





FOSTER TOWNSHIP
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Project # 31016.20

benesch

FEBRUARY
2022

FOSTER TOWNSHIP 2021 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Eugene Maley, Supervisor

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Butler Township, Schuylkill County
Cass Township, Schuylkill County
Frailey Township, Schuylkill County
Hegins Township, Schuylkill County
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Section 1 // Introduction

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1. Introduction

1.1 Comprehensive Plan Purpose

This Comprehensive Plan is a guideline for the development of Foster Township policy and decision making in both short- and long-term. As referenced in the Municipal Planning Code (MPC) and DCED Governors Center for Local Services Planning series, a Comprehensive Plan is more than just a document disclosing past and present land use trends with a proposed course of action. It imparts organization for the future as well as creates a plan for the overall land use patterns of tomorrow.

Community planning is an organized process of thinking about tomorrow. By thinking how a community has changed in the past will help predict how and what might change and become of the community in the future. When this course of action is taken, it needs to be done in an orderly fashion and made part of the routine administrative process in order to get the best results out of said process.

Foster Township Supervisors and residents realize that their land is one of the most valuable resources of this community. There are many large tracts in the Township previously used for mining operations which have left the land scarred. These lands could be cleaned up, reclaimed and used for either residential or commercial redevelopment of the Township.

The Township also realizes that land is a vital resource that needs to be protected. The Township has purchased and acquired several larger tract properties in the past few years to provide for some residential and commercial growth while also maintaining some open space.

All valuable resources must be responsibly, economically and equitably a benefit for both the property owners' interest as well as the general public. The important power of Local Government is to plan for and guide the way land resources are used.

1.2 Comprehensive Planning in Pennsylvania

Municipal Planning Code (MPC) Section 301 (a), requires each municipal, multi-municipal and county comprehensive plan, consisting of maps, charts, and textual matter, to have nine elements. Collectively these 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 element is linked, interrelated or connected. For example, resident population data equates to housing needs; and demographics such as age 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.

A summary of the required plan elements derived from MPC sections 301 (a) are as follows:

1. A statement of community development goals and objectives that chart the location, character and timing of future development as provided in Section 606 of the MPC.
2. A plan for land use identifying the amount, intensity, character and timing of land use.
3. A plan to meet housing needs of present residents and those families anticipated to live in the municipality as well as accommodating new housing in different dwelling types and at appropriate densities for households of all income levels.
4. A transportation plan.
5. A community facilities plan.
6. A statement of the interrelationships among the various plan components which estimates the environmental, energy conservation, fiscal, economic development and social consequences on the municipality.
7. A discussion of short- and long-range plans implementation strategies.
8. A statement indicating that existing and proposed development is compatible with plans and development in contiguous municipalities. This statement should indicate that existing and proposed development is generally consistent with the objectives and plans of the county comprehensive plan.

9. A plan for the protection of natural and historic resources to the extent the municipalities are not limited by other federal or state statutes. These resources include wetlands, aquifer recharge zones, woodlands, steep slopes, prime agricultural land, floodplain, unique natural areas, and historic sites.

1.3 Planning Process

The development of this plan was led by a 13-member Study Committee consisting of representatives of the Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, and Township residents and business owners. The following is an outline of major milestones and meetings conducted during the Comprehensive Plan Development Process:

January 7, 2019 // Foster Township Supervisors Meeting – The Township Supervisors directed Benesch to proceed with the development of the Comprehensive Plan.

January 16, 2019 // Foster Township 2021 Comprehensive Plan Kickoff Meeting – The Meeting was the initial kickoff for the Foster Township 2021 Comprehensive Plan.

January 23, 2019 // GIS information was received from the Schuylkill County Planning and Zoning Office.

March 20, 2019 // Mr. Keith Hill, Gateway Consulting provided an overview of the Internet Study, Scope of Work and items to move forward with an internet plan for Foster Township.

May 15, 2019 // The planning meeting included an update on the current issues, completion of a Township Strength, Weakness, Opportunities, & Threat (SWOT) Analysis analysis, and planning for the next several meetings.

June 19, 2019 // The planning meeting included an update on the internet survey and next action items presented by Mr. Keith Hill, Consulting Gateway Corporation. A finalized copy of the community-wide survey has been provided to the Township for distribution to residents.

August 21, 2019 // The planning meeting included a brief update of the internet status by Attorney Brennan.

September 18, 2019 // The planning meeting included an introductory session with Wire Tele-View. With the study committee's assistance, the group also completed the 2045 NEPA MPO transportation study survey. The meeting concluded with a detailed evaluation and presentation on the findings of the Community Survey.

October 16, 2019 // The planning meeting included an in-depth presentation from Mr. Frank Zukas of SEDCO who presented on the current and future status of the Highridge Business Park and future potential for an expansion at the Schuylkill Regional Airport to include a smaller industrial park. He also presented on water and sewer needs from both a supply and treatment end.

January 15, 2020 // This was the Planning Commission reorganization meeting, no formal planning items were discussed.

February 19, 2020 // The planning meeting included a review of the survey items and a workshop to review the currently identified and potential future goals for the township was held.

March – July 2020 // No formal meetings were held due to the COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency Declarations.

July 15, 2020 // A public regrouping meeting was held at the Mount Pleasant Fire Company Picnic Grove due to COVID-19 restrictions. The meeting was to regroup and identity the outstanding focus points for the final comprehensive plan.

August 19, 2020 // Reading Anthracite and their representatives attended the Planning Meeting to discuss future plans for both residential and commercial land development for their properties locating within the Township.

April 21, 2021 // ECA Solar and their representatives attended the Planning Meeting to discuss future plans solar development in Foster Township and Schuylkill County. Mr. Shawn Langen attended the meeting and also presented on the potential development of parcels of land owned by the CES Landfill.

October 10, 2021 // Draft version of Preliminary Comprehensive Plan and Mapping was provided to the Planning Commission by Benesch.

October 20, 2021 // A copy of the final plan presentation was presented by Alfred Benesch and Company and an opportunity was given to the audience to provide any feedback or comment to the final presentation.

November 3, 2021 // Draft versions of the Comprehensive Plan and Mapping were provided to Barry, Butler, Cass, Frailey, Hegins, Reilly Townships, Minersville Borough, and the Minersville Area School District by Benesch.

January 13, 2022 // Public Notice was provided to the Pottsville Republican for publication.

January 17 and 24, 2022 // Public Notice published in the Pottsville Republican, begin 45-day public display period.

February 2, 2022 // Public Hearing was held was held to receive public comment.

February 2, 2022 // Foster Township 2021 Comprehensive Plan Adopted

1.4 Vision Statement

The Vision of Foster Township is to promote the controlled future growth of the Township to provide for an opportunity to live, play and work within the Township, while still maintaining the close-knit community culture that Foster Township offers. The Township is also looking to maintain stable financial security for future generations of residents living in the community well into the future.

1.5 How to Use This Comprehensive Plan

Vision | Frequently, planning agencies utilize a visioning exercise to kick off a comprehensive planning effort. Visioning is a facilitated process by which citizens develop and articulate their preferences for the future of their community. A community vision should reflect the thoughts and concerns of the residents regarding environmental, social, and economic values, as well as consider future land uses, residents, and the corresponding desires and needs.

Goal | A goal is a long-term result or achievement toward which effort is directed

Objective | An objective is a statement that identifies the course of action the municipality should use to achieve a goal

1.6 Plan Authorization

On January 7, 2019, the Foster Township Supervisors have authorized Alfred Benesch and Company to complete the 2021 Foster Township Comprehensive Plan in accordance with the Municipal Planning Code (MPC) Section 301.

Section 2 // Community Profile

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2 Community Profile

2.1 Local and Regional Setting

Foster Township is located in East-Central Pennsylvania, Schuylkill County. Located in the central part of the county, Foster Township encompasses approximately 12.7 square miles with its central point 10 miles northwest of Pottsville, the county seat (Map 1). Foster Township is also located approximately 54 miles northeast of Harrisburg, PA, 55 miles northwest of Allentown PA, and 54 miles southwest of Wilkes-Barre PA. Foster is also located approximately 105 miles Northwest of Philadelphia, PA and 140 miles west of New York City. This makes Foster Township an easy one- or two-hour commute to minor and major metropolitan areas with easy access to Interstate I-81 and SR 61 for work and entertainment.

2.2 A Brief History

The Township was founded in 1855 being formed from Butler, Barry, and Cass Townships. It was named after Solomon Foster of Pottsville, who served as an Associate Judge from 1849 to 1856. At that time, the Township was sparsely settled similar to today. It is bounded by Barry, Butler, Cass, Frailey, Hegins, and Reilly Townships.

A portion of "St. Anthony's Wilderness," little is known about the early pioneers of the Township. Approved in 1770 and completed in 1771, the "King's Highway" traversed the Township and served as the main route between Philadelphia and Sunbury. The road passed through Mt. Pleasant, located in the East-Central portion of the Township. This was the main route until 1809 when the Centre Pike was constructed, bypassing the Township area.

Similar to many towns in the area, Mt. Pleasant was founded in the 1830s during the rise of coal mining. Removing this and other towns in Foster Township from the main travel corridor hampered the prosperity other area towns enjoyed. Mt. Pleasant is particularly noteworthy, however, as it has not changed a great deal since the 19th century. In fact, it has been designated as "one of the last, if not the only, preserved specimen of early 19th century Welsh mining towns in the nation" by the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Coal mining was attempted with limited success prior to 1870. In the early 1870s, the Reading Coal Company purchased most of the coal lands within the Township and made them profitable. The population centers of the Township were established around operating collieries. These centers remain today and include Buck Run, Glen Carbon, Glen Dower and Mt. Pleasant.

The Buck Run Coal Company was established in 1900 by James B. Neale and S. B. Thorne and began operation in 1902. Neale became the leading citizen of Buck Run and gave funds for a chapel, recreational center, school and an athletic field to the Township. He owned a great deal of land in this area as is referenced in many deeds of the current landowners.

The population of the Township peaked at around 1,000 in 1870 and has declined steadily since. This has especially been the case during this century, as the demand for coal has declined with conversion of many plants to oil, gas, nuclear, and newer green technologies. In addition, the steel industry has also declined resulting in a lessening need for coal.

2.3 Planning History and Context

Foster Township currently has an adopted Comprehensive Plan (1999), Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) (2001), Driveway Ordinance (2006), Beneficial Use Monitoring Ordinance (2006), Property Maintenance Ordinance (2007), Property Transfer Ordinance (2010), Real Estate Registry Ordinance (2010), Rental Housing Ordinance (2010), Zoning Ordinance (2014), and Floodplain Ordinance (2021). The following Table lists the preparer and date of adoption for the aforementioned ordinances:

Planning Document	Preparer	Date of Adoption
Comprehensive Plan	Alfred Benesch and Company	February 3, 1999
Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance	Alfred Benesch and Company	October 2001
Driveway Ordinance	The Law Offices of Edward Brennan	October 4, 2006

Planning Document	Preparer	Date of Adoption
Beneficial Use Monitoring Ordinance	The Law Offices of Edward Brennan	November 1, 2006
Property Maintenance Ordinance	The Law Offices of Edward Brennan	May 2, 2007
Property Transfer Ordinance	The Law Offices of Edward Brennan	February 3, 2010
Real Estate Registry Ordinance	The Law Offices of Edward Brennan	February 3, 2010
Rental Housing Ordinance	The Law Offices of Edward Brennan	February 3, 2010
Schuylkill County Hazard Mitigation Plan	Schuylkill County Office of Planning and Zoning	April 17, 2019
Zoning Ordinance	Alfred Benesch and Company	June 2000; Rev Dec. 29, 2021
Floodplain Ordinance	The Law Offices of Edward Brennan	May 5, 2021

2.4 Demographic Characteristics

The purpose of this section is to evaluate the existing growth in said features in order to properly project into the future needs of the Township. This section also accounts for the types of housing including consideration being given to age, type of housing, and population numbers. Current census data will be applied to this section.

Foster Township's population has historically been spread between two villages in the Township, which include Buck Run and Mount Pleasant.

2.4.1 Historical Population

Similar to Schuylkill County and many of its communities, the population of Foster Township has decreased significantly over the past 50 years (Table 2.4.1). The trend has been higher in the Township as the population is approximately less than one-third what it was in 1960, compared to a 14 decrease within the County during the same time period.

As of the 2010 census, there were a total of 251 people living in Foster Township which is a 6% decrease from the year 2000. The 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates the population to be approximately 308 people. The breakdown of the population can be found in Table 2.4.1. below.

Table 2.4.1 – Historical Population Trend

	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
Foster Township	600	378	289	298	268	251	241
Schuylkill County	173,027	160,089	160,630	152585	150,336	148,289	143,049
Pennsylvania	11,319,366	11,793,909	11,863,895	11,881,643	12,281,054	12,702,873	12,783,254

U.S. Census Bureau, 2020

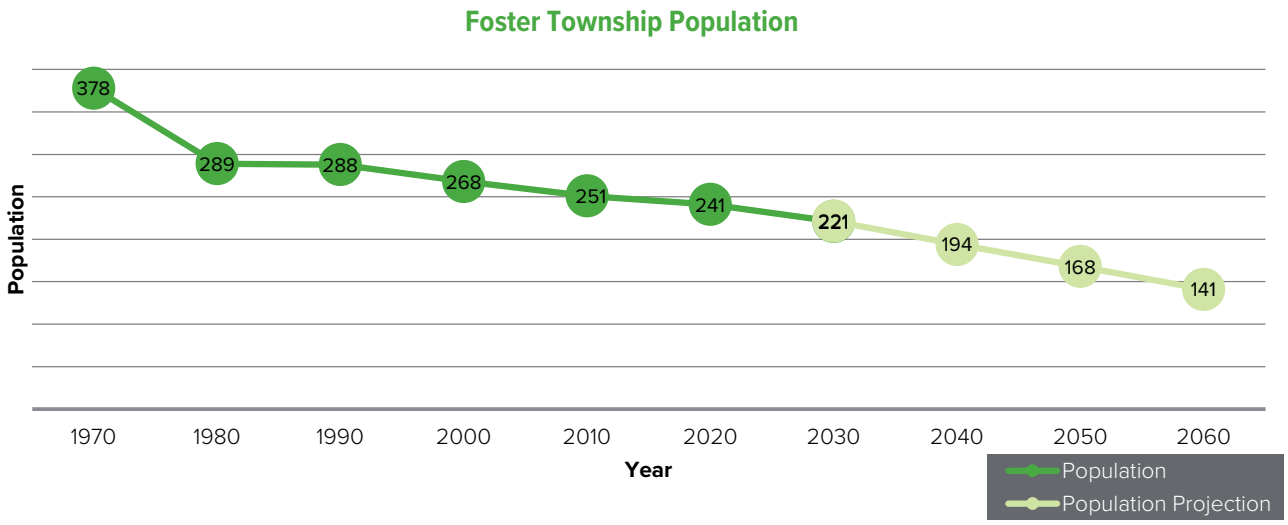
2.4.2 Population Forecast

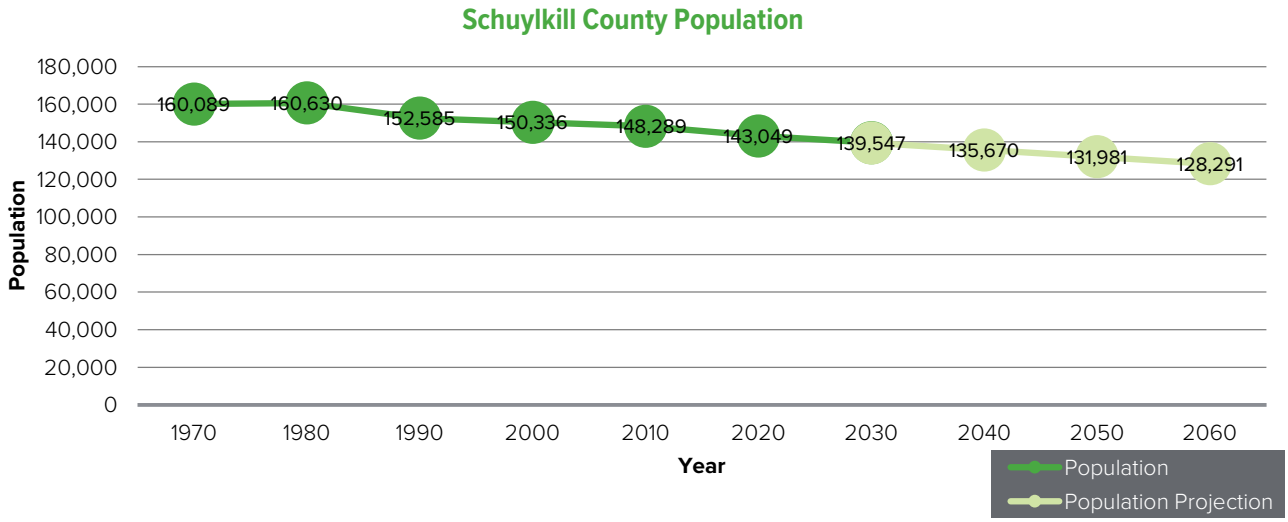
Looking ahead to the next 30 years the township would have a projected population of 141 people, which is a 44% decrease in population. The 2020 Census is currently being conducted by the US Census Bureau however this information is not available at the time of publication of this report. The Township has had an increase in new homes and property constructed since 2010 so is suspected to be slightly higher than the 2020 projection. The data table shows that Foster Township is at a critical point of needing to increase housing stock. The projected population trend without a significant increase in housing stock can be found in Table 2.4.2. below.

Table 2.4.2 – Population Trend Forecast

	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
Foster Township	251	241	221	194	168	141
Schuylkill County	148,289	143,049	139,547	134,202	130,701	125,356
Pennsylvania	12,702,873	12,783,254	12,978,548	13,215,632	13,452,716	13,689,880

MS Excel, Forecast





2.4.3 Current Population by Age and Sex

According the to 2019 American Community's Survey, 5.5% of the population is under 5 years in age, 15.6% is 65 years and older, and 76 % of the population is over 18 yrs old. The median age of the 2019 population was 38.5 years old. The breakdown of the population by sex in varying intervals can be found in Table 2.4.3. below.

Table 2.4.3 – Population by Age and Sex

Age	Male	Female	Total	% of Population
Under 20 years	36	41	77	25.0%
20 to 24 years	10	2	12	3.9%
25 to 34 years	27	19	46	14.9%
35 to 44 years	15	23	38	12.3%
45 to 54 years	19	13	32	10.4%
55 to 64 years	26	29	55	17.9%
65 years and over	21	27	48	15.6%
Total	**154**	**154**	**308**	**100.0%**

2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

2.4.4 Marital Status

According to the 2019 American Community's Survey, approximately 53% of Foster Township residents are married, with about 30 percent never married. The breakdown of the marital status can be found in Table 2.4.4. below.

Table 2.4.4

Marital Status	% of Population
Never Married	30.3%
Married	52.9%
Widowed	4.5%
Divorced	11.1%
Separated	1.2%
Total	**100.0%**

2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

2.4.5 Housing Demographic

Existing housing conditions of a community are often determinants for the quality of life in the area and predictors for the community's potential for future growth. Generally, a wider variety of sizes, styles and prices, among other factors, can make relocation into an area more desirable. A breakdown of total housing units can be found on Table 2.4.5.A below. A breakdown of housing types can be found on Table 2.4.5.B below. A breakdown of housing year constructed can be found on Table 2.4.5.C below. A breakdown of Number of Bedrooms can be found on Table 2.4.5.D below. A breakdown of Heating Fuel Type can be found on Table 2.4.5.E below. A breakdown of Home Value can be found on Table 2.4.5.F below.

Table 2.4.5.A – Total Housing Units

Housing Status	Estimated Count	Percentage
Occupied housing units	115	89.1%
Vacant housing units	14	10.9%
Homeowner vacancy rate	0	--
Rental vacancy rate	0	--
Total	**129**	**100.0%**

2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

The ACS data shows an occupancy rate of approximately 90% and 10% vacant. The Township has been aggressive on abandoned and blighted properties the last several years and has either demolished the blighted and abandoned properties or worked with the property owners to fix up properties and increase the housing stock.

Table 2.4.5.B – Housing Type

Housing Type	Estimated Count	Percentage
1-unit, detached	85	65.9%
1-unit, attached	33	25.6%
2 units	0	0.0%
3 or 4 units	0	0.0%
5 or more units	0	0.0%
Mobile home	11	8.5%
Total	**129**	**100.0%**

2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

The ACS data shows three major types of housing in Foster Township, the majority of homes are single family detached, with the second majority of 1 unit attached followed by mobile homes. There are no multifamily "row homes" or townhouse style houses in the Township.

Table 2.4.5.C – Housing Year Constructed

Year Constructed	Estimated Count	Percentage
Built 2014 or later*	0	0.0%
Built 2010 to 2013*	0	0.0%
Built 2000 to 2009	9	7.0%
Built 1990 to 1999	0	0.0%
Built 1980 to 1989	7	5.4%
Built 1970 to 1979	13	10.1%
Built 1960 to 1969	0	0.0%
Built 1950 to 1959	8	6.2%
Built 1940 to 1949	12	9.3%
Built 1939 or earlier	80	62.0%
Total	**129**	**100.0%**

2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

**We believe the data found in the ACS Survey to be inaccurate for these categories*

The ACS data shows the majority of homes were constructed prior to 1939, with the remainder constructed between 2009 and 1979. The data provided by the ACS did not list any new homes built after 2014, however several new homes have been constructed since that time.

Table 2.4.5.D – Number of Bedrooms

Number of Bedrooms	Estimated Count	Percentage
No bedroom	0	0.0%
1 bedroom	7	5.4%
2 bedrooms	38	29.5%
3 bedrooms	60	46.5%
4 bedrooms	22	17.1%
5 or more bedrooms	2	1.6%
Total	**129**	**100.0%**

2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

The ACS data shows the majority of homes have either two or three bedrooms.

Table 2.4.5.E – Heating Fuel Type

Heating Fuel Type	Estimated Count	Percentage
Utility gas	2	1.7%
Bottled, tank, or LP gas	2	1.7%
Electricity	20	17.4%
Fuel oil, kerosene, etc.	61	53.0%

Table 2.4.5.E – Heating Fuel Type (cont'd)

Heating Fuel Type	Estimated Count	Percentage
Coal or coke	28	24.3%
Wood	2	1.7%
Solar energy	0	0.0%
Other fuel	0	0.0%
No fuel used	0	0.0%
Total	**115**	**100.0%**

2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Table 2.4.5.F – Home Value

Home Value	Estimated Count	Percentage
Less than $50,000	33	32.4%
$50,000 to $99,999	41	40.2%
$100,000 to $149,999	9	8.8%
$150,000 to $199,999	7	6.9%
$200,000 to $299,999	12	11.8%
$300,000 to $499,999	0	0.0%
$500,000 to $999,999	0	0.0%
$1,000,000 or more	0	0.0%
Owner-occupied Units Total	**102**	**100.0%**
Median Household Value	**$68,200**	**--**

2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

2.4.6 Income

A thorough understanding of the Township's household incomes can be a powerful planning tool in preparation for economic development. While 23.5% of the households have an average income below $25,000, the majority (61.8%) of the total household incomes fall between $25,000 and $100,000. The remaining 14.7% have incomes of $100,000 or more. A more detailed breakdown of the Township's household incomes can be found in Table 2.4.6.

Table 2.4.6 – Average Household Income

Income	Percentage
Under $10,000	7.0%
$10,000 to $25,000	16.5%
$25,000 to $34,999	14.8%
$35,000 to $49,999	14.8%
$50,000 to $74,999	13.9%
$75,000 to $99,999	18.3%
$100,000 and over	14.7%
Mean Income	**$58,180**
Median Income	**$58,180**

2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

2.4.7 Occupation

The 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) lists a total of 137 people over the age of 16 were listed as employed. 24% in management, business, science, and arts occupations, 16.5% in service occupations, 15.7% in sales and office occupations, 17.4% in natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations, and 26.4% as production, transportation, and material moving occupations.

The ACS survey indicated that a total of 121 people over the age of 16 commute to work. Of those 84.3% drove in a car, truck, or van alone. A total of 11.6 % carpooled, and the remaining 4.1% worked from home. The survey provided an aver mean travel time to work of 23.9 minutes.

The ACS survey indicated of the total of 121 people over the age of 16, 86% were private wage and salary workers, 12.4% were government workers, and 1.7% were self-employed.

2.4.8 Education Background

The educational background of the Township's population can aid in understanding the potential of the workforce. According to the 2019 American Community Survey 85.4% of the population 25 years and older have a high school diploma, equivalency or a higher level of education. Of the same age range, 11.0% have acquired a bachelor's degree or higher. Table 2.4.8 can give a more comprehensive understanding of the educational background of the Township's residents.

Table 2.4.8 – Education Attainment for Township Population (ages 25+)

Attainment Level	Estimated Count	Percentage
Less than 9th Grade	9	4.1%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	23	10.5%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	112	51.1%
Some college, no degree	29	13.2%
Associate degree	22	10.0%
Bachelor's degree	18	8.2%
Graduate or Professional degree	6	2.7%

2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

2.4.9 School Enrollment

Foster Township currently has an estimated 71 residents over the age of 3 years old which are enrolled in school. School based on the 2019 American Community Survey is anyone enrolled in grades preschool through graduate school. There are approximately 57 students enrolled through high school and an additional 14 enrolled in college or higher. Table 2.4.9 can give a more comprehensive understanding of the educational background of the Township's residents.

Table 2.4.9 – Population Enrolled in School (ages 3+)

Attainment Level	Estimated Count	Percentage
Nursery school, preschool	0	2.8%
Kindergarten	2	53.5%
Elementary school (grades 1-8)	38	23.9%
High school (grades 9-12)	17	19.7%
College or graduate school	14	0.0%
Total Enrolled (ages 3+)	**71**	**100.0%**

2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Section 3 // Existing Conditions

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3 Existing Conditions

3.1 Introduction

This section of the report will review the existing conditions in the township and surrounding communities with respect to existing land use, communities facilities, and services including municipal, fire, schools, sewer and water service, etc. This section of the report will also review natural resources which included water resources, watersheds, stream designations, soils, steep slopes, wetlands, and mining. The remaining section of the report includes a review of transportation including roadways classification, public transportation, and airports.

3.2 Existing Land Use

The top 10 existing land uses within the Township are mining (abandoned, reclaimed, or active), forested or open space, industrial, residential, airport, waste disposal, institutional. A detailed map showing the designated existing land uses can be found on Exhibit A.3: Existing Land Use Map.

3.3 Community Facilities and Services

Section 2 gave an overview of the existing community facilities within and surrounding Foster Township. Community facilities are limited in the immediate area around the Township due largely to its small population. Continued demand for services and changing needs of the Township residents furthers a need for a future community services and infrastructure plan.

3.3.1 Municipal Building



The current Foster Township Municipal Building and Complex is located at the corner of SR901 (Sunbury Road) and Upper Beechwood Avenue. The current building includes a general office, police station, file room, conference room for meetings, four-bay garage for storage of Township equipment, handicap accessible bathrooms, and adequate parking.

The Township parking lot was upgraded in 2019 which included an update to the ADA accessibility, repair of poor area of pavement, a full overlay, and installation of new signage, line painting, and traffic control legends. Air Conditioning and heating upgrades were completed on the building in 2018. In 2021 the Township replaced the flooring in the meeting room and repainted a majority of the interior of the building. No expected or recommended upgrades are expected other than routine maintenance over the next 10 years or unless recommendations are provided as part of the energy audit recommended. The Township property also includes two additional garages for the storage of township vehicles including the garbage truck and a salt shed.

The Township also purchased a 10.9-acre property located closer to the Highridge Business Park, known as the “Kachmar Property” which included a 35’ x45’ garage that could also be considered for storage or additional municipal functions. A basic assessment was conducted on the building, which is in generally good condition, including all necessary utilities. The major concern with the existing building is the proximity to SR901 (Sunbury Road) and the lack of adequate sight distance, parking, and other critical support functions. Options to be considered would be installing a new garage entrance on the north side of the building and construction of a new access driveway north of the existing driveway to improve sight distance. The current use of this facility is for the storage of the Township’s less used equipment.

3.3.2 Municipal Staff

The Township currently employs three (3) Supervisors, one (1) full time police, several part-time police officer, one (1) part-time Secretary, one (1) part-time Roadmaster, one (1) part-time road crew workers, and additional part time workers as needed. Residential Building Code, UCC Building Code, Zoning, and Property Maintenance is currently outsourced via contracted services.

3.3.3 Municipal Equipment

The following is a list of Foster Township maintenance equipment:

- 1 – 2002 John Deere Backhoe
- 1 – 2005 Mack Garbage truck
- 1 – 2007 Ford F150 Dump Truck, w/ plow and salt spreader
- 1 – 2013 Ford Explorer Police Interceptor
- 1 – 2016 Ford F150 Dump Truck, w/ plow and salt spreader
- 1 – 2018 Ford F150 Pickup Truck Police Interceptor
- 1 – 2018 New Holland Skid Steer
- 1 – 2019 Ford F150 Dump Truck, w/ plow and salt spreader

The existing equipment owned by the Township is well maintained and should continue to be used as long as fiscally possible. It is recommended that the Township continue to look for funding sources (Chapter 5 Section 1) ahead of time for purchasing new equipment in anticipation of future needs. It is recommended that the Township continue to look for funding sources such as grants or allocate funds in the annual budget ahead of time for purchasing new equipment in anticipation of future needs.

3.3.4 Police Force

Currently, Foster Township has a police department that patrols the municipality and responds to calls 24/7. When the Foster Township Police Department (FTPD) is not on duty, the service area is protected by the Pennsylvania State Police. The FTPD has one police chief and approximately two (2) part-time officers. The size of the Police Force will be adjusted accordingly based on the future needs of the Township.

3.3.5 Airport & Helipad

The closest airport is the Schuylkill Regional Airport – Joe Zerbey Field which is located in the north-central portion of the Township. The airport consists of two runways, including a 4,580' x 75' bituminous and a 2,270' x 125' turf runway. A runway expansion project was recently completed which lengthened the overall runway length to accommodate larger aircraft. The airport includes several hangers for the storage of aircraft. The airport is used primarily for private planes and is attended between 8 AM and 8 PM. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural provided a $99,990 grant to the Schuylkill County Airport Authority for the development of a Master Site Plan. The plan is currently in draft form as of the finalization of the comprehensive plan.

The closest medical helipad is located at the Schuylkill Regional Airport – approximately 3.5 miles away – with a secondary location in Cass Township which serves as the primary designated landing area for emergency service aircraft. If needed, the existing baseball field has been used in certain conditions as well.

3.3.6 Library

The residents of the Township can utilize the Minersville Free Public Library or those offered at the Pottsville Free Public Library. Services offered at both libraries include Public Computer Access, Wi-Fi access, use of copiers and fax machines. Loan services included Large Print Books, VHS/DVD's, Audiobooks, Periodicals, and Interlibrary Loan. Both libraries also off story times for young children and summer programs.

3.3.7 Fire Protection & Emergency Services

In 2021, the Minersville Fire Rescue (Minersville Borough) merged with the Mt. Pleasant Hose Company (Foster Township). The Mount Pleasant Station is the only fire company in the Township and is located along SR901 (Sunbury Road) north of Upper Beechwood Avenue. The Fire Company has six to eight volunteers in the Township that respond, with the remainder responding from the Borough of Minersville.



The Mount Pleasant Station currently houses a 2006 KME engine with 1,250-gallon pump. The truck is in working order and is not in need of any significant maintenance or repairs.

The Township also receives additional fire protection support for emergencies from the South Cass Citizens Fire Company in Primrose, Cass Township, Clover Fire Company in the Village of Heckscherville, Cass Township, Forestville Citizens Fire Company, and in Forestville, Cass Township.

Minersville Fire and Rescue, Minersville is the designated response Company for automotive accidents in the Township and along the I-81 Corridor.

The primary Emergency Medical Service (EMS) provider to the Township is the Goodwill Fire Company (Minersville). Aeromedical service is typically provided by either Geisinger Medical or Lehigh Valley Hospital.

3.3.8 Schools

Children of the Township are part of the public-School System of the Minersville Area School District (MASD), which has three main school buildings. The Minersville Early Childhood Center (Branch Township) provides for education in the 4K and Kindergarten age ranges, the Minersville Elementary Center (Minersville Borough) provides for education in the 1st through 6th grade age ranges, and the Minersville Jr/Sr High School (Cass Township) provides for education in the 7th through 12th grade age ranges. The MASD provides public education to residents of the Foster Township as well as Minersville Borough, Branch Township, Cass Township, and Reilly Township.

Children from the Township can also attend private or parochial schools. Other options in the area include St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School (Minersville) which provides education from Kindergarten to 8th grade, Assumption BVM (Pottsville) provides pre-school through 8th grade, and Nativity BVM (Pottsville) provides 9th through 12th grade. Gillingham Charter School (Pottsville) provides an option to local student from Kindergarten through 12th grade, as well as several cyber–Charter School options available in the State. There are also several locations in the area, which provide day care and also pre-school education for young children.

For children with special needs, services are provided by the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 {IU29} (Marlin). The Saint Joseph Center for Special Learning (Pottsville) and Avenues of Pottsville also provide alternates for students and adults.

For older children and adult learners, the Schuylkill Technology Centers offers numerous career and technical programs.

3.3.9 Recreation Facilities

Currently, the Township owns and maintains two recreational areas in the Township. The first facility is Community Park, which began construction in the mid 1990's. The Park is located on an approximately 2.6-acre site located in the central region of the Township and is within walking distance of the majority of the Township's population. The current amenities include a baseball field, playground, tot playground, basketball court, public restroom, picnic tables, and a ¼ mile bituminous walking path with period lighting. The site shares a parking lot with the Foster Township Municipal Building. This existing site has almost or nearly reached its build-out potential.



The second park, constructed in 2009, is a 0.70-acre pocket park, which consisted of a pavilion, parking lot, raingarden, and flower planter.

Although not owned by the Township, the Mount Pleasant Hose Company owns and operates a picnic grove, which include a 28' x 34' pavilion, kitchen stand, restrooms, ADA Accessible parking and access path, adjacent to the community park.

The Blythe Township Municipal Authority has the Crystal Run drinking water reservoir located in the Township. The area surrounding the reservoir is maintained as open space, and the Authority, through a cooperation with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, has allowed the parcel to be open for recreational use, such as hiking and hunting.

Additional recreational facilities outside of the Township included the Minersville Little League Field, the Minersville Area Youth Soccer Club soccer fields, the Minersville Area School District facilities, and the Minersville Community Swimming Pool. Several adjacent municipalities also have recreational facilities and playgrounds.

3.3.10 Sanitary Sewer

Sanitary sewer service is provided by the Foster Township Municipal Authority (FTMA) which collects sanitary sewerage in the area of Buck Run through gravity and low-pressure pipes. Sanitary sewage is conveyed to the High Ridge Industrial Park via two pumping stations owned by the Authority and one owned by the Schuylkill County Municipal Authority (SCMA). Ultimate treatment of the sewage is treated at the SCMA Gordon Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP). The Township currently has an allocation of 28,000 gallons per day (gpd) at the treatment plant. Areas outside of the service area shown on Exhibit 10 are served by on-lot sewer systems.

From 2018-2019 Foster Township average daily flow for to the SCMA Gordon WWTP was approximately 11,500 gpd, therefore, it appears that there is approximately 16,500 gpd of capacity for future development. Foster currently has 99 billing customers which equates to 116 gpd per customer (11,500 gpd / 99 customers = 116 gpd per customer).

A typical household, according to PADEP, will generate 250 gpd, so based upon 16,500 gpd / 250 gpd/customer, there are potentially 66 customers that can be added to the Foster collection system. This method of determining the number of future customers is more realistic and conservative and will prevent Foster Township from exceeding their allocation.

SCMA currently is in the process of completing a new Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act (Act 537) Plan for the several municipalities in which the Gordon WWTP receives flow from. The purpose of the Act 537 plan is help address existing sewage disposal needs, and to help prevent future problems through the proper planning, permitting, and design of all types of sewage facilities. The planning process is expected to take up to two years to complete. Following the planning process, SCMA intends to design and permit a new, larger WWTP at the Gordon plant site. This additional plant increase will accommodate additional growth in the Township and SCMA service area.

3.3.11 Water Service

Currently, there are areas served by public water in the Township. The Buck Run Village area is served by the Blythe Township Municipal Authority, where water is treated at the nearby Crystal Run Water Treatment Plant. The second service area is the High Ridge Industrial Park, which is served by the Schuylkill County Municipal Authority, where water is treated at the Indian Run Water Treatment Plant. Currently, there is no interconnect for redundancy between the two systems. A plan showing the water service area is shown on Exhibit A.11. Areas outside this map are either not served by public water or are on private groundwater wells.

Discussions have been held about a potential interconnection near the BTMA water tank to allow each system to feed the other. This interconnect would include additional pipework, a pressure-reducing valve vault, and a water boosting station. No formal work has been completed on the interconnection.

Foster Township has applied for several grants and completed several new waterlines through the populated portions of the Township. The Township has also completed preliminary fire flow modeling and applied for two additional waterline grants for the completion of a larger fire line from the BTMA tank to Buck Run and also a smaller waterline to serve the area of Turkey Row. Neither of these projects has been selected to be funded by a grant.

3.3.12 Internet

There is currently no hardwired broadband internet service provider (ISP) serving the residential areas of the Township. The Township has received Request for Proposals (RFP's) from several interested ISP in November 2020. The selected ISP is currently in the process of final design and to obtain right of way and usage of utility poles for the construction of the internet system.

3.3.13 Solid Waste

Currently solid waste management is provided by Foster Township to residents at no charge. Solid waste is collected by Township employees and Township owned garbage truck and then transported to the Commonwealth Environmental Systems (CES) Landfill which is located on the western side of Foster Township. The Township also provides large item pick-up days periodically. The CES landfill accepts residential solid waste at no charge to the Township.

Commercial solid waste disposal in the Highridge Industrial Park is provided by each property owner.

3.3.14 Recycling

Foster Township does not currently offer any recycling services. Schuylkill County Recycling Program was dissolved in late 2020 with no current options available to Foster Township Residents. In the foreseeable future, there are no plans to alter the current arrangements however the need for in-house refuse collection will be reassessed based on future development within the Township.

3.3.15 Hospitals

There are no hospitals within Foster Township. Hospitals within commuting distance include the Lehigh Valley Hospital - Schuylkill E. Norwegian Street and the Schuylkill S. Jackson Street. A new Geisinger's/St. Luke Hospital opened in Deer Lake in 2019, as well as the St. Luke's Hospital Miners Campus in Coaldale, Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, and the Hershey Medical Center in Hershey.

3.3.16 Public Outreach

Foster Township currently uses two primary forms of public outreach. The two methods are the publication of ordinances, meetings, and other pertinent information in the Pottsville Republican Newspaper, Pottsville. The second method is paper notices either hand-delivered or attachment to monthly sewer bills. At several public meetings, residents have indicated the Township could do a better job of notifying and updating residents through website postings and newsletters. The Township has begun the development of a newsletter in 2020. The Township has also upgraded their website at https://www.fostertwp.org to include meeting information and code and building permit forms and ordinances.

3.3.17 Finance and Budget

Foster Township has a projected 2021 income of $1,095,250 which includes approximately $260,000 in general government expenses, $180,000 in public safety, and $622,000 in public work projects, and approximately $33,000 in other community development and operating costs. Annual budgets are developed in late fall and adopted before the following year.

3.3.18 Emergency Management

Foster Township currently has a vacancy for a local emergency management coordinator who would handle local emergencies. Should a large-scale emergency develop in Foster Township, the Township would defer the operation to the Schuylkill County Emergency Management Coordinator and the local fire department or other services as needed.

3.3.19 Services for Older Adults

The Schuylkill County Schuylkill County Office of Senior Services handles services for older adults in Foster Township. The Office handles the Meals on Wheels Program, offers adult daycare and personal care, caregiver program for families (respite), elderly protective services, and assist consumers with property tax rebate and heating programs. The program also runs the volunteer transportation program.

3.3.20 Stormwater Management

Foster Township currently manages the stormwater system through the Township with the exception of the Highridge Business Park. The Township has upgraded the existing stormwater system in the Hill Area, Community Square, and Mount Pleasant. Current upgrades being completed in 2021 are on Lower Beechwood Road. Stormwater for new development projects is regulated through the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO).

3.4 Natural Resources

3.4.1 Water Resources

The single largest water resource in Foster Township is the BTMA drinking water reservoir which serves approximately 1,020 residents and businesses in Foster, Cass, Reilly, and Branch Townships. The reservoir has a capacity of approximately 60,740,000 gallons or 200 ac-ft and has a filtration plant that is rated at 0.93 mgd, with an average production of 0.50 mgd.

In addition to the reservoir, BTMA has two additional sources that can be used for water during drought conditions, including Dicks Dam and the Airport Quarry.

3.4.2 Watersheds

Foster Township is divided by two major watersheds and three minor watersheds. The watersheds are the Susquehanna River Basin (Swatara and Wiconisco Watersheds) and the Delaware River Basin (upper Schuylkill River).

3.4.3 Stream Designations

Foster Township has five primary streams in the Township. The streams are the Deep Creek, Hans Yost Creek, Swatara Creek, West Creek (Crystal Run), and West Branch Schuylkill. The Pennsylvania Code, Title 25, Chapter 93, Water Quality Standards assigns all of these streams and tributaries within this watershed a water quality designation of Cold-Water Fishery. (CWF, MF). All five of these streams are designated use streams migratory fish.

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PAFBC) does not list any of these streams as a Keystone Select Stocked Trout Stream, Special Regulated Trout Stream, Class A trout stream, nor a Wilderness Trout Stream.

There are three streams listed as Stream Supporting Natural Trout Reproductions, and those streams are Swatara Creek, Pine Creek, and Middle Creek.

3.4.4 Floodplains

Foster Township is located on six of the Schuylkill County, Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) #42107C0316F (Hegins Township), #42107C0317F(Frailey), #42107C0310F, #42107C0330F (Foster Township), #42107C0335F (Cass Township), and #42107C0340F (Reilly Township) with an effective date of May 18, 2021.

Upon examination of these maps, it was found that floodplains exist within Foster Township along Crystal Run and the extreme downstream ends of Huns Yost and Swatara Creeks (Map 5). These areas do not pose a concern as they are away from development. The area of the floodplain is designated as Floodzone A.

A new floodplain ordinance was adopted by the Foster Township Supervisors as Ordinance 01-2021, on May 5, 2021.

3.4.5 Soils

The soils found in the Township include:

- ArB, Andover extremely stony loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes
- BuB, Buchanan gravelly loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
- BxB, Buchanan extremely stony loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
- BxD, Buchanan extremely stony loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes
- CaB, Calvin shaly silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
- CaD, Calvin shaly silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes
- DkB, Dekalb channery sandy loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes, rubbly
- DkC, Dekalb channery sandy loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes, rubbly
- DMF, Dekalb and Lehew extremely stony soils, steep
- DR, Dekalb-Rubble land association
- Ds, Dumps, coal waste

- Du, Dumps, mine
- HeB, Hazleton channery fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
- HfC, Hazleton extremely stony fine sandy loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes
- HGB, Hazleton-Clymer association, gently sloping
- KvB, Kedron very stony silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
- KvC, Kedron very stony silt loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes
- LaB, Laidig gravelly loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
- LaC, Laidig gravelly loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
- LdC, Laidig extremely stony loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes
- LhC, Lehew extremely stony loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes
- MeB, Meckesville loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
- MkB, Meckesville very stony loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
- MkC, Meckesville very stony loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes
- SmB, Shelmadine very stony silt loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes
- UM, Udorthents, strip mine
- UU, Urban land-Udults complex
- W, Water

The Andover complex consists of fine loamy, mixed mesic typic fraquiaulls. These soils are deed and poorly drained and have slow impermeability. The Andover soils are poorly drained soils with a depth to the water table of between 0 to 6 inches. Slopes of this soil range from 0 to 8 percent. The soil has a depth of 0 to 5 inches of extremely stone loam, 5 to 20 inches of loam, gravelly call loam and cobbly sand. The depth to fragipan 16 to 28 inches and depth to bedrock is 60 inches or more. The soils have a very high runoff class. The Hydrologic Soil Group is D and the soil is rated hydric. The predominate Parent material is mountain slope colluvium derived from sedimentary rock. This soil is not classified as prime farmland.

The Buchanan complex consists of Moderately well drained soils with a depth to the water table between 14 to 30 inches. Slopes of this soil range from 3 to 25 percent. The soil has a depth of 0 to 21 inches of gravelly loam, 21 to 36 inches cobbly clay loam. The depth to fragipan 20 to 36 inches and depth to lithic bedrock is 60 to 99 inches. The soils have a high runoff class. The Hydrologic Soil Group is D and the soil is not rated hydric. The predominate Parent material is Colluvium derived from sandstone and shale. All areas of this soil are classified as prime farmland.

The Calvin complex consists of Moderately well drained soils with a depth to the water table more than 80 inches. Slopes of this soil range from 15 to 25 percent. The soil has a depth of 0 to 8 inches of channery silt loam, 8 to 26 inches very channery silt loam, 26 to 40 inches extremely channery silt loam, 40 to 44 inches to bedrock. The depth to lithic bedrock is 20 to 40 inches. The soils have a medium runoff class. The Hydrologic Soil Group is B and the soil is not rated hydric. The predominate Parent material is acid reddish-brown residuum weathered from shale and siltstone. This soil is listed as farmland of statewide importance.

The Dekalb complex consists of moderately well drained soils with a depth to the water table more than 80 inches. Slopes of this soil range from 8 to 25 percent. The soil has a depth of to 1 inches of slightly decomposed plant material, 1 to 4 inches of channery sandy loam, 4 to 7 inches of channery sandy loam, 7 to 26 inches of very channery sandy loam, 26 to 34 inches of extremely channery sandy loam, 34 to 44 inches of bedrock. The depth to lithic bedrock is 20 to 40 inches. The soils have a medium runoff class. The Hydrologic Soil Group is A and the soil is not rated hydric. The predominate Parent material is residuum weathered from sandstone and shale. This soil is not classified as prime farmland.

The Dekalb and Lehew complex consists of moderately well drained soils with a depth to the water table more than 80 inches. Slopes of this soil range from 8 to 25 percent. The soil has a depth of to 0 to 7 inches of very gravelly sandy loam, 7 to 32 inches of very channery sandy loam, 32 to 39 inches of very flaggy loamy sand, 39 to 43 inches of bedrock. The depth to lithic bedrock is 20 to 40 inches. The soils have a low runoff class. The Hydrologic Soil Group is A and the soil is not rated hydric. The predominate Parent material is residuum weathered from sandstone and shale. This soil is not classified as prime farmland.

The Dekalb-Rubble soils are loamy-skeletal, mixed mesic Typic Dystrochrepts. These soils are moderately deed and well drained and have rapid permeability. Dekalb-Rubble are well drained soils with a depth to the water table of more than 80 inches. Slopes of this soil range from 15 to 25 percent. The soil has a depth of 0 to 7 inches of very gravelly sandy loam, 7 to 32 inches of very channery sandy loam, 32 to 39 inches of very flaggy loamy sand, 39 to 43 inches of bedrock. The depth to fragipan 0 to 60 inches and depth to bedrock is 20 to 40 inches. The soils have a low runoff class. The Hydrologic Soil Group is A and the soil is not rated hydric. The predominate Parent material is residuum weathered from sandstone and shale and includes stones and boulder fields of sandstone. This soil is not classified as prime farmland.

The Dumps, mine consist of mine spoil or earthy fill. A soil profile was not provided. The depth to lithic bedrock is not provided. The soil is not rated hydric. These soils are generally well drained. The soil is generally consisted of manmade and altered material from mixed rock types and is evidence of previous mining and mine reclamation in the area. This type of soil is estimated as having approximately 1% of the soils as hydric, and the depth of the groundwater table and bedrock is unknown. This soil is not classified as prime farmland.

The Hazleton complex consists of a loamy-skeletal mixed mesic typic Dystrochreprts. These soils are deep and well drained and have moderately rapid and rapid permeability. Hazleton are well drained soils with a depth to the water table of more than 80 inches. Slopes of this soil range from 3 to 8 percent. The soil has a depth of 0 to 5 inches of channery fine sandy loam, 5 to 35 inches of very channery sandy loam, 35 to 49 inches of very channery loamy sand and 49 to 53 inches of bedrock. The depth to bedrock is 40 to 80 inches. The soils have a low runoff class. The Hydrologic Soil Group is A and the soil is not rated hydric. The predominate Parent material is Residuum weathered from sandstone. This soil is not classified as prime farmland.

The Hazleton-Clymer gravelly sandy loam is found in an area, gently sloping, in shrubs, in Foster Township, approximately 1-1/2 mile north of Mount Pleasant, along Old Airport Road and 100 feet north of the north side. Hazleton-Clymer are well drained soils with a depth to the water table of more than 80 inches. Slopes of this soil range from 0 to 8 percent. The soil has a depth of 0 to 5 inches of very channery sandy loam, 5 to 35 inches of very channery sandy loam, 35 to 49 inches of very channery loamy sand, 49 to 53 inches of bedrock. The depth to bedrock is 40 to 80 inches. The soils have a very low runoff class. The Hydrologic Soil Group is B and the soil is not rated hydric. The predominate Parent material is sesiduum weathered from sandstone. This soil is not classified as prime farmland.

The Kedron complex consists of moderately well drained soils with a depth to the water table of between 6 to 36 inches. Slopes of this soil range from 3 to 8 percent. The soil has a depth of to 0 to 9 inches of silt loam, 9 to 27 inches of very silty clay loam, 27 to 58 inches of channery loam. The depth to fragipan is 20 to 32 inches. The soils have a high runoff class. The Hydrologic Soil Group is C/D and the soil is not rated hydric. The predominate Parent material is colluvium and/or till derived from sandstone, siltstone, and shale. This soil is not classified as prime farmland.

The Laidig complex consists of moderately well drained soils with a depth to the water table of between 6 to 36 inches. Slopes of this soil range from 8 to 15 percent. The soil has a depth of to 0 to 4 inches of gravelly loam, 4 to 33 inches of channery loam, 33 to 65 inches of very channery loam. The depth to fragipan is 30 to 50 inches. The soils have a medium runoff class. The Hydrologic Soil Group is B and the soil is not rated hydric. The predominate parent material is Colluvium derived from sandstone and siltstone. All areas of this soil are classified as prime farmland.

The series soils are loamy-skeletal, mixed, mesic Typic Dystrochrepts. consists of fine loamy, mixed mesic typic fraquiaulls. These soils are moderately deed, well drained and have moderate to rapid permeability. Lehew are well drained soils with a depth to the water table of more than 80 inches. Slopes of this soil range from 8 to 25 percent. The soil has a depth of 0 to 8 inches of very channery loam, 8 to 32 inches of very channery sandy loam, 32 to 37 inches of very channery sandy loam, 37 to 41 inches of bedrock. The depth to fragipan 20 to 40 inches and depth to bedrock is 20 to 40 inches. The soils have a very low runoff class. The Hydrologic Soil Group is A and the soil is not rated hydric. The predominate Parent material is reddish loamy residuum weathered from sandstone and siltstone. This soil is not classified as prime farmland.

The Meckesville complex consists of well-drained soils with a depth to the water table of between 25 to 48 inches. Slopes of this soil range from 3 to 8 percent. The soil has a depth of to 0 to 96 inches of gravelly loam. The depth to fragipan is 25 to 48 inches. The soils have a medium runoff class. The Hydrologic Soil Group is C and the soil is not rated hydric. The predominate parent material is sandstone, siltstone and shale colluvium derived from sedimentary rock. All areas of this soil are classified as prime farmland.

The complex are fine-loamy, mixed mesic typic fraqiaquults. These soils are deed and poorly drained and have slow impermeability. They formed in colluvial soil material and are on toe slopes along drainageways, and in depressional areas. They are poorly drained soils with a depth to the water table between 0 to 6 inches. Slopes of this soil range from 0 to 8 percent. The soil has a depth of 0 to 7 inches of channery silt loam, 7 to 24 inches of silty clay loam, 24 to 50 inches of channery loam and 50 to 70 inches of channery loam. The depth to fragipan 18 to 30 inches and depth to bedrock is 60 inches or more. The soils have a very high runoff class. The Hydrologic Soil Group is C/D and the soil is rated hydric. The predominate Parent material is loamy till. This soil is not classified as prime farmland.

The UM, Udorthents, strip minecomplex consists of deep, somewhat poorly drained to well drained soils that have slow to moderately rapid permeability. They formed in residual and colluvial soil materials. Theses soils are on foot slopes and on the top and sides of hills and mountains. Udorthents are well drained soils with a depth to the water table of more than 80 inches. Slopes of this soil range from 0 to 65 percent. The soil has a depth of 0 to 6 inches of very channery sandy loam, 6 to 60 very channery silty clay loam. Some Udorthents soils have a fragipan, the depth to bedrock is 42 to 60 inches. The soils have a medium runoff class. The Hydrologic Soil Group is A and the soil is not rated hydric, however wet spots in depressions are listed as hydric rated. The predominate Parent material is Manmade and altered materials from mixed rock types. This soil is not classified as prime farmland.

The UU, Urban land-Udults complex consists of moderately well drained to excessively drained soils that have been disturbed by cutting or filling, and areas that are covered by buildings and pavement. Moderately well drained soils with a depth to the water table of more than 80 inches. Slopes of this soil range from 3 to 25 percent. The soil has a depth of 0 to 5 inches of channery silt loam, 5 to 61 inches of channery silt loam. The depth to bedrock is 42 to 79 inches. The soils did not list a runoff class. The Hydrologic Soil Group is unlisted, and the soil is not rated hydric, however wet spots in depressions are listed as hydric rated. The predominant Parent material is Colluvium and/or residuum. This soil is not classified as prime farmland.

See Exhibit A.9 for the Soils Map.

3.4.6 Topographic and Steep Slopes

The topographic slope of an area defines the amount of change in elevation over a given length of land. Slopes that are too high (>10%), pose limitations to development. Slopes greater than 15% impose extreme restrictions on development requiring special design for it to be feasible. Extremely low slopes (<2%) can also pose development limitations due to drainage problems.

Elevations within Foster Township range from 980 feet in the northwest portion to 1,740 feet in the north portion in the vicinity of the airport. Slope values are high in a great deal of the Township, especially in the northwest and northeast corners. Steep slopes are also found in many of the coal mining areas.

Where slopes exceed 15% within Foster Township, development should be limited. Extensive grading and filling of any type of site would be required in these areas. Development of steep slopes can also lead to erosion and subsequent sedimentation. On-site sewage treatment can also be extremely difficult, if not impossible.

3.4.7 Strip\Abandoned Underground Mines

A review of the PADEP 2019 Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Problem Area Inventory which identifies locations containing public health, safety, and public welfare problems created by past coal mining which includes areas sus as dangerous highwalls, pits, etc. indicated a total of 145 items in Foster Township. The data showed a total of 39 items which have been corrected. In the early to mid-2000's, PADEP completed a number of projects to remove abandoned pits in the Mt. Pleasant Area.

The inventory indicated a total of 106 abandoned features that have not been corrected. One of the goals identified in this planning process is to eliminate additional locations of these features.

3.4.8 Biotic Resources

3.4.8.1 Wetlands

A review of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Wetlands Inventory website and GIS data which identifies digital map data along with other resource information to produce current information on the status, extent, characteristics and functions of wetlands, riparian, and Deepwater habitats shows a total of 79 wetlands in Foster Township. A total of 77 wetlands were listed as PUBHx, with two other wetlands listed as PFO4A.

A description of for code PUBHx is described below.

P SYSTEM PALUSTRINE: The Palustrine System includes all nontidal wetlands dominated by trees, shrubs, emergents, mosses or lichens, and all such wetlands that occur in tidal areas where salinity due to ocean derived salts is below 0.5 ppt. Wetlands lacking such vegetation are also included if they exhibit all of the following characteristics: 1. are less than 8 hectares (20 acres); 2. do not have an active wave-formed or bedrock shoreline feature; 3. have at low water a depth less than 2 meters (6.6 feet) in the deepest part of the basin; 4. have a salinity due to ocean-derived salts of less than 0.5 ppt.

SUBSYSTEM: UB Class Unconsolidated Bottom (UB): Includes all wetlands and deepwater habitats with at least 25% cover of particles smaller than stones (less than 6-7 cm), and a vegetative cover less than 30%.

MODIFIER(S):

- A - Water Regime Temporary Flooded (A): Surface water is present for brief periods (from a few days to a few weeks) during the growing season, but the water table usually lies well below the ground surface for most of the season.
- F - Class Forested (FO): Characterized by woody vegetation that is 6 m tall or taller.
- H - Water Regime Permanently Flooded (H): Water covers the substrate throughout the year in all years.
- X - Special Modifier Excavated (x): Lies within a basin or channel that have been dug, gouged, blasted or suctioned through artificial means by man.
- 1 - Split Subclass Broad-Leaved Deciduous (1): Woody angiosperms (trees or shrubs) with relatively wide, flat leaves that are shed during the cold or dry season; e.g., black ash (Fraxinus nigra).
- 4 - Subclass Needle-Leaved Evergreen (4): The dominant species in Needle-leaved Evergreen wetlands are young or stunted trees such as black spruce or pond pine.

3.4.8.2 Species of Special Concern

DCNR list the Bartonia paniculata ssp. paniculata (Bartonia paniculata) {Screw-Stem} as a Special Concern Species. The plant flowers from August – October each year. The plan is often found in Hummocks in wet woods, wooded bogs and sphagnous pond margins.

3.4.8.3 Trout Streams

The DCNR Conservation planning tool does not list any stream in Foster Township as either a wilderness trout stream or a Class A trout stream. There are three streams listed as Stream Supporting Natural Trout Reproductions, and those streams are Swatara Creek, Pine Creek, and Middle Creek.

3.5 Historic Resources

Foster Township does not have any site listing under the National Register of Historical Places. A search of the PA Cultural Resources Geographic Information System indicated that there were several potential historic resources in the Township which included the Schuylkill Airport build Circa 1959, a portion of the existing Philadelphia & Reading Railroad grade. Other local historically significant sites include Trinity Chapel, the gardens, and the Neal Mansion.

3.6 Transportation

Foster Township has approximately 5.7 miles of roads of which approximately 5.2 miles of paved and 0.5 miles of gravel roads are owned and maintained by the Township. Township Road Crews consistently maintain the various roads throughout the Township and complete multiple roadway maintenance projects each year.

Foster Township has one Interstate I-81), one major State Route (SR901 Sunbury Road), and one secondary state route (SR4002 Valley Road) which traverses the Township and serves as the main thoroughfares through the Township to neighboring municipalities. There is one traffic signal in the Township located at the intersection of SR901 (Sunbury Road) & Keystone Boulevard (Highridge Industrial Park).

During the summer of 2018, PennDOT completed numerous drainage and subbase upgrades, complete replacement of all guide rail in the Township, and a full pavement overlay of SR901 (Sunbury Road).

Schuylkill County who owns the Airport Road rehabilitated the entire roadway from SR901 (Sunbury Road) to the Schuylkill Regional Airport in the Fall of 2021. Updates included additional signage.



Highridge Park Boulevard is operated by Schuylkill County who created the Highridge Improvement District, which utilizes, a portion of tax revenue set aside by Foster Township, Cass Township, and the Minersville Area School District to reinvents and improve/repair the roadway. HIDA is responsible for winter and summer maintenance.

3.6.1 Roadway Classifications

Foster Township's infrastructure consists of both a Township Road System, which is owned and operated by the Foster Township, Schuylkill County Roadway (Airport Road), Highridge Improvement District (HIDA*) Roadways, as well as a State Highway System and Federal Interstate Highway System that is the responsibility of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. The breakdown of the roadway type and mile of road can be found in Table 3.6.1. below.

Table 3.6.1 – Summary of Roads

Road Type	Miles
Township Roads	5.68
County Roads or HIDA	3.29
State Roads (Non Interstate)	6.86
State Roads (Interstate)	11.72
Private	0.80
Total Roads	**28.34**

PennDOT Type 5 Map/Schuylkill County GIS

*The Schuylkill County Industrial Development Authority (SCIDA), in conjunction with the Schuylkill County Board of Commissioners, the Board of Education of the Minersville Area School District, and the Boards of Supervisors for Cass and Foster Townships, have created the Highridge Improvement District (HID). The purpose of the HID is to own, operate, and maintain the roadway system in the Highridge Industrial Park. For the purpose of the 2021 Comprehensive plan, this roadway has been classified as a County-owned roadway.

3.6.2 Road Classification

Available mapping and a "windshield survey" were used to classify the roads within the Township. The roads were classified using the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) classification system, which takes into account the function, service level, and design standards of a road. The classification system and associated roads are as follows (Exhibit A.6):

Freeway | Roadways having very limited or no access to bordering land uses. Access is generally limited to major streets at interchanges. The typical right-of-way is 300 feet and greater.

The only freeway existing in Foster Township is Interstate 81, which runs the entire length of the Township from west to east. There is one interchange within the Township where the freeway crosses SR901 (Sunbury Road). Access to and from Interstate 81 is provided in both directions. The right-of-way is generally 300 feet or more within the Municipality.

Major Arterial | Roadways serving as major feeders to and from the freeways, and those carrying traffic between major traffic generators. These roadways usually intersect at or near grade and have timed traffic signals and lane markings to facilitate traffic flow. Separation of opposing traffic lanes and full access control and grade separation at intersections may also occur along these roadways. Right-of-way is usually between 80 feet to 120 feet and greater.

SR901 (Sunbury Road) is the only major arterial within Foster Township. This is a two-lane, paved road that runs north - south through the eastern side of the Township. There is some access to adjoining land uses and the road provides access to surrounding Townships and markets, as well as Interstate 81. The right-of-way width averages 60 feet within the Township.

Minor Arterial | Roadways moving traffic from local streets or minor / major collector streets to minor / major arterial roads. These roadways usually have one lane of traffic in each direction and there is direct access to adjoining land uses. Right-of-way can be up to 80 feet wide where possible.

The only minor collector within Foster Township is SR4002 (Valley Road). This two-lane, paved road enters at the eastern side of the Township and ends at a non-signalized intersection with SR901 (Sunbury Road). This roadway mainly serves to provide access to and from SR901 (Sunbury Road) and neighboring Cass Township.

Local Roads | Roadways moving traffic from local residents and business to minor/major arterial roads. These roadways usually have one lane of traffic in each direction and there is direct access to adjoining land uses. Right-of-way generally are either 33 feet or 50 feet where possible.

All roadways not previously mentioned above would fall under the local road category.

3.6.3 State Route Average Daily Traffic (ADT)

The state roadways in Foster Township are broken into Segments by PennDOT. The segment ranges listed below represent the significant breakpoints at which traffic volumes may fluctuate. The breakdown of the ADT by roadway and segment can be found in Table 3.7.3. below.

Table 3.6.3 – Traffic Characteristics in Foster Township

Road	Local Name	Segments	ADT	ADTT	Year	Description
Interstate 81	I-81	1114-1160	14,425	3992	2017	Western Twp. Line to Eastern Twp Line
SR901	Sunbury Road	0082-0132	7,449	1191	2017	Northern Twp Line to I-81
SR901	Sunbury Road	0132-0152	6039	786	2017	I-81 to Valley Road
SR901	Sunbury Road	0152-192	3768	452	2017	Valley Road to Cass Twp. line
SR 4002	Valley Road	0010-0080	357	33	2017	Sunbury Road to Cass Twp. line

ADT: *Average Daily Traffic*
ADTT: *Average Daily Truck Traffic*

Reference: PennDOT, iTMS interactive map

**The most current traffic counts available were used to populate this table and some segment ranges were extend outside of the traffic count areas or township boundary. The ITMS website may offer older volumes for more specific segment ranges.*

3.6.4 Park and Ride

Schuylkill County currently owns and maintains a 50-stall park and ride just off Interstate I-81 Exit 116. This park and ride is considered an unofficial and is not listed on the PennDOT Park and Ride website. Currently R&J tours offers a bus service to the City of Harrisburg from this park and ride.

3.6.5 Public Transportation

The Schuylkill Transportation System (STS) is a public bus service to portions of the County. Foster Township is not serviced by STS, but a door-to-door van service is available for the elderly by appointment.

3.6.6 Airports

The major local airport is the Schuylkill Regional Airport – Joe Zerbey Field in northern Schuylkill County, which is discussed in greater detail under Section 3.5 is located in the northwest quadrant of the Township.



There are other major and secondary airports within driving distance of the Township including the Lehigh Valley International (ABE) in Allentown, the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International (AVP), in Scranton, and the Harrisburg International Airport (MDT), in Middleton which provides direct and commercial flights within an hour drive. The Reading Regional/Carl A. Spaatz Field (RDG) and Hazleton Municipal (HZL) also provide private and small cargo flights within an hour of the Municipal Building. The Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), serves both domestic and international travel, and is approximately a 2-hour drive from the Township.

Section 4 // Neighboring Municipalities

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4 NEIGHBORING MUNICIPALITIES

In order to facilitate the concept of regional planning in agreement with the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, it is the intent of the Foster Township Comprehensive Plan, to be compatible with the adjacent existing and proposed land uses where possible and feasible, of the contiguous Municipalities. A brief overview of the neighboring municipalities is provided below:

4.1 Barry Township, Schuylkill County

Barry Township has an approximate area of 17 square miles and is located directly to the north of Foster Township. The Township shares two common roadways with Foster Township including SR901 (Sunbury Road) and Buckhorn/Beurys Road. No comprehensive plan could be identified for Barry Township.

4.2 Butler Township, Schuylkill County

Butler Township has an approximate area of 26 square miles and is located directly to the northeast of Foster Township. Butler Township shares only one common roadway with Foster, which is Interstate I-81. Federal Correctional Institute Schuylkill is located in Butler Township, however the access roadway to the facility is located in Foster Township. No comprehensive plan could be identified for Butler Township.

4.3 Cass Township, Schuylkill County

Cass Township has an approximate area of 14.5 square miles and is located directly to the east of Foster Township. The Township shares four common roadways with Foster Township including Interstate I-81, SR901 (Sunbury Road), SR4002 (Valley Road), and Keystone Blvd. The Townships each share a portion of the Highridge Industrial Park. Cass also is the location of the Minersville High School and District Administrative Offices which provides the primary education for students of Foster Township in grades 7 through 12. Cass Township currently has a comprehensive plan developed in October 1995 by Mullin & Lonergan Associates Inc.

4.4 Frailey Township, Schuylkill County

Frailey Township has an approximate area of 9.18 square miles and is located directly to the southwest of Foster Township. Frailey Township shares only one common roadway with Foster, which is Interstate I-81, however SR25 is required to reach the southern portion of the Township. Frailey Township is one of three municipalities that the Commonwealth Environmental Systems (CES) Landfill is located within. No comprehensive plan could be identified for Frailey Township.

4.5 Hegins Township, Schuylkill County

Hegins Township has an approximate area of 32 square miles and is located directly to the west of Foster Township. Hegins Township does not share any common roadways with Foster, however SR25 is required to reach the western portion of the Township. No comprehensive plan could be identified for Hegins Township.

4.6 Reilly Township, Schuylkill County

Reilly Township has an approximate area of 15.6 square miles and is located directly to the southwest of Foster Township. Reilly Township does not share any common roadways with Foster. Reilly Township is one of three municipalities that the Commonwealth Environmental Systems (CES) Landfill is located within. No comprehensive plan could be identified for Reilly Township.

4.7 Minersville Borough, Schuylkill County

Minersville Borough has an approximate area of 0.6 square miles and is located directly to the southeast of Foster Township. Minersville Borough is not a contiguous municipality to Foster Township however is the closest larger population center. Minersville serves as the primary location for shopping, services, and other necessities for Foster Township residents. Minersville also is the location of the Minersville Elementary Center which provides the primary education for students of Foster Township in grades 1 through 6, as well as the closest public library. No comprehensive plan could be identified for Minersville Borough.

Section 5 // Public Participation

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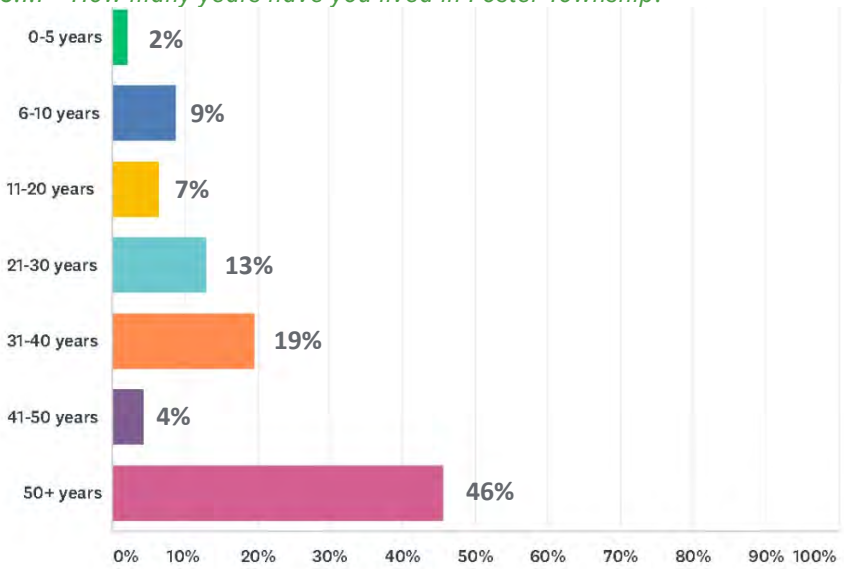
5 Public Participation

5.1 Public Survey

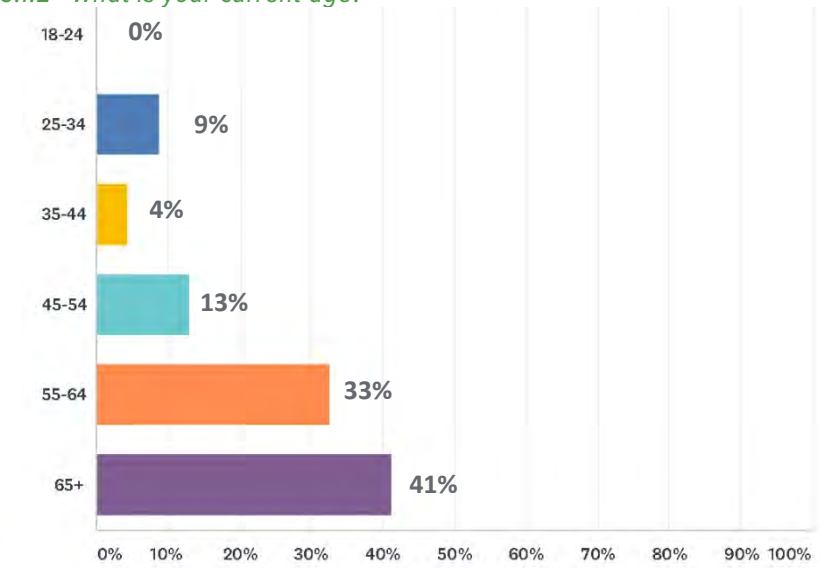
A fifteen (15) question public feasibility option survey was prepared for the comprehensive plan which was sent to all residents in the Township (approximately 100 surveys) in paper format. The Survey was open from June 24, 2019 until July 26, 2019. A total of 46 households responded to the survey. The upfront questions including location and age demographics and is discussed under Section 2 of this report. The second portion of the survey reviewed municipal services and other questions related to the Township function.

5.1.1 How many years have you lived in Foster Township?



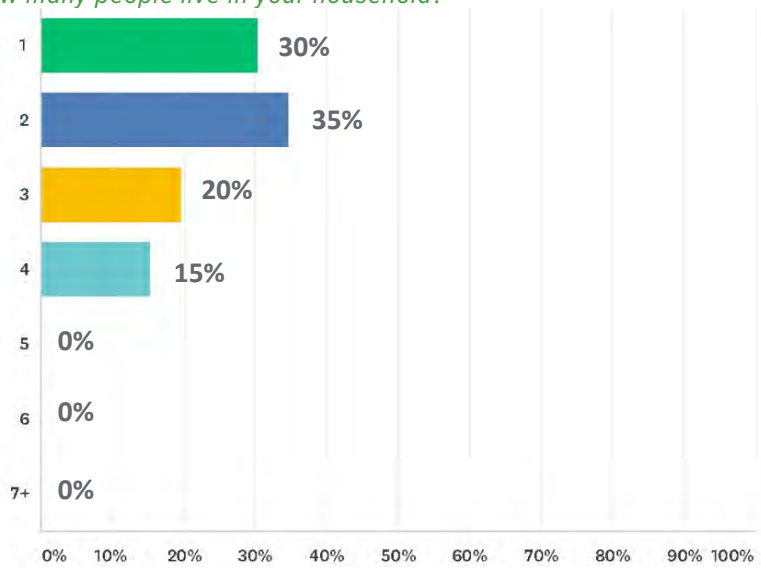
Question 1 included the question of "How many years have you many years have you lived in your Foster Township?" In Figure 5.1.1 above the majority of the Township residents (69%) have lived in the Township for more than 30 years, with a very small portion (11%) living in the Township for less than 10 years.

5.1.2 What is your current age?



Question 2 included the question of "What is your current age?" In Figure 5.1.2 above the majority of the Township residents (74%) are aged 55 and older, with a very small portion (9%) under the age of 34.

5.1.3 How many people live in your household?



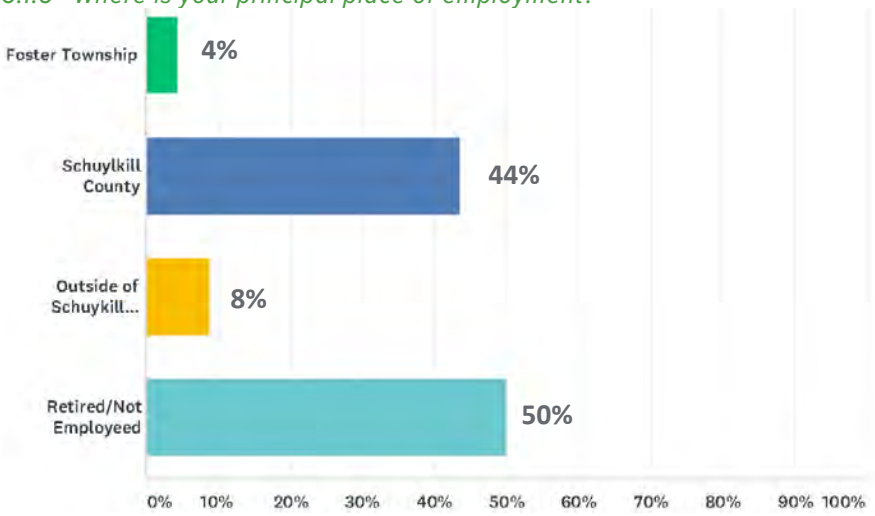
Question 3 included the question of "How many people live in your household?" In Figure 5.1.3 above the majority of the households (65%) in the Township have either one (1) or two (2) residents, with only 15% having at least four (4).

5.1.4 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

Question 4 included the question of "How many people of each age group currently live in your household?" In Figure 5.1.4 above the majority individuals living in the Township were ages 19 or older, with only 10 individuals under the age of 18 living in the Township. Based on the information provided by the 2019 American Communities survey, the estimated population should be closer to approximately 70 children. Based on knowledge of the township, it is expected that the population of children is somewhere between these two numbers.

5.1.5 Where is your principal place of employment?



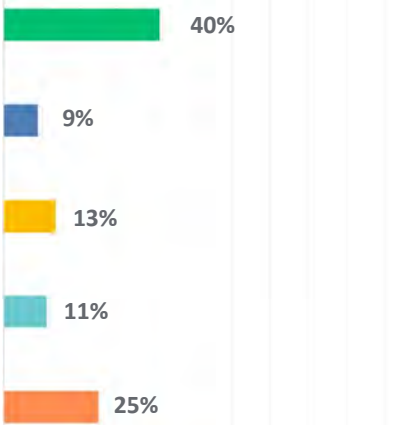
Question 5 included the question of "Where is your principal place of employment?" In Figure 5.1.5 above the majority of employment was split evenly between working either in Foster Township/Schuylkill County (48%) or retired/not employed (50%). A very small percentage (8%) worked outside of the County.

5.1.6 Emergency Services

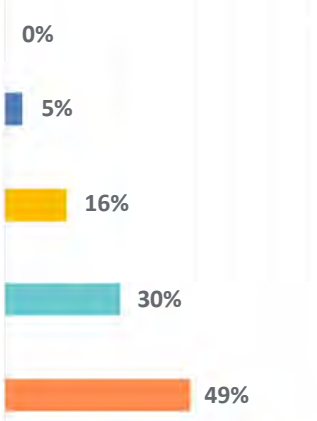
5.1.6.1 Foster Township Police Department



5.1.6.2 Mount Pleasant Hose Company



5.1.6.3 Minersville Ambulance



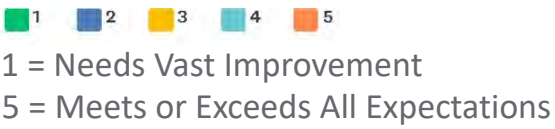
Question 6 included a rating question on the three emergency services provided in the Township including the Foster Township Police Department (Figure 5.1.6.1), Mount Pleasant Hose Company (Figure 5.1.6.2), and Minersville Ambulance (Figure 5.1.6.3).

The majority of respondents (84%) rated the Foster Township Police Department as meets or exceeds expectations. Approximately 49% of respondents rated the Mount Pleasant Hose Company a needs vast improvement or needs improvements*. Approximately 79% of respondents rated the Minersville Ambulance as meets or exceeds expectations.

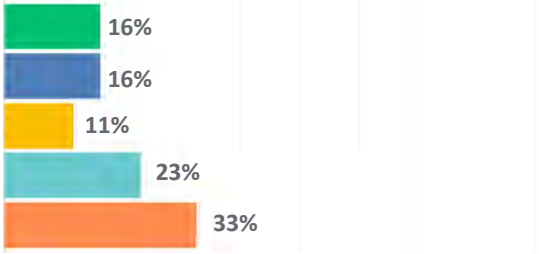
*Note the survey was completed prior to the merger of Mount Pleasant Hose Company and Minersville Fire Rescue. A follow-up survey is recommended in a few years to redetermine satisfaction.

5.1.7 Infrastructure Needs

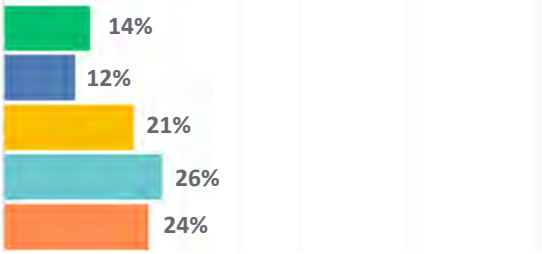
The questions included Water System Quality (Figure 5.1.7.1), Water System Cost (Figure 5.1.7.2), Sewer System Condition (Figure 5.1.7.3), Sewer System Cost (Figure 5.1.7.4), Stormwater/Street Drainage (Figure 5.1.7.5), Streets Summer Maintenance (Figure 5.1.7.6), Streets Winter Maintenance (Figure 5.1.7.7), Streets Marking and Traffic Signage (Figure 5.1.7.8), and High-Speed Internet (Figure 5.1.7.9)



5.1.7.1 Water System Quality

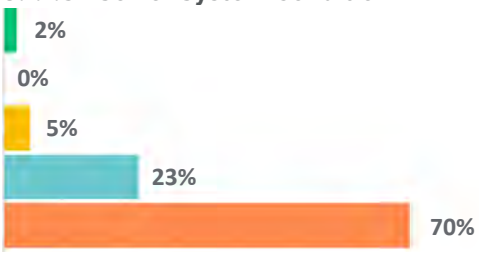


5.1.7.2 Water System Cost

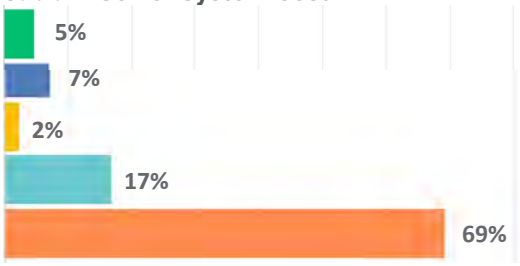


Approximately 56% of respondents rated the Water System Quality as meets or exceeds expectations and 50% indicated the costs as either as meets or exceeds expectations.

5.1.7.3 Sewer System Condition

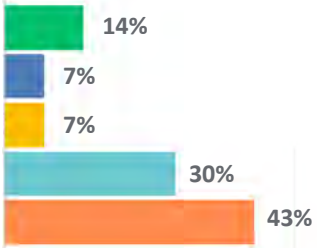


5.1.7.4 Sewer System Cost



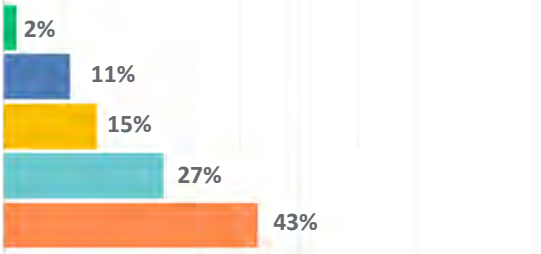
Approximately 93% of respondents rated the Sewer System Condition as meets or exceeds expectations and 86% indicated the costs as either as meets or exceeds expectations.

5.1.7.5 Stormwater/Street Drainage



Approximately 73% of respondents rated the Stormwater/Street Drainage as meets or exceeds expectations. Another 21% of respondents rated the Stormwater/Street Drainage as need vast or some improvements. The Township should look to these areas to determine what if any improvements are necessary and look for a means to correct any identified issues.

5.1.7.6 Streets Summer Maintenance

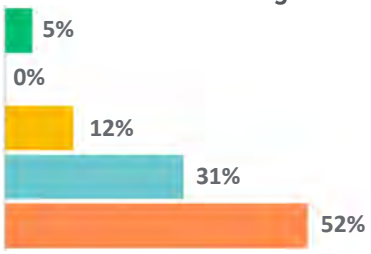


5.1.7.7 Streets Winter Maintenance



Approximately 70% of respondents rated the Streets Summer Maintenance as either as meets or exceeds expectations, and 86% indicated the Streets Winter Maintenance as either as meets or exceeds expectations. A range of 9% to 13% of respondents indicated the vast need for improvement in Summer and Winter maintenance respectively. The Township should look to these areas to determine what if any improvements are necessary and look for a means to correct any identified issues.

5.1.7.8 Streets Marking and Traffic Signage



Approximately 83% of respondents rated the Streets Marking and Traffic Signage as meets or exceeds expectations. Residents have brought up at recent Township meetings the need for additional stop signs or line painting in select areas. The Township completed a line painting and stop sign addition at the intersection of Upper Beechwood Road and Ball Park Road in 2020 and will add additional signage as part of future road projects. The Township local labor forces can also add additional signage and painting as needed or identified in the Township.

5.1.7.9 High Speed Internet



The vast majority (88%) of respondents rated High-Speed Internet as needs vast improvements. As discussed elsewhere in the Comprehensive Plans this is a high priority item for the Township to focus on.

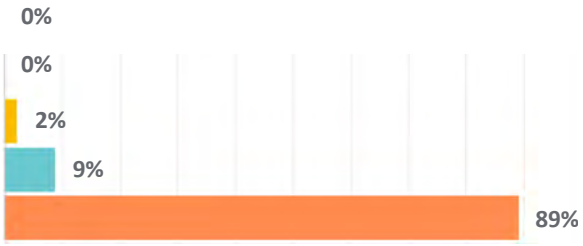
5.1.8 Basic Municipal Services

Question 8 included a rating question on the municipal services provided by Foster Township or others. The question included Trash Removal (Figure 5.1.8.1), Communication to Residents (Figure 5.1.8.2), Snow/Ice Removal (Figure 5.1.8.3), Code Enforcement (Figure 5.1.8.4), Recreation (Figure 5.1.8.5), Recycling Programs (Schuylkill County) (Figure 5.1.8.6), Public Transportation (STS) (Figure 5.1.8.7), Package/Mail Delivery (USPS, UPS, Fedex, private delivery) (Figure 5.1.8.8), Public Library (Minersville Library) (Figure 5.1.8.9), and Public School System (MASD) (Figure 5.1.8.10).



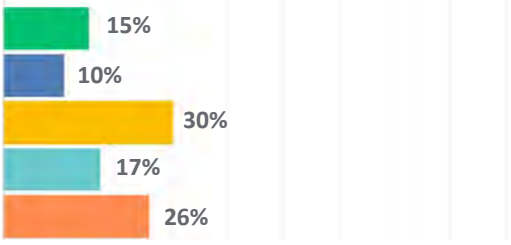
1 = Needs Vast Improvement
5 = Meets or Exceeds All Expectations

5.1.8.1 Trash Removal



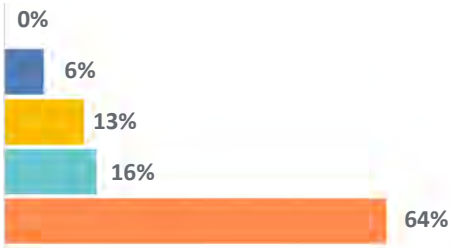
Approximately 98% of respondents rated trash removal as meets or exceeds expectations.

5.1.8.2 Communication To Residents



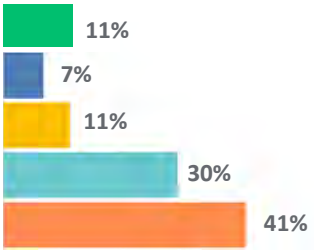
Approximately 43% of respondents rated the communications to residents as meets or exceeds expectations and 25% indicated the communications as need improvement or vast improvement.

5.1.8.3 Snow/Ice Removal



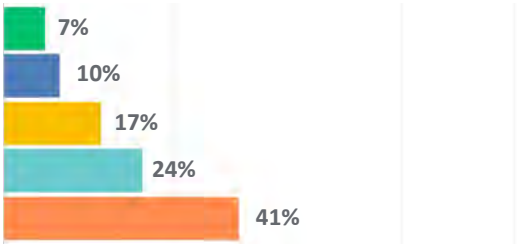
Approximately 80% of respondents rated the Snow/Ice Removal as meets or exceeds expectations and 6% indicated the Snow/Ice Removal as need improvement or vast improvement.

5.1.8.4 Code Enforcement



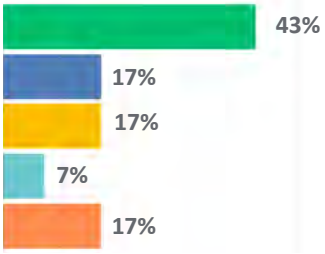
Approximately 71% of respondents rated Code Enforcement as meets or exceeds expectations and 18% indicated the Code Enforcement as need improvement or vast improvement.

5.1.8.5 Recreation



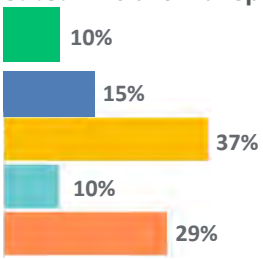
Approximately 65% of respondents rated Recreation as meets or exceeds expectations and 17% indicated Recreation as need improvement or vast improvement.

5.1.8.6 Recycling Programs



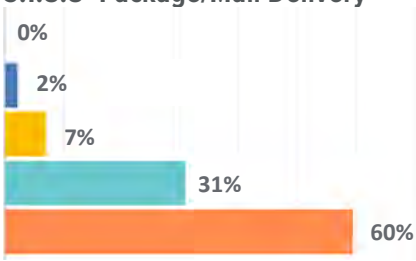
Approximately 24% of respondents rated Recycling Programs as meets or exceeds expectations and 60% indicated Recycling Programs as need improvement or vast improvement.

5.1.8.7 Public Transportation



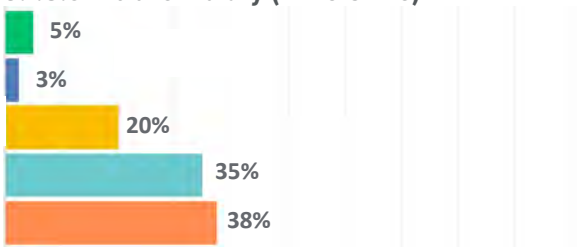
Approximately 39% of respondents rated Public Transportation as meets or exceeds expectations and 25% indicated Public Transportation as need improvement or vast improvement.

5.1.8.8 Package/Mail Delivery



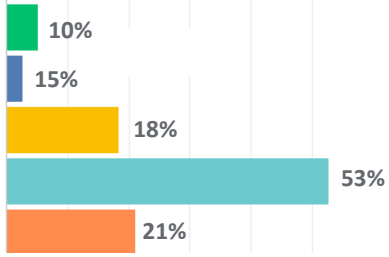
Approximately 91% of respondents rated Package/Mail Delivery as meets or exceeds expectations and 2% indicated Package/Mail Delivery as need improvement or vast improvement.

5.1.8.9 Public Library (Minersville)



Approximately 73% of respondents rated the Public Library as meets or exceeds expectations and 8% indicated the Public Library as need improvement or vast improvement.

5.1.8.10 Public School System



Approximately 74% of respondents rated the Public School System as meets or exceeds expectations and 25% indicated the Public School System as need improvement or vast improvement.

The survey seems to indicate that the majority of the residents are satisfied with the majority of municipal functions provided by Foster Township or others. Areas that can be improved upon based on the survey include increased communication with Township Residents, looking into improving or creating a recycling program, and increase or working with STS to increase public transportation options.

5.1.9 Quality of Life

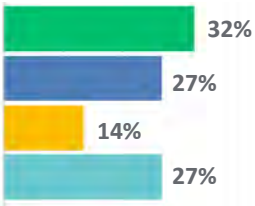
Question 9 included a question about the quality of life, and residents were asked about this that currently existing in the township, neighboring communities, or have been suggested by resident/other to complete in the Township. The responses include we have and value, service should be added, service needs improvement or the service is not needed. The question included Outdoor Recreation (all ages) (Figure 5.1.9.1), Children's Playground (Figure 5.1.9.2), Children's Activities (Figure 5.1.9.3), Teen Activities (Figure 5.1.9.4), Young Adult/Activities (Figure 5.1.9.5), Senior Center/Activities(Figure 5.1.9.6), Dog

Park (Figure 5.1.9.7), Walking Jogging Paths (Figure 5.1.9.8), Seasonal Decorations (Figure 5.1.9.9), Decorative Streetlights (Figure 5.1.9.10), Streetscaping/Curb Appeal (Figure 5.1.9.11), Churches (Figure 5.1.9.12), Pool/Splash Park (Figure 5.1.9.13), Sports Fields (Figure 5.1.9.14), ATV/UTV Park (Figure 5.1.9.15), Convenience Store (Figure 5.1.9.16), Gas Station (Figure 5.1.9.17), and Store/Shops Other (Figure 5.1.9.18).



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

Outdoor Recreation



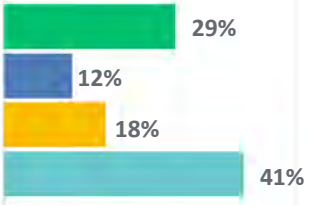
Approximately 32% of respondents valued the Township Outdoor Recreation, while 27% felt the service should be added, 14% felt it should be improved and 27% felt that the service is not needed.

Children's Playground



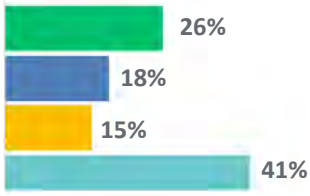
Approximately 78% of respondents valued the Children's Playground, 11% felt it should be improved and 11% felt that the service is not needed.

Children's Activities



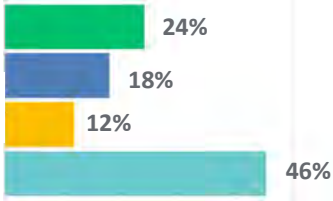
Approximately 29% of respondents valued the Children's Activities in the Township, while 12% felt the service should be added, 15% felt it should be improved and 41% felt that the service is not needed.

Teen Activities



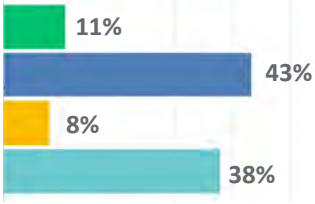
Approximately 26% of respondents valued the Teen Activities in the Township, while 18% felt the service should be added, 18% felt it should be improved and 41% felt that the service is not needed.

Young Adult Activities



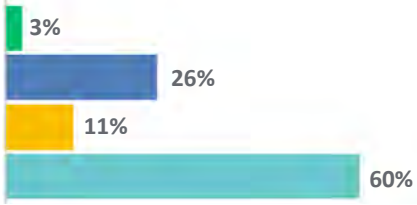
Approximately 24% of respondents valued the Young Adult/ Activities in the Township, while 18% felt the service should be added, 12% felt it should be improved and 46% felt that the service is not needed.

Senior Center/Activities



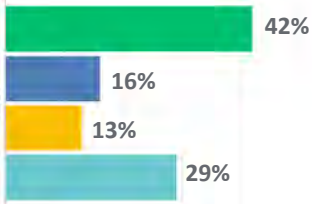
Approximately 11% of respondents valued the Senior Center/ Activities in the Township, while 43% felt the service should be added, 8% felt it should be improved and 38% felt that the service is not needed.

Dog Park



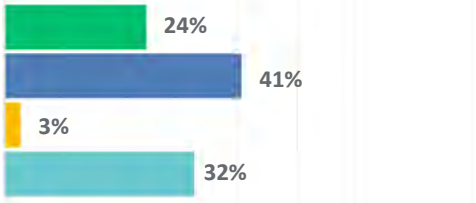
Approximately 3% of respondents valued Dog Parks in assume to be neighboring communities, while 26% felt the service should be added, 11% felt it should be improved and 60% felt that the service is not needed.

Streetscaping/Curb Appeal



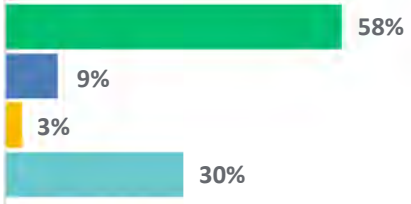
Approximately 42% of respondents valued the Streetscaping/ Curb Appeal in the Township, while 126 felt the service should be added, 13% felt it should be improved and 29% felt that the service is not needed.

Walking/Jogging Paths



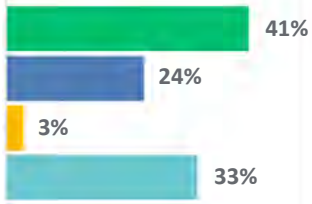
Approximately 24% of respondents valued the Walking Jogging Path in the Township, while 41% felt the service should be added, 3% felt it should be improved and 32% felt that the service is not needed.

Churches



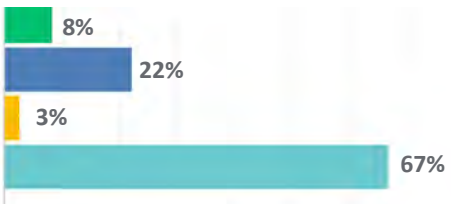
Approximately 58% of respondents valued the Church in the Township, while 9% felt the service should be added, 3% felt it should be improved and 30% felt that the service is not needed.

Seasonal Decorations



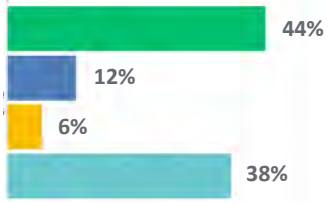
Approximately 41% of respondents valued the Seasonal Decorations in the Township, while 24% felt the service should be added, 3% felt it should be improved and 33% felt that the service is not needed.

Pool/Splash Park



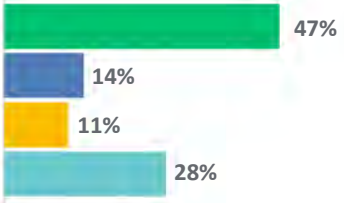
Approximately 8% of respondents valued the Pool/Splash Park assume to be neighboring communities, while 22% felt the service should be added, 3% felt it should be improved and 68% felt that the service is not needed.

Decorative Streetlights



Approximately 44% of respondents valued the Decorative Streetlights in the Township, while 12% felt the service should be added, 6% felt it should be improved and 38% felt that the service is not needed.

Sports Field



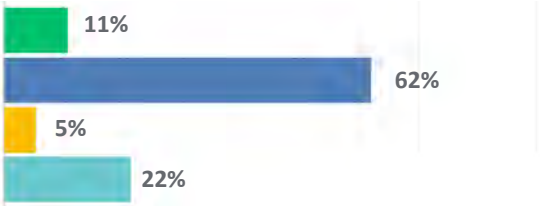
Approximately 47% of respondents valued the Sports Fields in the Township, while 14% felt the service should be added, 11% felt it should be improved and 28% felt that the service is not needed.

ATV/UTV Park



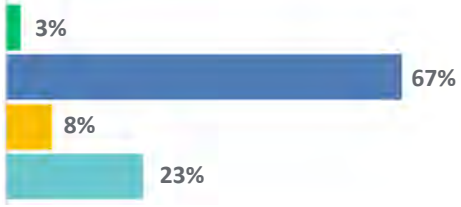
Approximately 3% of respondents valued the ATV/UTV Park Riding areas in the Township, while 14% felt the service should be added, 3% felt it should be improved and 81% felt that the service is not needed.

Gas Station



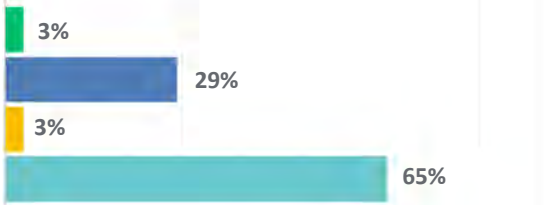
Approximately 11% of respondents valued the Gas Station areas in the Township, while 62% felt the service should be added, 5% felt it should be improved and 22% felt that the service is not needed.

Convenience Store



Approximately 3% of respondents valued the Convenience Store areas in the Township, while 67% felt the service should be added, 8% felt it should be improved and 23% felt that the service is not needed.

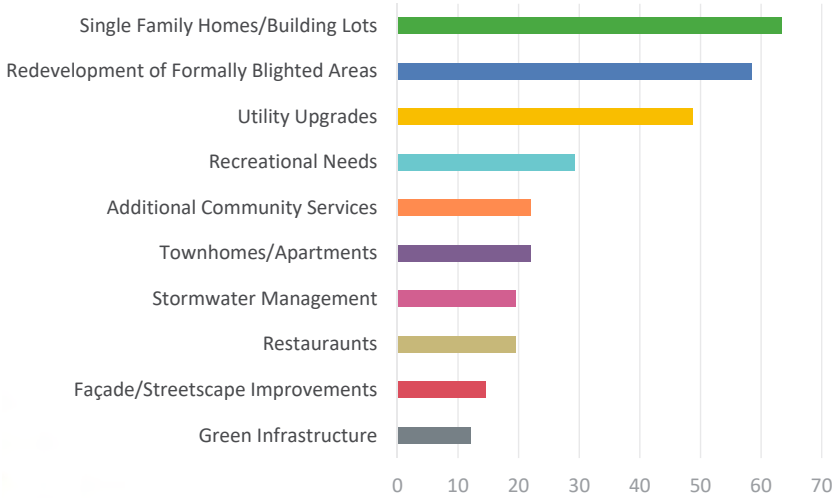
Store/Shops Other



Approximately 3% of respondents valued the Store/Shops in the Township, while 29% felt the service should be added, 3% felt it should be improved and 65% felt that the service is not needed.

The survey seems to indicate that the majority of the residents are satisfied with the community park, season decoration, streetlighting/streetscaping, and church in the Township. The Survey also provides a strong indication that a senior center or activities, should be added as well as additional walking/jogging areas, and a convenience store or gas station. The survey is strongly again adding an ATV park or adding stores and shops to the Township as well as a dog park and children, teen, and young adult activities.

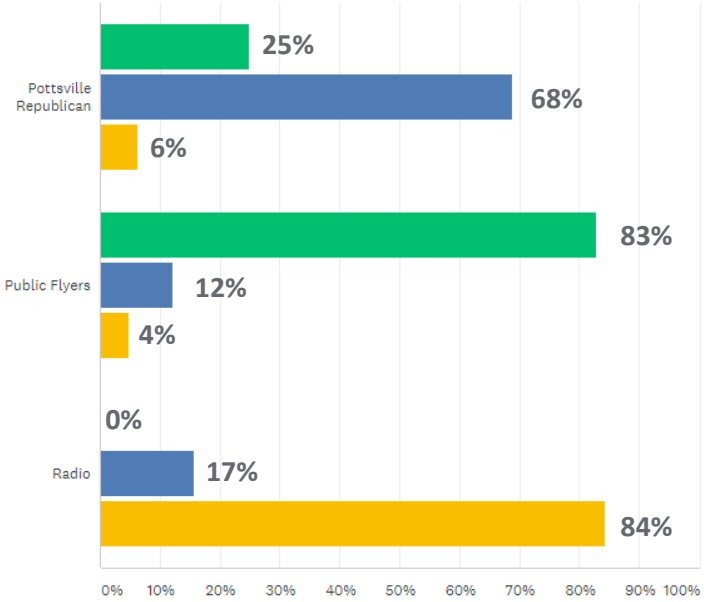
5.1.10 Future Growth



Question 10 asked a question of how Township residents see as needed to attract growth to the area. Figure 5.1.10 provides a graph showing from most to least desired to promote growth in the Township. The top 5 needs include providing for additional single-family building lots, redevelopment of formally blighted areas, proving for utility upgrades, meeting recreational needs, and providing for additional community services.

Several of the ideas listed in the survey included upgrades to the water tank and water system, adding small businesses, beautifications, and many indicated high-speed internet as a primary need for growth.

5.1.11 Communication

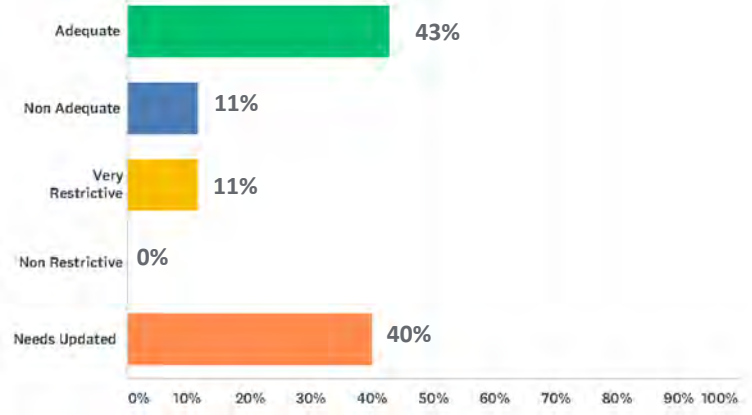


Question 11 asked a question of how Township residents typically get their information. The majority of the Township 83% get their information through Township flyers delivered to their home as the primary source, followed by 68% by the Pottsville Republican as their secondary and, and by public radio as the last method.

Many residents have requested additional Township news through either a newsletter, Facebook or other social media page, or a public bulletin board. Several Township residents indicated the desire to assist with the newsletter, which would be a good opportunity for resident outreach. In 2021 the Township began the "Foster Township Dispatch" which is a newsletter to provide information to the Township residents.

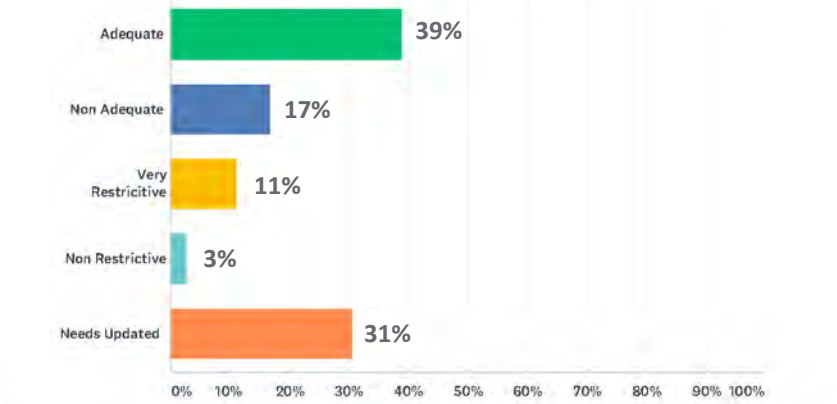
In 2020 the Township also installed an outdoor message board at the Township building for the posting of announcements.

5.1.12 Do you see the current Township Zoning Ordinance?



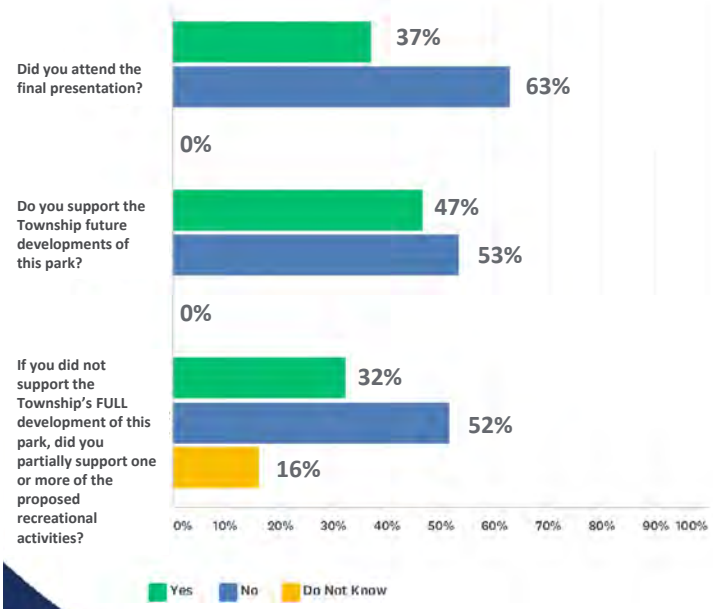
Question 12 asked the question about if the Zoning Ordinance is adequate or overly restrictive, or if it needs to be updated?" In Figure 5.1.12, 43% of respondents felt the ordinance was adequate while 40% felt it needs to be updated. Another 11% felt the ordinance was not restrictive enough and another 11% felt it was very restrictive.

5.1.13 Do you see the current Township Ordinances, other than zoning?



Question 13 asked a similar question to 12 about other Township Ordinance and if they are adequate or overly restrictive, or if it needs to be updated?" In Figure 5.1.13, 39% of respondents felt the ordinance was adequate while 31% felt some need to be updated. Another 17% felt the ordinance was not restrictive enough and another 11% felt it was very restrictive. Some of the responses indicated the need for controlling speed, dog barking (noise), additional ATV ordinance and enforcement, and removal of junk vehicles, junk and tires, pick up in yards. One comment asked for a location of what ordinances exist and what they contain. As of the publication of this plan, the Township is currently working on an updated website with additional ordinances that have been adopted published.

5.1.14 Master Site Plan



Question 14 asked a question of the Master Site Plan that was partially funded by DCNR towards the development of a large parcel of property in the Township into a large-scale park, which was to be phased out over 20-30 years. A public presentation was held in May 2018 with a petition presented to the supervisors to stop the project, the project is currently tabled at this point. The supervisors have been contacted by both residents that were for or against the project or that were for only a portion of the project.

Approximately 37% of respondents attended the final presentation of the overall park plan. Approximately 47% of respondents supported the Townships plan to develop the park in its entirety while 53% were not in favor of the park.

Of those who were not in favor approximately 32% were in favor of some portions of the project, while 52% were against any portion, and 16% did not know where they stood on the subject.

From the survey results asking about support or against, several answered that it should be used as a portion of the project as a park, while others indicated it should be developed into building lots, and others indicated to no do anything with the property.

5.2 Key Person Interviews

As part of the study, in-person or telephone interviews were performed with seven key individuals who were identified throughout the study as major property owners.

Dr. Carl McBreen, Superintendent of the Minersville Area School District

Dr. McBreen has expressed his support for future development in both residential as well as commercial development in the Township. The District has a need for high-quality new housing stock, as well as the need for additional tax revenue created by good, high-paying jobs in projects such as the Highridge Industrial Park.

Jason Kelso, General Counsel, and Mr. Joel Schmoyer, Engineer for Reading Anthracite

Both Mr. Kelso and Schmoyer have indicated the desire to create residential, commercial, and industrial development in the Township. Currently, limitations on development are with the current I-3 mining district boundaries and sanitary sewer and water capacity.

Mr. Bill Willard, Schuylkill Regional Airport – Joe Zerbey Field

Mr. Willard has indicated the airport is currently working on a comprehensive plan for future growth of the Airport and County-owned properties which will include the development of both commercial and industrial development as well as potential solar development projects.

Mr. Michael Burda, Blythe Township Water Authority

Mr. Burda has indicated support for the growth of the Township, but consideration should be given to existing water service capacity and watershed protection as the Township moves forward. Blythe Township Municipal Authority and Schuylkill County Municipal Authority are in the process of developing a system interconnect which will help with future growth and provide a backup water source in the event of an emergency.

Mr. Patrick Caulfield, Schuylkill County Municipal Authority

Mr. Caulfield has indicated concerns with growth potential due to limited sewer capacity at the existing Gordon Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Authority is in the process of a multi-municipal Act 537 plan to expand the capacity of the plant to accommodate future growth in both Foster Township, as well as neighboring municipalities in which they serve.

Mr. Frank Zukas, Schuylkill Economic Development Corporation

Mr. Zukas has indicated pride in working with SEDCO and Foster Township over the years to develop the Highridge Industrial Park into what it is today. He and SEDCO will support the Township with growth potential well into the future.

Mr. Samuel Ryan, Coal Products

The supervisors have spoken to Mr. Ryan who has expressed his desire to create new commercial development projects in the Township near the I-81 interchange.5.3 Meeting Summary

5.3 Meeting Summary

A series of sixteen meetings were held to review and discuss various matters of the comprehensive planning process. A summary of those meeting are outlined in Section 5.3, with meeting minutes found in Appendix C.

5.3.1 Committee Kickoff Meeting #1 – January 16, 2019

The Kickoff meeting included an introduction from Chairman Mr. Rob Sterling, and then a presentation and outlined that it has been almost 20 years since the Township has completed a comprehensive plan. He noted that during the last 20 years a large number of the original items have been completed. The meeting was followed by a presentation by Mr. Daniel Cook, of Alfred Benesch & Company about what a comprehensive plan is and what is required to be completed. Mr. Edward Brennan then spoke on the need for high-speed Internet in the Township.

A copy of the agenda, presentation, and meeting minutes from this meeting can be found Appendix C.

5.3.2 Committee Meeting #2 – March 20, 2019

This meeting included an update from Mr. Edward Brennan who had conversations with SCMA, Schuylkill Regional Airport, and representatives from Reading Anthracite regarding a development they would like to propose in the Township. Following the update, a presentation from Mr. Keith Hill, President of Consulting Gateway Corporation, began announcing who he is and what experience his firm provides to municipalities for internet development. He outlined a presentation on what his firm intends to do on an internet survey and to provide outreach to potential internet service providers (ISP) in the next year.

A copy of the agenda, presentation, and meeting minutes from this meeting can be found Appendix C.

5.3.3 Committee Meeting #3 – May 15, 2019

This workshop meeting included a SWOT (Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, Threats) Analysis which 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 full list of each item is provided in a more detailed description in Section 5.4 of this report.

Following the SWOT Analysis, the team began to work on a list of goals to be implemented after the planning process.

A copy of the agenda, and meeting minutes from this meeting can be found Appendix C.

5.3.4 Committee Meeting #4 – June 19, 2019

This workshop meeting included a update on the internet status from Mr. Keith Hill, President of Consulting Gateway Corporation.

The workshop included an updated on the status of the Foster Township Community Survey from Mr. Cook.
A copy of the agenda, and meeting minutes from this meeting can be found Appendix C.

5.3.5 Committee Meeting #5 – August 21, 2019

The Comprehensive plan meeting included a brief update of the internet status by Attorney Brennan, as well as a discussion on issues with ATV, drugs, and other traffic issues by Police Chief Nettles.

A copy of the agenda, and meeting minutes from this meeting can be found Appendix C.

5.3.6 Committee Meeting #6 – September 18, 2019

The September 2019 Comprehensive plan meeting included an introductory session with Wire Tele-View. With the study committee's assistance, the group also completed the 2045 NEPA MPO transportation study survey. The meeting concluded with a detailed evaluation and presentation on the findings of the Community Survey.

A copy of the agenda, presentation, and meeting minutes from this meeting can be found Appendix C.

5.3.7 Committee Meeting #7 – October 16, 2019

The planning meeting included an in-depth presentation from Mr. Frank Zukas of SEDCO who presented on the current and future status of the Highridge Business Park and future potential for an expansion at the Airport to include a smaller industrial park. He also presented on water and sewer needs from both a supply and treatment end.

A copy of the agenda, and meeting minutes from this meeting can be found Appendix C.

5.3.8 Committee Meeting #8 – February 19, 2020

The planning meeting included a review of the survey items and a workshop to review the currently identified and potential future goals for the township was held.

A copy of the agenda, and meeting minutes from this meeting can be found Appendix C.

5.3.9 Committee Meeting #9 – July 15, 2020

A public regrouping meeting was held at the Mount Pleasant Fire Company Picnic Grove due to COVID-19 restrictions. The meeting was to regroup and identity the outstanding focus points for the final comprehensive plan. Items discussed included an update from Attorney Brennan on the SCMA/BTMA 25-yr water allocation plans and SCMA current status of the Gordon Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion and potential implementation to the Township. A lengthily discussion on the development of the internet was also discussed.

A copy of the agenda, presentation, and meeting minutes from this meeting can be found Appendix C.

5.3.10 Committee Meeting #10 – August 19, 2020

Representatives of the Reading Anthracite Company presented on future Residential, Industrial and Commercial Development of their properties within the Township. Several concerns regarding preservation of the Buck Run Village District, water resources, and truck traffic were discussed.

A copy of the agenda, presentation, and meeting minutes from this meeting can be found Appendix C.

5.3.11 Committee Meeting #11 – October 21, 2020

An informal meeting was held with the committee to discuss the follow-up to the Airport Comprehensive Plan and follow-up to the Reading Anthracite Zoning change request.

A copy of the agenda, and meeting minutes from this meeting can be found Appendix C.

5.3.12 Committee Meeting #12 – April 21, 2021

ECA Solar and their representatives attended the Planning Meeting to discuss future plans solar development in Foster Township and Schuylkill County. Mr. Shawn Langen attended the meeting and also presented on the potential development of parcels of land owned by the CES Landfill.

A copy of the agenda, and meeting minutes from this meeting can be found Appendix C.

5.3.13 Committee Meeting #13 – May 19, 2021

The meeting included a detail overview of the majority of the maps required for the comprehensive plan, also with a presentation of the proposed Airport Master Site Plan and updated Reading Anthracite Zoning Map Change Request.

A copy of the agenda, and meeting minutes from this meeting can be found Appendix C.

5.3.14 Committee Meeting #14 – July 20, 2021

The meeting included a presentation on a proposed 20 lot residential development with a 14,000 SF retail center proposed by Reading Anthracite. The total development as proposed could develop as many as 130 lots.

A copy of the agenda, and meeting minutes from this meeting can be found Appendix C.

5.3.15 Committee Meeting #15 – September 15, 2021

The meeting included a presentation on the final maps developed for the project which included the existing and proposed land use changes.

A copy of the agenda, and meeting minutes from this meeting can be found Appendix C.

5.3.16 Committee Meeting #16 – October 20, 2021

The meeting included the final presentation on the 2020 Comprehensive Plan. The Presentation reviewed the planning process, parties involved, and the goals developed as part of the process.

A copy of the agenda, presentation and meeting minutes from this meeting can be found Appendix C.

5.4 SWOT Analysis

A Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats Analysis was conducted by the Foster 2021 Planning Committee, which 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. For example, ATV's, someone may have an understanding that this could be a strength if promoted property, while others on the committee felt ATV's were a threat to the Township.

5.4.1 Strengths

Strengths were items that the Committee felt were the strong points of Foster Township. Strengths identified included:

- 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

5.4.2 Weaknesses

Weaknesses were items that the Committee felt were the weak points of Foster Township. Weaknesses identified included:

- 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

5.4.3 Opportunities

Opportunities were items that the Committee felt were the opportunities for growth and expansion in Foster Township. Items identified as opportunities included:

- 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

5.4.4 Threats

Threats were items that the Committee felt were the biggest threats to the Township and its residents. Items identified as threats included:

- The Schuylkill Regional 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 millage and would like to maintain that for the residents.

Section 6 // Goals

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6 Goals

Over the course of a year, and through numerous meetings and exercises, the committee has come up with a series of 25 goals for the Township to focus on over the next 10 years. Below is a discussion and action plan for each of those goals in order or priority.

6.1 Community Services and Infrastructure Element

6.1.1 Fire Protection

The Minersville Fire Rescue merged with the Mount Pleasant Fire Company in 2021 and currently serves Buck Run through its Mount Pleasant Station. The current Mount Pleasant station is currently low staffed and is supplemented by Fire Personnel from the Minersville Station. This present a major issue for response times in fire, medical, and accident response. The nearest responding station is currently South Cass Fire which has a response time of about 8 minutes, followed by Minersville Fire Company which has about a 10-minute response time.

The Township should look to work with the Minersville Fire Rescue to recruit and train new members in order to reduce response time and increase training levels in the Township.

Since the Minersville Fire Rescue is relatively new to the Buck Run Area, the Township should assist with training opportunities on hydrant locations and pressures through the assistance with the Blythe Township Municipal Authority.

6.1.2 Water Capacity/Operations

A conceptual cost plan and option of probable cost for a high-capacity service line that would serve Buck Run from the BTMA water storage tank near the Highridge Industrial Park was completed in 2019 with an estimated cost of $900,000. The recommendation was to break the project into two phases, which would allow for greater funding options. The Township submitted a grant request for $500,000 to complete Phase I, in 2019 for the proposed project, however, the project was not selected. The Township should consider submitting for future grant funding when they become available. The Township could also consider partnering with BTMA and SCMA on a proposed system interconnect, which would connect the BTMA Crystal Run Water System to the SCMA Highridge Water system and would allow both entities to transfer water between the two systems.

Several areas of the Township have been identified which are not currently served by public water. There has been a request from a resident to obtain public water service in the area of Turkey Road. A detailed option plan and option of probable cost was developed for this water line was completed in 2019 with estimates ranging from $85,000 to $115,000. The Township submitted a grant request in 2019 for the proposed project but was not selected. The Township should consider submitting for future grant funding when they become available.

Another area of the Township which is not currently served is the Airport and potential Airport Industrial Park. Schuylkill County Municipal Authority is currently working with SEDCO and Schuylkill County to identify needs and potential service routes for water service. The Township should provide a letter of support to SCMA and other entities for any grant funding they identify.

6.1.3 Sewer Capacity/Operations

Based on current discussions with Reading Anthracite and the Airport Authority, it would be anticipated that any type of commercial or residential development would most likely exceed the existing Foster Township current sewer allocation at the SCMA Gordon WWTP. SCMA is working with the Township on a revised Act 537 Plan and trying to identify future growth areas, and has included the Township in their effort..

During our discussion with SCMA, they have brought to the Township attention that there are additional sections of the Sewer Agreement that are not in compliance. Specifically, Section 4.02 Measurement of Flow, as defined by the Foster Meter, requires instantaneous flow readings be transmitted via telemetry to the Gordon Wastewater Treatment Plant so that they can view it on a chart recorder and totalize the readings daily. The telemetry system has not worked in many years.

The Township should plan on resolving this telemetry issue and add any projected cost to the Capital Improvements Plan.

6.1.4 Internet Development

The Township has enlisted the Consulting Gateway Corporation, an internet, and community design specialist to complete an assessment, public survey, and creation of recommendation report. The overall summary and results have not been completed at the time of this study; however, the final report and recommendations should be included as an amended summary of this section's goals.

6.1.5 Safety Improvements

The largest safety issue in the Township is currently with ATV and Off-road Vehicles.

The Township Police Chief has requested several special pieces of enforcement equipment including a drone. Drone usage would require the use of a licensed pilot in order to operate the equipment. The Township should consider the training and licensing of one of their officers to utilize the equipment once purchased.

The Police Chief has requested the Township purchase and install a digital license plate reader and computer system in at least one of the township patrol vehicles for the review and enforcement of motor vehicle license and insurance violations.

The Police Chief has requested the Township purchase and install a series of security cameras to be installed at key locations within the township. For security purposes, the list of locations will not be published.

6.1.6 Update Property Maintenance Codes and Building Codes as Necessary

The Township has currently utilized a two-tier approach for property maintenance. The initial approach typically includes the Foster Township Police Department. When additional citations and expertise is required, they enlist the services of a third-party code enforcement officer. The current Property Maintenance Code is the 2006, the Township should look to update their ordinance to modernize the PCM to the 2021 edition or latest published.

The Township should also complete a comprehensive review of their building permits and update ordinances as necessary as well as periodically update fee schedules.

Based on survey feedback, the Township is in the process of updating their website. The Township has updated and uploaded their permit applications more transparent and accessible to Township residents and contractors.

6.1.7 Website Upgrades\Communications

The Township should look to update its website to include a mobile web format and well as update the content of the site. The Website should have a detailed review to remove outdated content and be updated to include more recent ordinances and studies. The Township has hired a web developer to update the website and upload the updated forms and ordinances. Due to recent law changes the Township should appoint an annual webmaster to keep and maintain the website on an annual basis and also train at least two staff members on how to uploaded meeting agendas and meeting minutes to the website.

Based on survey feedback, the Township is utilizing a more electronic communications method to the communicate with Township residents, as well as continue the paper-based system which the residents seem to favor. The Township has currently published two editions of the "Foster Township Dispatch" a quarterly newsletter to Township residents. Copies of the newsletter should be uploaded to the Township website as well.

6.1.8 Energy Audit

The Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Code, Section 301.1 Recommends an Energy Conservation Plan Element to promote energy conservation and the effective utilization of renewable energy sources. The Township owns a considerable number of buildings and utility infrastructure that utilizes power and energy. As a recommendation to this study, the Township should consider hiring an energy audit consultant to complete an energy audit for the Township. The audit will identify both small and larger projects to conserves energy and reduces budget increases, ensures the optimum operation of municipal facilities;

identify maintenance issues before they escalate into system failures; and will provide a basis for scheduling and budgeting for periodic maintenance. Items identify should be incorporated into a Capital Improvement Plan.

In addition to the Township Completing an energy audit, the Township should encourage through zoning, subdivision and land development, and building code new energy standards and practices.

6.2 Municipal Function

6.2.1 Asset Management Plan

The Township should look to create an Asset Management Plan (AMP). An asset is property owned by the Township which has a certain value, provides for a critical function, and has a useful lifespan. AMP is a living document that provides an overview of Foster Township's asset conditions and financial preparedness in order to meet the service expectation of the community. It should be reviewed annually and new equipment added, and damage or disposed of equipment removed.

Items that should be inventoried, and condition assessed should include township vehicles, larger township maintenance equipment, police equipment, office equipment, and computers, playground and park equipment, roadways, street signs, sewer utilities, pumping stations, grinder pumps, streetlights, and other township-owned equipment. Much of the inventory and condition assessment can be completed by Township Employees and tracking in software such as excel. Once completed, it will allow the Township to plan for needed improvement projects and to complete a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

6.2.2 Capital Improvements Plan

As recommended by Pennsylvania MPC, Foster Township should look to develop a short- and long-term Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). At a minimum Foster Township should identity a five-year CIP which would include is a collection of projects the Township looks to complete or equipment to be purchased in the next five years with a value of greater than $50,000 or an estimated life of six years or longer such as the acquisition of property, purchase of new equipment, major rehabilitation or replacement of existing facilities or new construction, and consulting fees for special, one-time projects.

6.3 Housing Element

6.3.1 Encourage Residential Development

Based on the population growth in the Township the current trend is declining. The Township needs to look to increase its population in order to remain viable. The Township has currently added about a dozen new homes over the last 10 years, which have added approximately 25 new residents.

The Township should encourage planned residential developments (PRD's) that preserve the character of the Township. The Township is currently in the process of creating a redevelopment authority which would allow for the purchase or sale of properties and complete improvement projects, or portions of the Master Site Plan competed in 2018.

6.3.2 Maintain and Improve the Existing Housing

Maintain and improve the existing housing stock through increased diversity and encouragement of modern, adequate households. The objectives to attain this goal is to promote the rehabilitation of deteriorating housing and the elimination of dilapidated housing to steady the existing housing stock.

6.4 Transportation Element

6.4.1 Safety Improvements

Through the planning process, there were several items of transportation and safety concerns from residents. The major items were the off bound ramps from Interstate I-81 and SR901 (Sunbury Road), in which there have been several major accidents including several involving fatalities and vehicles speeding through the Village.

The current speed limit along Route 901 ranges from 55 to 40 MPH. In order to reduce speeds in the Village Area of Buck Run, the Township would need to complete a Formal Speed Restriction Engineering and Traffic Study. The Study would require an engineer hired by the Township to complete speed monitoring, site inspections, and speed calculations to formally determine design curve speeds and what the 85% percentile speed of traffic traveling through the Township is. The Township could in theory move forward with a formal speed study and the study may determine that the 85% percentile is greater than the posted speed limit and submission of said study may result in PennDOT increasing the speed limit. Additional information on Traffic Studies can be found in the PennDOT LTAP technical bulletin #165.The Township should request from PennDOT and PA local representatives that a formal traffic and safety study be conducted at the intersection of I-81 and SR901 (Sunbury Road), as this would be outside the requirements of the Township to complete.

The Township should request from PennDOT and PA local representatives that a formal traffic and safety study be conducted at the intersection of I-81 and SR901 (Sunbury Road), as this would be outside the requirements of the Township to complete.

6.4.2 Increased advisory signage within the Township

The Township has been receiving a request from residents to complete additional signage and line painting in the Township. The most requested area was at the intersection of Ball Park Road and Upper Beechwood. A stop sign study was completed at this intersection in May of 2019, and the recommendation was to provide for traffic control lines and legends, as well as advisory signage at this location as opposed to the creation of a three-way, stopped intersection. Final line painting and signage improvements were complete in the Spring of 2020. Other areas of the Township should be reviewed for no parking, sharp curves and blind intersections. The Township should work with SEDCO for additional signage on Highridge Park Road and Schuylkill County on Airport Road.

In 2012 the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) revised the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) to require that signage meet a minimum requirement for retroreflective sheeting. Many of the signs installed in the Township predate this requirement. The Township should consider implementing a signage replacement program to replace all signage in the Township within a reasonable timeframe to meet both the MUTCD as well as the PennDot Publication 236M, Handbook of Approved Signs. The Township should focus on high-priority intersections first.

The Township may also want to consider post delineators and signpost reflectors be added to assisting with winter roadway maintenance.

6.4.3 Elimination of Dirt Roads/Dead Ends

The Township has worked diligently over the last 20 years to eliminate many of the dirt road and dead-end intersections in the Township. One of the last remaining and used regularly, dirt roads to exist is Hill Road. A portion of this roadway will be reconstructed and paved in 2021. The remaining portion of the roadway was not completed due funding constraints. During past discussions, drainage improvements may be necessary prior to paving of the roadway.

Several other dirt roads exist in the Township, but these are mostly access road for the rear properties of homes or right of way access points for utilities.

Two roadways remaining in the Township do not have a cul-de-sac and consist of a dead-end. The two roadways are Hall Road and Mt. Pleasant Roadway. A discussion with the roadcrew is that these areas do not present a significant issue with winter maintenance.

6.4.4 Increase Public Transportation

It would be encouraged that the Township reach out to the Schuylkill Transportation System to identify any potential to create a route to the Township Building, the Schuylkill Highridge Business Park, and the PennDOT park-and-ride lot to encourage more carpooling leading to less congestion of roadways. Township residents could also use the service, which will be available for those employed within the park. Increased carpooling and use of public transportation is a benefit to the residents as well as the environment in terms of air quality.

6.5 Environmental Element

6.5.1 Abandoned Mine Reclamation

One of the goals outlined in the Comprehensive Plan was to reduce or eliminate a significant portion of the existing mine hazards in the Township. The Township should look to meet with Mr. Bernie Walko, Chief of the Developmental Unit, with the PADEP Bureau of Abandoned Mines to identify any next project actions for the Department to investigate. The Department received federal funding annual for reclamation. The Township could assist PADEP with developing a priority list of projects in Foster Township.

6.5.2 Natural Resources

One of the goals outlined in the Comprehensive Plan is to protect the Township's natural resources which are vital to the resident's health and character of the community. Objectives are to maintain and protect woodland upstream of the Crystal Run Reservoir and reduce sedimentation and pollution into the drinking water supply. Forested areas are also necessary to protect and maintain the stability of steep and very steep slopes, as well as to protect and mitigate flooding problems in downstream communities.

6.6 Land Use Element

Provide opportunities for development while maintaining the rural character and nature of the Township. The objectives to attain this goal are as follows:

6.6.1 Encourage development and redevelopment

Encourage development and redevelopment of land in a manner consistent with the character of existing development.

6.6.2 Encourage the expansion of new and diverse development

Where appropriate, encourage the expansion of new and diverse development by providing updates in the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO). This new type of diverse development could include the use of cluster developments, townhomes, and higher-level senior housing.

6.6.3 Encourage development bringing jobs and tax revenue to the Township.

The Township should continue to work with and encourage development bringing jobs and tax revenue to the Township. This item would include working with major partners such as SEDCO and SCMA.

6.6.4 Work with Major Landowners

The Township should work with major landowners (i.e., Reading Anthracite, Blythe Township Municipal Authority, Schuylkill Regional Airport, CES Landfill, SEDCO) in order to achieve desired development.

6.7 Financial Element

6.7.1 Encourage Business Development

The Township is fortunate to have close proximity to the Interstate I-81 Corridor. Over the last several years, there has been consideration of developing both Exit 116 and Exit 112 which are both in or within close proximity to the Township. The township should look to work closely with the utility companies, economic development agencies, and developers to improve and develop large-scale business in the Township in the area of the Interstate Exits. This will allow for additional taxing revenue while protecting the character of Buck Run.

6.7.2 Develop Future Sources of Income

The Township has a considerable amount of financial capability from tax revenue, and tipping fees generated from the landfill. It would be recommended that the Township work with a municipal financial planning firm to develop a method to comprehensively grow the Township's saving and provide for a future long-term stable operating budget.

Appendix A // Maps

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Appendix A // Exhibit A.1
Topographic\Location Map

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Legend

- Metro Areas
- Federal Interstate (Interstate Highway)
- State (Minor Arterial)
- State (Minor Collector)
- Township Road (Local Road)
- County Roadway (Local Road)
- Private Road
- Parcels

BUTLER TOWNSHIP

BARRY TOWNSHIP

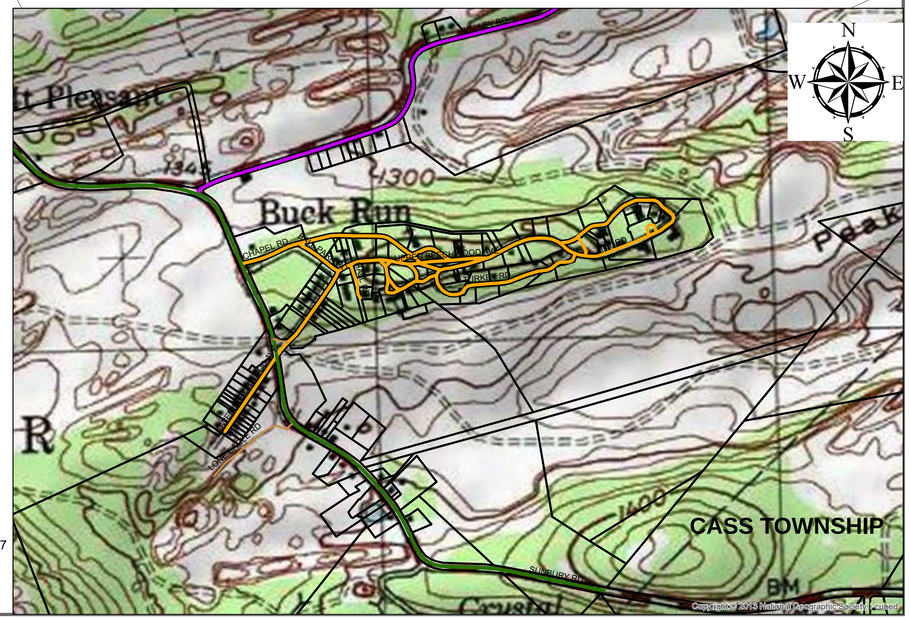
CASS TOWNSHIP

FOSTER TOWNSHIP

REILLY TOWNSHIP

HEGINS TOWNSHIP

FRAILEY TOWNSHIP



Data Sources:
Parcel Data (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Stream and Water Data (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Roads (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Municipal Boundaries (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Quadrangles - USGS/PADSA - Varies

benesch
Alfred Benesch and Company
400 One Norwegian Plaza
Pottsville, Pennsylvania 17901
570-622-4055

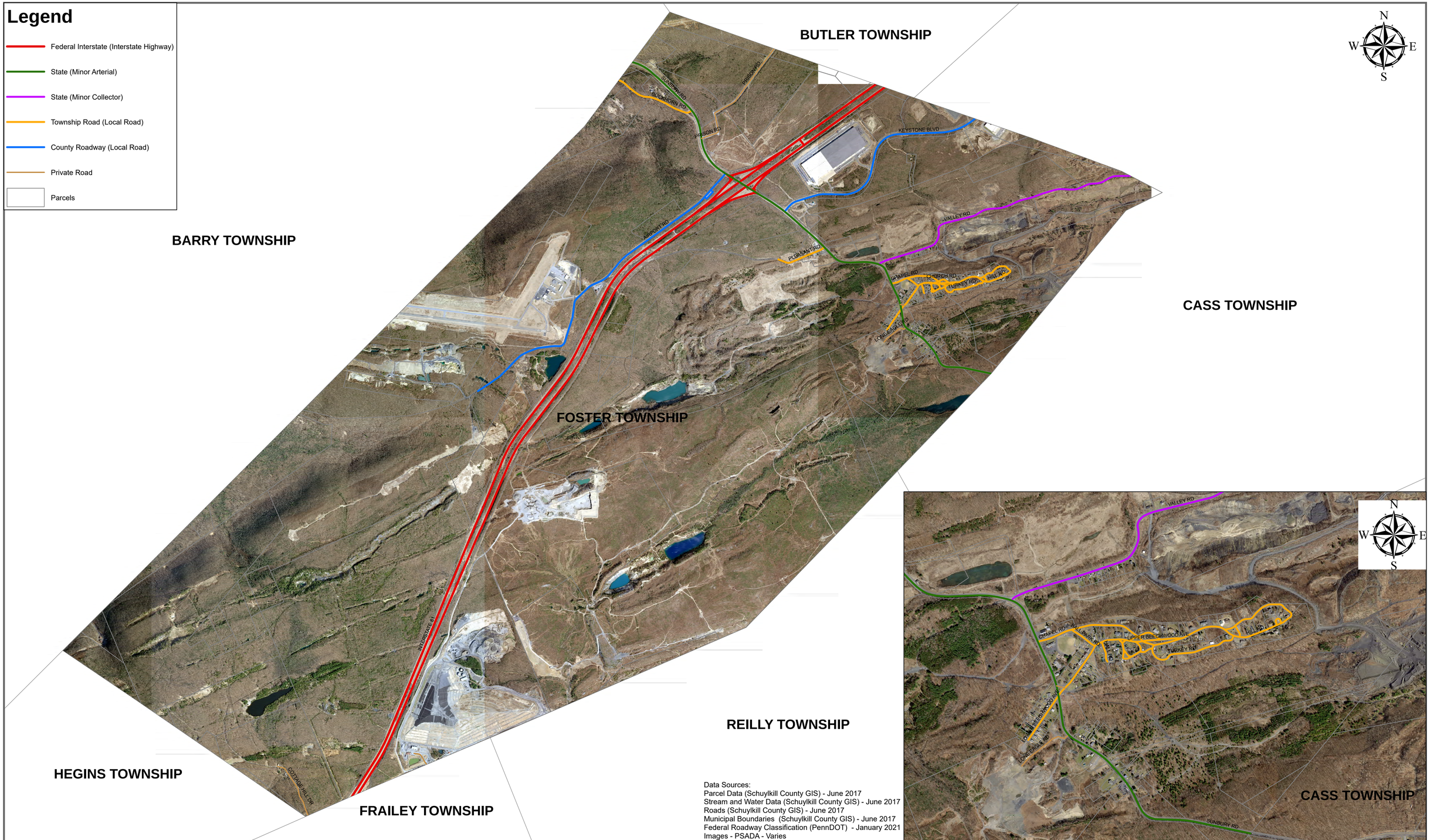
0 0.5 1 2 Miles

C:\Users\dcook\Desktop\GIS\Exhibit.A.1.Topographic_Map.mxd

Foster Township Comprehensive Plan 2020 – EXHIBIT – A.1

Client: Foster Township
Project: Topographic/Location Map
Location: Foster Township, Schuylkill County, PA
benesch PN: 31016.20

Appendix A // Exhibit A.2
Aerial Map



benesch
Alfred Benesch and Company
400 One Norwegian Plaza
Pottsville, Pennsylvania 17901
570-622-4055

Foster Township Comprehensive Plan 2020 – EXHIBIT – A.2

Client: Foster Township
Project: Aerial Map
Location: Foster Township, Schuylkill County, PA
benesch PN: 31016.20

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Appendix A // Exhibit A.3
Existing Land Use Map

benesch

Legend

- Transportation or Unclassified

Existing Land Use

- Airport
- Auto Repair Garage
- Commercial
- Fire Station
- Forested
- Government
- Industrial
- Institutional
- Mining, Abandoned
- Mining, Reclaimed
- Mining/Mineral Extraction
- Open Space
- Recreation
- Religious
- Residential
- Utility
- Vacant Government Owned
- Waste Disposal
- Watershed
- Municipal Boundary

BUTLER TOWNSHIP

BARRY TOWNSHIP

CASS TOWNSHIP

FOSTER TOWNSHIP

REILLY TOWNSHIP

HEGINS TOWNSHIP

FRAILEY TOWNSHIP

MINERSVILLE

CASS TOWNSHIP

N
W E
S

0 2,500 5,000 Feet

Data Sources:
Parcel Data (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Stream and Water Data (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Roads (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Municipal Boundaries (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017

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0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Y:\Pottsville\31000S\31016.20_Foster_Comp_Plan\GIS\Exhibit.A.3.Existing_Land Use_Map.mxd

Foster Township Comprehensive Plan 2020 – EXHIBIT – A.3

Client: Foster Township
Project: Existing Land Use Map
Location: Foster Township, Schuylkill County, PA
benesch PN: 31016.20

Appendix A // Exhibit A.4
Existing Zoning Map

Legend

- Federal Interstate (Interstate Highway)
- State (Minor Arterial)
- State (Minor Collector)
- Township Road (Local Road)
- County Roadway (Local Road)
- Private Road
- Parcels

District

- A-1
- C-1
- I-1
- I-2
- I-3
- P-C
- R-1
- R-2
- V-C

BUTLER TOWNSHIP

BARRY TOWNSHIP

FOSTER TOWNSHIP

CASS TOWNSHIP

REILLY TOWNSHIP

HEGINS TOWNSHIP

FRAILEY TOWNSHIP

SUNBURY RD

BUCKHORN RD

PRISON RD

KEYSTONE BLVD

AIRPORT RD

VALLEY RD

CHAPEL RD

CHURCH RD

TURKEY RD

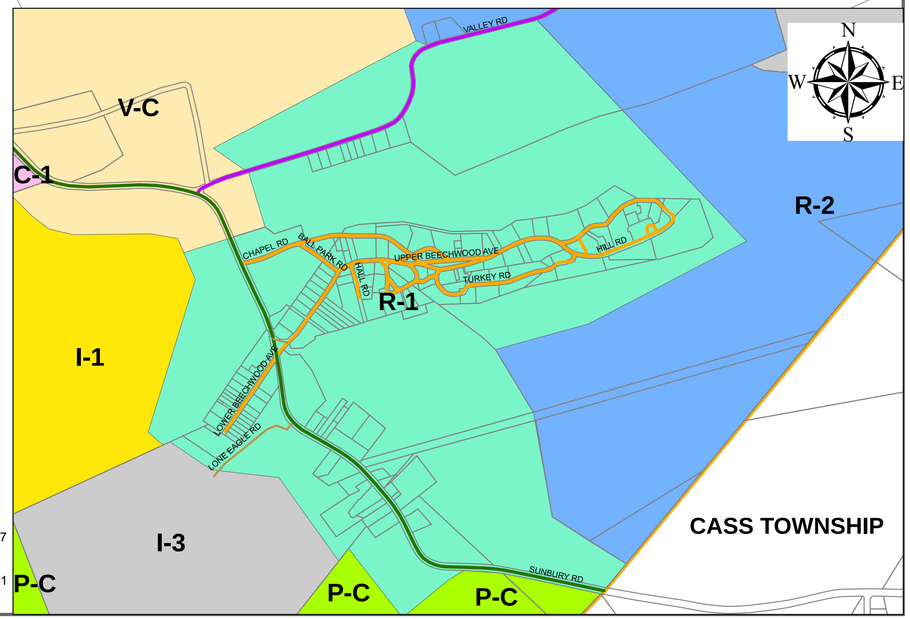
HILL RD

LONE EAGLE RD

INTERSTATE 81

COTTAGE HILL DR

0 2,500 5,000 Feet



Data Sources:
Parcel Data (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Stream and Water Data (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Roads (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Municipal Boundaries (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Federal Roadway Classification (PennDOT) - January 2021
Zoning - Foster Township - December 2021

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

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Foster Township Comprehensive Plan 2020 – EXHIBIT – A.4

Client: Foster Township
Project: Existing Zoning Map
Location: Foster Township, Schuylkill County, PA
benesch PN: 31016.20

Appendix A // Exhibit A.5
Green Space Map

benesch

Legend

Green Space

- Forested
- Open Space
- Watershed
- Parcels

BUTLER TOWNSHIP

BARRY TOWNSHIP

CASS TOWNSHIP

FOSTER TOWNSHIP

REILLY TOWNSHIP

HEGINS TOWNSHIP

FRAILEY TOWNSHIP

MINERSVILLE

CASS TOWNSHIP

0 2,500 5,000 Feet

Data Sources:
Parcel Data (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Stream and Water Data (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Roads (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Municipal Boundaries (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017

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0 0.5 1 2 Miles

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Foster Township Comprehensive Plan 2020 – EXHIBIT – A.5

Client: Foster Township
Project: Green Space Map
Location: Foster Township, Schuylkill County, PA
benesch PN: 31016.20

Appendix A // Exhibit A.6
Road Classification\Transportation Map

Legend

- Federal Interstate (Interstate Highway)
- State (Minor Arterial)
- State (Minor Collector)
- Township Road (Local Road)
- County Roadway (Local Road)
- Private Road
- Parcels
- Foster_Township

BARRY

SUNBURY RD
BUCKHORN RD
PRISON RD
PRISON RD
KEYSTONE BLVD
VALLEY RD
AIRPORT RD
PLEASANT RD
CHAPEL RD
CHURCH RD
TURKEY RD
HILL RD
LONE EAGLE RD
Water
INTERSTATE 81
COTTAGE HILL DR

N
W E
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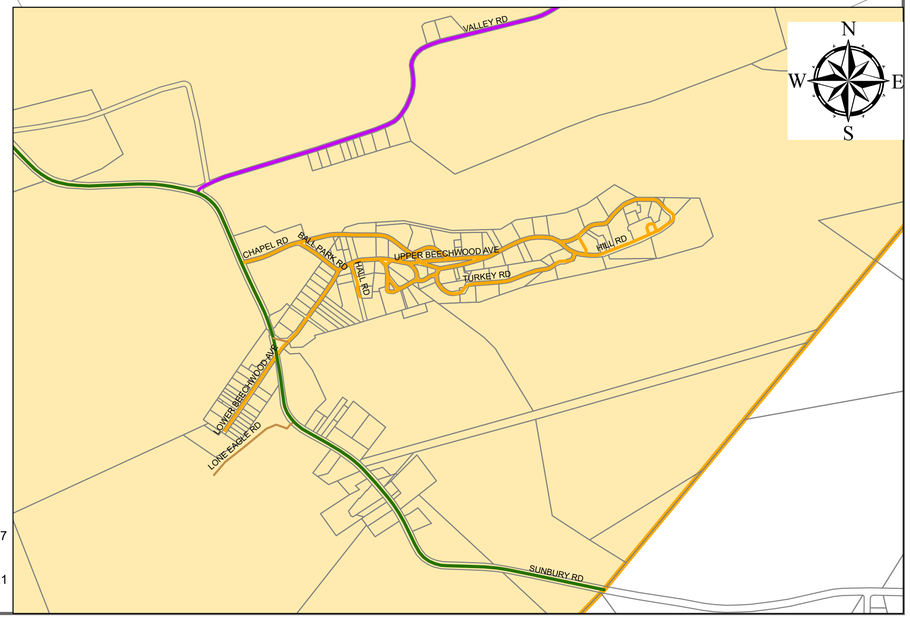

Data Sources:
Parcel Data (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Stream and Water Data (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Roads (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Municipal Boundaries (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Federal Roadway Classification (PennDOT) - January 2021
Quadrangles - USGS - Varies

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0 0.5 1 Miles

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Foster Township Comprehensive Plan 2020 – EXHIBIT – A.6

Client: Foster Township
Project: Road Classification\Transportation Map
Location: Foster Township, Schuylkill County, PA
benesch PN: 31016.20

Appendix A // Exhibit A.7
Steep Slope Map

benesch

Legend

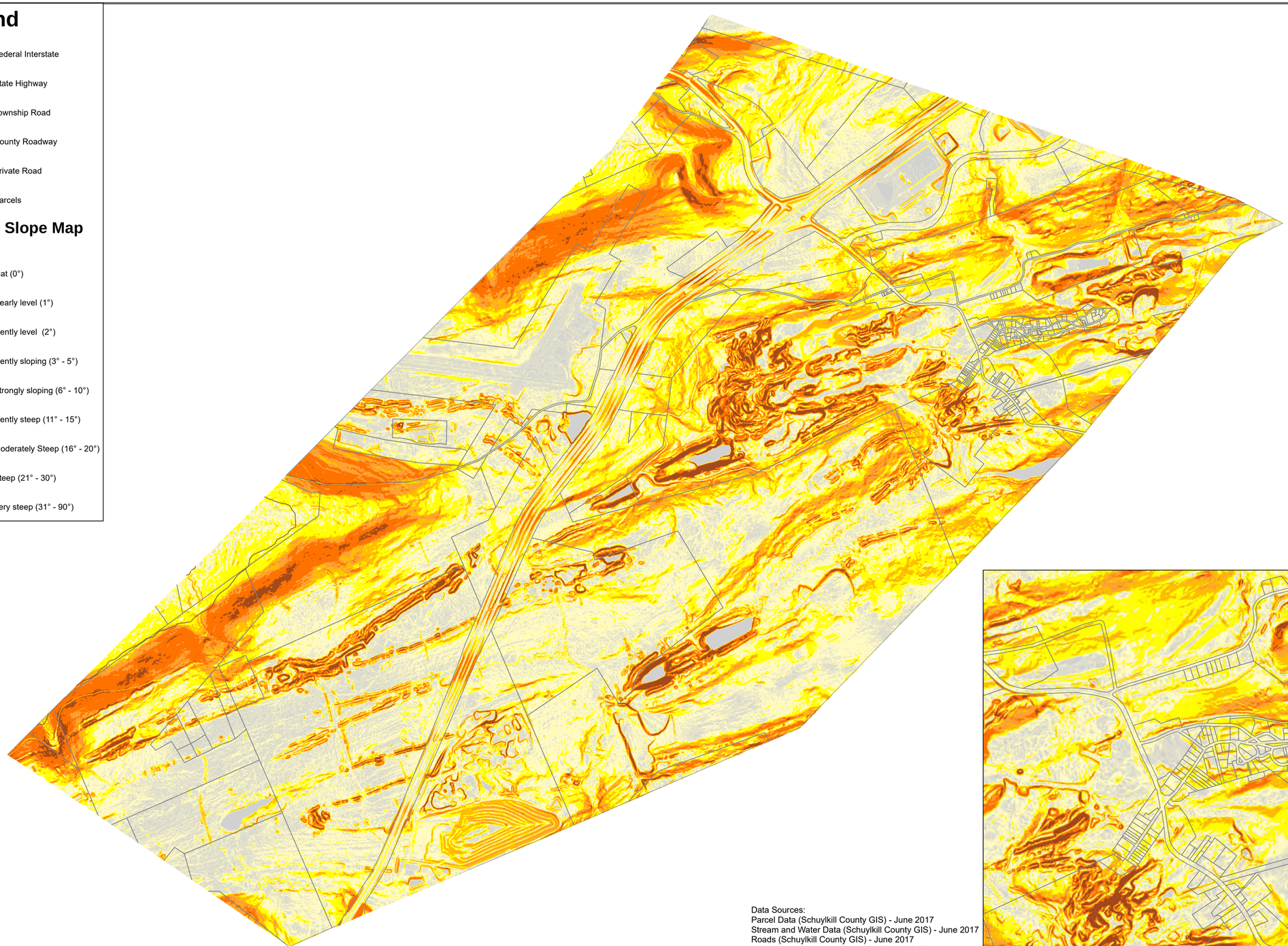
- Federal Interstate
- State Highway
- Township Road
- County Roadway
- Private Road
- Parcels

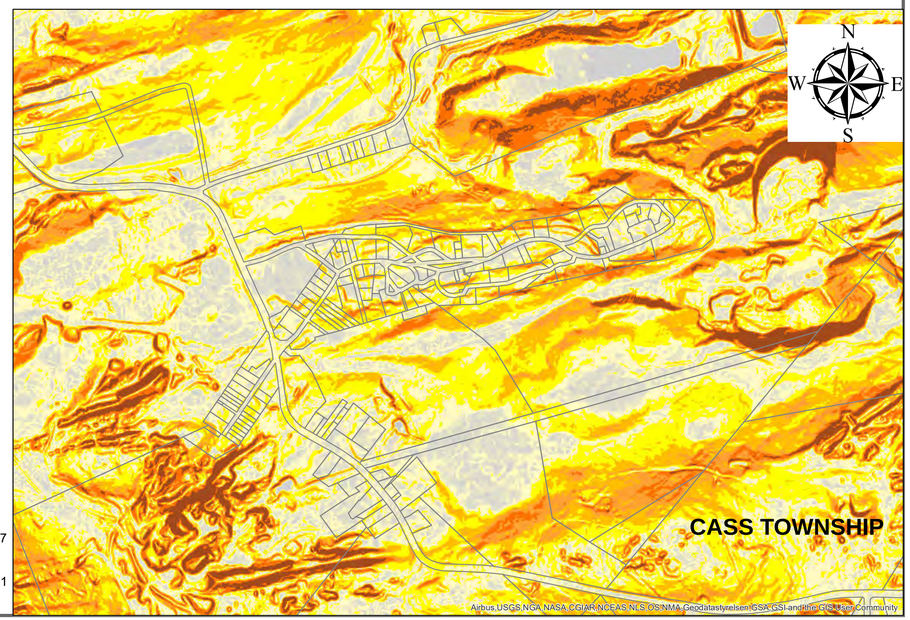
Terrain: Slope Map

ClassName

- Flat (0°)
- Nearly level (1°)
- Gently level (2°)
- Gently sloping (3° - 5°)
- Strongly sloping (6° - 10°)
- Gently steep (11° - 15°)
- Moderately Steep (16° - 20°)
- Steep (21° - 30°)
- Very steep (31° - 90°)

N
W E
S





Data Sources:
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Stream and Water Data (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Roads (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Municipal Boundaries (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Federal Roadway Classification (PennDOT) - January 2021
Slopes - ESRI - Varies

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0 0.5 1 2 Miles

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Foster Township Comprehensive Plan 2020 – EXHIBIT – A.7

Client: Foster Township
Project: Slope Map
Location: Foster Township, Schuylkill County, PA
benesch PN: 31016.20

Appendix A // Exhibit A.8
Hydrological Features Map

benesch

Legend

- Federal Interstate (Interstate Highway)
- State (Minor Arterial)
- State (Minor Collector)
- Township Road (Local Road)
- County Roadway (Local Road)
- Private Road
- Streams

Wetlands

Wetland Type

- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Streams_Buffer

100-Year Floodplains

FLD_ZONE

- 500 -Yr Floodplain
- 100 -Yr Floodplain
- Lakes
- Joe Zerby Airport Runway
- Parcels

BUTLER TOWNSHIP

BARRY TOWNSHIP

FOSTER TOWNSHIP

CASS TOWNSHIP

REILLY TOWNSHIP

HEGINS TOWNSHIP

FRAILEY TOWNSHIP

Deep Creek

Water

Crystal Run

Swatara Creek

Pine Creek

SUNBURY RD

BUCKHORN RD

PRISON RD

KEYSTONE BLVD

AIRPORT RD

PLEASANT RD

VALLEY RD

CHAPEL RD

CHURCH RD

TURKEY RD

HILL RD

LONE EAGLE RD

INTERSTATE 81

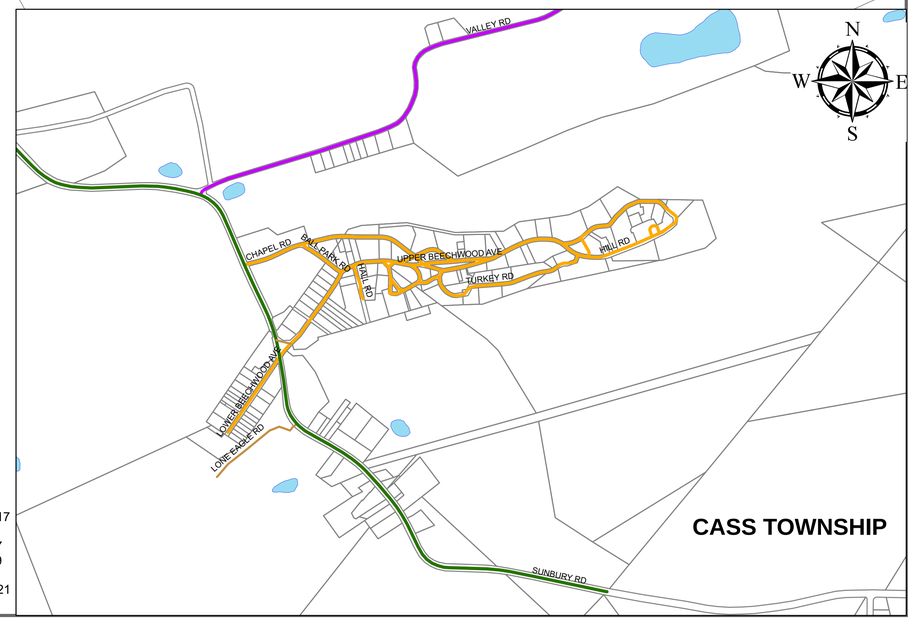
COTTAGE HILL DR

N

W E

S

0 2,500 5,000 Feet



Data Sources:
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Stream and Water Data (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Roads (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Municipal Boundaries (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Wetlands - US Fish and Wildlife Service - September 2009
Floodplain - FEMA - 2014
Federal Roadway Classification (PennDOT) - January 2021

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0 0.5 1 2 Miles

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Foster Township Comprehensive Plan 2020 – EXHIBIT – A.8

Client: Foster Township
Project: Hydrologic Features Map
Location: Foster Township, Schuylkill County, PA
benesch PN: 31016.20

Appendix A // Exhibit A.9
Soils Map

benesch

Legend

- Federal Interstate (Interstate Highway)
- State (Minor Arterial)
- State (Minor Collector)
- Township Road (Local Road)
- County Roadway (Local Road)
- Private Road
- Parcels

BARRY TOWNSHIP

BUTLER TOWNSHIP

CASS TOWNSHIP

FOSTER TOWNSHIP

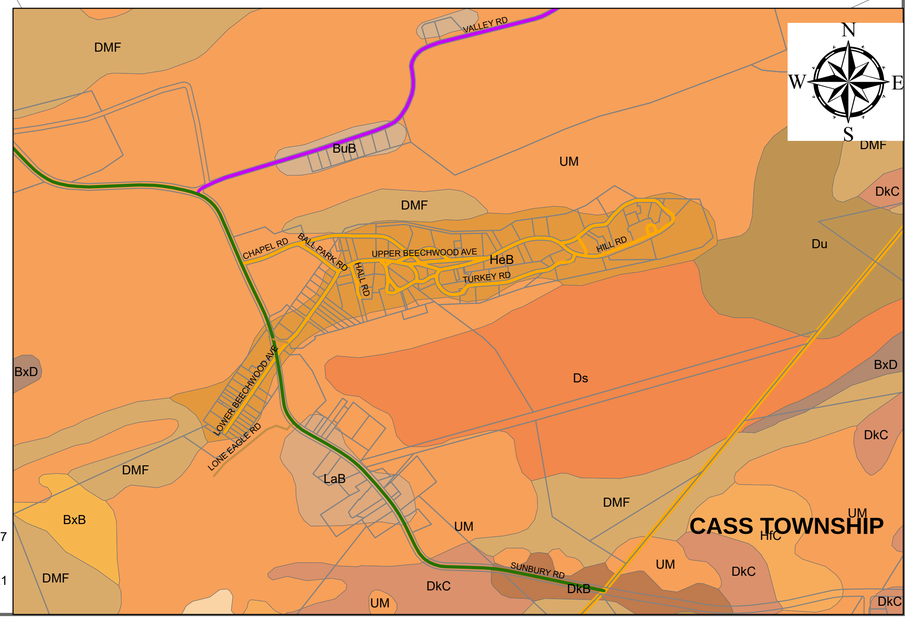
HEGINS TOWNSHIP

FRAILEY TOWNSHIP

REILLY TOWNSHIP

N W E S

0 2,500 5,000 Feet



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Roads (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Municipal Boundaries (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Federal Roadway Classification (PennDOT) - January 2021
Soils - RUS - Varies

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0 0.5 1 2 Miles

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Foster Township Comprehensive Plan 2020 – EXHIBIT – A.9

Client: Foster Township
Project: Soils Map
Location: Foster Township, Schuylkill County, PA
benesch PN: 31016.20

Appendix A // Exhibit A.10
Sewer Service Map

benesch

Legend

- Foster Township Service Area
- Federal Interstate (Interstate Highway)
- State (Minor Arterial)
- State (Minor Collector)
- Township Road (Local Road)
- County Roadway (Local Road)
- Private Road
- Streams
- Lakes
- Parcels
- Foster Township Service Area
- SCMA Sewer Service Area

BUTLER TOWNSHIP

BARRY TOWNSHIP

FOSTER TOWNSHIP

CASS TOWNSHIP

REILLY TOWNSHIP

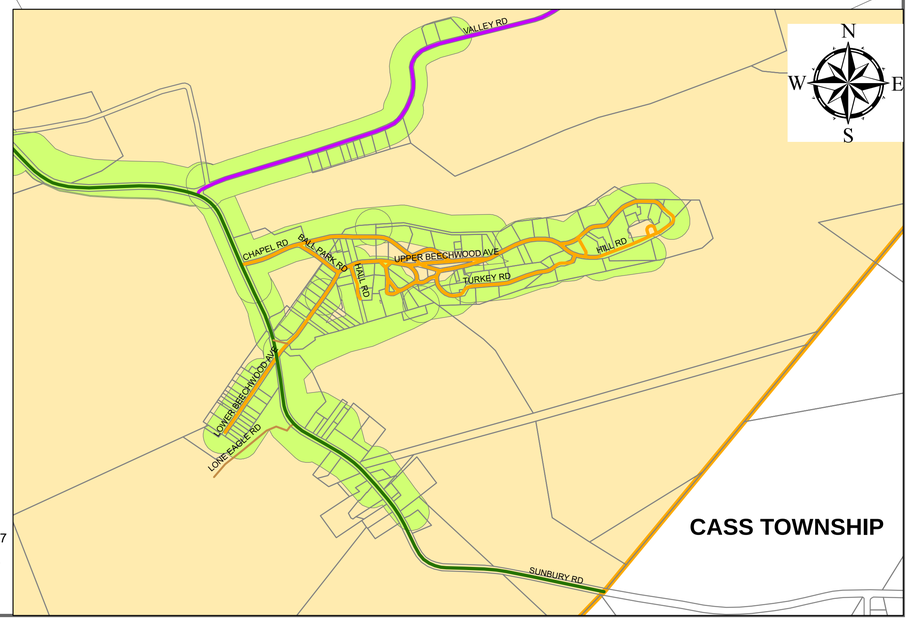
HEGINS TOWNSHIP

FRAILEY TOWNSHIP

SUNBURY RD
BUCKHORN RD
PRISON RD
KEYSTONE BLVD
AIRPORT RD
PLEASANT RD
VALLEY RD
CHAPEL RD
CHURCH RD
TURKEY RD
HILL RD
LONE EAGLE RD
INTERSTATE 81
COTTAGE HILL DR
Water
Crystal Run
Crystal Reservoir

N W E S

0 2,500 5,000 Feet



Data Sources:
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Stream and Water Data (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Roads (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Municipal Boundaries (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Foster Utilites - Foster Township
SCMA Utilities - SCMA

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0 0.5 1 2 Miles

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Foster Township Comprehensive Plan 2020 – EXHIBIT – A.10

Client: Foster Township
Project: Sewer Service Map
Location: Foster Township, Schuylkill County, PA
benesch PN: 31016.20

Appendix A // Exhibit A.11
Water Service Map

benesch

Legend

- Federal Interstate (Interstate Highway)
- State (Minor Arterial)
- State (Minor Collector)
- Township Road (Local Road)
- County Roadway (Local Road)
- Private Road
- Streams
- Lakes
- Parcels
- Blythe Service Area
- SCMA Water Service Area

BUTLER TOWNSHIP

BARRY TOWNSHIP

FOSTER TOWNSHIP

CASS TOWNSHIP

REILLY TOWNSHIP

HEGINS TOWNSHIP

FRAILEY TOWNSHIP

FOSTER

Water

Crystal Run

Crystal Reservoir

Water

SUNBURY RD

BUCKHORN RD

PRISON RD

PRISON RD

KEYSTONE BLVD

VALLEY RD

AIRPORT RD

PLEASANT RD

CHAPEL RD

CHURCH RD

TURKEY RD

HILL RD

LONE EAGLE RD

INTERSTATE 81

COTTAGE HILL DR

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W E

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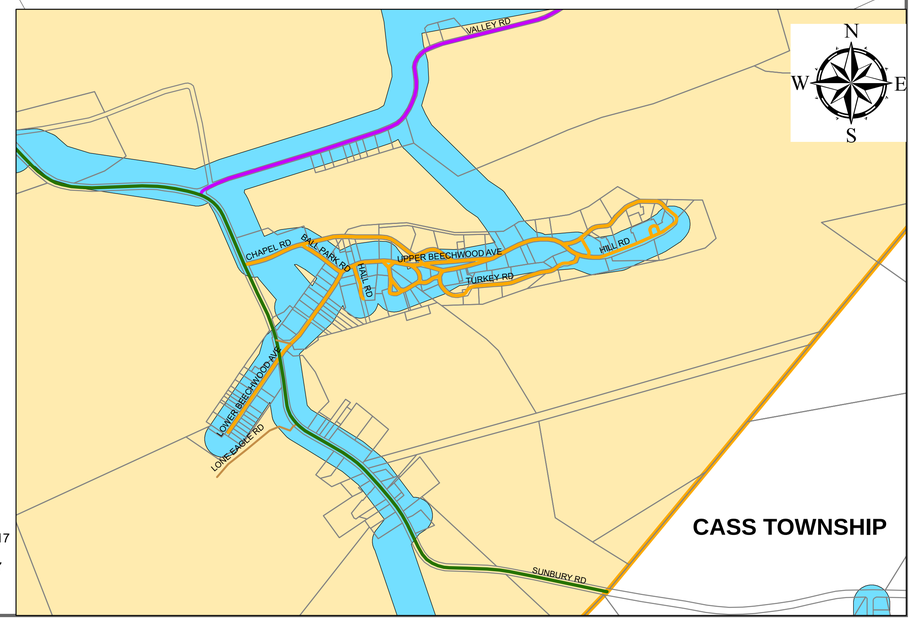
0 2,500 5,000 Feet



Data Sources:
Parcel Data (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Stream and Water Data (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Roads (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Municipal Boundaries (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Foster Utilites - Foster Township
BTMA Utilities - BTMA

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Foster Township Comprehensive Plan 2020 – EXHIBIT – A.11

Client: Foster Township
Project: Water Service Map
Location: Foster Township, Schuylkill County, PA
benesch PN: 31016.20

Appendix A // Exhibit A.12
Proposed Land Use Map

benesch

Legend

- Transportation or Unclassified

Future Land Use

- Airport
- Auto Repair Garage
- Commercial
- Fire Station
- Forested
- Government
- Industrial
- Institutional
- Mining, Abandoned
- Mining, Reclaimed
- Mining/Mineral Extraction
- Open Space
- Recreation
- Religious
- Residential
- Residential Auxiliary
- Residential Vacant
- Utility
- Vacant Government Owned
- Waste Disposal
- Watershed

BUTLER TOWNSHIP

BARRY TOWNSHIP

CASS TOWNSHIP

FOSTER TOWNSHIP

REILLY TOWNSHIP

HEGINS TOWNSHIP

FRAILEY TOWNSHIP

MINERSVILLE

CASS TOWNSHIP

N W E S

0 2,500 5,000 Feet

Data Sources:
Parcel Data (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Stream and Water Data (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Roads (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017
Municipal Boundaries (Schuylkill County GIS) - June 2017

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0 0.5 1 2 Miles

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Foster Township Comprehensive Plan 2020 – EXHIBIT – A.12

Client: Foster Township
Project: Proposed Land Use Map
Location: Foster Township, Schuylkill County, PA
benesch PN: 31016.20

Appendix B // Exhibit B.1
2010 Census Data

benesch

DP-1

Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2010

2010 Demographic Profile Data

NOTE: For more information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/dpsf.pdf.

Geography: Foster township, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania

Subject	Number	Percent
SEX AND AGE		
Total population	251	100.0
Under 5 years	6	2.4
5 to 9 years	16	6.4
10 to 14 years	8	3.2
15 to 19 years	15	6.0
20 to 24 years	16	6.4
25 to 29 years	9	3.6
30 to 34 years	11	4.4
35 to 39 years	14	5.6
40 to 44 years	19	7.6
45 to 49 years	23	9.2
50 to 54 years	25	10.0
55 to 59 years	21	8.4
60 to 64 years	18	7.2
65 to 69 years	6	2.4
70 to 74 years	11	4.4
75 to 79 years	11	4.4
80 to 84 years	13	5.2
85 years and over	9	3.6
Median age (years)	46.9	(X)
16 years and over	219	87.3
18 years and over	213	84.9
21 years and over	205	81.7
62 years and over	57	22.7
65 years and over	50	19.9
Male population	122	48.6
Under 5 years	2	0.8
5 to 9 years	8	3.2
10 to 14 years	3	1.2
15 to 19 years	5	2.0
20 to 24 years	9	3.6
25 to 29 years	7	2.8
30 to 34 years	6	2.4
35 to 39 years	6	2.4
40 to 44 years	11	4.4
45 to 49 years	11	4.4
50 to 54 years	13	5.2
55 to 59 years	10	4.0
60 to 64 years	10	4.0

Subject	Number	Percent
65 to 69 years	3	1.2
70 to 74 years	5	2.0
75 to 79 years	6	2.4
80 to 84 years	3	1.2
85 years and over	4	1.6
Median age (years)	45.8	(X)
16 years and over	107	42.6
18 years and over	106	42.2
21 years and over	104	41.4
62 years and over	25	10.0
65 years and over	21	8.4
Female population	129	51.4
Under 5 years	4	1.6
5 to 9 years	8	3.2
10 to 14 years	5	2.0
15 to 19 years	10	4.0
20 to 24 years	7	2.8
25 to 29 years	2	0.8
30 to 34 years	5	2.0
35 to 39 years	8	3.2
40 to 44 years	8	3.2
45 to 49 years	12	4.8
50 to 54 years	12	4.8
55 to 59 years	11	4.4
60 to 64 years	8	3.2
65 to 69 years	3	1.2
70 to 74 years	6	2.4
75 to 79 years	5	2.0
80 to 84 years	10	4.0
85 years and over	5	2.0
Median age (years)	48.3	(X)
16 years and over	112	44.6
18 years and over	107	42.6
21 years and over	101	40.2
62 years and over	32	12.7
65 years and over	29	11.6
RACE		
Total population	251	100.0
One Race	251	100.0
White	251	100.0
Black or African American	0	0.0
American Indian and Alaska Native	0	0.0
Asian	0	0.0
Asian Indian	0	0.0
Chinese	0	0.0
Filipino	0	0.0
Japanese	0	0.0
Korean	0	0.0
Vietnamese	0	0.0
Other Asian [1]	0	0.0
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0
Native Hawaiian	0	0.0
Guamanian or Chamorro	0	0.0
Samoan	0	0.0

Subject	Number	Percent
Other Pacific Islander [2]	0	0.0
Some Other Race	0	0.0
Two or More Races	0	0.0
White; American Indian and Alaska Native [3]	0	0.0
White; Asian [3]	0	0.0
White; Black or African American [3]	0	0.0
White; Some Other Race [3]	0	0.0
Race alone or in combination with one or more other races: [4]		
White	251	100.0
Black or African American	0	0.0
American Indian and Alaska Native	0	0.0
Asian	0	0.0
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0
Some Other Race	0	0.0
HISPANIC OR LATINO		
Total population	251	100.0
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	0	0.0
Mexican	0	0.0
Puerto Rican	0	0.0
Cuban	0	0.0
Other Hispanic or Latino [5]	0	0.0
Not Hispanic or Latino	251	100.0
HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
Total population	251	100.0
Hispanic or Latino	0	0.0
White alone	0	0.0
Black or African American alone	0	0.0
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	0	0.0
Asian alone	0	0.0
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0	0.0
Some Other Race alone	0	0.0
Two or More Races	0	0.0
Not Hispanic or Latino	251	100.0
White alone	251	100.0
Black or African American alone	0	0.0
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	0	0.0
Asian alone	0	0.0
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0	0.0
Some Other Race alone	0	0.0
Two or More Races	0	0.0
RELATIONSHIP		
Total population	251	100.0
In households	251	100.0
Householder	108	43.0
Spouse [6]	60	23.9
Child	64	25.5
Own child under 18 years	38	15.1
Other relatives	6	2.4
Under 18 years	0	0.0
65 years and over	2	0.8
Nonrelatives	13	5.2
Under 18 years	0	0.0
65 years and over	0	0.0
Unmarried partner	8	3.2
In group quarters	0	0.0

Subject	Number	Percent
Institutionalized population	0	0.0
Male	0	0.0
Female	0	0.0
Noninstitutionalized population	0	0.0
Male	0	0.0
Female	0	0.0
HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE		
Total households	108	100.0
Family households (families) [7]	73	67.6
With own children under 18 years	20	18.5
Husband-wife family	60	55.6
With own children under 18 years	14	13.0
Male householder, no wife present	4	3.7
With own children under 18 years	3	2.8
Female householder, no husband present	9	8.3
With own children under 18 years	3	2.8
Nonfamily households [7]	35	32.4
Householder living alone	29	26.9
Male	15	13.9
65 years and over	7	6.5
Female	14	13.0
65 years and over	12	11.1
Households with individuals under 18 years	20	18.5
Households with individuals 65 years and over	38	35.2
Average household size	2.32	(X)
Average family size [7]	2.78	(X)
HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Total housing units	119	100.0
Occupied housing units	108	90.8
Vacant housing units	11	9.2
For rent	1	0.8
Rented, not occupied	2	1.7
For sale only	2	1.7
Sold, not occupied	3	2.5
For seasonal, recreational, or occasional use	0	0.0
All other vacants	3	2.5
Homeowner vacancy rate (percent) [8]	2.0	(X)
Rental vacancy rate (percent) [9]	5.6	(X)
HOUSING TENURE		
Occupied housing units	108	100.0
Owner-occupied housing units	93	86.1
Population in owner-occupied housing units	219	(X)
Average household size of owner-occupied units	2.35	(X)
Renter-occupied housing units	15	13.9
Population in renter-occupied housing units	32	(X)
Average household size of renter-occupied units	2.13	(X)

X Not applicable.

[1] Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

[2] Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

[3] One of the four most commonly reported multiple-race combinations nationwide in Census 2000.

[4] In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population, and the six

percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

[5] This category is composed of people whose origins are from the Dominican Republic, Spain, and Spanish-speaking Central or South American countries. It also includes general origin responses such as "Latino" or "Hispanic."
[6] "Spouse" represents spouse of the householder. It does not reflect all spouses in a household. Responses of "same-sex spouse" were edited during processing to "unmarried partner."
[7] "Family households" consist of a householder and one or more other people related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. They do not include same-sex married couples even if the marriage was performed in a state issuing marriage certificates for same-sex couples. Same-sex couple households are included in the family households category if there is at least one additional person related to the householder by birth or adoption. Same-sex couple households with no relatives of the householder present are tabulated in nonfamily households. "Nonfamily households" consist of people living alone and households which do not have any members related to the householder.

[8] The homeowner vacancy rate is the proportion of the homeowner inventory that is vacant "for sale." It is computed by dividing the total number of vacant units "for sale only" by the sum of owner-occupied units, vacant units that are "for sale only," and vacant units that have been sold but not yet occupied; and then multiplying by 100.
[9] The rental vacancy rate is the proportion of the rental inventory that is vacant "for rent." It is computed by dividing the total number of vacant units "for rent" by the sum of the renter-occupied units, vacant units that are "for rent," and vacant units that have been rented but not yet occupied; and then multiplying by 100.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census.

Appendix B // Exhibit B.2
2000 Census Data

benesch

DP-1

Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF 1) 100-Percent Data

NOTE: For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, definitions, and count corrections see http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf

Subject	Foster township, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania	
	Number	Percent
Total population	1,124	100.0
SEX AND AGE		
Male	996	88.6
Female	128	11.4
Under 5 years	8	0.7
5 to 9 years	15	1.3
10 to 14 years	30	2.7
15 to 19 years	21	1.9
20 to 24 years	82	7.3
25 to 34 years	388	34.5
35 to 44 years	298	26.5
45 to 54 years	161	14.3
55 to 59 years	24	2.1
60 to 64 years	24	2.1
65 to 74 years	45	4.0
75 to 84 years	26	2.3
85 years and over	2	0.2
Median age (years)	35.5	(X)
18 years and over	1,061	94.4
Male	962	85.6
Female	99	8.8
21 years and over	1,039	92.4
62 years and over	83	7.4
65 years and over	73	6.5
Male	42	3.7
Female	31	2.8
RACE		
One race	1,116	99.3
White	598	53.2
Black or African American	486	43.2
American Indian and Alaska Native	3	0.3
Asian	22	2.0
Asian Indian	1	0.1
Chinese	13	1.2
Filipino	0	0.0
Japanese	0	0.0
Korean	1	0.1
Vietnamese	1	0.1
Other Asian [1]	6	0.5
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0
Native Hawaiian	0	0.0

Subject	Foster township, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania	
	Number	Percent
Guamanian or Chamorro	0	0.0
Samoan	0	0.0
Other Pacific Islander [2]	0	0.0
Some other race	7	0.6
Two or more races	8	0.7
Race alone or in combination with one or more other races [3]		
White	604	53.7
Black or African American	488	43.4
American Indian and Alaska Native	4	0.4
Asian	23	2.0
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	1	0.1
Some other race	12	1.1
HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
Total population	1,124	100.0
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	199	17.7
Mexican	15	1.3
Puerto Rican	41	3.6
Cuban	22	2.0
Other Hispanic or Latino	121	10.8
Not Hispanic or Latino	925	82.3
White alone	453	40.3
RELATIONSHIP		
Total population	1,124	100.0
In households	268	23.8
Householder	105	9.3
Spouse	57	5.1
Child	80	7.1
Own child under 18 years	58	5.2
Other relatives	15	1.3
Under 18 years	2	0.2
Nonrelatives	11	1.0
Unmarried partner	4	0.4
In group quarters	856	76.2
Institutionalized population	856	76.2
Noninstitutionalized population	0	0.0
HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE		
Total households	105	100.0
Family households (families)	73	69.5
With own children under 18 years	30	28.6
Married-couple family	57	54.3
With own children under 18 years	22	21.0
Female householder, no husband present	8	7.6
With own children under 18 years	6	5.7
Nonfamily households	32	30.5
Householder living alone	30	28.6
Householder 65 years and over	14	13.3
Households with individuals under 18 years	33	31.4
Households with individuals 65 years and over	41	39.0
Average household size	2.55	(X)
Average family size	3.08	(X)
HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Total housing units	115	100.0
Occupied housing units	105	91.3
Vacant housing units	10	8.7
For seasonal, recreational, or occasional use	1	0.9
Homeowner vacancy rate (percent)	0.0	(X)
Rental vacancy rate (percent)	0.0	(X)
HOUSING TENURE		

Subject	Foster township, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania	
	Number	Percent
Occupied housing units	105	100.0
Owner-occupied housing units	96	91.4
Renter-occupied housing units	9	8.6
Average household size of owner-occupied unit	2.54	(X)
Average household size of renter-occupied unit	2.67	(X)

(X) Not applicable.

[1] Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

[2] Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

[3] In combination with one or more other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1, Matrices P1, P3, P4, P8, P9, P12, P13, P,17, P18, P19, P20, P23, P27, P28, P33, PCT5, PCT8, PCT11, PCT15, H1, H3, H4, H5, H11, and H12.

Appendix C // Meeting Minutes

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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

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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:

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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



March 20, 2019

Project Presentation

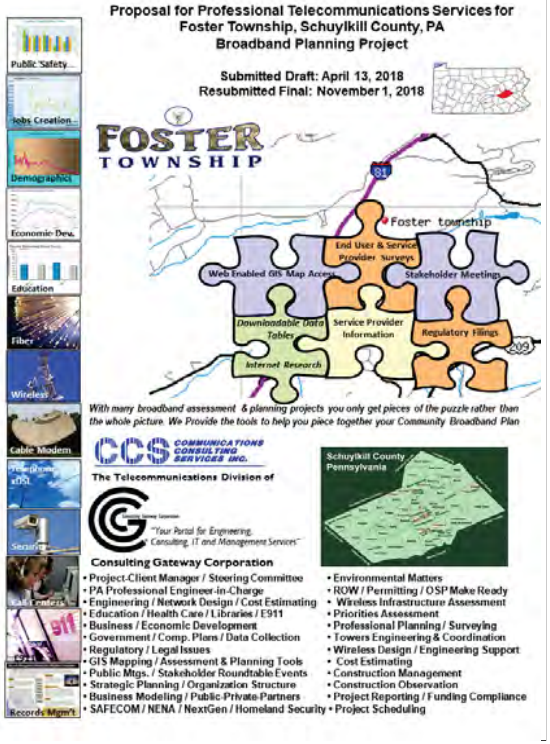
"Engineering for the Telecommunications Industry"

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

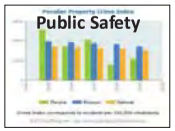
"Your Portal for Engineering, Consulting, IT and Management Services"



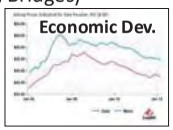
Exploring Conditions & Feasibility

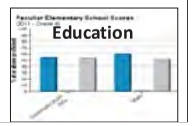


- ✓ **Turn-key Services**
- ✓ **Condition Assessments/Data Collection (Surveys, Mtgs., Interviews)/Feasibility**
- ✓ **Broadband Education, Gap Analysis and Needs Priorities**
- ✓ **Preliminary Design and Cost Estimating**
  - Surveying and Staking
  - Aerial & U/G Design for Copper & Fibre Optic Cable
  - 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



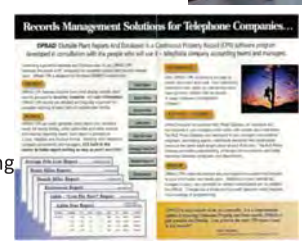








- ✓ **Private and Open Access Voice, Video and Data Networks**
  - Fiber Optics • Copper • Coaxial Cable • Hybrid Cable • Wireless
- ✓ **Public Safety Communications Interoperability / E911-Call Centers**
- ✓ **Operations Management / Financial / Business Modeling**
  - Rate Design • Funding / Grants • 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

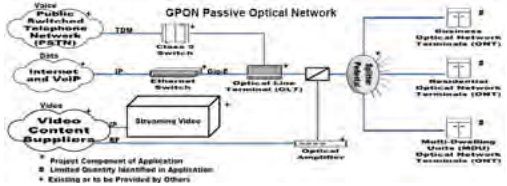
- ✓ **OSP Engineering**
  - Site Clearing, Site Leveling, Grading & Fencing
  - Aerial, Underground, Direct Buried
  - • Soil Analysis
  - Access Roads
  - Staking
  - Bid Packages and Award
  - P.E. Review and Sealing
  - GPS-CAD-GIS As Builts



- ✓ **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

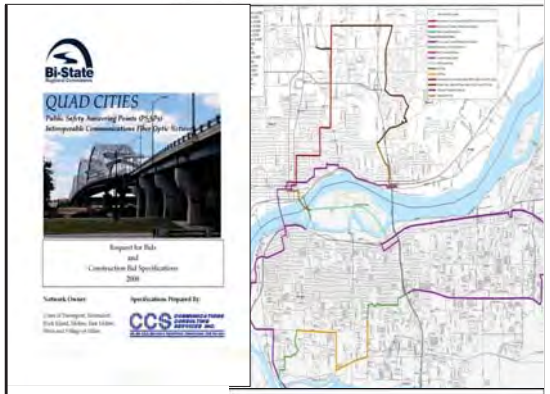
Vitruim Comm. ARRA-BIP App.
Client: Vitruim Comm., MA

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



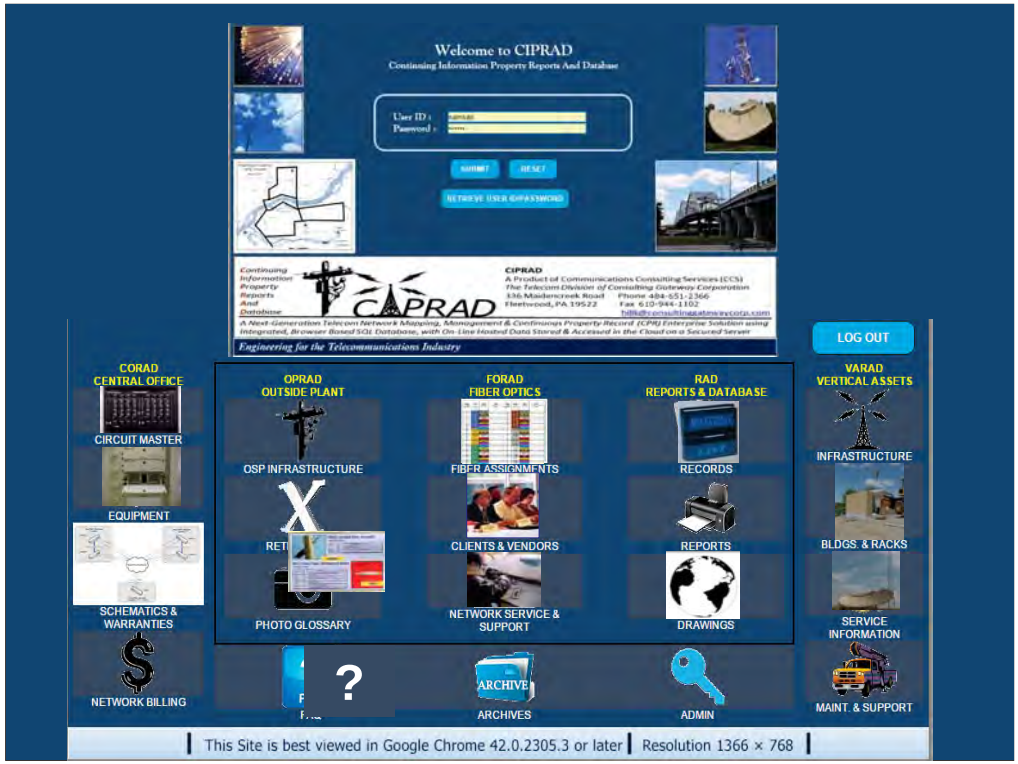
Project Milestones

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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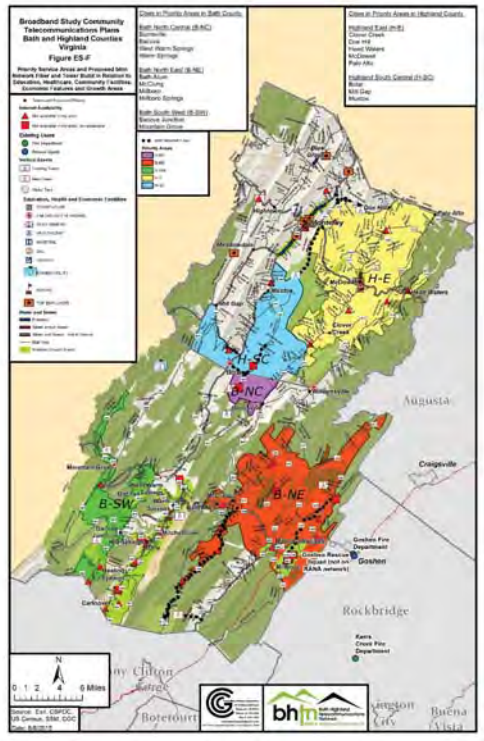
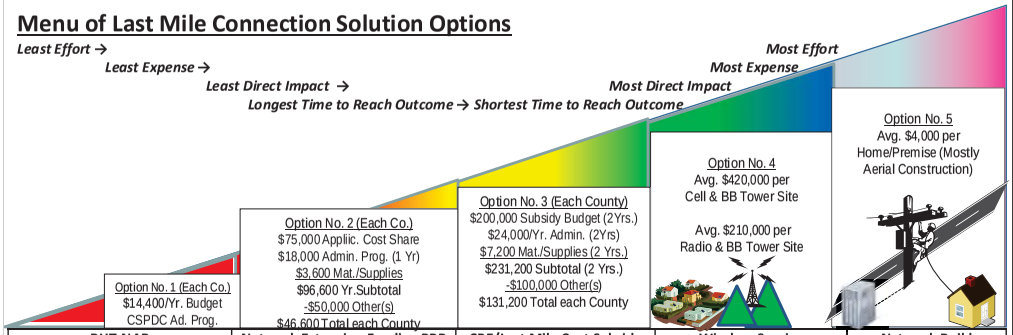
4180 Innslake Drive
Glen Allen, VA 23060
804-205-3337 Direct; 434-808-4079 Cell
804-290-7957; 804-290-7928 Fax
dmarshall@Dewberry.com; www.dewberry.com



Menu of Last Mile Connection Solution Options

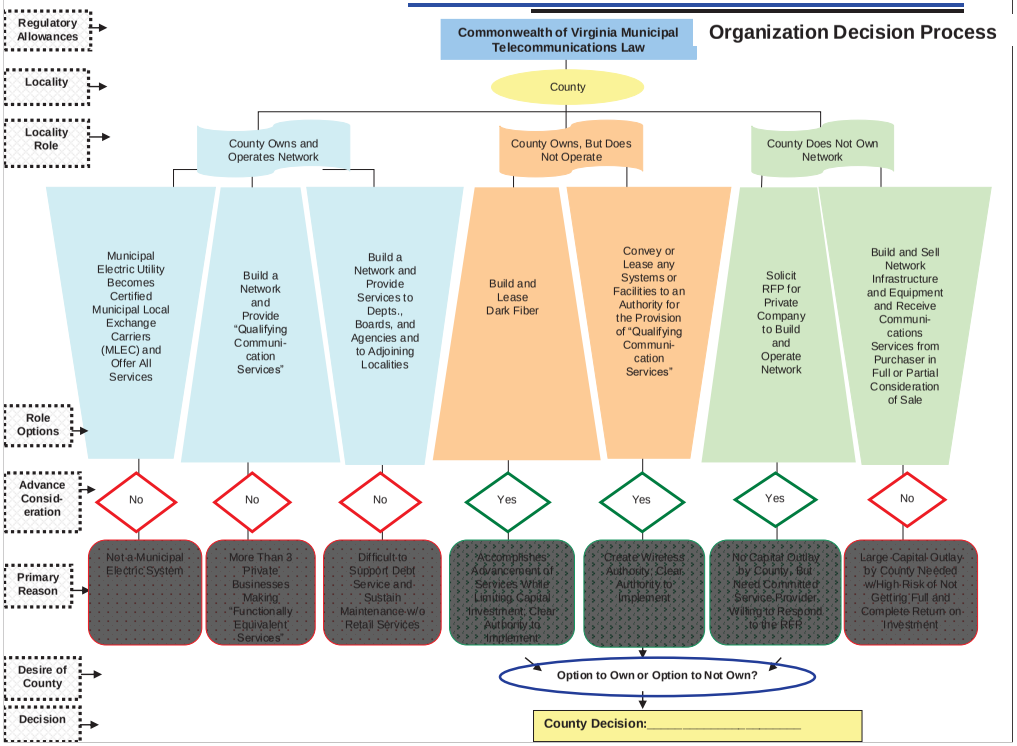


BHT-NAP	Network Extension Funding PPP	CPE/Last Mile Cost Subsidy	Wireless Service	Network Build
Telecom Network Assistance Program	***Getting Middle Mile Where Not Existing***	***Assisting Connecting Customers***	***RFP/Cost Share for Wireless Service PPP***	***"Homes with Tails"***
Liaison Between Customer & 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

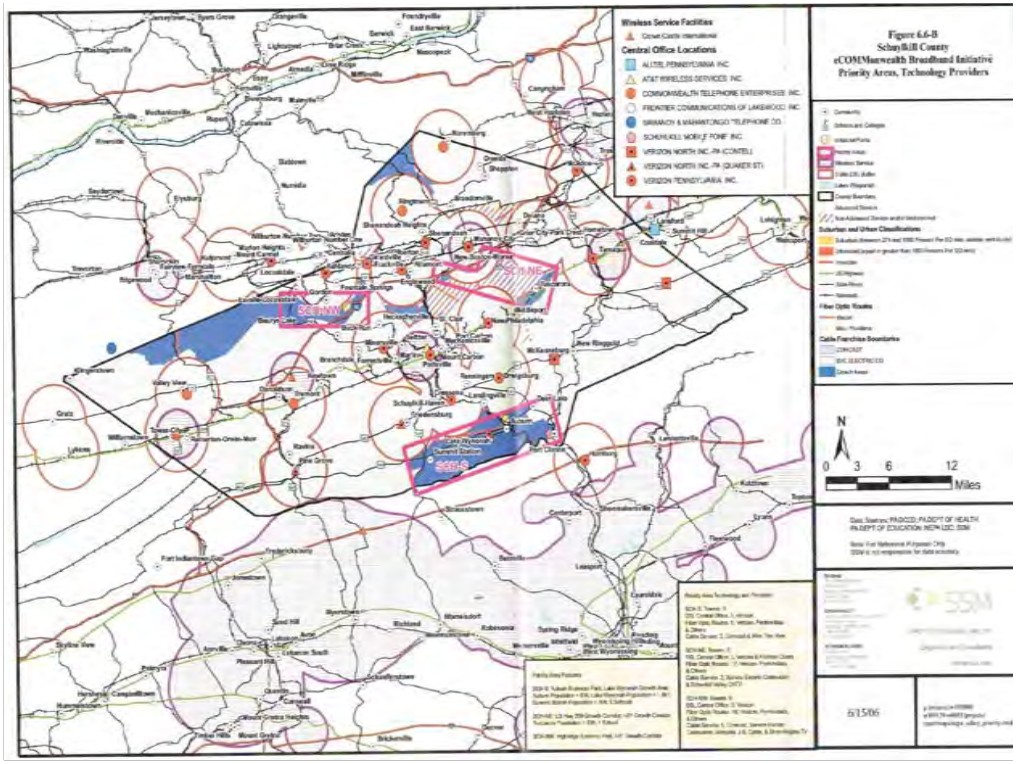
1. Select Last Mile and Main Connectivity Solution(s)
2. Extent of the Fiber and Tower Network Architecture Conceptual Design /Cost Estimates
3. Select the Organizational Governance and Structure of the Network
4. Create a Funding Plan
5. Create an Implementation Plan
6. Create Network Governance Plan

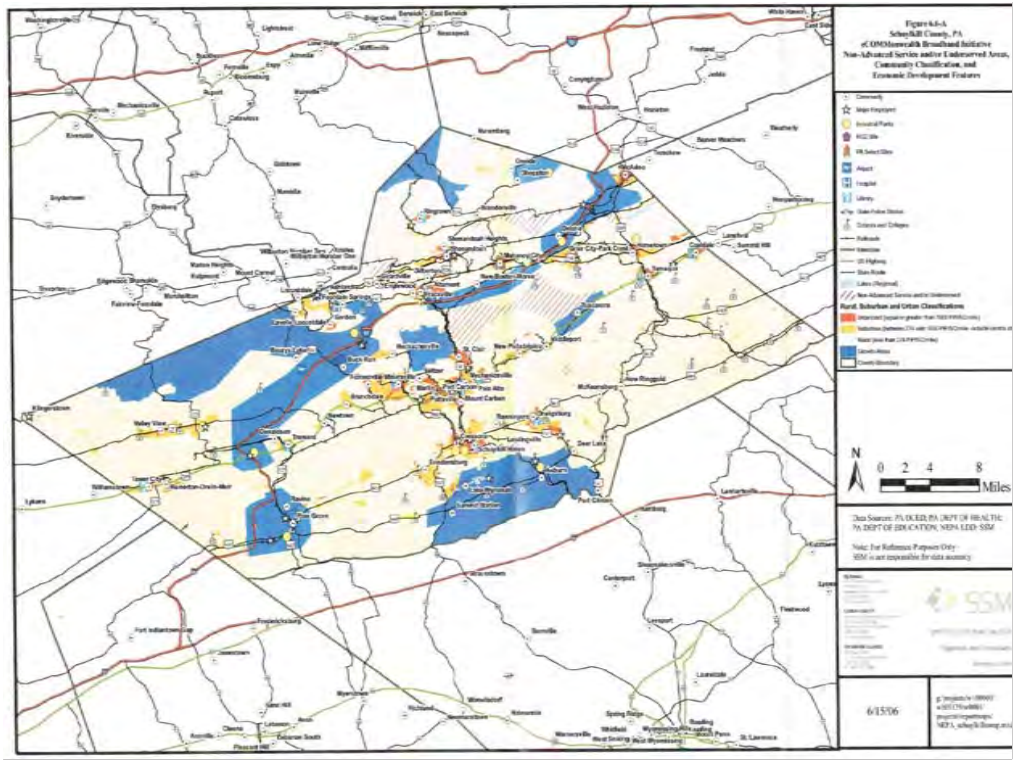
Operational Software

- 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	6

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%

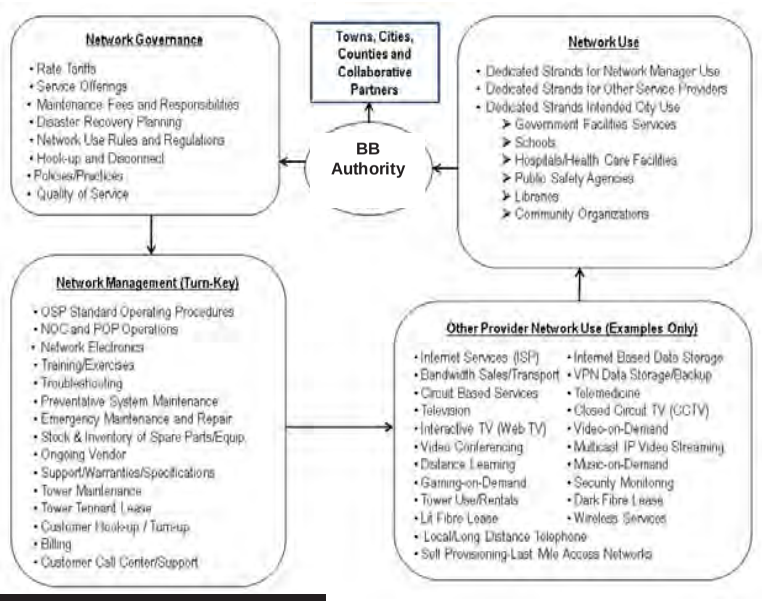
Why High Speed Services Not Utilized	
Reason	% of Responses
Not Available	35%
Too Expensive	41%

Location of Respondents Reporting High Speed Not Available	
BUTLER	WALKER
EAST UNION	WEST BRUNSWICK
HURLEY	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



FOSTER TOWNSHIP

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 (link)
   ☐ 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-$200 ☐ $201-$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-$250 ☐ $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 ☐ Completed school assignments
    ☐ Searched health or medical info ☐ Used E-mail
    ☐ Purchased products or services ☐ Followed social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
    ☐ 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
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?
    ☐ Poor/no help ☐ 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*)
    ☐ $12,150 or less ☐ $12,151 - $24,750 ☐ $24,751 - $41,150
    ☐ $41,151 - $43,900 ☐ $43,901 - $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).

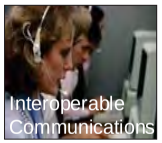
2. To fund reasonable pre-application expenses.
Funding for pre-application expenses may not exceed 5% of the award amount. If the funding category applied for has a grant component, then grant funds will be used for this purpose; otherwise, loan funds may be applied. All pre-application expenses must 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.

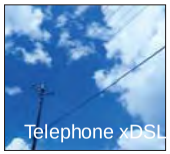
4. To fund terrestrial based facilities that support the provision of satellite broadband service.











Thank You for Your Time and Attention!

Keith A. Hill, P.E., President
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Fleetwood, PA 19522
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F: 610-944-1102
hillk@consultinggatewaycorp.com
www.consultinggatewaycorp.com

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: BARRETTJR@HOTMAIL.COM
Rob Sterling	Planning Committee	EMAIL:
Rich Zuba		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: BHALUPA@QUANDEL.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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Pottsville, PA 17901
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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 DUALEAU/		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:
		EMAIL:
		EMAIL:
		EMAIL:
		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
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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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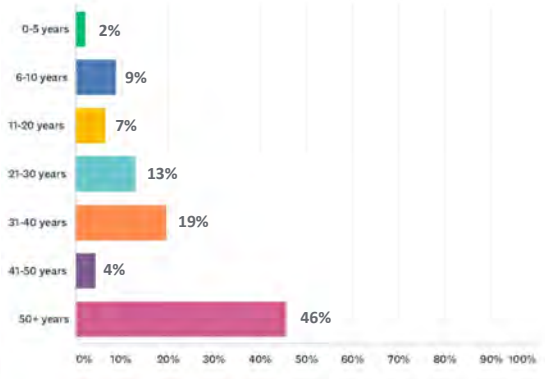
2

SURVEY RESULTS

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



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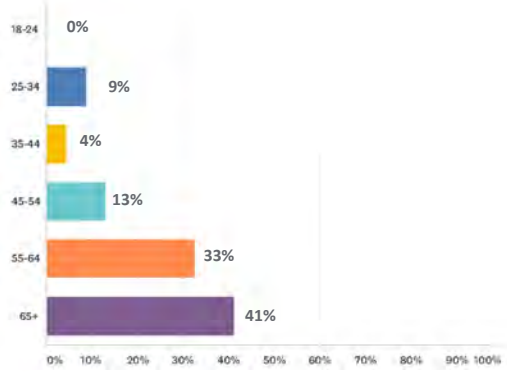
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 2: What is your current age?



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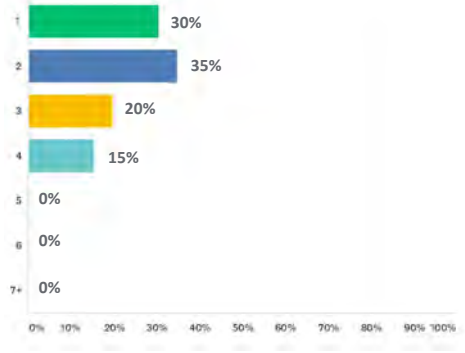
SURVEY RESULTS

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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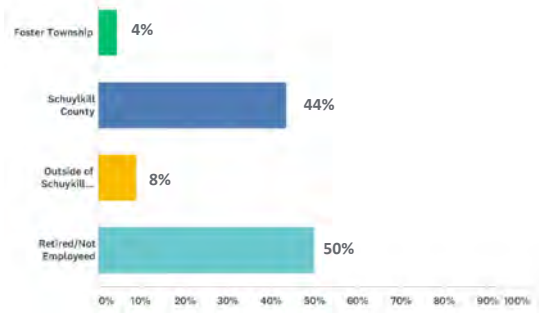
6

SURVEY RESULTS

Question 5: Where is your principal place of employment?



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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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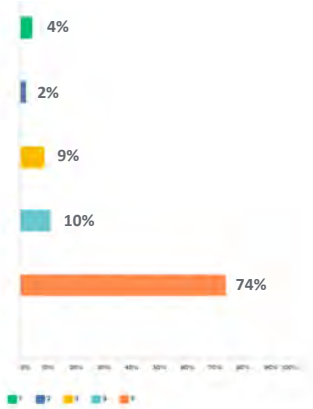
SURVEY RESULTS

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



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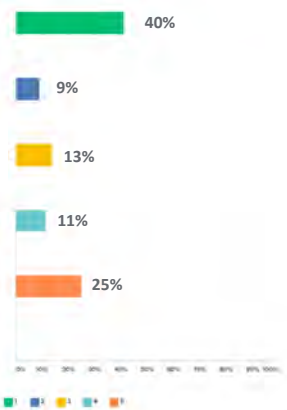
SURVEY RESULTS

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



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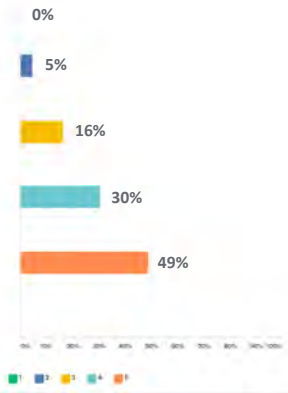
SURVEY RESULTS

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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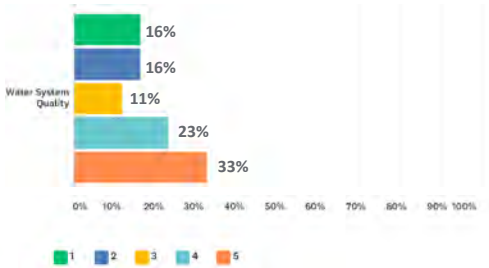
SURVEY RESULTS

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



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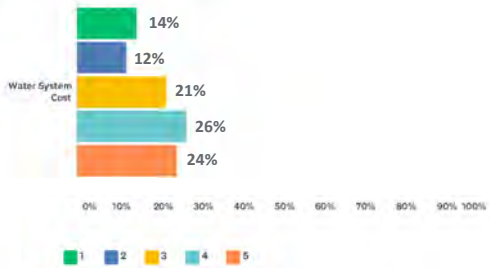
SURVEY RESULTS

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



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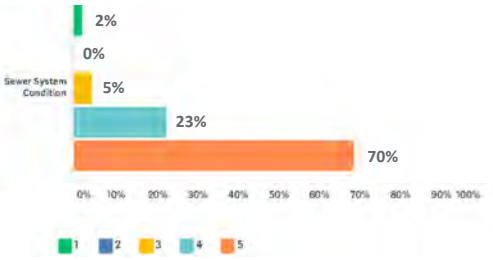
SURVEY RESULTS

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



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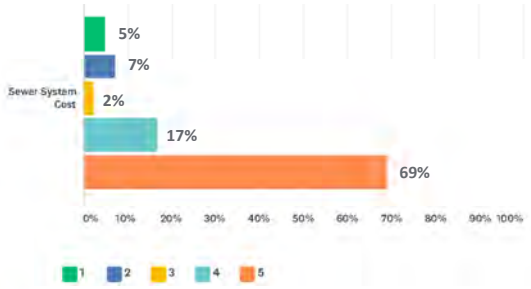
SURVEY RESULTS

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



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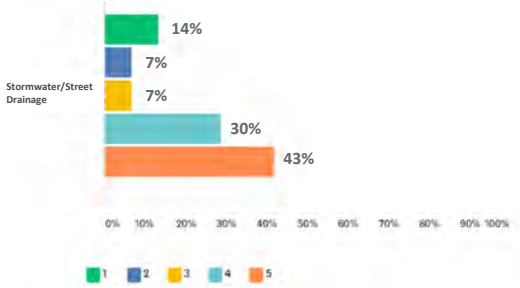
SURVEY RESULTS

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



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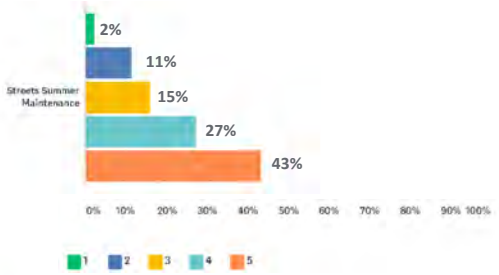
SURVEY RESULTS

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



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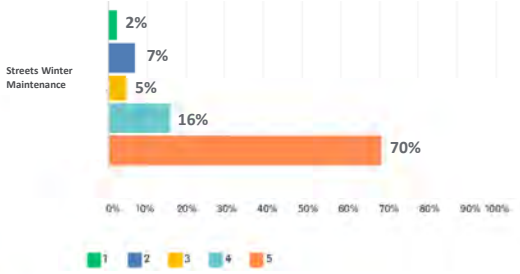
18

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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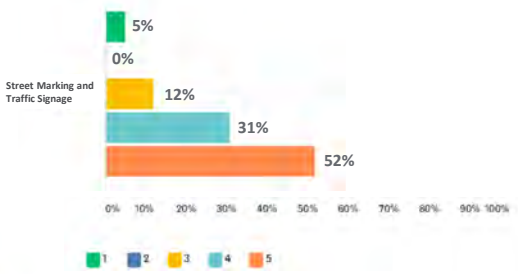
SURVEY RESULTS

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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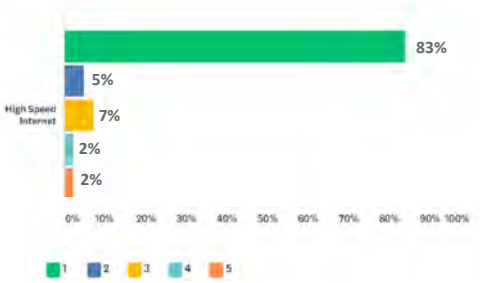
20

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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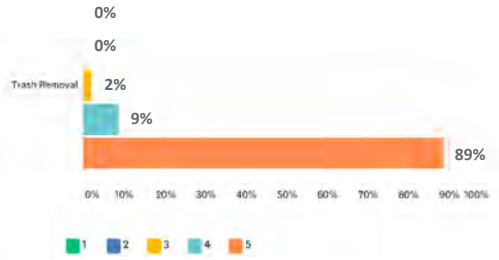
22

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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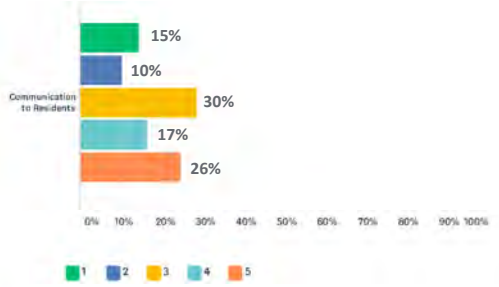
SURVEY RESULTS

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



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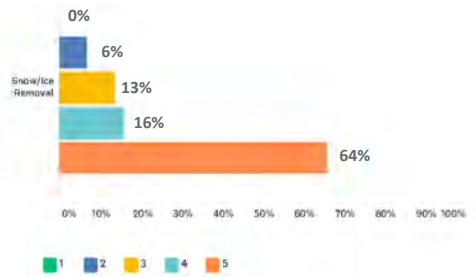
SURVEY RESULTS

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



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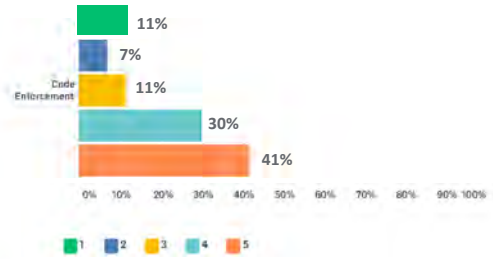
SURVEY RESULTS

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



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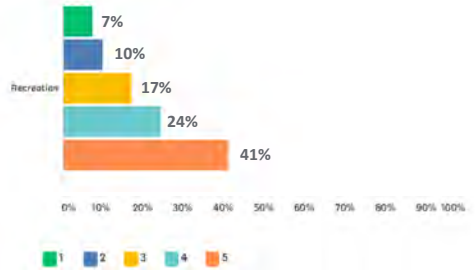
SURVEY RESULTS

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



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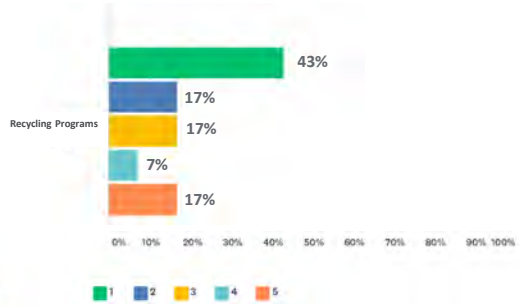
27

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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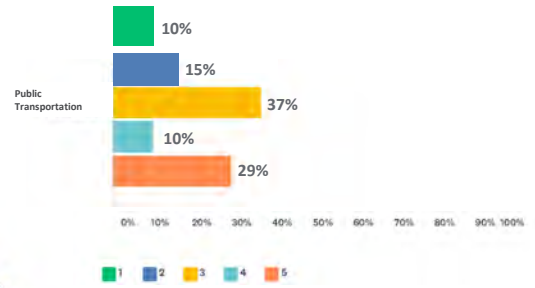
SURVEY RESULTS

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



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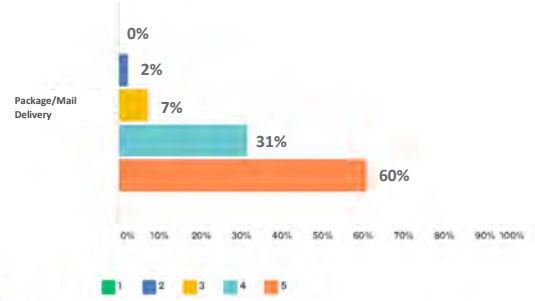
SURVEY RESULTS

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



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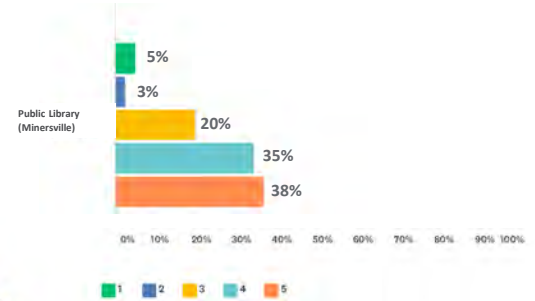
SURVEY RESULTS

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



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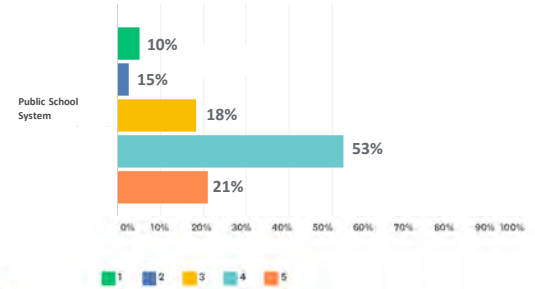
SURVEY RESULTS

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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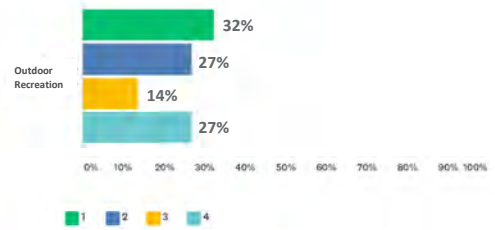
SURVEY RESULTS

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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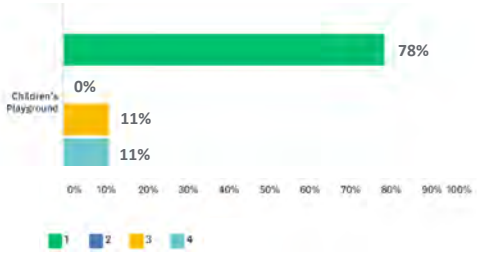
SURVEY RESULTS

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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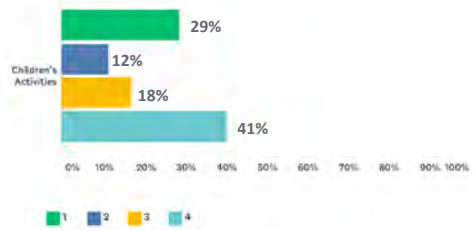
SURVEY RESULTS

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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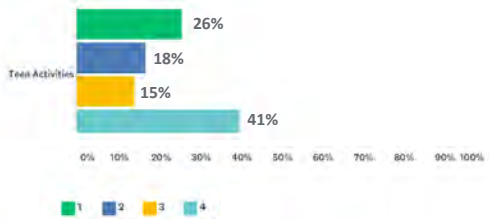
SURVEY RESULTS

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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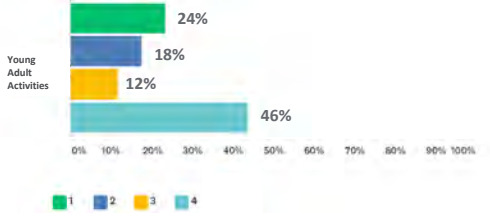
37

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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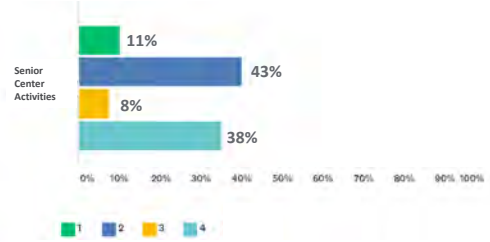
SURVEY RESULTS

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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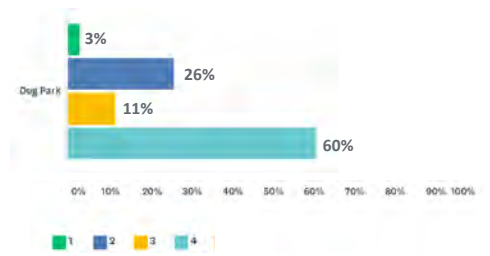
SURVEY RESULTS

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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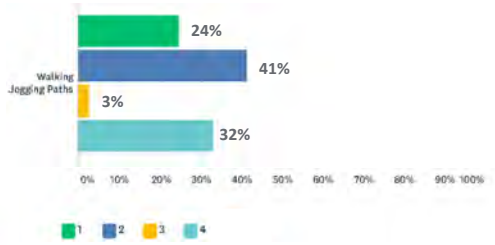
SURVEY RESULTS

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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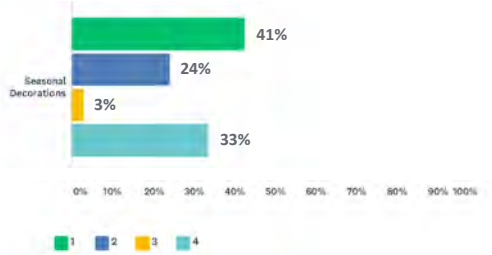
SURVEY RESULTS

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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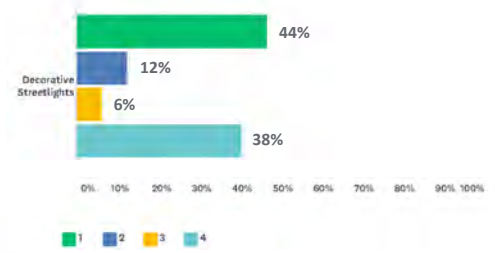
SURVEY RESULTS

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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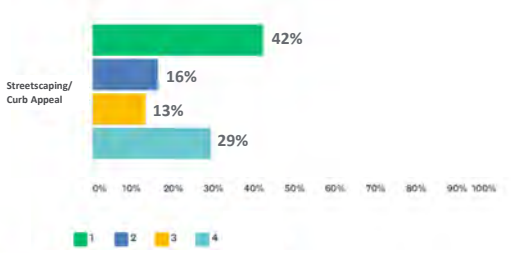
SURVEY RESULTS

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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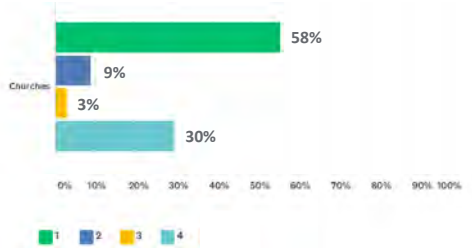
SURVEY RESULTS

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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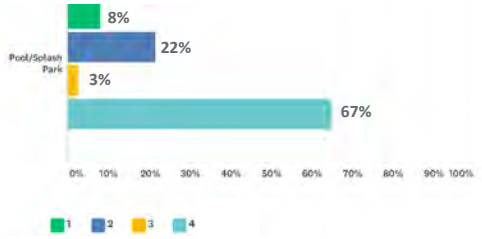
SURVEY RESULTS

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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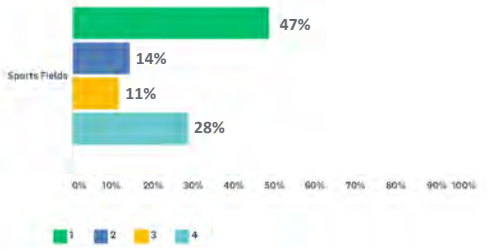
SURVEY RESULTS

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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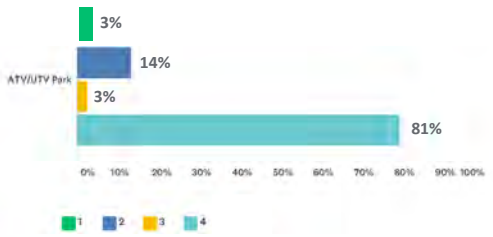
SURVEY RESULTS

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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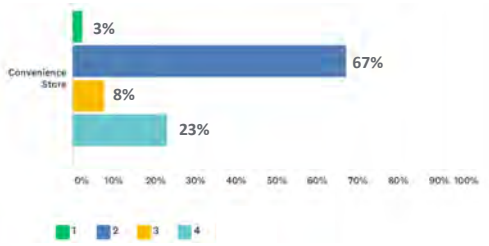
SURVEY RESULTS

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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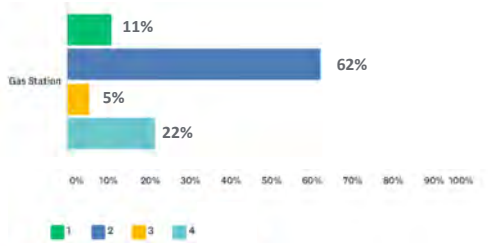
SURVEY RESULTS

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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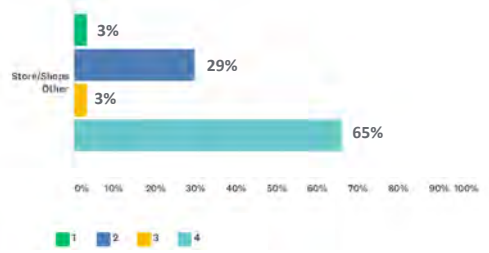
SURVEY RESULTS

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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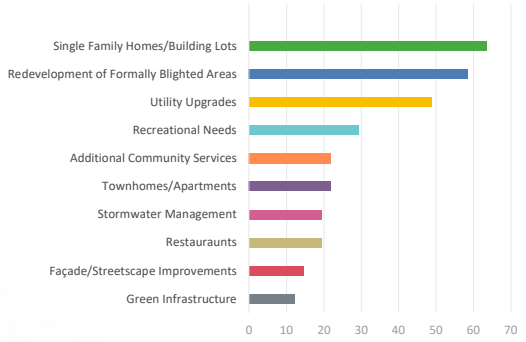
SURVEY RESULTS

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



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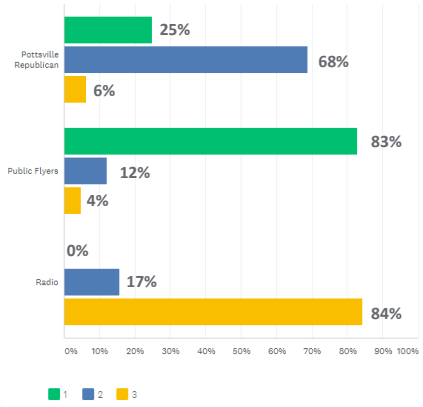
SURVEY RESULTS

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



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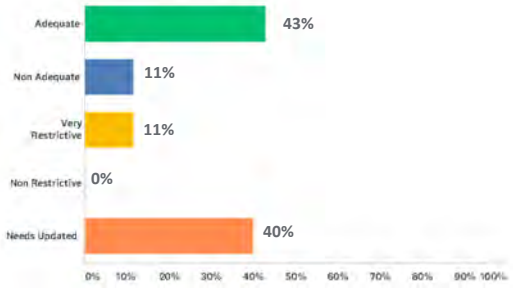
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 12: Current Township Zoning Ordinances:



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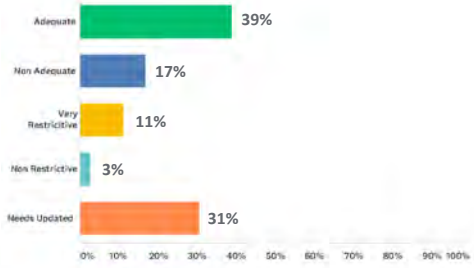
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 13: Current Township Ordinances, other than zoning:



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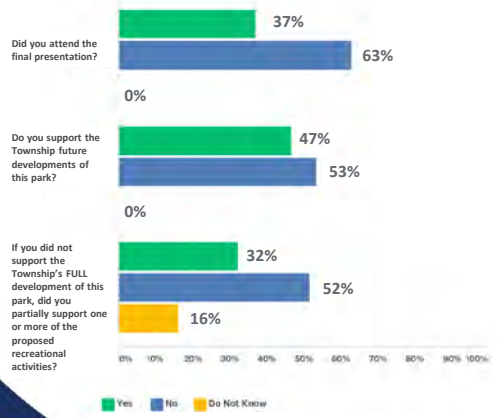
SURVEY RESULTS

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.

o 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

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

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

cc: All attendees

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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.
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 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

Appendix D // Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program Review

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Introduction

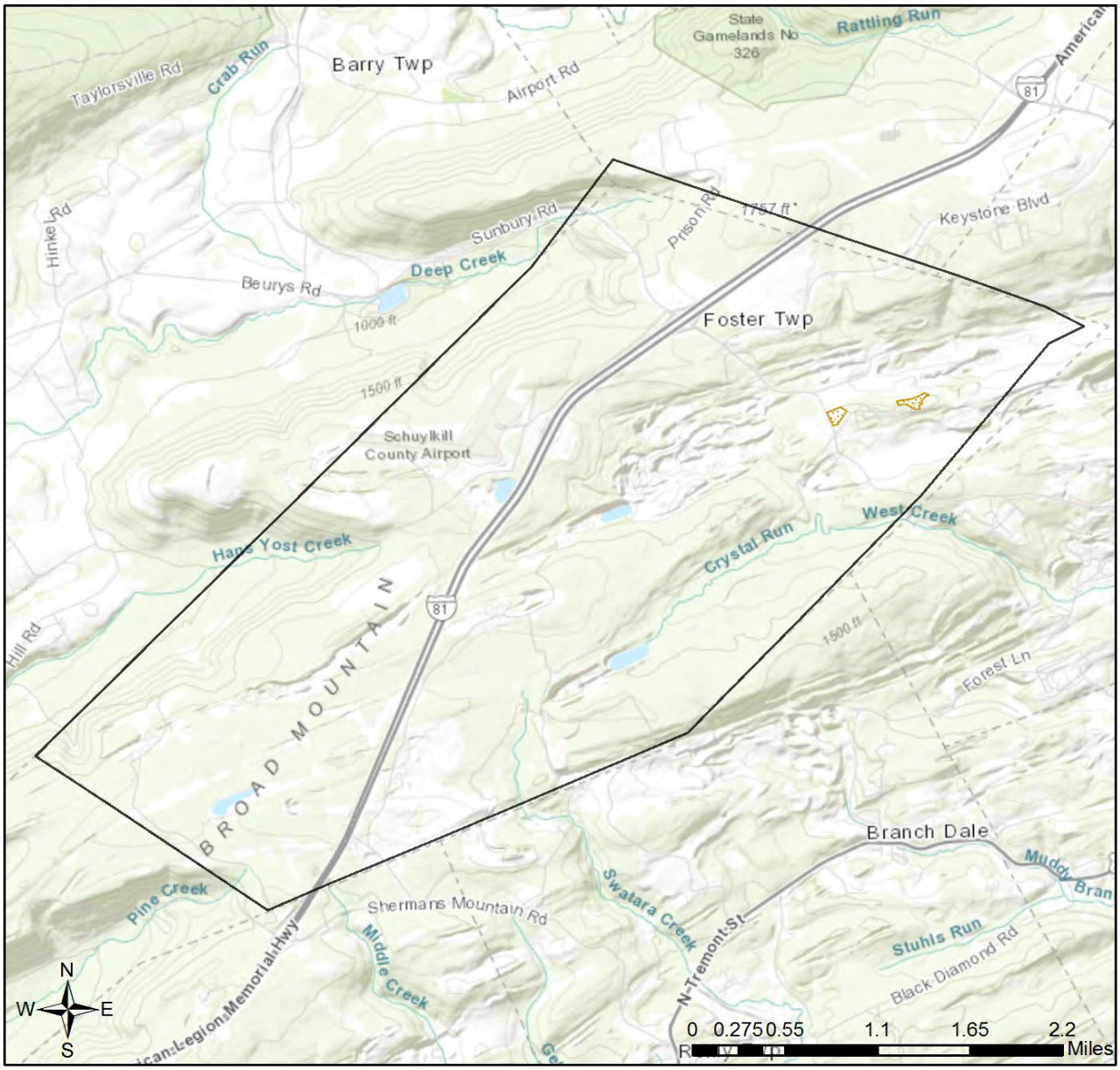
This Conservation Planning Report compiles names, descriptions, maps, locations, measurements, links and references for Natural Heritage Areas (core and supporting habitats), Important Bird Areas, State Lands, and agency designated water resources that are coincident with an area of interest defined by the user of the Pennsylvania Conservation Explorer tool. For an overview and additional details, please be sure to visit the website at www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us and download the applicable County Natural Heritage Inventory report(s).

Site Area: 8,437.08 acres
County(s): Schuylkill
Township/Municipality(s): BARRY TOWNSHIP; BUTLER TOWNSHIP; CASS TOWNSHIP; FOSTER TOWNSHIP; FRAILEY TOWNSHIP; HEGINS TOWNSHIP; REILLY TOWNSHIP
Quadrangle Name(s): MINERSVILLE; TREMONT
Watersheds HUC 8: Lower Susquehanna-Penns; Lower Susquehanna-Swatara; Schuylkill
Watersheds HUC 12: East Branch Schuylkill River; Good Spring Creek-Upper Swatara Creek; Hans Yost Creek-Deep Creek; Rausch Creek-Pine Creek; West Branch Schuylkill River
Decimal Degrees: 40.697543 N, -76.360914 W
Degrees Minutes Seconds: 40° 41' 51.1537" N, 76° 21' 39.2899" W

SEARCH RESULT SUMMARY

Conservation Planning Category	Detected Area Summary
Protected Lands	2 tracts; 9.53 acres

Foster Township Conservation Planning Report



Project Boundary

Local Parks

Protected_Areas_Map

Protected Areas



Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c)

Protected Lands
Protected lands or conservation areas are locations which receive protection, through legal or other means, because of their recognized natural, ecological and/or cultural values.

Name	Description	Owner	Website	Total Acres
Foster Township Community Park	Neighborhood Park			5.00
Hill Area Park	Neighborhood Park			5.00

Local Parks
A local park is a publicly owned and publicly accessible park or natural area that engages participants of all ages in outdoor recreational experiences. Local parks and open spaces connect citizens to close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities for play and physical activities; promote health and wellness, and environmental stewardship.

Local Park	Park Type	County	State or Federal Grant Funding
Foster Township Community Park	Neighborhood Parks	Schuylkill	Yes, click here for more information.
Hill Area Park	Neighborhood Parks	Schuylkill	Yes, click here for more information.

For additional information about the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program, visit the website at www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us or you can email your questions and comments to RA-HeritageReview@pa.gov.

Appendix E // Public Participation

benesch

Foster Township
1540 Sunbury Road,
Pottsville, Pennsylvania 17901

YOUR OPINION COUNTS! As required by the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Code, the Foster Township Supervisors are developing a 2020 Comprehensive Plan to outline the needs and direction of the Township for the next 10 years.

The information you provide will help the Comprehensive Plan Committee and Supervisors determine the needs for the Township. You are invited to be a part of the planning process by telling us how you and members of your household would grade the Township and other entities on services provided to you as a resident, and what direction you would like to see the Township move in the next 10 years. Your thoughts about the project are vital to the planning process. We appreciate you taking the time to complete this survey. The survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete.

The survey will be received by the Township until July 26, 2019

All survey results will be anonymous and are not identified by name.

1. How many years have you lived in your Foster Township?

a. 0-5 years .....☐
b. 6-10 years .....☐
c. 11-20 years ...☐
d. 21-30 years ...☐
e. 31-40 years ...☐
f. 41-50 years ...☐
g. 50+ .....☐

2. What is your current age?

a. 18-24.....☐
b. 25-34.....☐
c. 35-44.....☐
d. 45-54.....☐
e. 55-64.....☐
f. 65+ .....☐

3. How many people live in your household?

a. 1 ..... ☐
b. 2 ..... ☐
c. 3 ..... ☐
d. 4 ..... ☐
e. 5..... ☐
f. 6..... ☐
g. 7+..... ☐

4. Please indicate how many people of each age group currently live in your household?

	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**
a. Children under the age of 5 years	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
b. Children ages 6-12 years	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
c. Children ages 13-18 years	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

d. Adults ages 19-64 years ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

e. Adults ages 64+ years ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

5. Where is your principle place of employment?

a. Foster Township ..... □
b. Schuylkill County..... □
c. Outside Schuylkill County ..... □
d. Retired/Not Employed..... □

6. EMERGENCY SERVICES: These are vital services in place to serve you and your neighbors in the event of an emergency. Please rate the following by how each is preforming to your expectation by circling a number on the increasing scale. (1 + Needs Vast Improvements … to 5 = Meets or Exceeds All Expectations)

a. Foster Township Police Department ..... 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 5
b. Mount Pleasant Hose Company ..... 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 5
c. Minersville Ambulance ..... 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 5

7. INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS: These are the fundamental needs and services of a community essential to enable, sustain, or enhance societal life and mobility. Please rate the following as to its current condition vs. your expectation by circling a number on the increasing scale. (1 + Needs Vast Improvements … to 5 = Meets or Exceeds All Expectations)

a. Water System Quality ..... 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 5
b. Water System Cost ..... 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 5
c. Sewer System Condition ..... 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 5
d. Sewer System Cost..... 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 5
e. Stormwater/Street Drainage ..... 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 5
f. Streets Condition ..... 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 5
g. Streets Summer Maintenance ..... 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 5
h. Streets Winter Maintenance ..... 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 5
i. Streets Marking and Traffic Signage ..... 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 5
j. Streets Marking and Traffic Signage ..... 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 5
k. High Speed Internet..... 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 5

Comments (pro/con/suggestion)

_____

_____

_____

8. BASIC MUNICIPAL SERVICES: These are the fundamental services a municipality provides to residents, property owners, and businesses funded by taxes or specific fees. Please rate the following as to its current condition vs. your expectation by circling a number on the increasing scale. (1 + Needs Vast Improvements … to 5 = Meets or Exceeds All Expectations)

a. Trash Removal ..... 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 5
b. Communication to Residents..... 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 5
c. Snow/Ice Removal ..... 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 5
d. Code Enforcement ..... 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 5

e.	Recreation	1	2	3	4	5
f.	Public School System (MASD)	1	2	3	4	5
g.	Recycling Programs (Schuykill County)	1	2	3	4	5
h.	Public Transportation (STS)	1	2	3	4	5
i.	Package/Mail Delivery (USPS, UPS,Fedex)	1	2	3	4	5
j.	Public Library (Minersville Library)	1	2	3	4	5

Comments (pro/con/suggestion)

_____

_____

_____

9. **QUALITY OF LIFE: Factors in your daily existence during work, play, and interaction with others affect your enjoyment, satisfaction, achievement, and wellbeing. These factors can certainly be different per individual. Which of the following add or take away from your Quality of Life in Foster Township? (Check those you value most or would value if available. Then of those, also check those to be added and where applicable, those needing improvement.)**

		I/We have and Value	**Service should be Added**	**Service Needs Improve**	**Service Not Needed**
a.	Outdoor Recreation (all ages)	□	□	□	□
b.	Children's Playground	□	□	□	□
c.	Children's Activities	□	□	□	□
d.	Teen Activities	□	□	□	□
e.	Young Adult/Activities	□	□	□	□
f.	Senior Center/Activities	□	□	□	□
g.	Dog Park	□	□	□	□
h.	Walking Jogging Paths	□	□	□	□
i.	Seasonal Decorations	□	□	□	□
j.	Decorative Streetlights	□	□	□	□
k.	Streetscaping/Curb Appeal	□	□	□	□
l.	Churches	□	□	□	□
m.	Pool/Splash Park	□	□	□	□
n.	Sports Fields	□	□	□	□
o.	ATV/UTV Park	□	□	□	□
p.	Convenience Store	□	□	□	□
q.	Gas Station	□	□	□	□
r.	Store/Shops Other	□	□	□	□
s.	Other	_____			
t.	Other	_____			
u.	Other	_____			

10. **FUTURE GROWTH: The current population of Foster Township is declining. The Township will need to plan for the future needs of the Township and future population. Check with items below you believe is needed and will benefit the future growth and economy of Foster Township.**

a.	Single Family Homes/Building Lots	☐
b.	Redevelopment of formally blighted areas	☐
c.	Townhomes/Apartments	☐
d.	Small Businesses	☐

e. Restaurants ..... ☐
f. Utility Upgrades ..... ☐
g. Façade/Streetscape improvements ..... ☐
h. Recreational Needs ..... ☐
i. Additional Community Services ..... ☐
j. Green Infrastructure ..... ☐
k. Stormwater Management ..... ☐
l. Other _____
m. Other _____
n. Other _____
o. Other _____
p. Other _____

11. **COMMUNICATION: Considerable effort is mode to inform residents and the general public of matters past, present and future that affect day-to-day life and improve the quality of that life through public meetings and flyers. The way people receive general information these days are varied.**

How do you, or would you like to find out about Foster Township matters? Indicate your Top 3 methods, #1 being preferred by writing 1, 2, and 3 beside your choices.

_____ Pottsville Republican
_____ Public Flyers
_____ Radio

Items that could be developed

_____ Township Newsletter Would you be willing to assist with Content **Yes*** ☐ **No** ☐
_____ Township Facebook Page
_____ Other Social media..... List Preferred_____
_____ Township Electronic Message Board

*If yes, please provide your contact information to the Township

12. **Do you see the current Township Zoning Ordinance as ? (Check all that Apply)**

Adequate	Not Adequate	Very Restrictive	Non Restrictive	Needs Updated
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

13. **Do you see the current Township Ordinances, other than zoning as ? (Check all that Apply)**

Adequate	Not Adequate	Very Restrictive	Non Restrictive	Needs Updated
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

What modifications or ordinances would you like to see added, removed or amended, please note necessary actions?

_____

_____

14. **The Foster Township Supervisors recently completed a Master Site Plan partially funded by DCNR towards the development of a large parcel of property in the Township into a large-scale park, which was to be phased out over a services or 20-30 years. A public presentation was held in May 2018. A copy of this Master Site Plan is on file at the Township Building. The project is currently tabled at this point.**

Did you attend the final presentation?

Yes	No
☐	☐

Do you support the Township future development of this park?

Yes	No
☐	☐

If you did not support the Township's FULL development of this park, did you partially support one or more of the proposed recreational activities to be completed at the proposed park?

Yes	No	Do Not Know
☐	☐	☐

If Yes, what Activities

_____

_____

_____

If No, what dissuaded your support?

_____

_____

_____

If No, what do you feel should be done with the Township Property?

_____

_____

_____

15. **We welcome any other comments or suggestion you have regarding current services, problem areas, and other needs you feel should be investigated by the Township and Comprehensive Planning Committee that would further enhance you Quality of Life as a resident or employee in the Township. Please feel free to provide your additional comments below. Use additional sheets if necessary.**

_____

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_____

_____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR RESPONSES!

Optional

Names(s):_____

Address:_____

Phone Number/Email Address:_____

Please complete your survey online or return your completed paper survey to the Foster Township Municipal Building, 1540 Sunbury Road, Pottsville, Pennsylvania 17901 before July 26, 2019. We appreciate your helpful responses with the completion of the Foster Township 2020 Comprehensive Plan.

Questions and survey completed by:









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