway Corporation

2. Comprehensive Plan Presentation Consulting Gateway Corporation

3. Open Discussion Topic – Internet (Mr. Keith Hill)

Company Overview

- CCS, is the **Telecommunications Division** of Consulting Gateway Corporation (CGC)
- CCS Founded: 1988 (30+ Years); CCS Purchased by CGC in 2013; Over a dozen professionals to assist you
- CGC Founded in 2007 (11+ years)
  - ✓ Public Safety/E911/Security
  - ✓ Utilities Provisioning/Infrastructure
  - ✓ Facility-Site Development
  - ✓ Public Works/Transportation
  - ✓ Power & Energy Industry QA-QC Services
  - ✓ Operations Consulting/IT
  - ✓ Strategic Planning/Business Modeling
  - ✓ Contracts Negotiations/Administration
- CCS Engineered Thousands of Miles of Cable Plant both Aerial and Buried Serving Approx. 25 Telephone, Cable, CLEC and Muni(s) for the past 30 years in PA, NY, WV, IL, IA, ND, CA, TX, VA, and VT with Quality Design & Project Mgmt. Services
- CCS is a Recognized U.S.D.A. RUS Engineering Firm – RUS 515 & 773 Contracts
- Currently Licensed in 8 States as Engineering-Design Firm
- Additional State Reciprocity-Licensing through Comity
- Projects Throughout the U.S and into Canada
- Public and Private Sector Clients: CGC Specializes in Creating Public-Private-Partnerships



Regional Assessments & Strategic Planning	No. CL.
1 NW PA Reg. Planning & Dev. Comm., PA-CONNECT	8
2 E-COM/Monmouth: Broadband Assessment	20
3 E-REDDI Broadband Assessment and Strategic Plan	8
4 Accomack Co./Chincoteague, Exmore/Wasaacadon, VA BB	4
5 Surry Co., VA Broadband Plan	1
6 Charlotte Co., VA Broadband Plan	1
7 Tazewell, Co., VA Broadband Plan	1
8 Grow Southwest Indiana Workforce GRABIT Broadband Study	9
9 Greensville County/City of Emporia, VA	1
Network Infrastructure and/or Equipment Design/Costing	**No. CL.**
A Page Co., VA Broadband Network	1
B Hampton Roads Fiber Optic Backbone Network	16
C Vermont Telephone Co., Inc. (Conceptual Design Map Clips)	1
D Castle Cable, TV, Hammond, NY 95 Mile Fiber Network	1
E Champlain Telephone Co., NY Switch Equipment RUS Loan App.	1
Wireless Networks Served with Fiber	**No. CL.**
J City of Reading, PA Video Safety Network	1
K Nelson Co., VA Broadband Network	1
L Northern Neck-Middle Peninsula Region Broadband Plan	9
M Kutztown Borough, PA Communications Towers Negotiations	1
N Town of Gloucester, NY	1
Emergency Management Operations, PSAP E911 Networks	**No. CL.**
P Quasi Cities PSAP Comm. Network	1
Q Kutztown, PA E911 Emergency Management Operations Center	1
Education & Applications Development Strategies	**No. Clients**
U IL Quad Cities Comm Strategic Planning Effort	6
Start-up Operations Consulting	**No. CL.**
W City of Burlington, VT Fiber Network	1
X City of Cranbrook, British Columbia Canada Network	1
Y Kutztown Hometown Utilicom FTTH, Voice Video Data	1

March 20, 2019

Project Presentation

COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTING SERVICES

"Engineering for the Telecommunications Industry"

The Telecommunications Division of

Keith A. Hill, President
Consulting Gateway Corporation
356 Maidencreek Road
Fleetwood, PA 19522
Phone - 484-651-2366
hillk@consultinggatewaycorp.com

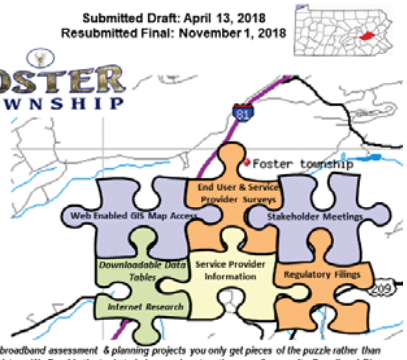
Consulting Gateway Corporation

"Your Portal for Engineering, Consulting, IT and Management Services"



Proposal for Professional Telecommunications Services for Foster Township, Schuylkill County, PA
Broadband Planning Project

Submitted Draft: April 13, 2018
Resubmitted Final: November 1, 2018



With many broadband assessment & planning projects you only get pieces of the puzzle rather than the whole picture. We Provide the tools to help you piece together your Community Broadband Plan

COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTING SERVICES INC.

The Telecommunications Division of

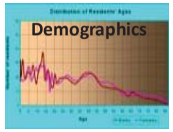
"Your Portal for Engineering, Consulting, IT and Management Services"

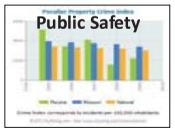


Consulting Gateway Corporation

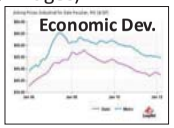
- Project-Client Manager / Steering Committee
- PA Professional Engineer-in-Charge
- Engineering / Network Design / Cost Estimating
- Education / Health Care / Libraries / E911
- Business / Economic Development
- Government / Comp. Plans / Data Collection
- Regulatory / Legal Issues
- GIS Mapping / Assessment & Planning Tools
- Public Mtgs. / Stakeholder Roundtable Events
- Strategic Planning / Organization Structure
- Business Modeling / Public-Private-Partners
- SAFECOM / NENA / NextGen / Homeland Security
- Environmental Matters
- ROW / Permitting / OSP Make Ready
- Wireless Infrastructure Assessment
- Priorities Assessment
- Professional Planning / Surveying
- Towers Engineering & Coordination
- Wireless Design / Engineering Support
- Cost Estimating
- Construction Management
- Construction Observation
- Project Reporting / Funding Compliance
- Project Scheduling

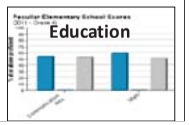
Exploring Conditions & Feasibility











- ✓ **Turn-key Services**
- ✓ **Condition Assessments/Data Collection (Surveys, Mtgs., Interviews)/Feasibility**
- ✓ **Broadband Education, Gap Analysis and Needs Priorities**
- ✓ **Preliminary Design and Cost Estimating**
  - Surveying and Staking
  - Aerial & U/G Design for Copper & Fibre Optic Cable
  - Hardened & Direct Buried Conduit Systems
  - Wireless Towers
  - Make Ready Assessment (GPS/Total Station Survey & Land Services)
  - Route Layout and Network Planning
  - Right-of-Way (ROW) & Permit Mgmt. (Railways, Waterways, Pipelines , Highways, Bridges)
  - Scope of Work Breakdown and Critical Task/Milestone Identification
  - Program Funding and Self Liquidating Debt Services
- ✓ **Business Modeling**
  - Request for Interest of Network Use by Service Providers
  - Dark Fiber Lease
  - Tower Co-Location
  - Program Funding & Self Liquidating Debt Services

TELECOM CORE COMPETENCIES



- ✓ **Private and Open Access Voice, Video and Data Networks**
  - Fiber Optics • Copper • Coaxial Cable • Hybrid Cable • Wireless



- ✓ **Public Safety Communications Interoperability / E911-Call Centers**
- ✓ **Operations Management / Financial / Business Modeling**
  - Rate Design • Funding / Grants • SCADA • GPS-GIS-CAD • QA/QC Programs
  - Network Governance • Provider Negotiations/Contracts (IP Enabled Services)



- ✓ **Security**
  - Cameras • RFID • Motion Detection



- ✓ **Project & Construction Management**
  - Bidding & Award • Contracts, Bonds, Insurance • Scheduling
  - Inspection • Prevailing Wage • Pay Processing • Inventory / As-Built Drawings



- ✓ **Records Management**
  - OSP Records • Customer Premise Equipment
  - Asset Service Life & Depreciation Scheduling/Accounting



- ✓ **Project-Construction and Contract Management**
  - ROW/Permit Management • Bidding/ Contractor Mgmt./Scheduling
  - QA/QC/As-Builts • Change Orders/Invoicing • Bonds/Insurance

Wireless Towers



- ✓ Tower Siting, Design, Specifications, Construction QA/QC
- ✓ Foundations for Towers & Adjacent Buildings
- ✓ Tower Reinforcing
- ✓ Supply, Installation, Testing of Antennas & Transmission Lines
- ✓ Fiber Optic Cable Backhaul
- ✓ Antenna Orientation
- ✓ Antenna & Line Inspection
- ✓ Electrical Testing & Alignment of Antennas
- ✓ Co-Location Contract Negotiation
- ✓ Site Leasehold Improvements
- ✓ Rooftop Installations
- ✓ Co-Locate Installations
- ✓ Emergency Services, Inspection & Repair
- ✓ Emergency Restoration Services







OSP and Headend Design, Bidding

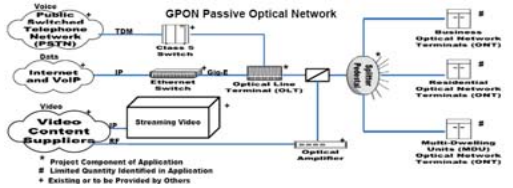
- ✓ **OSP Engineering**
  - Site Clearing, Site Leveling, Grading & Fencing
  - Aerial, Underground, Direct Buried
  - • Soil Analysis
  - Access Roads
  - Staking
  - Bid Packages and Award
  - P.E. Review and Sealing
  - GPS-CAD-GIS As Builts



- ✓ **Structures**
  - Underground Conduit Systems
  - Aerial, Poles & Cable
  - ISP Conduit Cable Information
  - Mechanical & Electrical Inspections Maintenance



- ✓ **Final Design**
  - MicroStation & AutoCAD Services
  - Cost Estimating
  - Spec. Dev. & Construction Drawings
  - Materials Supply/Mgmt.
- ✓ **Central Head-End / Optical Electronics**
  - Customer Premise Assessment
  - Installation/Testing



Central Office/Head End Design

- ✓ Head-End, Central Office/Exchange
- ✓ Consolidation, Modifications/ Expansions
- ✓ Wireless Network Technologies
- ✓ Transmission & Switching Equipment
- ✓ Digital Access Cross-Connect
- ✓ Systems and Multiplexers
- ✓ (DSL, DSLAM)
- ✓ Broadband Access Equipment / LANs/WANs
- ✓ DSX1/3 Cabling and Installation
- ✓ Optical Transmission Equipment and Systems
- ✓ DC Power, Batteries & Grounding Equip.
- ✓ Equip. Testing & Commissioning
- ✓ IP Equipment and Systems
- ✓ Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA)

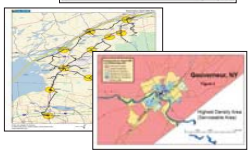


Projects

e-REDDI Regional Broadband Assessment and Strategic Plan
Clients: Berks County, Dauphin County, Franklin County, Lebanon County, Cumberland County, York County, Lancaster County and Schuylkill County



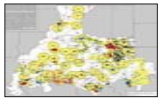
Town of Gouverneur, New York
Client: Town of Gouverneur, NY



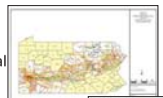
Illinois Quad Cities
Client: Bi-State Regional Commission



Growing the Region's Access to Broadband & Information Technology - A Project of Grow SW IN Workforce
Client: Growing the Region's Access to Broadband & Information Technology (GRABIT), Initiative of SW Indiana



eCommonwealthBroadband Assessment
Clients: Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission; Northern Tier regional Planning and Development Commission; Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance; Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission; SEDA-COG



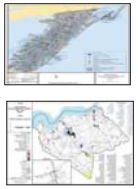
Bath-Highland Co(s). VA Broadband Planning Project



Central Accomack County, Towns of Chincoteague & Exmore/Nassawadox, VA Community Broadband Planning Study



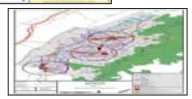
Nelson County, VA Broadband Planning Proj.



Surry County, VA Broadband Planning Proj.



Northern Neck-Middle Peninsula Regional Planning District Commission Fiber Optic Network ARRA Applications



Page County, VA Broadband Planning Proj.



Charlotte County, VA Broadband Planning Proj.



Tazewell County, VA Broadband Planning Proj.



Greensville County/City of Emporia, VA Phase II Broadband Planning Proj.



Hampton Roads (Planning District II) Feasibility Assessment of a Broadband Network for the Commonwealth of VA

Projects

City of Cranbrook British Columbia, Canada Municipal Fiber Optic Network Business Plan



- ❖ Project Background Impact on Business Modeling
- ❖ Network Governance Doctrine and Operations Support
- ❖ Budget and Financial Goals
- ❖ Marketing Plan / Public Relations
- ❖ Agreements and Rates

Other Projects:

Regional Broadband Needs Assessment & Strategic Plan
Client: NW PA Planning & Dev. Comm.

Vermont Fiber-to-the-Home Proj.
Client: Burlington Telecom

Kutztown, PA Hometown Utilicon FTTH Voice, Video, Data Network
Client: Borough of Kutztown

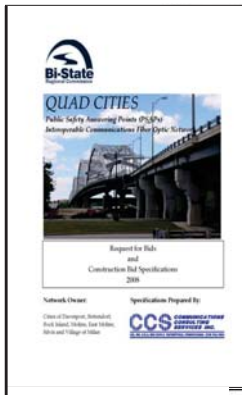
Vitruim Comm. ARRA-BIP App.
Client: Vitruim Comm., MA

Bretton Woods Telephone Co. Valuation
Client: Bretton Woods Telephone Co., NH

Cuba City FTTH ARRA App.
Client: Cuba City, WI

City of Reading, PA Video Network
Client: City of Reading, PA

Champlain Tel. Co. Loan App.
Client: Champlain Tel. Co., NY





Experience Adds Value

- Next Generation Network (IP Enabled)
- Budgeted for 29 Miles No Ring / Actual 55+ Miles in Ring Topology with no increase in Budgeted $
- Redundant Design (Multiple paths)
- Consolidated Data & Storage Centers
- Public-Private State/Fed. Partnerships
- Additional Use Beyond Initial Purpose



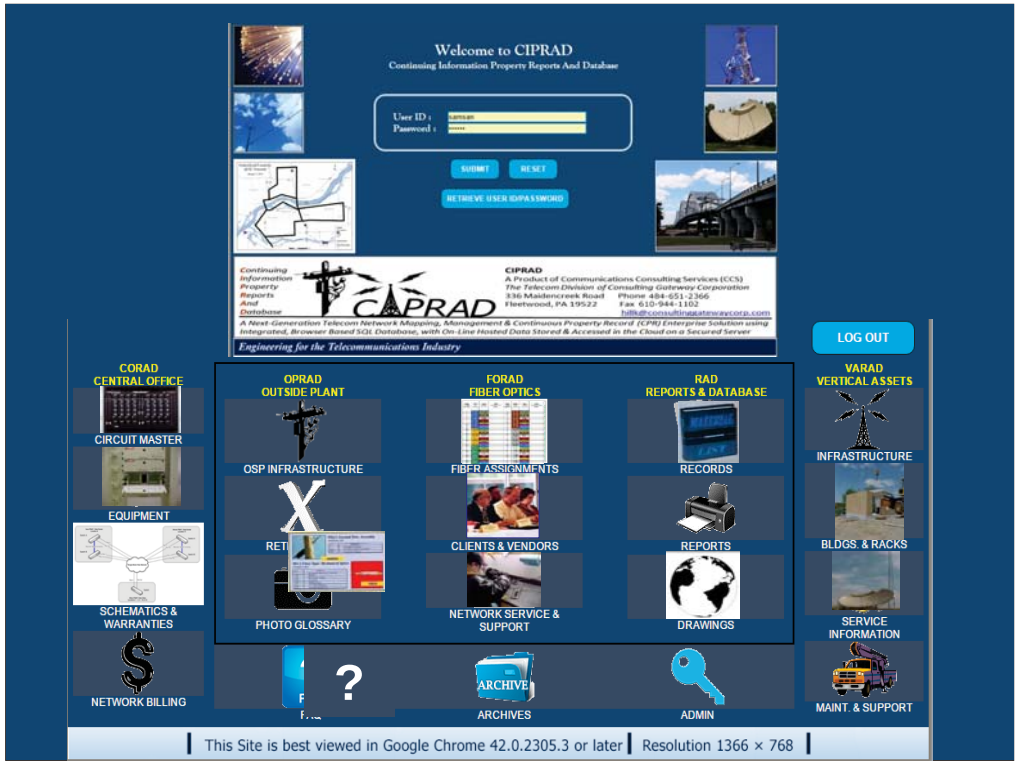
Project Milestones

Strategic Planning-ensure high speed connectivity to businesses, education , health care - Emphasis on collaborations with the private-sector providers. Open access network architecture for PPP.



- ***Existing Data Collection*** (Studies, Zoning Maps, Comprehensive Plans, Infrastructure Maps, Economic Development Features, etc.)
- ***New Data Collection*** (Hardcopy and On-line Surveys, Face-to-Face Interviews, Phone Interviews, Service Providers Mtg., Public Mtgs.)
- *Funnel-down Study Approach* (**GIS Maps/ Analysis**)
- ***In-Field Make Ready Assessment*** (Review existing conditions, determine quantities & costs, determine optimal route & planned facilities)
- ***Community Demographics*** (Population/Housing Density), Establishing Priorities, Estimated Penetration/Take-Rates
- ***Preliminary Cost Estimates and Engineering*** (Conceptual)
- ***Research of Applicable Laws*** for Organizational Structuring
- ***On-line Research*** - Funding Options

Business Modeling Standards



Other Highlights of Survey Response in the Study Area

- ❖ Type of Home Business
- ❖ Type of Business from Business Surveys
- ❖ Residential Annual Household Income
- ❖ Residential Internet Access and Importance
- ❖ Residential & Business Internet Use
- ❖ Residential Interest In Wireless and Willingness to Pay
- ❖ No. computers, tablets, iPads, wireless phones, and/or other devices utilizing the Internet

Gap Analysis and Broadband Education Strategies

Residential and Business

Priority Areas were established where service gaps were identified where reported no service was available and/or service was slow or unreliable.

- ✓ Education
- ✓ Healthcare
- ✓ Library
- ✓ Public Safety Resources
- ✓ Community Intranet
- ✓ E-Government / E-Commerce
- ✓ Training on Internet Use
- ✓ Leading by Example
- ✓ Experiencing Broadband
- ✓ Business Investment-Workforce Training
- ✓ Computer Training
- ✓ Help Desk Support
- ✓ Computer Equipment
- ✓ Funding

June 18, 2015 Highland County, VA

Public Meetings

Moderated by: Robert Huff

CSPDC Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission

"Engineering for the Telecommunications Industry"

The Telecommunications Division of

Keith A. Hill, President
Consulting Gateway Corporation
356 Maidencreek Road
Fleetwood, PA 19522
Phone - 484-651-2366
hillk@consultinggatewaycorp.com

Consulting Gateway Corporation

"Your Portal for Engineering, Consulting, IT and Management Services"

Dewberry

Derek Marshall, PE, LEED AP BD+C, Project Manager
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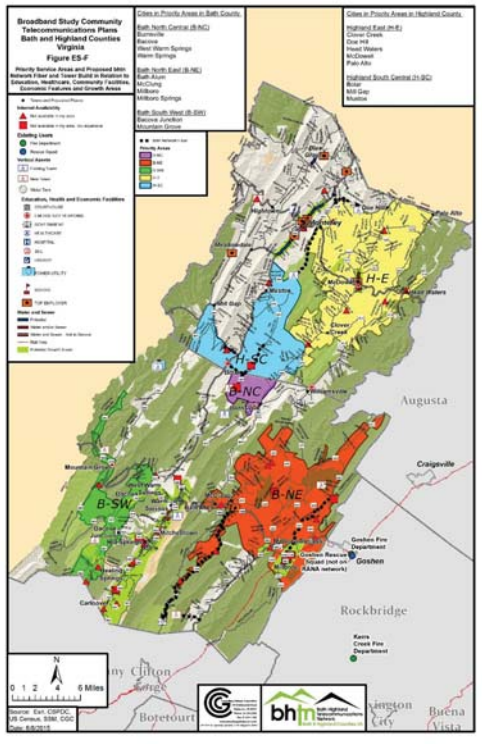
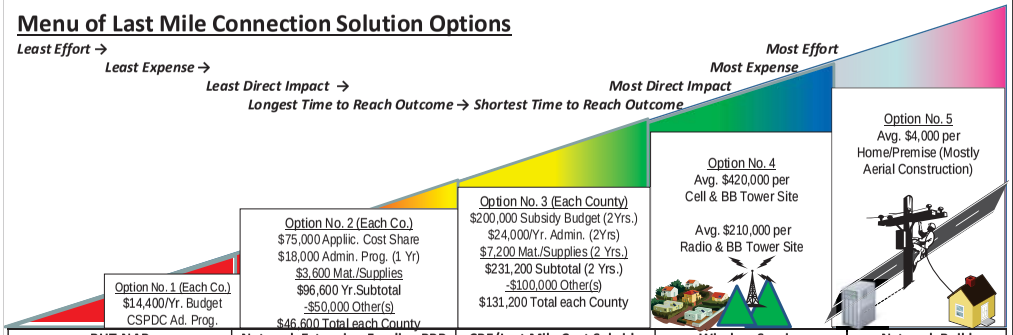
dmarshall@Dewberry.com; www.dewberry.com



Menu of Last Mile Connection Solution Options

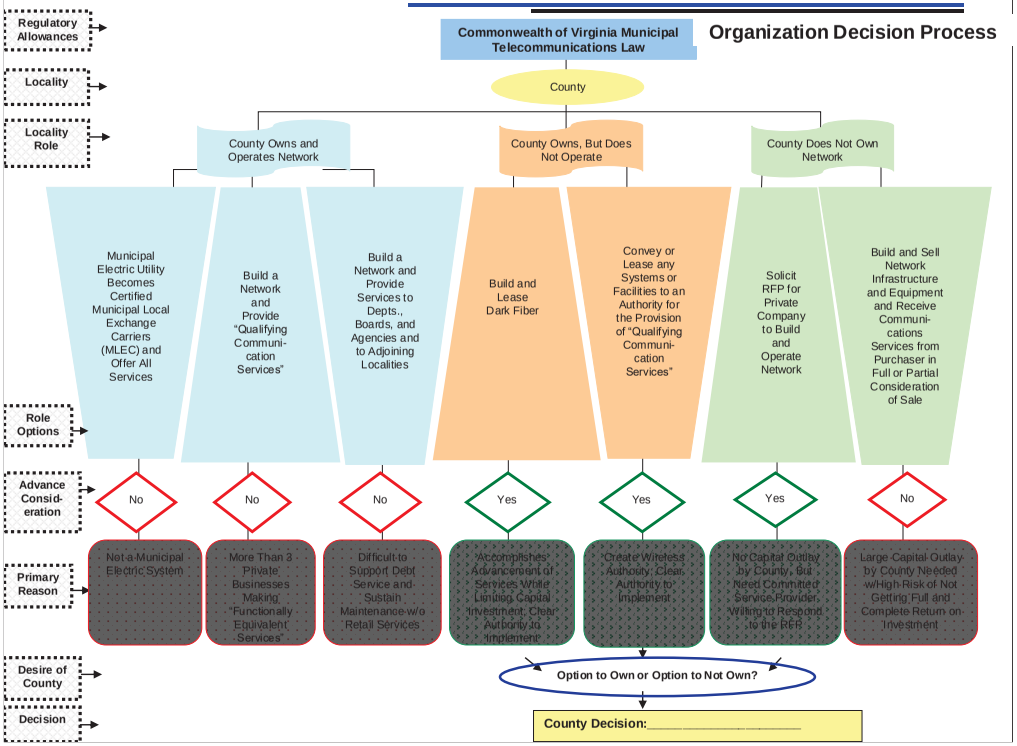


BHT-NAP	Network Extension Funding PPP	CPE/Last Mile Cost Subsidy	Wireless Service	Network Build
Telecom Network Assistance Program	*Getting Middle Mile Where Not Existing*	*Assisting Connecting Customers*	*RFP/Cost Share for Wireless Service PPP*	*"Homes with Tails"*
Liaison Between Customer & Service Provider	*DSL/DSA, Wireless, Fiber Extension*	*Cost Subsidy for Eligible Applicants*	*Multipurpose Objectives-BB, LMR (Land Mob. Rad), Cell*	*Access to the Customer*
1. Take & Investigate Service Claims	1. Aggregate Demand	1. Discuss Funding w/VA, ARC, etc.	1. Seek Finance Options/Dev. Funding Plan	1. Confirm Provider Participation
2. Work w/Provider on Solution	2. Encourage to Extend Middle Mile	2. Establish Eligibility Criteria	2. Solicit RFP for Wireless Service PPP	2. Form Authority
3. Work w/Customer Contract	3. Define Scope & Return w/Invest.	3. Verify Credibility of Cost	3. Negotiate Roles/Terms	3 Aerial/Underground
4. Assess Price Fairness	4. Cost Share Funding Applications	4. Determine Provider Share	4. Support Tower Construction/Backhaul	4. Determine Interconnection Pt.
5. Recommend Eligibility for Other Solutions	5. Plan for Future Technology	5. Determine Customer Share	5. Co-Locate BB Service on Emergency Towers	5. Solicit/Retain Contractor
6. Secure Commitments from all Parties	6. Evaluate Formal vs. Informal PPP	6. Design Refunding Formula	6. Solicit RFP for Cell Service Providers	6. Secondary Middle Mile Needs
7. Assist with Other Solutions	7. Ensure Commitment for Muni $	7. Administer Program	7. Lease/Maintain Towers	7. Administer Network
Proj. Mgmt. Team w/CSPDC	**Co./Proj. Mgmt. Team w/CSPDC**	**Co./Proj. Mgmt. Team w/CSPDC**	**← Wireless Broadband Authority →**	

Network Planning Strategies Approach

- ***Input from the Service Provider Data and Maps***
  - Existing Infrastructure
  - Technology Used/Preferred
  - Proposed New Infrastructure
  - Service Areas
- ***Input from Service Providers Meetings***
  - Interest in PPP
  - Cost Sharing/Funding Formula
  - Future Business Plan
  - Role County Should Play
  - Obstacles/Middle Mile/Last Mile
  - Implementation Time Frame
- ***Field Observations Towards Last Mile Connectivity Solutions***
  - Overhead or Underground
  - Attachment & Other Fees/Costs
  - Line of Sight/Interference
  - Extent of Make Ready, ROW & Permits
  - Available Vertical Assets/Land Ownership
  - Funding Resources
- ***Client's Project Management Team Meetings Input***
  - How to Recover ROI
  - What Organization Structure
  - How to Sustain Network
  - Is there Community Support
- ***Role Client Wants to Play***
  - Own or Not Own Equipment/Towers
  - Be A Service Provider or Not

Organization Decision Process



Just Some Wireless Options

FCC Allows Operators to Apply On-line for non-exclusive use of "lightly licensed" spectrum in the 50 MHz band from 3650 MHz to 3700 MHz.

- **WiMAX** supports this special spectrum which operates at higher power levels compared to license exempt bands and affords superior non-line-of-site (NLOS) propagation compared to higher frequencies (visit: http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/index ; htm?job-licensing&id=3650_3700 for link to FCC's online Universal Licensing System (ULS)
- In rural areas that are devoid of any wireless communications infrastructure, and therefore unlikely to experience RF interference, WiMAX also supports license-exempt spectrum

WiMax operates on licensed frequency

- Licensed Spectrum Examples: 2.3 GHz, 2.5 GHz (Including Colleges), 4.9 GHz (4.9 GHz Licensed Public Safety Use Only)
- Non-Line of Sight (NLOS)
- (Portable) Plug in modem and connect to Internet anywhere in the entire service area
- Typical speeds offered are Up to 2 Mbps download and 256 Kbps uploads

Wi-Fi WLAN: 2.4 GHz 802.11b/g Radio (Commercial Wireless) and 5.8 GHz 802.11a Radio

- Can be vulnerable to scanning and packet interception
- Only Available in "hot-spots"

Cellular Mobile Broadband: 3G and 4G Technologies

Milestone/Task Description (NTP by 12/3/18)	**Completion/Comment**	**Update**	**FOSTER TOWNSHIP - Notes**
Prerequisite Activity #1 Contract Negotiation	April 30-Nov. 30, 2018		
Prerequisite Activity #2 Project Kick-Off: Mgm't Planning Mtg. w/Foster Twp. Management Team	1 Mtg. during week of Dec. 3 – 7, 2018 (1 Wk)	Feb. 18-22, 2019	On-Site Mtg. #1
Prerequisite Activity #3: Data Collection	Dec. 21, 2018 (2 Weeks)	March 8, 2019	
Milestone #1: Needs Assessment	Feb. 1, 2019 (6 Weeks)	April 19, 2019	Assumes survey copy charges, distribution & collection handled by Foster Twp.; Sampling Quantity of Surveys Only
Milestone #2: Broadband Education Development Strategies and End-User Application Identification	Feb. 15, 2019 (2 Weeks)	May 3, 2019	**On-Site Mtg. #2** (Review Milestone #1, 2)
Value Added Service: Recommendations re: Improve Public Safety Apps.	$1,000 Val.-Feb. 15, 2019	May 3, 2019	Cursory Limited Recommendations
Milestone #3: Last Mile Connectivity Solutions	March 8, 2019 (3 Weeks)	May 24, 2019	Recommendations most attractive; Not full menu of possibilities
Milestone #4: Prel. Engineering, Design & Cost Estimates	April 5, 2019 (4 Weeks)	June 21, 2019	
Milestone #5: Organization & Network Options	April 19, 2019 (2 Wks)	July 5, 2019	
Value Added Service: Service Provider RFI, Discussions, Mtgs. Phone Interviews	$1,500 Val.- April 19, 2019	July 5, 2019	**On-Site Mtg. #3** (Review Milestone #3,4,5 & meet w/Providers); One mtg.
Milestone #6: Funding Strategies-Future Implementation	May 3, 2019 (2 Wks.)	July 19, 2019	
Deliverable: Management Plan for Future Implementation Projects	May 24, 2019 (3 Wks.)	August 9, 2019	Abbreviated plan format addressing the recommended solution, not menu of all solutions & extraneous info, like definitions, case studies
Deliverable: Required Process Elements (Project Management and Required Public Meeting for Presentation/Input)	Presentation Final Report: May 27 – May 31, 2019 (1 Wk.)	August 12 – 16, 2019	**On-Site Mtg. #4**
Value Added Service: PA P.E. Oversight w/Report	$3,000 Val.-May 31, 2019	Aug. 16, 2019	
Deliverable: Provide Final Community Telecom BB Plan	May 31, 2019 (1 Wk.)	Aug. 16, 2019	1 e-copy Report; Twp. to copy/ distribute
Value Added Service: Prepare/Provide Abstract of Findings for Township's Use	$500 Value-May 31, 2019	August 16, 2019	Limited data results referenced, mostly Exec. Sum.
Final Community Telecommunications Broadband Plan **Typical Similar Project Cost = $45,000 to $75,000** **Foster Township Project Cost = $34,000**	**Completion by May 31 2019 (26 Wks. or 6 mo.)**	August 16, 2019	**Approximately $6,000 of Value Added Services @ NO COST**

Advantages of a Public-Private Partnership

- ✓ *Monetary Incentives*
- ✓ *Regulatory Incentives*
- ✓ *Infrastructure Assets*
- ✓ *Service Enhancements*
- ✓ *Sample Business Models*
- ✓ *Pros and Cons of Ownership*

Implementation Assessment

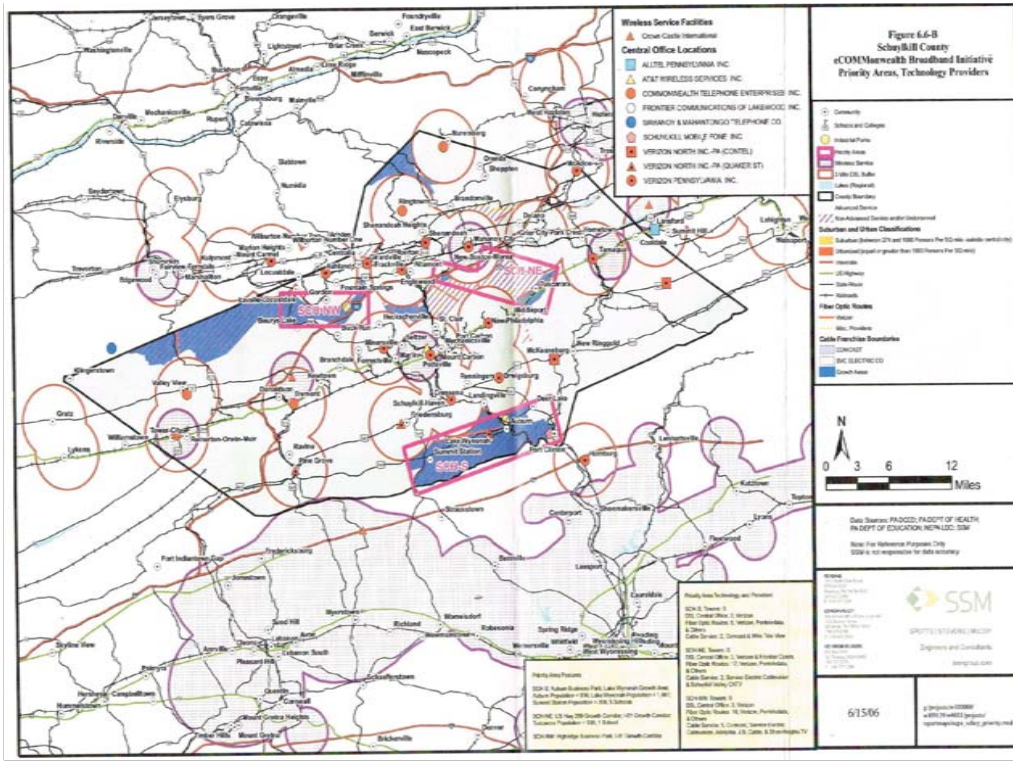
1. Select Last Mile and Main Connectivity Solution(s)
2. Extent of the Fiber and Tower Network Architecture Conceptual Design /Cost Estimates
3. Select the Organizational Governance and Structure of the Network
4. Create a Funding Plan
5. Create an Implementation Plan
6. Create Network Governance Plan

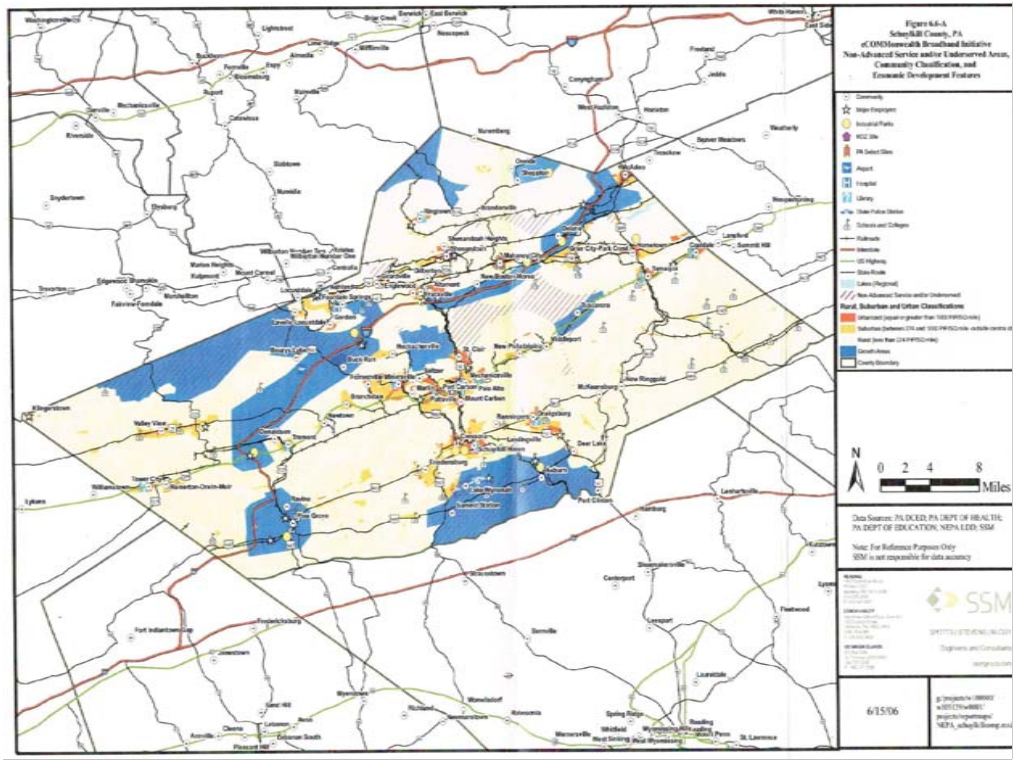
Operational Software

- Network Monitoring
- Data Integrity/Authentication
- Switching and Routing
- Centralized/Remote Control
- Latency Trips
- Vulnerability Scans
- Fiber Strand Mapping
- Logging and Reporting
- Historical Tracking
- Fail-Over
- Virus Protection
- End-Site Verification
- Edge Device
- Call Transfers
- Trouble Call and Support Logging
- Security Monitoring/Audits/Analysis
- Usage and Reliability
- Jitter Measurements
- Circuit Bandwidth Utilization
- Security Authentication
- Bandwidth Scalability/Assignment

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) defines Broadband as:

- Internet Speeds of at least 25 Mbps for downloads
- Internet Speeds of at least 3 Mbps for Uploads





6.6f Priority Area Technology and Providers

The following inventory of technology facilities and providers existing in the vicinity of the priority areas is provided for future contacts and discussion.

SCH-S: Towers: 0
DSL Central Office: 3, Verizon
Fiber Optic Routes: 8, Verizon, PenTeleData, and Others
Cable Service: 2, Comcast and Wire Tele View

SCH-NE: Towers: 0
DSL Central Office: 3, Verizon and Frontier Comm.
Fiber Optic Routes: 17, Verizon, PenTeleData, and Others
Cable Service: 2, Service Electric Cablevision and Schuylkill Valley CATV

DSL Central Office: 3, Verizon
Fiber Optic Routes: 10, Verizon, PenTeleData, and Others
Cable Service: 5, Comcast, Service Electric Cablevision, Adelphia, J.B. Cable, and Shen-Heights TV

See Figure 6.6-B for location of the following priority areas and information used with the primary criteria for selection discussed under Section 1.6a of the report. When viewing Figure 6.6-B, because some of the economic development features and community classifications may be partially hidden with technology coverage areas, reference to Figure 6.6-A is also recommended. Priority areas selected for this county are as follows:

SCH-S: This area was selected as a priority because Auburn Business Park, Lake Wynonah has been identified as a growth area, because of the five schools located in the region, and because of the aggregate population of Auburn with 816 people, Lake Wynonah with 1,961 people and Summit Station with 208 people.

SCH-NE: This area was selected as a priority because US Route 209 and I-81 have been identified as growth corridors, as well as Tuscarora with a population of 939 and one school which is located in the region.

SCH-NW: This area was selected as a priority because Highridge Business Park is located in the region and I-81 has been identified as a growth corridor.

Business Survey Results

Demographics of Respondents	
Attribute	Number of Responses
Number of Employees:	
1-5	11
6-10	1
11-19	1
20 or more	2
Annual Revenue or Sales:	
Under $50K	7
$50K-$500K	5
$500K-$1M	1
Over $1M	2
Additional Locations in PA:	0
100 or More Workstations with Internet Access:	0

Business Internet Access Methods	
Attribute	Number of Responses
Dial-up	5
DSL	4
Cable Modem	4
ISDN	0
Satellite	0
Wireless	0
T1	1
T3	0
Fiber Optics	0

Bandwidth/Access Assessment	
Attribute	Number of Responses
Current Bandwidth Inadequate	5
High Speed Not Available	3
High Speed Too Expensive	4
Very Likely to Use Wireless if Available	9

Location of Respondents Reporting High Speed Not Available
EAST BRUNSWICK
HEGINS
SOUTH MANHEIM

6.6e Priority Area Features

Priority area selection in the non-advanced and/or underserved areas was made using the following parameters:

Primary Criteria – Greatest potential for return of investment resulting in new or increased employment opportunity and/or tax base; i.e.

a. Industrial/commercial parks
b. Large employers
c. KOZ/KIZ sites, PA Select Sites

Secondary Criteria – Greatest aggregation of demand per capita; i.e.

d. Urban and suburban communities
e. Growth corridors

Tertiary Criteria – Specialty needs areas; i.e.

f. Schools, hospitals, airports, etc.

Quaternary Criteria – Remaining rural areas not addressed

g. Communities, villages, strip malls, etc.

SEDCO, or the Schuylkill Economic Development Corporation, maintains seven business parks within the county, including the new Highridge Business Park. The park is along I-81 and houses several large distribution centers for major retailers. Additional distribution centers are currently being built and additional growth in the park is expected to continue. Commercial and industrial growth is also expected along the I-81 corridor west of and including Ravine and Pine Grove, from the US Route 209 interchange to just north of the Highridge Business Park, from Frackville to Mahanoy City and north to the county boundary. Other areas of anticipated industrial and commercial growth are centered around Oneida/Sheppton, Tuscarora and west of Heckscherville to St. Clair.

6.6d Survey Results for Schuylkill County

Residential Survey Results

Demographics of Respondents	
Attribute	% of Responses
Income:	
Under $35K	35%
$35K-$75K	44%
Over $75K	22%
Families with School-age Children:	45%
No Home Internet Access:	11%

Residential Internet Access Methods	
Attribute	% of Responses
Dial-up	51%
DSL	25%
Cable Modem	22%
Fiber Optic	0%
Wireless	0%
Satellite	1%
Cellular	0%
Other	<2%

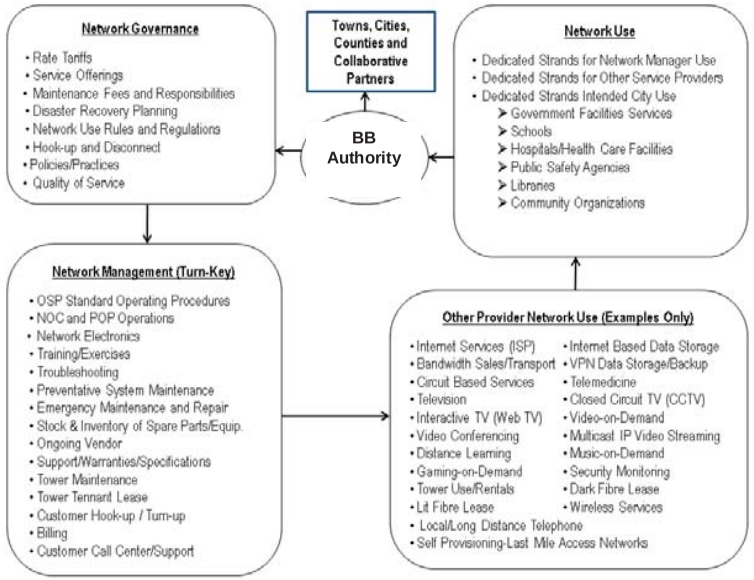
Why High Speed Services Not Utilized	
Reason	% of Responses
Not Available	35%
Too Expensive	41%

Location of Respondents Reporting High Speed Not Available	
BUTLER	WALKER
EAST UNION	WEST BRUNSWICK
HUBLEY	ELDRED
MAHANOY	WASHINGTON
ORWIGSBURG	WAYNE
POTTSVILLE	SOUTH MANHEIM
RINGTOWN	WEST PENN
SCHUYLKILL HAVEN	EAST BRUNSWICK

Governance Plans & Policies for Open Access Networks

Executive Summary	Troubleshooting
Definitions	Outside Plant Repairs
Purpose	Stock and Inventory of Spare Parts
Guidance for Interoperability-Related Governance	Ongoing Vendor Support
Planning for Communications Interoperability	• SLA and QoS
• Establishing Key Relationships and Funding	• Support Personnel / Response Time
• Gather Info & Create a Proj. Plan & Roadmap	• Maintenance
• Identify Roles and Responsibilities	• Monitoring
• Recruit and Conduct Focus Groups	• Network Availability
• Analyze Data and Conduct Strategic Planning	Operations
• Develop Guidelines for Implementation	Funding of Upgrades
Service Level Agreements	Vendor Specification Sheets
Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan	• Reliability & Flexibility
• Interoperability Continuum	• Information Retrieval
Planning for Communications Interoperability	• Technology Integration
Prioritization of Tasks and Performance Management	• System Manipulation
System Access and Control Requirements	• Future Technologies
• User management and Logins	• System Architecture
• Security Authentication/Audits/Analysis/Access Levels/Privacy/Resolution/Authentication/ Vulnerability Scans	• Equivalent Functionality
• Privileges/Permissions/Virus Protection	• Bandwidth
• External Access-VPN	• QoS and SLA Control
• Information Security	Future Technologies/System Architecture
• Centralized Control	SOPs / Training / Exercises
• Data Communications	Equivalent Functionality
• General Device Access	Minimum Bandwidth
• Network Monitoring	Operating/Maintenance Manuals

Conceptual Public-Private Partnership Model for an Open Access Network Model



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14. Is there a central dispatch center in the industrial park, room to collocate equipment, and who owns it? County 911 Pottsville
15. Are all utilities underground and are there any empty conduits and owned by whom, as well are there utility poles and owned by whom? Above Ground; Poles owned by PPL/Verizon on PPL Poles; $45,000 to Move Fiber Optic Cables
16. What street access/occupancy permits, plans and fees are needed to place utilities down or adjacent to streets (any center islands)? County Owned/Local Munis Involved (Improvement Authority-HIDA=High Ridge Improvement Authority-Largest in area in PA; Salt Shed Built SEDCO Cont. Mgr.); Land Development Plans (SALDO)
17. Are there IP applications that would enhance SCIDA or SEDCO such as traffic cameras, safety alarm pull-boxes, WiFi hotspots, digital bulletin boards, etc.? Universal Discussion
18. What services does SCIDA or SEDCO provide to industrial park tenants? Muni-Snow Removal; County-Water & Sewer; UGI-Natural Gas; PPL-Power; Verizon-Fiber
19. Does SCIDA or SEDCO have any interest in owning/operating/leasing communications infrastructure? Interested in Discussing
20. Is the park infrastructure (such as roads, water, sewer, electric) all built out and if not, should conduit be required to be placed during construction? 5 Pump Stations in Park; Water Filtration Monitoring Most Critical; Scholl County; Muni Authority; Twp.-{rp Development; SCMA Highest Tank 100' High Point Interested
21. Review Survey Questions:_____
22. Additional: Buck Run-Hughs Net; E-version of Survey in Industrial Park; Walmart-High Ridge North; STC-School Technology Center; $1.8 Million to School Distict, $54,000 Returns Back; Gordon Service Electric; Neil O' Brian son of Owner-Tom O'Brian 1 of 2 Owners of Cable Co. ; County Muni Tower Asset Water Tank

FOSTER TOWNSHIP

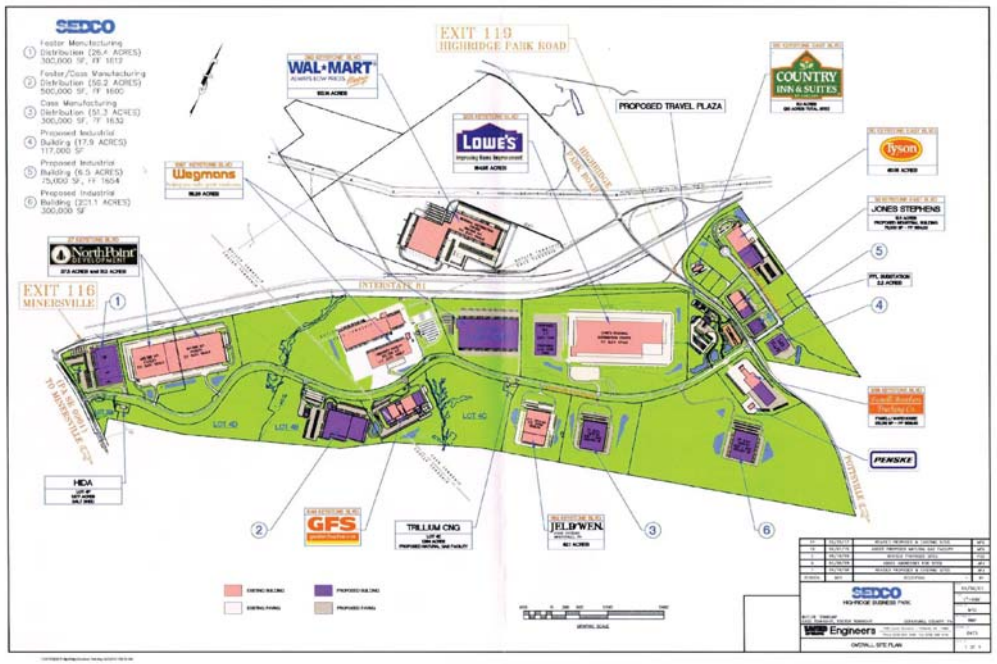
Schuylkill County, PA Broadband Project March 19, 2018 Meeting

- Edward M. Brennan, Solicitor
- Timothy G. Dietrich w/Law Offices of Barley Snyder
- Frank J Zukas, President - Schuylkill Economic Development Corporation (SEDCO)
- Keith A. Hill w/Consulting Gateway Corporation

Questions and Discussion

Schuylkill Economic Dev. Corporation (SEDCO) & Schuylkill County Industrial Development Authority (SCIDA) Re: High Ridge Industrial Development Park

1. Confirm that neither SCIDA nor SEDCO have granted any exclusive rights for utilities in the industrial park. None
2. Frank Zukas is willing to make inquiries with the various companies to see what agreements they have with Verizon in order to accommodate our studies (Willing to distribute and collect survey?) Yes
3. What is the relationship with Verizon? None
4. Periodic discussions of redundancy needed with regard to Internet service. Yes
5. How high a priority is Internet access & are most tenants satisfied or dissatisfied? Mark Fanelli w/American Computer
6. What arrangements are they're regarding cable TV in the industrial park? Not Sure
7. What wireless services/facilities exist in the industrial park? Wireless Hot Spots
8. Does SCIDA and/or SEDCO own land (not targeted to be developed) in the industrial park and at what elevations/locations, as well as would a tower to be built be allowed in the industrial park? Subdivide on As-Needed Basis; 1,624' Finished Lowes' Elevation; Closer to Interstate = Higher Elevation
9. How is cellular service in the industrial park? Mixed Vendors
10. Do most of the businesses provide on-site or remote training using video streaming? Lowes, Wegman, Walmart
11. What emergency response contingencies/facilities exist in the industrial park? Muni-Service
12. What security facilities exist in the industrial park? Guard Shacks-Private; Wegman Lock-down; No. Development Facilities
13. Who is dispatched to investigate/respond to emergency police calls? Township Primarily Re: Cass, Foster & Butler





Internet Survey for Foster Township, Schuylkill County PA - 2019

Reliable high-speed Internet access is important to keep pace with the world. Connectivity is essential for businesses, education, healthcare, emergency services, and the daily activities of residents. Foster Township recognizes this priority, as well as how high speed Internet is a quality of life issue. The Board of Supervisors, working with the Planning Commission on the revised Comprehensive Plan is working to develop a plan that will be the groundwork to improve and expand internet service. Please help your officials obtain clarity in the need for affordable high-speed internet throughout the Township. **Your response to this survey is critical.**

We encourage you to take just a few minutes to complete this user-friendly survey and return it by mail or at one of several drop-off locations. Mailing and drop-off information is shown on the back of this form. Any questions about the survey may be directed to the Foster Township Secretary/Treasurer, Janet Mitchell at 570-544-4137. Please submit your survey no later than **Friday, March 29, 2019**. All individual responses are confidential. Thank you for your input!

LOCATION & INTERNET SERVICE:

1. What is the street address for this location? (Use physical addresses not PO Boxes)
A. Street address: _____
B. City: _____ VA C. Zip code: _____

2. Please check the most appropriate category for this location:
☐ Residence ☐ Residence with home-based business
☐ Business ☐ Non-profit Organization/Non-profit
☐ Government/Public Facility (including public safety facilities)
☐ Telework

3. Do you have Internet access at this location?
☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ I don't know

4. Name of company providing your Internet connection?
_____ ☐ I don't know ☐ No Internet

5. Which of the following best describes the type of Internet service you subscribe to at this location? (*See reverse side for definitions)
☐ Dial-up phone line
☐ DSL (higher speed access telephone line)
☐ Cellular service or mobile card
☐ Cable Modem (coaxial or fiber)
☐ Satellite or Microwave (dish)
☐ Wireless (from service provider, not home network)
☐ Fiber Optics
☐ ISDN (Basement)
☐ T-1/DS1 Line (Basement)
☐ I don't know
☐ No Internet service

6. To the best of your knowledge, how much are you currently paying per month just for Internet access (unbundled)?
☐ No Internet access ☐ Under $10 ☐ $10-$30 ☐ $31-$70
☐ $71-$100 ☐ $101-$300 ☐ $301-$500 ☐ $501-$1,000
☐ $1,001-$1,500 ☐ Over $1,500 ☐ I don't know

7. Thinking about your current communication expenses, how much would you be willing to pay per month for a combination package of high speed Internet, telephone and pay TV services?
☐ $100 or less ☐ $101-$125 ☐ $126-$150 ☐ $151-$175
☐ $176-$200 ☐ $201-$299 ☐ $300 or so ☐ Not Interested

8. If affordable wireless high-speed Internet access was available in your community, how likely would you be to subscribe to this service?
☐ Very likely ☐ Somewhat likely ☐ Not likely

9. How important is Internet access to you/your household or business?
☐ No opinion ☐ Not important ☐ Somewhat important
☐ Very important or critical

10. How many computers, tablets, iPads, wireless phones, and/or other devices utilize an Internet service at this location? _____

11. In the past 6 months, which of the following activities have you performed online and/or conducted at this location? (*Check all that apply*)
☐ Searched for travel related info
☐ Searched health or medical info
☐ Purchased products or services
☐ Sold products or services
☐ Visited a News website
☐ Researched a major purchase
☐ Communicated with a teacher
☐ Searched for a job
☐ Took an online course
☐ Visited government website
☐ Searched info related to school
☐ Performed bank transaction
☐ Downloaded/watched video online
☐ Completed school assignments
☐ Used E-mail
☐ Followed social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)

12. Please rate your current speed of connection (bandwidth):
☐ Very satisfied ☐ Somewhat satisfied
☐ Somewhat dissatisfied ☐ Very dissatisfied

13. Please rate the customer service and support from your provider:
☐ Very satisfied ☐ Somewhat satisfied
☐ Somewhat dissatisfied ☐ Very dissatisfied

14. How would you describe your overall satisfaction with your current Internet service?
☐ Very satisfied ☐ Somewhat satisfied
☐ Somewhat dissatisfied ☐ Very dissatisfied

15. Reason for dissatisfaction?
☐ Price too high ☐ Unreliable ☐ Lack of technical support ☐ Problem w/E-mail
☐ Poor customer support ☐ Slow connection/Not enough bandwidth (speed)

16. If you do not subscribe to a high-speed Internet service (faster than dial-up over the telephone line), why not?
☐ Not available in my area ☐ Too expensive ☐ Not reliable/unstable
☐ Using Internet elsewhere ☐ Lack of Internet service set-up support
☐ Lack of computer set-up and user support ☐ Not interested in this service

17. Please share any other comments about your Internet service:
_____
_____

CELLULAR PHONE SERVICE:

18. Do you have cellular phone service? ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ I don't know

19. Name of the company providing your cellular service?
_____ ☐ I don't know ☐ No cellular service

20. Do you have reliable cellular coverage when using it at this location?
☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ I don't know

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: If you checked "Residence" or "Residence with home-based business" for #2, please complete the following questions of the survey. *Please note that demographic information is confidential and will only be used to assist in qualifying for Grants for future grants related to broadband implementation.*

21. What is your age? (the person actually filling out the survey) _____

22. What is the number of people living in this household? _____

23. How many children (under 18) live in this household? _____

24. How many persons 62 years or older live in this household? _____

25. Are there any disabled persons residing at this household?
☐ YES ☐ NO If YES, how many? _____

26. Does anyone in your household use the Internet to complete school assignments or job training course work?
☐ YES (K-12) ☐ YES (2 or 4 year college) ☐ YES (trade school) ☐ NO

27. ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME: Household income is defined as income of all adult (18 and older) household members received from all sources such as wages, salaries, interest income, investment income, social security, public assistance, or other sources. (*Check only one*)
☐ $32,150 or less ☐ $32,151 - $34,750 ☐ $34,751 - $41,350
☐ $41,351 - $43,950 ☐ $43,951 - $49,600 ☐ $49,601 - $53,250
☐ $53,251 - $56,950 ☐ $56,951 - $60,000 ☐ More than $60,000

Continue if you selected Residence with a home-based business in Question #2.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS QUESTIONS: If you checked any category other than "Residence" for #2, please complete the following questions and YOU'RE DONE!

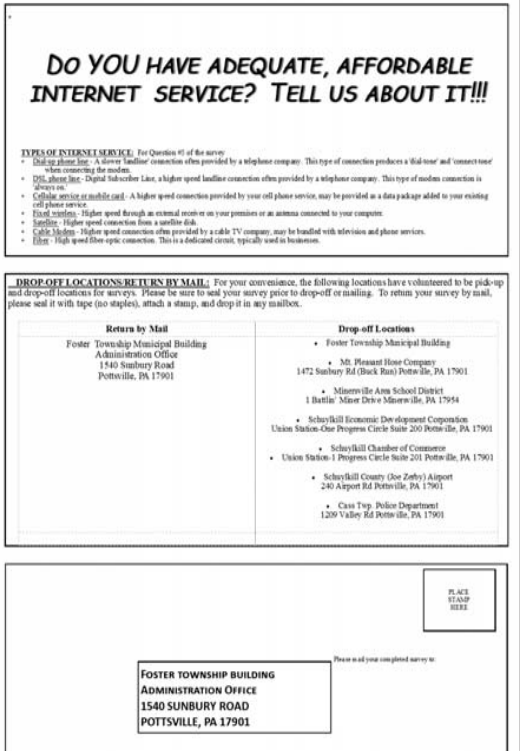
28. Please check the type of business conducted at this location (*Check one*):
☐ Accounting ☐ Architecture/Engineering
☐ Agriculture/Forestry/Mining ☐ Business and Personal Finance
☐ Communication/Technology ☐ Construction/Construction
☐ Finance/Insurance/Real Estate ☐ Education
☐ Healthcare ☐ Government
☐ Retail Trade ☐ Wholesale Trade
☐ Non-classified ☐ Other _____

29. How many employees work at this location? _____

30. Do you utilize a VPN (Virtual Private Network) for employees to work from home? ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ I don't know

31. How difficult is it to find employees with computer, software, and Internet skills from the local area?
☐ Very difficult ☐ Somewhat difficult ☐ Not difficult

32. How difficult is it to find and provide the appropriate training for employees in computer, software, and Internet applications?
☐ Very difficult ☐ Somewhat difficult ☐ Not difficult



DO YOU HAVE ADEQUATE, AFFORDABLE INTERNET SERVICE? TELL US ABOUT IT!!!

TYPES OF INTERNET SERVICE: For Question #5 of the survey:

- Dial-up phone line - A slower 'landline' connection often provided by a telephone company. This type of connection produces a 'dial-tone' and 'connect-tone' when connecting the modem.
- DSL phone line - Digital Subscriber Line, a higher speed landline connection often provided by a telephone company. This type of modem connection is always on.
- Cellular service or mobile card - A higher speed connection provided by your cell phone service, may be provided as a data package added to your existing cell phone service.
- Fixed wireless - Higher speed through an external receiver on your premises or an antenna connected to your computer.
- Satellite - Higher speed connection from a satellite dish.
- Cable Modem - Higher speed connection often provided by a cable TV company, may be bundled with television and phone services.
- Fiber - High speed fiber optic connection. This is a dedicated circuit, typically used in businesses.

DROP-OFF LOCATIONS/RETURN BY MAIL: For your convenience, the following locations have volunteered to be pick-up and drop-off locations for surveys. Please be sure to seal your survey prior to drop-off or mailing. To return your survey by mail, please seal it with tape (no staples), attach a stamp, and drop it in any mailbox.

Return by Mail	Drop-off Locations
Foster Township Municipal Building Administration Office 1540 Sunbury Road Pottsville, PA 17901	• Foster Township Municipal Building • Mt. Pleasant Hose Company 1472 Sunbury Rd (Buck Run) Pottsville, PA 17901 • Minersville Area School District 1 Battlin' Miner Drive Minersville, PA 17954 • Schuylkill Economic Development Corporation Union Station-One Progress Circle Suite 200 Pottsville, PA 17901 • Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce • Union Station-1 Progress Circle Suite 201 Pottsville, PA 17901 • Schuylkill County (Joe Zerby) Airport 240 Airport Rd Pottsville, PA 17901 • Cass Twp. Police Department 1209 Valley Rd Pottsville, PA 17901

PLACE STAMP HERE

Please mail your completed survey to:

FOSTER TOWNSHIP BUILDING
ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
1540 SUNBURY ROAD
POTTSVILLE, PA 17901

6.. FirstNet Initiative - DOJ-Homeland Security: Possible Funding in the Future

7. Appalachian Region Commission (ARC) – Focuses on Last Mile Connectivity

8. Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Cost-Sharing (conventional loans, municipal bonds, tax assessment, etc.)

Other Approaches to Consider –

- Private Service Providers Need to Align Themselves with the Township that has completed a study so the need has been identified and data is credible
- Seed Money Funding will come through the Township
- Required min. speed will likely be similar/(not necessarily exact) to Connect America Fund
- The Department shall encourage additional assistance from the local governments in areas designated to receive funds to lower the overall cost and further assist in the timely completion of construction, including assistance with permits, rights of way, easement and other issues that may hinder or delay timely construction
- If the Township can help reduce upfront costs or provide seed money towards a solution, then the private sector may be willing to advance a business plan sooner than later to take advantage of the cost reduction
- Through this planning effort, Foster Township is investing in a broadband study to provide to service providers valuable information (i.e., existing infrastructure inventory and needs assessment, id of potential future sites to construct vertical assets (towers, antennae on water tanks or property, etc.) to serve unserved or underserved priority areas. **This study will provide credible support to an application to address needs identified.**
- Issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to seek involvement from Service Providers
- Use this and previous broadband studies to expedite and support a Public-Private-Partnership in implementing potential solutions for where quick turn-around funding opportunities exist

Potential Funding Sources

1. USDA-RUS Telecommunications Funding Programs
   - ❖ Community Connect Grants
   - ❖ Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grants
   - ❖ Farm Bill Broadband Loans & Guarantees (Eligibility changed from 25% of homes underserved to 15%) ❖
   - ❖ Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans & Guarantees
   - ❖ (?) Expansion of Rural 911 Service Access Loans & Loan Guarantees & Public TV Digital Transition Grants
   - ❖ Rural Development Broadband ReConnect Program

2. CDBG – Local Innovation Funding
   - ✓ Up to $200,000/Project with 50% Match; Up to $300,000/Regional Project with 25% Match

3. Community Connect Grant Program
   - ✓ Minimum Award $100,000; Maximum was $3,000,000 for 2015

4. **Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase II Auction (Auction 903)**-CAF Phase II is part of the Commission's reform & modernization of its universal service support programs. In 2018, the Commission conducted an Auction 903 to allocate Phase II support to certain eligible areas across the U.S.. **Auction 903 ran from July 24, 2018 to August 21, 2018**. 103 bidders won $1.49 billion over 10 years to provide fixed broadband and voice services to over 700,000 locations in 45 states. The 2018 Phase II auction followed an earlier allocation of Phase II support to price cap carriers based on a cost model. In 2015, 10 price cap carriers accepted an offer of Phase II support calculated by this model in exchange for deploying and maintaining voice & broadband service in the high-cost areas in their respective states. Areas for which price cap carriers did not accept model-based support, as well as other areas, were made available in the Phase II auction.

5. FEMA, Dept. of Homeland Security (such as COPS FAST), U.S. Fire Administration and the PA Dept. of Emergency Management

- To be eligible for a 100% grant, the proposed funded service area in an application must be in a rural area where 100% of the households do not have sufficient broadband access.

- No matter which funding type the applicant requests, the proposed network must be capable of providing service to every premise in the proposed funded service area at a speed of at minimum, 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream.

Financial Feasibility and Sustainability Requirements

Only projects that USDA determines to be financially feasible and sustainable will be eligible. An eligible project must demonstrate a positive ending cash balance as reflected on the cash flow statement for each year of the forecast period and demonstrate positive cash flow from operations in year five of the forecast period.

- Eligible projects must also meet at least two of the following requirements in year five of the forecast period:
  a minimum Times Interest Earned Ratio (TIER) requirement of 1.20, a minimum Debt Service Coverage Ratio (DSCR) requirement of 1.20, & a minimum Current Ratio of 1.20.

If an applicant has no existing debt, is not applying for any loans from this program or proposing to borrow funds from any other fund sources during the forecast period and is applying only for grant funds, only the Current Ratio will be applied and not the TIER or DSCR. For this situation, applicants must meet the minimum Current Ratio requirement of 1.20.

Rural Development Broadband ReConnect Program

- Furnishes loans and grants to provide funds for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities an

- On March 23, 2018, Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (the Act), which established a new broadband loan and grant pilot program, now called the Rural eConnectivity Pilot Program (ReConnect Program).

- Budget authority of $600,000,000 to be used on an expedited basis. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) determined that it is in the public interest to move forward with developing procedures for the ReConnect Program within a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) instead of rulemaking to meet the statutory mandate to implement.

- One of the essential goals of the ReConnect Program is to expand broadband service to rural areas without sufficient broadband access, defined as 10 megabits per second (Mbps) downstream and 1 Mbps upstream. The first round of applicants have three separate funding categories to choose from: 100 percent (%) loan, 50% loan / 50% grant, or 100% grant. Due to varying closing dates, applicants will be limited to **1** application for this FOA.

- To be eligible for a 100% loan or 50% loan / 50% grant, the proposed funded service area in an application must be in a rural area where 90% of the households do not have sufficient broadband access.

Funding Limits

Award amounts under this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) will be limited:

1. 100 Percent Grant.
Up to $200,000,000 is available for grants. The maximum amount that can be requested in an application is $25,000,000. **Applications are due to USDA by April 29, 2019.**

2. 50 Percent Loan / 50 Percent Grant.
Up to $200,000,000 is available for loan/grant combinations. The maximum amount that can be requested in an application is $25,000,000 for the loan and $25,000,000 for the grant. Loan and grant amounts will always be equal. **Applications are due to USDA by May 29, 2019.**

3. 100 Percent Loan.
Up to $200,000,000 is available for loans. The maximum amount that can be requested in an application is $50,000,000. **Applications are due to USDA by June 28, 2019,** though USDA will evaluate and award loan-only projects on a first-come-first-serve basis, beginning in March 2019.

Eligible Funding Purposes

1.To fund the construction or improvement of buildings, land, and other facilities that are required to provide broadband service.
If other services will be provided over these facilities, then award funds may also be used to acquire the additional equipment. For example, award funds may be used to purchase equipment that is required to comply with the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act, 47 U.S.C. § 1001 et seq (CALEA).

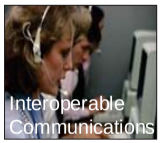
2. To fund reasonable pre-application expenses.
Funding for pre-application expenses may not exceed 5% of the award amount. If the funding category applied for has a grant component, then grant funds will be used for this purpose; otherwise, loan funds may be applied. All pre-application expenses must be included in the first request for award funds. These expenses may be reimbursed only if incurred after the publication date of Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) & properly documented.

3. To fund the acquisition and improvement of an existing system that is currently providing insufficient broadband service (eligible for 100 percent loan requests only).
Funding for the acquisition of an existing system may not exceed 40 % of the award amount. After improvements are made, the upgraded system must meet the requirements of this FOA.

4. To fund terrestrial based facilities that support the provision of satellite broadband service.











Thank You for Your Time and Attention!

Keith A. Hill, P.E., President
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hillk@consultinggatewaycorp.com
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Questions and Open Discussion

Consulting Gateway Corporation

Consulting Turn-key Solutions and Project Management Services

Telecommunications • Private/Open Access Networks • Fiber Optics • Wireless • Security • Cameras • RFID • Emergency-911 Planning • Interoperability • Utility Provisioning Services • Infrastructure Management • SCADA • Strategic Planning • Business Modeling • Marketing/Education Programs • GPS-CAD-GIS Mapping • Public Works and Transportation Engineering • QA-QC Programs • Operations Consulting • Information Technologies (IT) • Funding Applications • Facility-Site Engineering and Development • Mechanical, Plumbing, Electrical • Project and Construction Management • Design, Specifications, Bid Documents

Typical Factors Preventing Broadband Improvement	CGC Innovative Solutions/Response to Improve Broadband
No available municipal budget or funding obtained	Review/revise ordinances to be more service provider friendly (attachments to tanks, poles, buildings, etc.)
Government creates an unfair level playing field against the private sector	Create an "open access" network model where all parties utilizing the network pay the same and same rules
Government does not have the needed expertise	Outsource network management to independent 3rd party
Broadband already exists	Highlight speeds are inadequate for future applications
A network can become a tax burden	Secure contracted network users/fees before building
Can't afford bandwidth or Radio Frequency bands	Partner w/Universities who have unused bandwidth/RF bands
Unattractive or no incentive to Public-Private-Partners	Strategically locate POPs/NOCs and build in redundancy and provide existing conditions data and study for improving their business plans
Insufficient number of services to provide sufficient revenue	Create Paid or other settlement fee/compensation Internet Peering-companies reciprocally provide access to each other's customers
May have capital investment but not ongoing maintenance $	Build extra capacity into network and lease dark fiber
Do not have anchor tenants to cover min. operating costs	Commit government & other public organizations as first customers
Skeptical constituents of investment in Broadband	Expand benefits of broadband such as emergency response, e-gov./e-commerce improvement, attraction of employers, better school tools
Skeptical elected government officials re: proceeding	Provide case studies of success, visit other telecom communities
Cost of Broadband network is too high	Take steps to reduce cost such as providing municipal collocation rooms, municipal attachment locations, cost share through PPP, design hybrid network solution (wireless & wireline),
Costly pole attachment/access to place infrastructure	Place fiber underground in public ROW and/or use micro-fiber at curb
Unsure how to attract funding for a telecom project	Provide incentive to private sector such as assigning franchise fees/permit fees to expanding networks for limited number of years; Piggyback on other funding sources such as homeland security/E911
What steps should be considered to improve speeds/reduce latency	Use fiber for wireless towers backhaul, set-up more localized ISP caching points, set-up redundant access to bandwidth

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Meeting Minutes

Project: Foster Township – 2020 Comprehensive Plan – Meeting #3

Project No.: 31016.20

Date/Time: May 15, 2019 – 6:30 PM

Place: Foster Township Building

- Ed Brennan, Foster Township Solicitor began the meeting with an updated on the internet. He is hoping to set a meeting up for July with Potential Service Providers, including Frontier, JB Cable, and Service Electric.
- Mr. Brennan also provided additional updated on the Airport Authority who is considering a future development at the Airport and County Property as well with Sam Ryan where internet water and sewer will need to be provided to the intersection of 901 and I-81.
- Mr. Brennan also discussed a meeting with Reading Anthracite and their Attorney who have reviewed the zoning and the parcels they are looking to develop are not zoned to meet their future development ideas. An amendment would need to be made to the zoning map and possibly the ordinance.
- Following the Update, Mr. Daniel Cook completed a SWOT (Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, Threats) Analysis with the team. Team members were asked to considered each of the items the group felt were best for each category. The committee was reminded that not everyone would have the same feelings about a threat or an opportunity.
  A list of each item developed is as follows

  Strengths

  • Foster Township is a tightknit community
  • Foster Township has potential for both Residential and Business Growth.
  • Foster Township has well-maintained recreational facilities
  • Foster Township has a stable financial ability
  • Foster Township is a quiet community
  • Foster Township has a large number of job potential with the Highridge industrial park
  • Foster Township currently offers residents free garbage
  • Foster Township currently has one of the lowest sewer rates in the county at $30/month and offers residents 6/months free sewer.

• Foster Township currently offers residents free ambulance coverage
• Foster Township currently offers residents local police coverage

Weaknesses

• Foster Township does not have access to highspeed broadband networks and has limited cell phone coverage
• A large majority of the land in the Township is held by a few entities including Reading Anthracite, and Girard Estates, and Blythe Township Municipal Authority, which may limit growth potential.
• There is a high volume of large truck traffic on SR901 (Sunbury Road)
• There is a high volume of mining trucks and mining operations in the area
• The area has limited water sources and limited options for sewer disposal
• The Township is located a significant distance from many services and stores
• The Township has limited fire protection
• There are sometimes odors from the landfill and biosolids application

Opportunities

• The Township has been very successful in grant writing for large projects.
• The Township has been categorized as a Federal Opportunity Zone.
• The Landfill currently provides the Township with a financial source of revenue to use towards large capital projects.
• The Township has a large amount of open space which helps provide a buffer between zoning districts

Threats

• The Schuylkill County Airport could be expanded into a large regional airport or cargo airport which could bring in more air traffic and noise to the residents.
• There is a large volume of unregulated ATV's, which seem to migrate into the Township from other portions of the County, PA and neighboring states. These visitors tend to have very little regard for the residents and current local and state laws.
• Drug use and distribution in the Township have increased in the past several years.
• The Township has a considerably low amount of blight compared to neighboring municipalities, but there's are still several blighted properties that are impacting the Township.
• The last several years the Township has been receiving a significant amount of stormwater, which has resulted in flooding of existing infrastructure and impacting residents and roadway.
• There are still legacy strip mine pits, mine shafts, and other dangers associated with mining in the area. Over the last several decades, PADEP has worked to reclaim some of these areas.
• The existing landfill has a lifetime, once the landfill closes, there will be a significant loss in revenue to the Township.
• There is a very limited tax base in the Township. The Township currently has a considerably low milage and would like to maintain that for the residents.

Attachments:

- Agenda
- Sign in Sheet

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 19th, 2019 at 6:30 PM at the Foster Township Municipal Building.

All attendees are requested to review the above minutes for corrections and/or comments. If no comments or corrections are received, these minutes will become the basis for all official action.

Respectfully submitted,



Jared M. Conville, E.I.T.
Designer II



Daniel P. Cook, P.E.
Project Engineer

cc: All attendees

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Agenda

Project Name:	Foster Township – 2020 Comprehensive Plan
Project Number:	31016.20
Date of Meeting:	May 15, 2019
Time of Meeting:	6:30 PM
Meeting Location:	Foster Township Building
Regarding:	Comprehensive Plan Workshop Committee Focused Topics

1. Introductions
2. Status Update
3. SWOT (Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, Threats) Analysis
4. Begin to identify Township Future Goals
5. Focus Topic Open Discussion Topic – ATV's (Edward Brennan)
6. Future Topic Planning
    a. Reading Anthracite
    b. SCMA/BTMA
    c. Internet Results
    d. Public Survey Results
7. Next Meeting Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at 6:30 PM

FOSTER TOWNSHIP

2020 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

WORKSHOP MEETING - SIGN-IN SHEET

Project No. 31016.20

MAY 15, 2019 – 6:30 PM

Representative	Municipality / Organization	E-Mail
Ed Costick	FOSTER TWP Planning Commission	EMAIL: ED COSTICK @ YAHOO.COM
John Barrett	Planning commissio	EMAIL: BARRETT JR @ HOTMAIL.COM
Rob Sterling	Planning Committee	EMAIL:
Rich Zula		EMAIL: FMRZ3305@AOL.COM
Gene Maley	Resident	EMAIL: CARGENE64 @ GMAIL.COM
Richard Bilanzic		EMAIL:
Jeff Lewis	Resident	EMAIL: JeffLewis11@icloud.com
Janet Mitchell	Sec/ Foster twp	EMAIL: Fostertwp@gmail.com
Carol Sterling	resident	EMAIL: carobsterling@hotmail.com
John Carr	PLANNING COM.	EMAIL:
ROBERT HALUPA	PLANNING COM.	EMAIL: B HALUPA @ QUANOEL.COM
		EMAIL:
		EMAIL:

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Agenda

Project Name:	Foster Township – 2020 Comprehensive Plan
Project Number:	31016.20
Date of Meeting:	June 19, 2019
Time of Meeting:	6:30 PM
Meeting Location:	Foster Township Building
Regarding:	Comprehensive Plan Workshop Committee Focused Topics

1. Introductions
2. Status Update
3. Presentation on Internet Survey by Mr. Keith Hill
4. Discussion on Foster Township Community Survey
5. Future Topic Planning
    a. Reading Anthracite
    b. SCMA/BTMA
    c. Public Survey Results
6. Next Meeting Wednesday, July 17, 2019 at 6:30 PM

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Meeting Minutes

Project: Foster Township – 2020 Comprehensive Plan – Meeting #4

Project No.: 31016.20

Date/Time: June 19, 2019 – 6:30 PM

Place: Foster Township Building

- Ed Brennan, began the meeting by reintroducing Mr. Keith Hill from Gateway consultants.
- Mr. Hill provided a detailed overview of the current status of the internet survey and discussion with users in the Highridge Industrial Park.
- Mr. Hill discussed the next actions and needs to keep moving forward with his firms portion of the internet study.
- Mr. Cook provided an overview of the Foster Township Community Survey and indicated that it will be going out to residents this month.

Attachments:

- Agenda
- Sign in Sheet

The next meeting will be Wednesday, July 17th, 2019 at 6:30 PM at the Foster Township Municipal Building.

All attendees are requested to review the above minutes for corrections and/or comments. If no comments or corrections are received, these minutes will become the basis for all official action.

Respectfully submitted,

Jared M. Conville, E.I.T.
Designer II

Daniel P. Cook, P.E.
Project Engineer

cc: All attendees

FOSTER TOWNSHIP

2020 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

MEETING - SIGN-IN SHEET

Project No. 31016.20

JUNE 19, 2019 – 6:30 PM

Representative	Municipality / Organization	E-Mail
Joe Zula	Foster twp	EMAIL: JoeZulA11@Gmail.com
Janet Mitchell	Foster Twp Sec	EMAIL: Fostertwp@Gmail Com
Rob Sterling	Foster Twp Chair	EMAIL: CarobSterling@hotmail.com
Josh Davenport	Foster twp	EMAIL:
[illegible]	Foster Twp	EMAIL:
Gene Maley	Foster Twp	EMAIL: CARGENE64@GMAIL.COM
Diane Frank	Foster twp	EMAIL:
Dennis Frank	Foster Twp.	EMAIL: dennisjfrank51@gmail.com
Rick Webster	Foster Twp	EMAIL: ocwebb6gmail.com
Rich Zula	Foster TWP	EMAIL: rmrz3305@aol.com
Bill Kline	Foster Twp	EMAIL: PaPoFSIX@YAHOO.Com
Cynthia Kline	Foster Twp.	EMAIL: Kline.Cynthia@YAHOO.Com.
Richard Burman	Foster Twp	EMAIL:

benesch

Representative	Municipality / Organization	E-Mail
Ed Dunleavy		EMAIL:
John Carr		EMAIL:
Phyllis Kline		EMAIL:
Anna Oleg		EMAIL:
Carol Stirling	Foster Township	EMAIL: same as Rob Stirling
Pat Gunn	Foster Township	EMAIL: ashlandgordon@hotmail.com
Keith A. Hill	C-C	EMAIL:
Ed Costick	Foster Twp. Planning Commission	EMAIL:
John Barrett	Foster Twp Planning	EMAIL:
		EMAIL:
		EMAIL:
		EMAIL:
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		EMAIL:
		EMAIL:

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Meeting Minutes

Project: Foster Township – 2020 Comprehensive Plan – Meeting #5

Project No.: 31016.20

Date/Time: 8-22-2019 – 6:30 PM

Place: Foster Township Building

- Ed Brennan, Foster Township Solicitor began the meeting by announcing that he has attempted to get Reading Anthracite to attend the Township Planning meetings several times without success. Mr. Brennan held a small meeting in his office with a Reading Anthracite employee and their lawyer; where they discussed Reading Anthracite's idea to develop the Old Airport Road. Ed informed them of the urgent need to attend the monthly Township Meetings and engage in discussion with the board and citizens. Ed announced that SCMA and the County Airport would like to develop the Airport Road. Ed believes with these two possible development projects in the future it is now time to begin thinking about providing these locations with water, sewer and even internet.
    - Dan Cook, Foster Township Engineer mentioned that SCMA has been able to obtain grants for similar projects in the past.

- Mr. Nettles, Police Chief of the Township made several announcements related to public safety and legal issues.
    - The Chief explained that many issues are being caused by the Reading Anthracite Off-Road Park.
        - Atv's and unregistered motor vehicles are continuously fly up and down the roads.
        - Poker run events are bringing in nothing but drunk drivers.
        - There were 32 incidents in the month of July alone with 4 drug related incidents all stemming from the Off-Road Park.
    - The Chief brought up safety concerns at the intersection of Ball Park Road and Upper Beachwood Road.
        - The intersection is a blind turn and recommends installing stop signs.
        - Also, in this location, there is a jog in the road, and he believes it to be dangerous. He asked the supervisors to look into the possibility of building a barrier since kids often play in the area.

- The supervisors believe there is nothing that can be done as it is private property but will investigate the issue.
    - Chief Nettles is currently seeking out a grant to pay for a camera system to be installed on the police truck. It is proving difficult due to the small number of inhabitants in the Township and also the amount of money that the Township has.

- Ed Brennan was in contact with several internet providers since the last planning commission meeting. Ed plans to invite the following providers to the next meeting.
    - Wire Tele-View a small company out of Pottsville are very interested in providing internet to the township. They currently serve Tremont and Newtown giving them the possibility to run lines from Newtown along 81 up to Foster Township. This approach would make it easier to provide future developments with internet. Ed seems to think they have a good understanding of the needs of the township and private parties in High Ridge Park.
    - Service Electric has shown interest in providing internet and will be invited to the meetings.
    - JB Cable hasn't shown as much enthusiasm but expects them to attend the future meeting.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 18th, 2019 at 6:30 PM at the Foster Township Municipal Building.

All attendees are requested to review the above minutes for corrections and/or comments. If no comments or corrections are received, these minutes will become the basis for all official action.

Respectfully submitted,



Jared M. Conville, E.I.T.
Designer II



Daniel P. Cook, P.E.
Project Engineer

cc: All attendees

Alfred Benesch & Company
400 One Norwegian Plaza
Pottsville, PA 17901
www.benesch.com
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F 570-622-1232

Agenda

Project Name:	Foster Township – 2020 Comprehensive Plan
Project Number:	31016.20
Date of Meeting:	August 21, 2019
Time of Meeting:	6:30 PM
Meeting Location:	Foster Township Building
Regarding:	Comprehensive Plan Workshop Committee Focused Topics

1. Introductions

2. Status Update

3. Focus Discussion Topic – ATV's and other Police Matters

4. Future Topic Planning

    a. Reading Anthracite
    b. SCMA/BTMA
    c. Internet Results
    d. Public Survey Results

5. Next Meeting Wednesday, September 18, 2019, at 6:30 PM

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Meeting Minutes

Project: Foster Township – 2020 Comprehensive Plan – Meeting #6

Project No.: 31016.20

Date/Time: September 18, 2019 – 6:30 PM

Place: Foster Township Building

- Ed Brennan, introduced representatives from Wire Tel View who has expressed interest in serving Foster Township with Internet Service.
- Mr. Kenney indicated that he worked as a lineman for AT7T for 18 years, and then started to work at Wire Teleview. After a few years he purchased the company. The company is currently family owned.
    - They current are located on the East Site of Pottsville, Palo Alto, and Tremont. They are current operating as 25 kbs down and 3kbs up in Tremon, and portions of Pottsville are getting upgraded to 75 kb down and 10 kbs up.
    - Mr Kenney indicated he sees basic cable going away soon and TV service will only be provided through the internet. They can also work with either wi-fi system of direct fiber to the home.
    - If they provided service to Foster Township, each home would get their own modem. And they do not have any internet caps.
- Following the presentation by the Kenney's Mr. Cook received correspondence from the NEPA MPO for a traffic Survey. He worked through the questions with the audience and then complied the data to be returned to the NEPA Alliance for the traffic survey.
- Following the survey, Mr. Cook proofed a presentation on the findings and responses of the community survey. A detailed copy of the presentation is attached.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at 6:30 PM at the Foster Township Municipal Building.

All attendees are requested to review the above minutes for corrections and/or comments. If no comments or corrections are received, these minutes will become the basis for all official action.

Respectfully submitted,



Jared M. Conville, E.I.T.
Designer II



Daniel P. Cook, P.E.
Project Engineer

cc: All attendees

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Agenda

Project Name:	Foster Township – 2020 Comprehensive Plan
Project Number:	31016.20
Date of Meeting:	September 18, 2019
Time of Meeting:	6:30 PM
Meeting Location:	Foster Township Building
Regarding:	Comprehensive Plan Committee and Planning Commission Meeting

1. Planning Commission Meeting – Dollar General
2. 2020 Comprehensive Plan – Special Guest
3. 2045 NEPA MPO Long Rang Transportation Plan Survey
4. Comprehensive Plan Presentation
5. Open Discussion Topic – Goals?

FOSTER
• TOWNSHIP •
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
2019

SEPTEMBER 18, 2019
COMMUNITY SURVEY

Presented by:
Daniel P. Cook, PE
Jared M. Conville, EIT

benesch

1

INTRODUCTION

- The survey was comprised of **15 questions**
- Of the **100 surveys given out**, we had **46 responses**
- A total of **46% participated**

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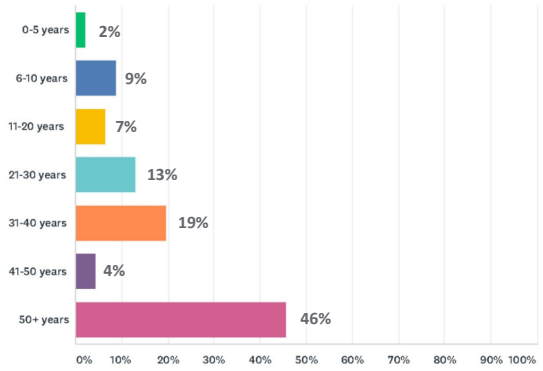
2

SURVEY RESULTS

Question 1: How many years have you lived in Foster Township?



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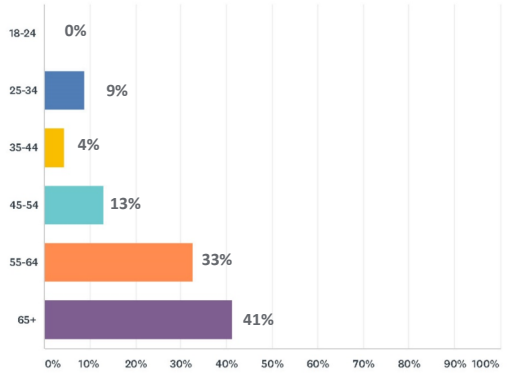
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 2: What is your current age?



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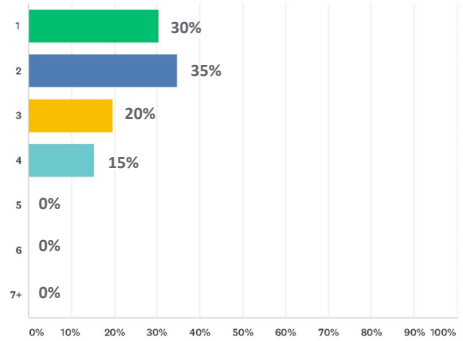
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 3: How many people live in your household?



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5

SURVEY RESULTS

Question 4: How many people of each age group currently live in your household?

	CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 5 YEARS	CHILDREN AGES 6-12 YEARS	CHILDREN AGES 13-18 YEARS	ADULTS AGES 19-64 YEARS	ADULTS AGES 64+ YEARS	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
1	10.71% 3	14.29% 4	10.71% 3	35.71% 10	53.57% 15	28
2				76.47% 13	23.53% 4	17
3				100.00% 5		5
4				100.00% 2		2
5						0
6						0
7						0

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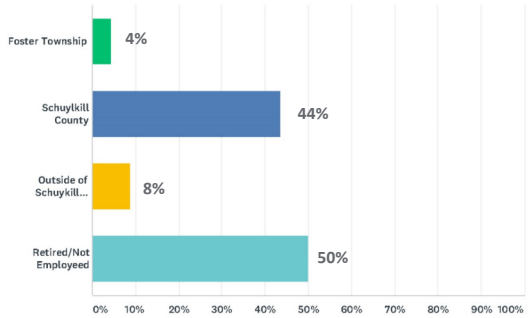
6

SURVEY RESULTS

Question 5: Where is your principal place of employment?



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7

SURVEY RESULTS

Question 6

Emergency Services:

Rating of Foster Township Police Department

(1 = Needs Vast Improvement … 5 = Meets or Exceeds All Expectations

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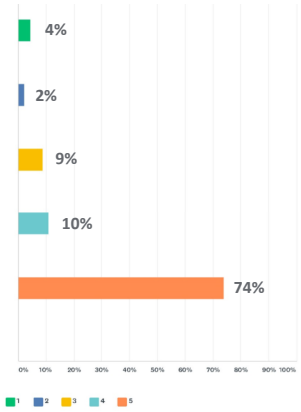
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 6: Emergency Services: Rating of **Foster Township Police Department**
(1 = Needs Vast Improvement … 5 = Meets or Exceeds All Expectations



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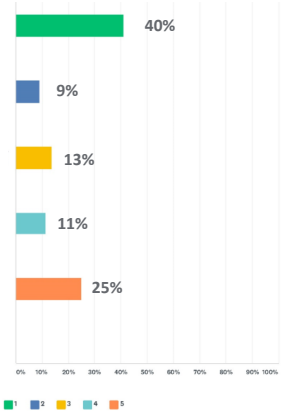
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 6: Emergency Services: Rating of **Mount Pleasant Hose Company**
(1 = Needs Vast Improvement … 5 = Meets or Exceeds All Expectations



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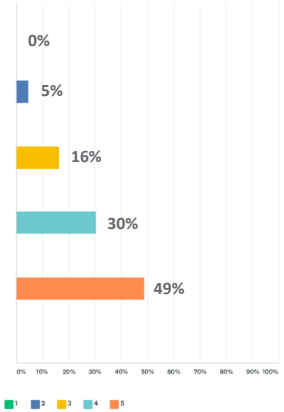
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 6: Emergency Services: Rating of **Minersville Ambulance**
(1 = Needs Vast Improvement … 5 = Meets or Exceeds All Expectations



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SURVEY RESULTS

Question 7

Infrastructure Needs:

Rating of Water System Quality

(1 = Needs Vast Improvement … 5 = Meets or Exceeds All Expectations

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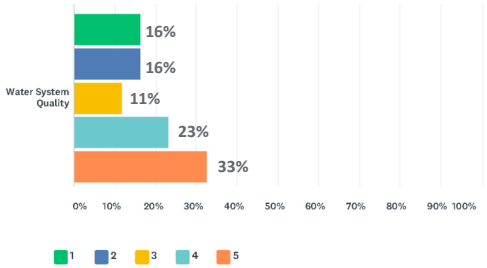
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 7: Infrastructure Needs: Rating of **Water System Quality**
(1 = Needs Vast Improvement … 5 = Meets or Exceeds All Expectations



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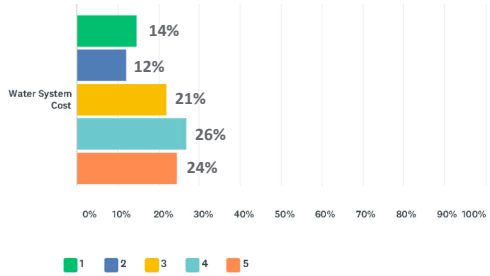
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 7: Infrastructure Needs: Rating of **Water System Cost**
(1 = Needs Vast Improvement … 5 = Meets or Exceeds All Expectations



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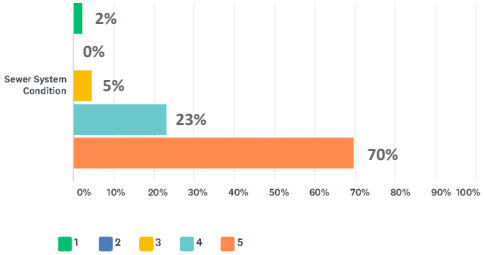
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 7: Infrastructure Needs: Rating of **Sewer System Condition**
(1 = Needs Vast Improvement … 5 = Meets or Exceeds All Expectations



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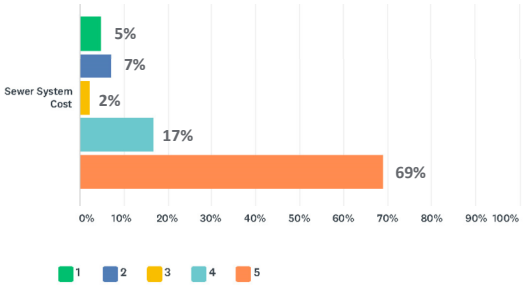
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 7: Infrastructure Needs: Rating of **Sewer System Cost**
(1 = Needs Vast Improvement … 5 = Meets or Exceeds All Expectations



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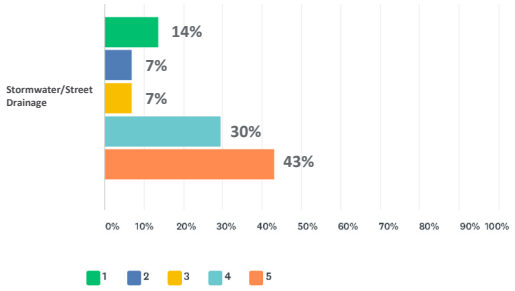
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 7: Infrastructure Needs: Rating of **Stormwater/Street Drainage**
(1 = Needs Vast Improvement … 5 = Meets or Exceeds All Expectations



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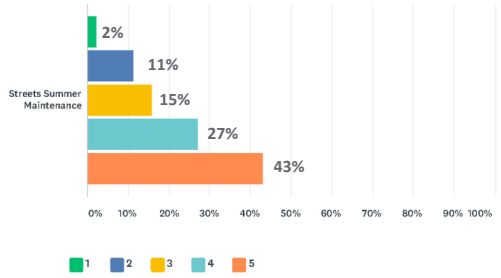
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 7: Infrastructure Needs: Rating of **Streets Condition**
(1 = Needs Vast Improvement … 5 = Meets or Exceeds All Expectations



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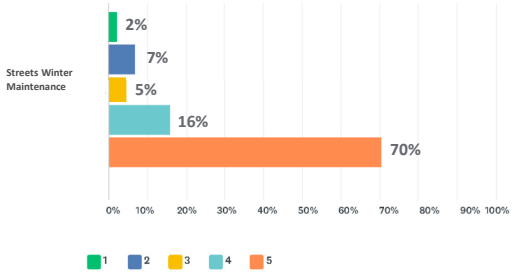
18

SURVEY RESULTS

Question 7: Infrastructure Needs: Rating of **Streets Winter Maintenance**
(1 = Needs Vast Improvement … 5 = Meets or Exceeds All Expectations



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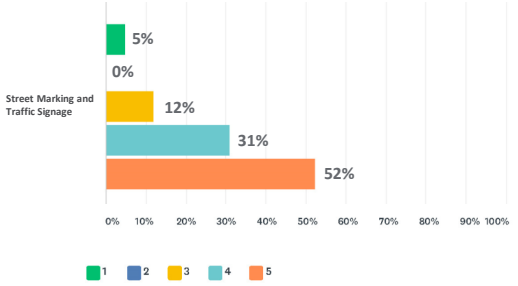
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 7: Infrastructure Needs: Rating of **Streets Marking and Traffic Signage**
(1 = Needs Vast Improvement … 5 = Meets or Exceeds All Expectations



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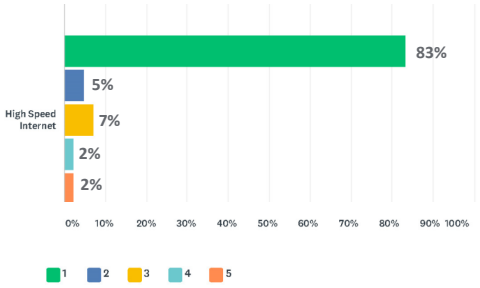
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 7: Infrastructure Needs: Rating of **High Speed Internet**
(1 = Needs Vast Improvement … 5 = Meets or Exceeds All Expectations



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SURVEY RESULTS

Question 8

Basic Municipal Services:

Rating of Trash Removal

(1 = Needs Vast Improvement … 5 = Meets or Exceeds All Expectations

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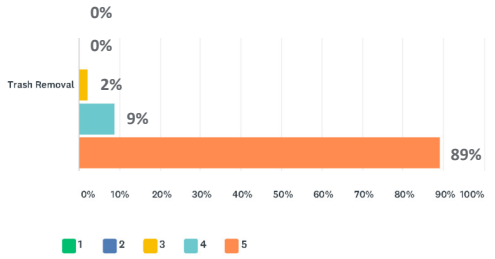
22

SURVEY RESULTS

Question 8: Basic Municipal Services: Rating of **Trash Removal**
(1 = Needs Vast Improvement … 5 = Meets or Exceeds All Expectations



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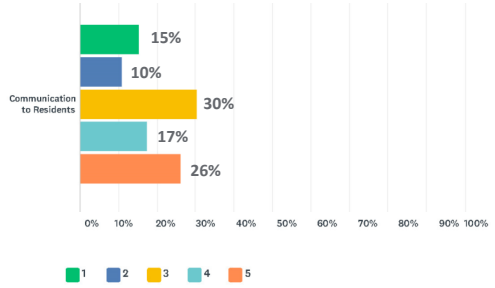
23

SURVEY RESULTS

Question 8: Basic Municipal Services: Rating of **Communication to Residents**
(1 = Needs Vast Improvement … 5 = Meets or Exceeds All Expectations



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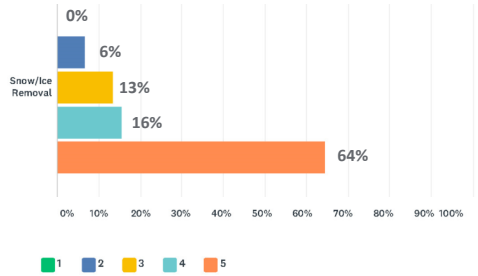
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 8: Basic Municipal Services: Rating of **Snow/Ice Removal**
(1 = Needs Vast Improvement … 5 = Meets or Exceeds All Expectations



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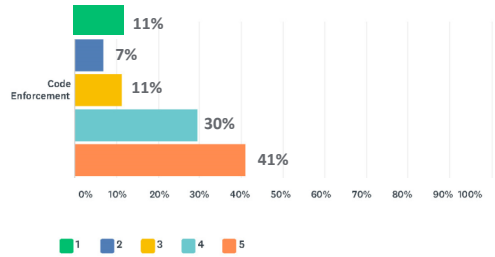
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 8: Basic Municipal Services: Rating of **Code Enforcement**
(1 = Needs Vast Improvement … 5 = Meets or Exceeds All Expectations



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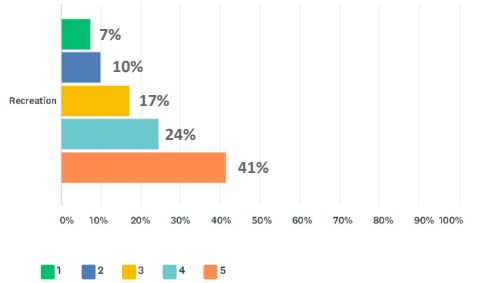
26

SURVEY RESULTS

Question 8: Basic Municipal Services: Rating of **Recreation**
(1 = Needs Vast Improvement … 5 = Meets or Exceeds All Expectations



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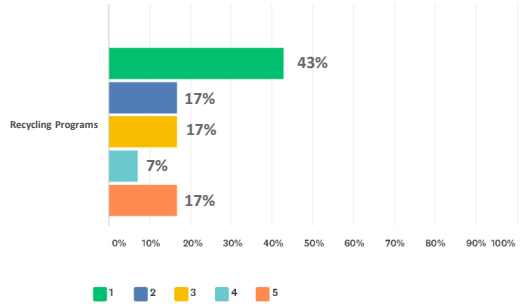
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 8: Basic Municipal Services: Rating of **Recycling Programs**
(1 = Needs Vast Improvement … 5 = Meets or Exceeds All Expectations



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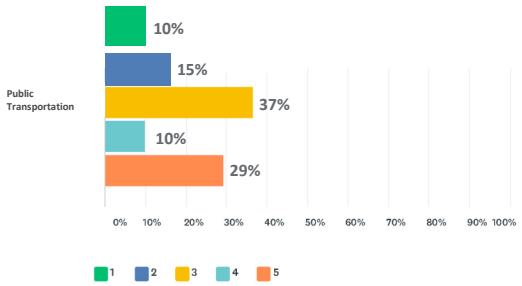
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 8: Basic Municipal Services: Rating of **Public Transportation**
(1 = Needs Vast Improvement … 5 = Meets or Exceeds All Expectations



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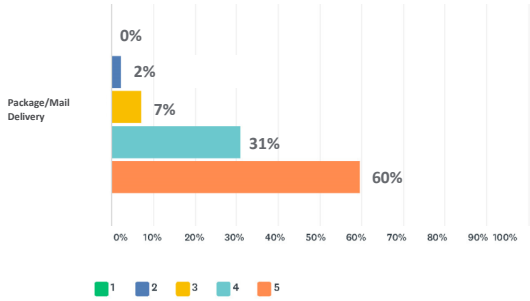
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 8: Basic Municipal Services: Rating of **Package/Mail Delivery**
(1 = Needs Vast Improvement … 5 = Meets or Exceeds All Expectations



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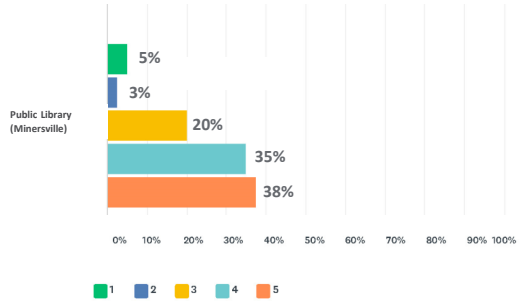
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 8: Basic Municipal Services: Rating of **Public Library**
(1 = Needs Vast Improvement … 5 = Meets or Exceeds All Expectations



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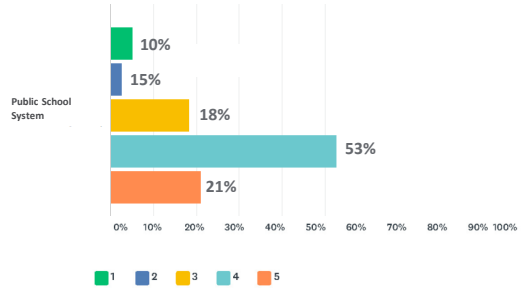
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 8: Basic Municipal Services: Rating of **Public School System**
(1 = Needs Vast Improvement … 5 = Meets or Exceeds All Expectations



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SURVEY RESULTS

Question 9

Quality of Life:

Rating of Outdoor Recreation

1 = I/We have and value
2 = Service should be added
3 = Service needs improved
4 = Service not needed

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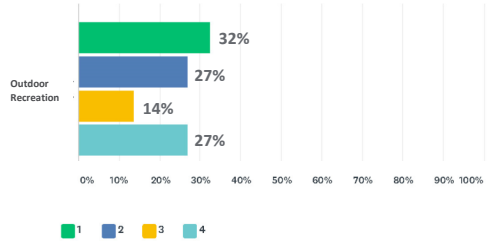
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 9: Quality of Life: Rating of **Outdoor Recreation**
1 = I/We have and value
2 = Service should be added
3 = Service needs improved
4 = Service not needed



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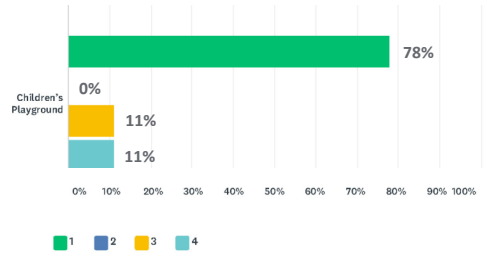
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 9: Quality of Life: Rating of **Children's Playground**
1 = I/We have and value
2 = Service should be added
3 = Service needs improved
4 = Service not needed



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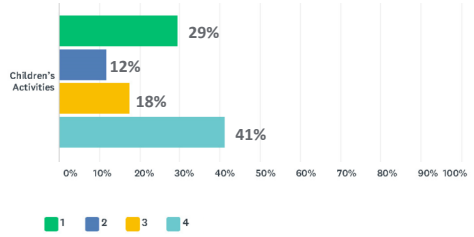
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 9: Quality of Life: Rating of **Children's Activities**
1 = I/We have and value
2 = Service should be added
3 = Service needs improved
4 = Service not needed



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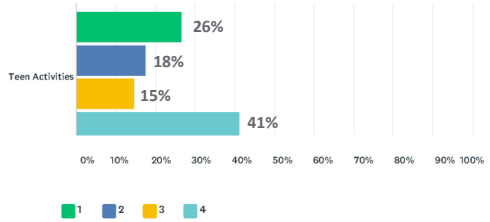
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 9: Quality of Life: Rating of **Teen Activities**
1 = I/We have and value
2 = Service should be added
3 = Service needs improved
4 = Service not needed



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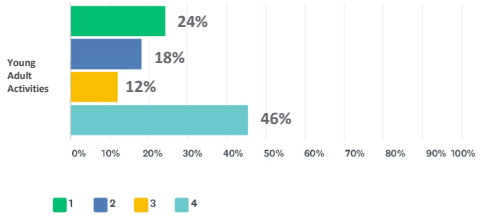
37

SURVEY RESULTS

Question 9: Quality of Life: Rating of **Young Adult Activities**
1 = I/We have and value
2 = Service should be added
3 = Service needs improved
4 = Service not needed



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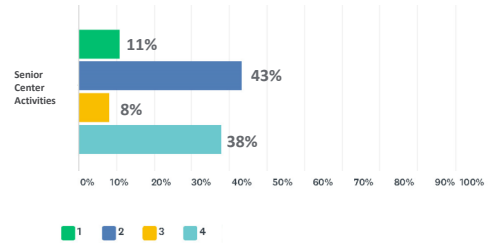
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 9: Quality of Life: Rating of **Senior Center/Activities**
1 = I/We have and value
2 = Service should be added
3 = Service needs improved
4 = Service not needed



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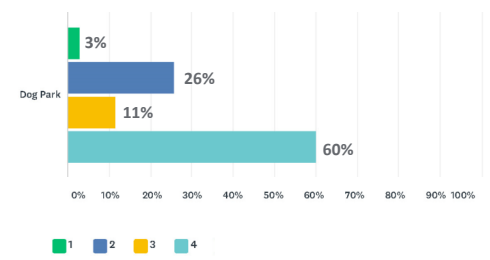
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 9: Quality of Life: Rating of **Dog Park**
1 = I/We have and value
2 = Service should be added
3 = Service needs improved
4 = Service not needed



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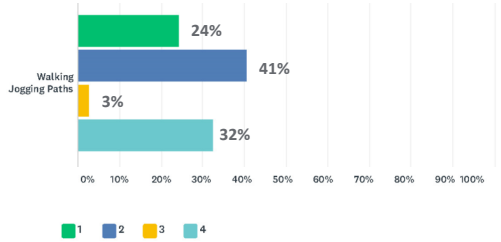
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 9: Quality of Life: Rating of **Walking Jogging Paths**
1 = I/We have and value
2 = Service should be added
3 = Service needs improved
4 = Service not needed



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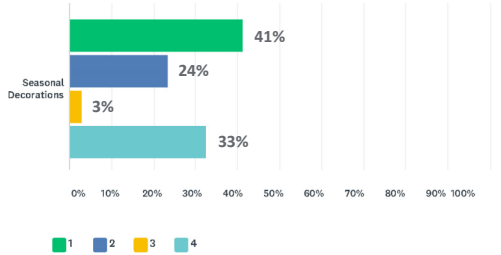
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 9: Quality of Life: Rating of **Seasonal Decorations**
1 = I/We have and value
2 = Service should be added
3 = Service needs improved
4 = Service not needed



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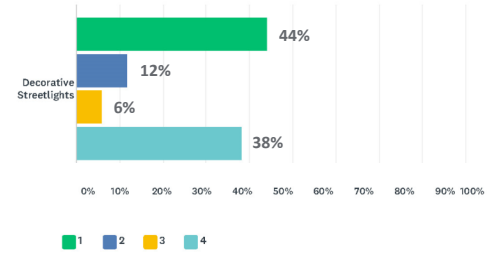
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 9: Quality of Life: Rating of **Decorative Streetlights**
1 = I/We have and value
2 = Service should be added
3 = Service needs improved
4 = Service not needed



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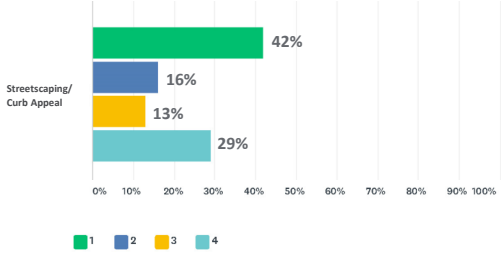
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 9: Quality of Life: Rating of **Streetscaping/Curb Appeal**
1 = I/We have and value
2 = Service should be added
3 = Service needs improved
4 = Service not needed



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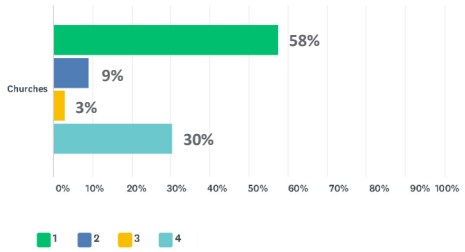
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 9: Quality of Life: Rating of **Churches**
1 = I/We have and value
2 = Service should be added
3 = Service needs improved
4 = Service not needed



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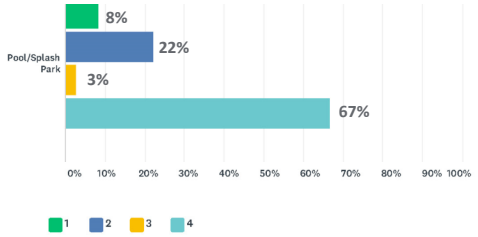
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 9: Quality of Life: Rating of **Pool/Splash Park**
1 = I/We have and value
2 = Service should be added
3 = Service needs improved
4 = Service not needed



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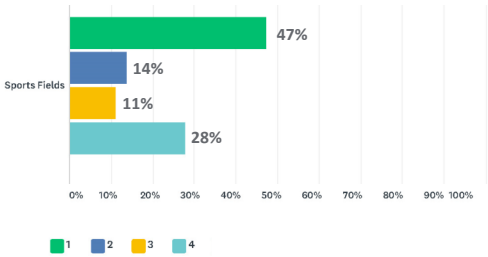
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 9: Quality of Life: Rating of **Sports Field**
1 = I/We have and value
2 = Service should be added
3 = Service needs improved
4 = Service not needed



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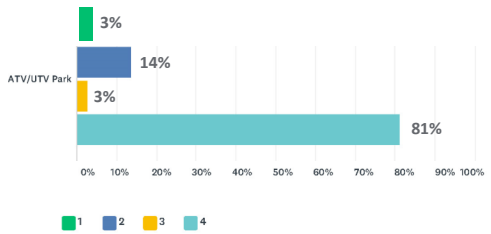
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 9: Quality of Life: Rating of **ATV/UTV Park**
1 = I/We have and value
2 = Service should be added
3 = Service needs improved
4 = Service not needed



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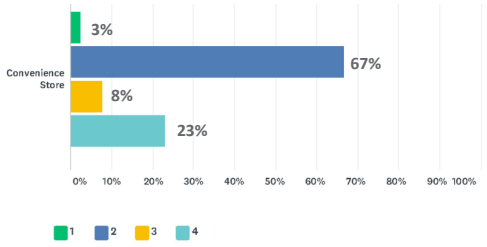
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 9: Quality of Life: Rating of **Convenience Store**
1 = I/We have and value
2 = Service should be added
3 = Service needs improved
4 = Service not needed



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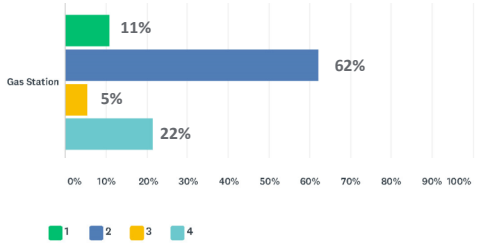
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 9: Quality of Life: Rating of **Gas Station**
1 = I/We have and value
2 = Service should be added
3 = Service needs improved
4 = Service not needed



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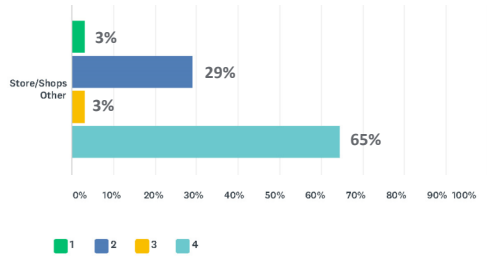
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 9: Quality of Life: Rating of **Store/Shops Other**
1 = I/We have and value
2 = Service should be added
3 = Service needs improved
4 = Service not needed



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SURVEY RESULTS

Question 10

Future Growth:

Rating of Outdoor Recreation

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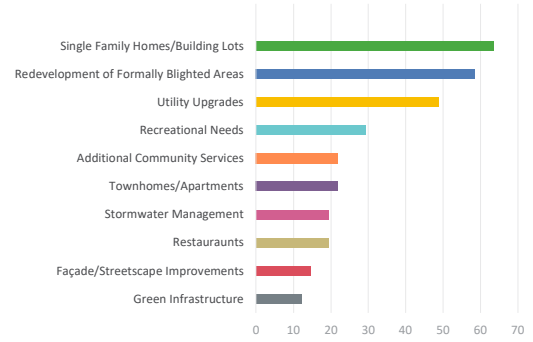
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 10: Future Growth: Below are the items people feel will benefits the future growth and economy of Foster Township.



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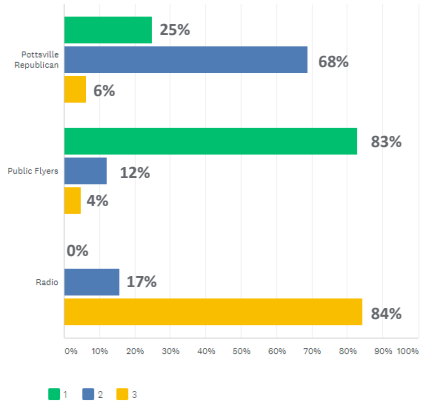
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 11: Communication: Top 3 methods of receiving general information.



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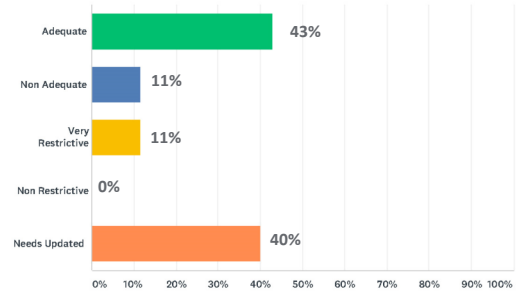
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 12: Current Township Zoning Ordinances:



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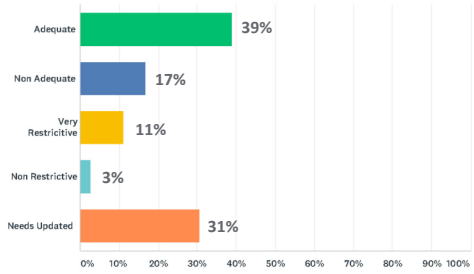
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 13: Current Township Ordinances, other than zoning:



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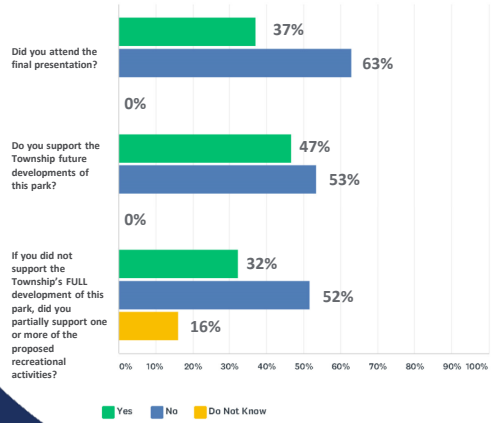
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 14: Master Site Plan:



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COMMENTS

Most comments were about residents having access to internet:

- We need high speed internet!
- We need the internet because we don't have it AT ALL.
- There is no internet service, only satellite internet which is outrageous.
- Need high internet speed!

Other comments:

- Need speed limit signs at ALL streets
- Water pressure is a problem.
- Street repairs are very bad.
- Finish outside lighting for rest of township
- Need reliable ample water supply to support improvements and fire protection.
- Recycling doesn't exist in Foster Township, not available.
- No programs for kids to do!
- Consider township wide and advertised yard sale! Host annual block party/family event for residents.

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Meeting Minutes

Project: Foster Township – 2020 Comprehensive Plan – Meeting #6

Project No.: 31016.20

Date/Time: October 16, 2019 – 6:30 PM

Place: Foster Township Building

- Mr. Frank Zukas from SEDCO was the main speaker tonight. Mr. Zukas presented on what is happening and what is going to happen at the High Ridge Industrial Park
    - The main development is the sale of the travel plaza. The tenant is looking at putting a strip mall and some parking.
    - There is also a large piece of property owned by the County Airport and discuss the current status of the Airport Comprehensive plan and the need for water and sewer. The Highridge Industrial District may take over what is not being utilized by the Airport. There is currently a grass runway that is not being utilized.
    - Frank indicted there are other area that could be developed but they are probably 15-20 years away due to the need for mine reclamation.
    - Frank also provided discussion about SCMA, they are currently at capacity at the Gordon plant. They are in the process of meeting with PADEP to complete an Act 537 Plan update before they can design a new sewer plant which will add much needed capacity. Frank indicated Foster Township sewage currently gets pumped to the SCMA system in Highridge and then to the Gordon Plant. The Township should expect to see rate increases or to supplement funds to help offset the costs of the new treatment facility.
    - The plant design and construction are expected to take about 4 years to complete, and they will look for grants to help offset the cost.
    - Frank indicated another issue at the Park is the need for Natural Gas, there is currently some natural gas in the park, but the main is the current bottleneck. This means it is currently cheaper for buildings to utilize propane for heating.
    - Frank indicated there was going to be some future expansion at the Dollar General Building.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 20th, 2019 at 6:30 PM at the Foster Township Municipal Building.

All attendees are requested to review the above minutes for corrections and/or comments. If no comments or corrections are received, these minutes will become the basis for all official action.

Respectfully submitted,



Jared M. Conville, E.I.T.
Designer II



Daniel P. Cook, P.E.
Project Engineer

cc: All attendees

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Agenda

Project Name:	Foster Township – 2020 Comprehensive Plan
Project Number:	31016.20
Date of Meeting:	October 16 2019
Time of Meeting:	6:30 PM
Meeting Location:	Foster Township Building
Regarding:	Comprehensive Plan Committee and Planning Commission Meeting

1. Planning Commission Meeting – Dollar General Update
2. 2020 Comprehensive Plan – Special Guest – Frank Zukas, SEDCO
3. Open Discussion Topic – Water Issues/Transportation Issues

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Meeting Minutes

Project: Foster Township – 2020 Comprehensive Plan

Project No.: 31016.20

Date/Time: February 19, 2019 – 6:30 PM

Place: Foster Township Building

Attendees: See Attached list

- Mr. Daniel Cook of Alfred Benesch & Company (Benesch), began reviewing what the Comprehensive Plan is all about and announced a few accomplishments from past meetings. Mr. Cook explained that he has broken the Comprehensive Plan down into ten key categories and then went on to discuss the categories with the community asking for further input in each category.
    - Public Safety – Mr. Cook announced per discussions with Chief Nettles that there is a need for the purchase of police body and vehicle-mounted cameras.
    - Transportation –Mr. Cook discussed a couple of ideas for improvement in the transportation category such as the need to reduce truck traffic on 81 and replace any township dirt roads with asphalt in the future. There was some interest shown by attendees of the meeting involving transportation improvements.
        - Truck Traffic- One attendee mentioned that he gets stuck behind trucks coming up 901 far too often. Getting stuck behind a truck turns a 5-minute drive into a 30-minute drive.
            - Mr. Cook mentioned that asking PennDOT to perform GPS enhancements may reduce the amount of truck traffic.
            - One meeting attendee believes if a truck lane was added on 901, truck traffic would be less of a problem. Ed Brennan mentioned the idea of getting other Townships involved to form a lobby against truck traffic. The lobby can be called 901 Corridor/Study & Improvements says Mr. Cook.
        - Dangerous alignment- One meeting attendee mentioned there are far too many crashes on 901 caused by the sharp high-speed curves between Mount Pleasant and I-81. Mr. Cook agrees that the curves are dangerous and PennDOT should be asked to investigate a possible realignment or at least reduce the speed limit.

- One meeting attendee asked if anyone has ever noticed a speed limit sign anywhere in Buckrun. Not one attendee could recall ever noticing a speed limit sign. Speed limit signs will be added to the list for the Comprehensive Plan.

- Communications – The Foster Township website can use updated. One attendee mentioned the need to add permitting to the Township internet site. Mr. Cook mentioned that many survey participants select a monthly newsletter to be distributed to the residence. The only problem is that some need to write it and be paid to do it. The Township will need to hire a webmaster to complete these items.

Attachments:

- Agenda

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 18th at 6:30 PM at the Foster Township Municipal Building.

All attendees are requested to review the above minutes for corrections and/or comments. If no comments or corrections are received, these minutes will become the basis for all official action.

Respectfully submitted,



Jared M. Conville, E.I.T.
Designer II



Daniel P. Cook, P.E.
Project Engineer

cc: All attendees

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Agenda

Project Name:	Foster Township – 2020 Comprehensive Plan
Project Number:	31016.20
Date of Meeting:	February 19, 2020
Time of Meeting:	6:30 PM
Meeting Location:	Foster Township Building
Regarding:	Comprehensive Plan Committee and Planning Commission Meeting

1. Planning Commission Meeting – Glovich/Sterling Hall Road Annexation
2. 2020 Comprehensive Plan – Special Guest
3. Open Discussion Topic – Goals?

FOSTER TOWNSHIP

2020 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

MEETING - SIGN-IN SHEET

Project No. 31016.20

FEBRUARY 19, 2020 – 6:30 PM

Representative	Municipality / Organization	E-Mail
RICHARD BURMEISTER	FOSTER	EMAIL: 901 PUB INC @ G MAIL
Carol Sterling	Foster Twp	EMAIL: carobsterling@hotmail.com
Sarad Conville	Foster Twp	EMAIL: sconville@benesch.com
Janet Mitchell	Foster twp	EMAIL: Fostertwp@gmail.com
ROBERT HALUPA	PLANNING COMM	EMAIL: BHALUPA@QUANDEL.COM
John Barnard	" "	EMAIL:
EDWARD BRENNAN	Foster Twp	EMAIL: EMB@ATTYBRENNAN.COM
		EMAIL:
		EMAIL:
		EMAIL:
		EMAIL:
		EMAIL:
		EMAIL:

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Meeting Minutes

Project: Foster Township – 2020 Comprehensive Plan – Meeting #9

Project No.: 31016.20

Date/Time: July 15, 2020 – 6:30 PM

Place: Mount Pleasant Fire Company

- A regrouping meeting was held at the Mount Pleasant Fire Company after the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions were lighted to allow for a public meeting.
- The main purpose of the meeting was to regroup and identify the next actions. Mr. Brennan indicated he is looking to get representatives from Reading Anthracite to attend the August Meeting to review their designated zoning changes to move forward with redevelopment of their properties.
- Mr. Cook provided an update on the report and mapping. A portion of the draft report is written regarding the background information. He will continue to work on the goals section and the needed mapping.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 19th, 2020, at 6:30 PM at the Mount Pleasant Fire Company.

All attendees are requested to review the above minutes for corrections and/or comments. If no comments or corrections are received, these minutes will become the basis for all official action.

Respectfully submitted,



Jared M. Conville, E.I.T.
Designer II



Daniel P. Cook, P.E.
Project Engineer

cc: All attendees

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Agenda

Project Name:	Foster Township – 2020 Comprehensive Plan
Project Number:	31016.20
Date of Meeting:	July 15, 2020
Time of Meeting:	6:30 PM
Meeting Location:	Mount Pleasant Fire Company
Regarding:	Comprehensive Plan Committee and Planning Commission Meeting

1. 2020 Comprehensive Plan – Regrouping and Update

2. Open Discussion Topic – Goals?

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Meeting Minutes

Project: Foster Township – 2020 Comprehensive Plan – Meeting #9

Project No.: 31016.20

Date/Time: August 19, 2020 – 6:30 PM

Place: Mount Pleasant Fire Company

- A presentation and overview of a marked-up Foster Township Zoning Map showing Reading Anthracite Property's was presented by Mr. Joel B. Schmoyer of Lehigh Engineering. Mr. Schmoyer indicated that a large portion of the I-3 Mining District is being requested to be changed to the I-1, to allow for the development of "Large Boxes" warehouses. A portion of the map would also be requested to be changed to allow for some residential growth.
- A discussion between the audience, planning commission and supervisors included concerns such as
    - Truck traffic into Buck Run
    - Protection of the Crystal Run Reservoir
        - Mr Schmoyer indicated a wooded buffer could be provided on the stream portion of the property to limit develop in those areas.
    - Residents indicated they would prefer to see traffic enter at either the existing red light in Highridge or near valley Road as opposed to the village.
- A discussion on the possible number of residential lots was discussed. Reading expects to be able to develop 100 homes or so.
- A discussion on the water, sewer, and internet needs was held. Lehigh will need to do some layout to determine the needed water and sewer demands. The Township indicated they have some EDU capacity to be used towards residential development but not industrial. Reading would need to work with SCMA to identify capacity at the Gordon WWTP.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 19th, 2020, at 6:30 PM at the Mount Pleasant Fire Company.

All attendees are requested to review the above minutes for corrections and/or comments. If no comments or corrections are received, these minutes will become the basis for all official action.

Respectfully submitted,



Jared M. Conville, E.I.T.
Designer II



Daniel P. Cook, P.E.
Project Engineer

cc: All attendees

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Agenda

Project Name:	Foster Township – 2020 Comprehensive Plan
Project Number:	31016.20
Date of Meeting:	August 19, 2020
Time of Meeting:	6:30 PM
Meeting Location:	Mount Pleasant Fire Company
Regarding:	Comprehensive Plan Committee and Planning Commission Meeting

1. 2020 Comprehensive Plan – Special Guest – Representatives from Reading Anthracite

2. Open Discussion Topic – TBD?

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Meeting Minutes

Project: Foster Township – 2020 Comprehensive Plan – Meeting #9

Project No.: 31016.20

Date/Time: October 21, 2020 – 6:30 PM

Place: Mount Pleasant Fire Company

- No formal meeting topic was presented, and no guest presented.
- A brief discussion on the updates provided by the Airport on the comprehensive plan were discussed. The airport is looking to add two large flexible industrial buildings, two smaller industrial buildings, a restaurant or brewery at the airport, and up to 3 pad sides along airport road and SR 901.
- The Airport has a few other areas where a solar farm could be developed.
- Mr. Cook also discussed a follow-up meeting with Representatives from Reading Anthracite in their office to revise the zoning map presented at the last meeting. A copy of the changes will be forwarded and discussed at the next planning meeting.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 18th, 2020, at 6:30 PM at the Mount Pleasant Fire Company.

All attendees are requested to review the above minutes for corrections and/or comments. If no comments or corrections are received, these minutes will become the basis for all official action.

Respectfully submitted,

Jared M. Conville, E.I.T.
Designer II

Daniel P. Cook, P.E.
Project Engineer

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Agenda

Project Name:	Foster Township – 2020 Comprehensive Plan
Project Number:	31016.20
Date of Meeting:	October 21, 2020
Time of Meeting:	6:30 PM
Meeting Location:	Mount Pleasant Fire Company
Regarding:	Comprehensive Plan Committee and Planning Commission Meeting

1. Kline/Stansbury Chapel Road Sketch Plan
2. 2020 Comprehensive Plan – Update
3. Discussion on Airport Comprehensive Plan
4. Open Discussion Topic – TBD?

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Meeting Minutes

Project: Foster Township – 2021 Comprehensive Plan

Project No.: 31016.20

Date/Time: April 21, 2021 – 6:30 PM

Place: Mt. Pleasant Hose Company

Attendees: See Attached list

- Mr. Daniel Cook (Benesch) began the meeting stating that the Township had been recently contacted by ECA Solar requesting information about the Townships Zoning Map and Ordinances. Mr. Cook explained that ECA Solar was interested in purchasing a particular property to install a Solar Farm. The property that ECA Solar was interested in purchasing; unfortunately sold before they were able to make an offer. However, ECA Solar will continue to be actively interested in other properties in the area and within the township. Mr. Cook explained that ECA Solar will be one of two public speakers in the meeting and that they would like to share infomation about their company and culture and introduce the residents to some of the previous solar projects they have developed. Since the Zoning Map and Ordinance is due to be revised this is a perfect time to hear from companies like ECA Solar. Following Mr. Shawn Langan, President, Langen Development Economics will be the second speaker and he will introduce us to a proposed project located in the west end of the Township.

- Mr. Todd E. Fryatt, President and Ms. Martha Diezemann, Development Associate of ECA Solar began their portion of the meeting. Mr. Fryatt began introducing himself as the President and Founder of ECA Solar and then explained some of their recent projects and interests. Mr. Fryatt with the assistance of Ms. Diezemann explained that they are looking to acquire property from 40 – 60 Acres whether it be Public or Private Property. There are several requirements for the property including proximity to 3-Phase power lines, south sloping or flat, and located on dry uplands with no wetlands. Mr. Fryatt explained that they intended to show a PowerPoint presentation but unfortunately due to the Pandemic, it would be not feasible outside but requested questions from the audience.

    - Several members of the Public and Board of Supervisors began to ask several questions.
        - How does it work between PPL and ECA Solar? PPL has invested in ECA Solar for their long-term assets.

- Why all of a sudden have so many solar companies expressed interest in the Township? State Statues and AEP standards are being passed that will make it more feasible for solar companies to start these types of projects.
- What is in it for the Township? Real-estate, taxes for the Township, They sell the power locally usually for 80-85% percent of the going rate.
- How long does it take to finish a project? Usually, it takes 6-9 months to get utility approval so generally one to two years.
- Is there someone actively working at the site? No, generally there are two inspections a year.
- Are there any extra requirements in terms of fire protection? On most projects, no abnormal fire hazards are created. Some projects do contain storage batteries (lithium-ion) but 90% of the time they do not which would have been the case at the property that just sold. There are standard guidelines for fire safety dealing with access, size of the property, greenspace, etc. In the event, something were to happen that could cause a fire like a surge it would immediately be picked up by PPL and be shut down.
- How long do the panels last? The panels have a 25-year lifespan and would be removed following 25 years which would be guaranteed via a deconditioning bond.
- Any specific zoning requirements? We would prefer to work with Townships with a Solar Ordinance.
- Are there any buildings on-site? No buildings it is a low-impact use.

- Mr. Shawn Langan, President, Langen Development Economics Stepped began his portion of the meeting. Mr. Langan began discussed his proposed Land Development Project and where it is located, which would be adjacent to the existing landfill on the southbound side of the interstate. He explained that since he heard the township Act 537 Sewer plan was to be revised; he thought it would be a good idea to attend the meeting and explain some of his project's needs. The future land development will require a significant amount of sewage treatment likely in the realm of 28,000 gallons per day. Shawn explained that the Department of Environmental Protection does not allow land developments to construct and maintain a separate sewage treatment system unless the local municipality cannot handle the load. Regardless if DEP allowed them to build their system or not it is always preferred to utilize public sewer utilities since it is the most feasible option.
    - Mr. Langan went into some of the details as to how his land development project will positively impact the Township and its citizens. The project will create both short-term construction jobs and a vast type/amount of long-term carrier-oriented jobs. Following the completion of the land development, the Township will receive approximately 1 dollar per square foot in taxes totaling approximately 1 million dollars per year.

    - Mr. Langan opened the meeting to questions.
        - What is the current project timeline? Hard to say at this point they are still missing some approvals but likely 2-3 years out.

- What about water? He must get with SCMA since currently there is not enough water for fire prevention. Township members suggested contacting Blythe Water authority as they are near the project site.
- What happens if you can't find enough water? Wells will be drilled onsite which will feed storage tanks which are not feasible and will investigate the alternative only if required.

- Mr. Cook announced that Mr. Frank Zukas from SEDCO has some updates to make. Mr. Zukas beginning explaining that Mr. Langan couldn't have come at a better time. They are currently making revisions to the Joint Act 537 plan and the big thing is the addition of sewage capacity at the Gordon sewage treatment plant. Butler Township, Foster Township Cass Township, Gordon Borough, and the Prison are all overtaxing the current Gordon plant. Likely a new plant will need to be added which will be completed in about 2-3 years. There are also issues being looked into pertaining to water. The Mount Laurel Facility is being overtaxed so they are likely going to have to bring in water from Frackville which should be completed in about 3-5 years. Mr. Zukas also announced that project costs pertaining to the development at the airport should be available this summer.

- To adjourn the meeting Mr. Cook announced next month's topic being Zoning Map revisions with the Zoning Ordinance proposed to be covered the following month.

The next Comp Plan meeting will be Wednesday, May 19th, 2021 at 6:30 PM at the Foster Township Municipal Building.

All attendees are requested to review the above minutes for corrections and/or comments. If no comments or corrections are received, these minutes will become the basis for all official action.

Respectfully submitted,

Jared M. Conville, E.I.T.
Designer II

Daniel P. Cook, P.E.
Project Engineer

cc: All attendees

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Agenda

Project Name:	Foster Township – 2020 Comprehensive Plan
Project Number:	31016.20
Date of Meeting:	April 21, 2021
Time of Meeting:	6:30 PM
Meeting Location:	Mount Pleasant Fire Company Pavilion
Regarding:	Comprehensive Plan Committee and Planning Commission Meeting

1. Pledge of Allegiance\Opening
2. ECA Solar – Marth Diezemann
3. Langen Development Economics - Shawn Langen
4. Reading Anthracite – Zoning Map Proposals and Update
5. Schuylkill County Airport – Plan Update
6. Flood Plain Ordinance Update – 2021
7. Comprehensive Plan – Review proposed mapping
8. Open Discussion Topic

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Meeting Minutes

Project: Foster Township – 2021 Comprehensive Plan

Project No.: 31016.20

Date/Time: May 19, 2021 – 6:30 PM

Place: Foster Township Building

Attendees: See Attached list

- Mr. Barrett began the meeting by communicating that he has by asking when the drafted comprehensive plan be available to the public?
    - Mr. Cook began answering Mr. Barrett's questions. The Comprehensive Plan text is currently 85% complete. Mr. Cook hopes to be able to clean the draft plan up to bring to the next Comprehensive Plan Meeting in June. Mr. Brennan began to explain how the Comprehensive Plan is to be accepted. Once the Comprehensive Plan is completed it will be posted in the Township Building and also at an alternative location (Possibly the Minersville Public Library). After it is available to the public an Official Public Hearing will be held to allow for comments or grievances; if there is no issues presented than the board will officially adopt the plan.
- Mr. Cook briefly went over the Meeting Agenda. To start he would like to take a look several maps pertaining the future airport project, Zoning Maps, Zoning map revisions proposed by Reading Anthracite. Following the maps, he would like to briefly identify what each Zoning area covers.
- Mr. Cook began going over the current plan for the future development located on airport property. The development is in preliminary stages, and they are not exactly sure what is proposed yet, but it will likely entails either one large warehouse/ distribution facility and possibly two other buildings whose use is to be determined. A member of the public questioned about the water and sewer that will serve the development. Mr. Cook explained that the water and sewer is the big issue. Currently the Townships Act 537 plan does not show this area and needs to be updated. This is a large change and until they are worked out, we will not know how the development will be connected to water and sewer and who will be paying for it.
- Mr. Cook moved to showing the current Zoning Map and comparing it to the recently proposed map completed by reading anthracite. Some public expressed concern with the map proposed by Reading Anthracite. Mr. Barret explained that just because this is what Reading Anthracite would like it does not mean this is what the Township will allow. Mr. Cook explained that this is why they will need increased

participation from the public in order to make Zoning revisions in the near future. Mr. Barret explained that formal invites will need to be sent out to property owners affected by the future zoning map changes. Mr. Brennan explained that these changes will need a lot of time and effort on all parties the Township, the Engineer, and the Community. Mr. Brennan explained that it will be an extremely long process to get the new map approved by the Board even after a revised Zoning map is proposed. There are many meeting to be held just to get the map to the point of acceptance at the Zoning Hearing Board.

  - Mr. Sterling explained that he talked to CES and they requested there large property to be revised form P-C to I-2. Mr. Cook commented that before making the revisions he must be required to allow for buffer zones between the residential properties. Also, the township should request the owner to allow for the removal of the Mining overlay on his property.

- Mr. Cook briefly explained a housing development previously proposed by the Reading Anthracite Engineer. The development proposes around 60 lots which will likely change for many reasons, but he did mention it proposes a commercial site at the corner of Valley Road and 901. Mr. Barrett explained that he doesn't like the idea of a commercial lot there and explained that it would be better to be located on the opposite side of Valley Road. Mr. Barrett Highlighted the fact that this needs to be covered in the future zoning Revisions. All attendees seemed to agree with Mr. Barrett's proposal.
- Mr. Cook began reading from the Zoning Ordinance explaining what is covered under all of the different types of Zones. Mr. Barret requested that several copies be made available to the public at the next Comprehensive plan meeting.
- Meeting Adjourn

Action Items

1. Mr. Cook to bring the Preliminary Comprehensive Plan to the next meeting.
2. Mr. Cook to provide several copies of the zoning map descriptions to the next meeting.

The next Comp Plan meeting will be Wednesday, June 16th, 2021 at 6:30 PM at the Foster Township Municipal Building.

All attendees are requested to review the above minutes for corrections and/or comments. If no comments or corrections are received, these minutes will become the basis for all official action.

Respectfully submitted,



Jared M. Conville, E.I.T.
Designer II



Daniel P. Cook, P.E.
Project Engineer

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Agenda

Project Name:	Foster Township – 2020 Comprehensive Plan
Project Number:	31016.20
Date of Meeting:	May 19, 2021
Time of Meeting:	6:30 PM
Meeting Location:	Foster Township Building
Regarding:	Comprehensive Plan Committee and Planning Commission Meeting

1. Pledge of Allegiance\Opening
2. Reading Anthracite and Others – Zoning Map Proposals and Update
3. Schuylkill County Airport – Plan Update
4. Comprehensive Plan – Review proposed comprehensive plan mapping
5. Zoning Ordinance Update – 2021
6. Open Discussion Topic

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Meeting Minutes

Project:	Foster Township – 2021 Comprehensive Plan
Project No.:	31016.20
Date/Time:	July 20, 2021 – 6:30 PM
Place:	Foster Township Building
Attendees:	See Attached list

The comprehensive planning meeting was held on July 21, 2021 which included a presentation from Reading Anthracite on a proposed development in the Township. A discussion was held on updates to the Zoning ordinance and map. The Comprehensive Plan Draft will be reviewed at the September 15, 2021 meeting at 6:30 PM.

There is no meeting scheduled for August.

- Mr. Joel Schmoyer from Reading Anthracite presented a draft layout of the proposed Glendower Estates which included 20 proposed lots with an additional 14,000 retail and personal service with a total of up to 130 lots.
- Mr. Cook reviewing the comment letter.
    - It was noted that the proposed Valley Road entrance was eliminated in the version submitted to Benesch for review and the official version presented in the meeting. Mr. Barret expressed concerns about the elimination of the Valley Road Entrance and also utilizing the 901 access. The application should reach out to PennDOT to determine if 901 Access will be granted.
    - A discussion on what the retail ore personal service location will include and how many EDU. Mr. Cook noted concerns with something like a coffee shop and traffic backup on to Route 901 during rush hours. A Valley Road access may help eliminate traffic but would push it into a residential neighborhood.
- Mr. Cook also provided a detailed review of the Draft Version of the report which will be available shortly for the public review.

The next Comp Plan meeting will be Wednesday, September 15th, 2021 at 6:30 PM at the Foster Township Municipal Building.

All attendees are requested to review the above minutes for corrections and/or comments. If no comments or corrections are received, these minutes will become the basis for all official action.

Respectfully submitted,



Jared M. Conville, E.I.T.
Designer II



Daniel P. Cook, P.E.
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Agenda

Project Name:	Foster Township – 2020 Comprehensive Plan
Project Number:	31016.20
Date of Meeting:	July 20, 2021
Time of Meeting:	6:30 PM
Meeting Location:	Foster Township Building
Regarding:	Comprehensive Plan Committee and Planning Commission Meeting

1. Pledge of Allegiance\Opening
2. Reading Anthracite – Glendower Estate Sketch Plan
3. Comprehensive Plan Update
4. Zoning Ordinance Update – 2021
5. Open Discussion Topic