

Part I - Introduction and Strategic Action Plans

Introduction

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Snyder County, created as a civil division on March 2, 1855, from the southern portion of Union County, was named for Simon Snyder, a Selinsgrove resident who served as governor of the commonwealth from 1808 to 1817. Prior to 1855, Snyder County’s present land area was included in Northumberland County prior to 1772, and then as a part of Berks and Cumberland counties until 1813.

Snyder County is located in the Middle Susquehanna River Valley in north-central Pennsylvania and adjoins Union County to the north, Northumberland County to the east, Juniata County to the south and Mifflin County to the west (Figure I-1). The County’s location is a major factor in determining the kind of development currently taking place and expected in the future. The County is 30 miles north of Harrisburg, along the western shore of the Susquehanna River and is part of the Central Pennsylvania Appalachian Region. The communities of Sunbury, Williamsport and Lewistown are the major urban centers serving the area. Regional centers of Wilkes-Barre, Scranton and Harrisburg also influence the County. Coupled with its major transportation routes of U.S. Routes 11/15 and 522, Snyder County’s geographic location greatly contributes to its dynamic composition.

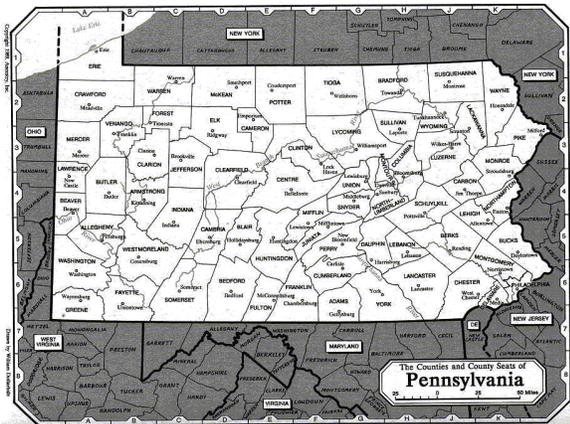


Figure I-1

Section 210, Act of August 9, 1955 (P.L. 323), as amended, known as “The County Code,” divides counties into nine classes based on decennial population counts. Snyder County is classified as a Seventh Class County. Seventh Class Counties are those having a population of 20,000 and more, but less than 45,000 inhabitants. It also includes those counties have a population of 35,000 and more, but less than 45,000 inhabitants, which have not elected to be a county of the sixth class.

In addition to living under the Snyder County form of government, all publics of the County also reside in a municipality. The municipal governments of Snyder County consist of six boroughs and 15 townships. These municipal governing bodies make policy decisions, levy taxes, borrow money, authorize expenditures and direct administration of their governments by appointees.

Each of the County’s six boroughs have an elected mayor and council. The mayor is elected to a four-year term, while council members are elected for four-year overlapping terms.

The County’s 15 townships are of the Second Class, which are composed of three supervisors who are elected at large. Two additional supervisors may be elected if approved by referendum. All are elected at large for six-year terms.

Middleburg, the County seat, which was laid out in and originally named Swinefordsettle in 1800 by John Albright Swineford, was incorporated as a borough on September 25, 1860. Middleburg was the second borough to be incorporated into the County. The first borough in Snyder County was Selinsgrove which was founded in 1784 by Simon’s brother John Snyder and incorporated in 1853. Other boroughs include Beavertown, Freeburg, McClure and Shamokin Dam that

were incorporated in 1914, 1920, and 1927 and founded in 1810, 1796, and 1745 by Jacob Lechner, Andred Straud, and George Keen, respectively.

The initial inhabitants of the Snyder County area were of German decent. Noted for their dedication to hard work, the settlers used the fertile soils and the plentiful water supply to make their living off the land. More and more of the area was opened for settlement by new and improved modes of transportation. When paths and canals gave way to rail and highway systems, the economy changed from agriculture to manufacturing, and by 1820 the area had a population of 18,000 strong. Textile and wood products began to take the place of the distilleries and tanneries that used to make up the bulk of the industry; still, Snyder County maintains a vast amount of farmland. Today, with the increased travel facilities, some communities' limits for growth and expansion are being dissolved, and Snyder County is becoming a more cohesive community as the small towns lose their individuality.

**SNYDER COUNTY
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE**

Introduction

Snyder County's last comprehensive plan was completed in 1974 and is considered outdated. Based on this factor, as well as the County's continued population growth, and land development and transportation improvement trends, the Snyder County Board of Commissioners decided in early 1999 to update its Comprehensive Plan with funding assistance obtained through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED).

What Is a Comprehensive Plan?

The Snyder County Comprehensive Plan is the official statement of public policy by the Board of Commissioners pertaining to growth and development in the County. It is meant to be used by the Commissioners, County staff, municipal officials and other government agencies, authorities, private citizens, and the business community. The plan is intended as a guide for the legislative decisions and as a reference for needed policy changes. It should serve as the basis for planning improvements and rendering services where the County is responsible.

Although for some time, the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC, Act 247 of 1968, as reenacted and amended) has required that municipal comprehensive plans be generally consistent with the County Comprehensive Plan, the recent amendments (June 2000) to the MPC has further elaborated on this. The new amendment enhances the consistency requirement between municipal and multi-jurisdictional plans with the County Plan. County comprehensive plans must now be updated every ten years and local plans must be reviewed every ten years. Consistency with the County Plan has now been reinforced in terms of its impact on certain funding sources from the state including providing priority to those municipalities which are consistent with the County Plan.

The MPC requires a comprehensive plan to consider many factors such as location, character and timing of future development. Essentially, a comprehensive plan provides a blueprint for future housing, transportation, community facilities and utilities, and land use. The Snyder County Strategic Comprehensive Plan was prepared in accordance with the MPC, which includes the recent amendments pursuant to Acts 67 and 68.

How Is a Comprehensive Plan Prepared?

A comprehensive plan document consists of three integral components: 1) background studies; 2) the community's goals and objectives; and 3) policy action plans for land use, housing, transportation and community facilities. According to Section 301.2 of the MPC, "In preparing the comprehensive plan, the planning agency shall make careful surveys, studies and analyses of housing, demographic and economic characteristics and trends; amount, type, and general location and interrelationships of different categories of land use; general location and extent of transportation and community facilities; natural features affecting development; natural, historic, and cultural resources; and the prospects for future growth in the municipality."

Public Involvement

The Snyder County comprehensive planning effort was strongly based on public involvement techniques and programs. One of the initial techniques used was Commissioners' appointment of an 18-member comprehensive plan Planning Advisory Committee (PAC). The PAC members represented various facets of the Snyder County community including representatives from the Planning Commission, business community, municipal government, Chamber of Commerce, medical services and the farming community. This group met every one to two months over a two year period to review work products, monitor progress and provide overall direction on the Comprehensive Plan development. Other public involvement techniques and programs employed at various stages of the planning process included the following:

- ▶ Direct mail Quality of Life Survey to 10 percent of the residents in the County;

- ▶ key person interviews;
- ▶ four regional community forums;
- ▶ Countywide public meetings;
- ▶ newsletters; and
- ▶ Community Advisory Committee meetings (CAC).

Planning Process

The Comprehensive Plan was completed under a two-phased process. Phase I (i.e., background studies) provided a "Where are we now?" and "Where are we going?" approach, whereby elements of population, housing, land use, natural features, transportation, and county government facilities and finances were analyzed to develop baseline trends and issues. Moreover, several of the above referenced public involvement techniques were used to formulate additional background trends and issues data.

Phase II served to answer the questions of "Where do we want to be?" and "How do we get there?". Based on the outcomes of the Phase I process, activities in Phase II included the development of alternative land use features and consensus on a preferred vision for the County. As a result, a series of goals, objectives and action strategies were developed for the areas of transportation, land use, housing, environmental resources, and government facilities and services.

During the Phase II process, the County Commissioners implemented three Community Advisory Committees (CAC) to develop action and implementation strategies for the following planning element areas—transportation, land use, housing, environmental resources, and government facilities and services. Each CAC held five two-hour meetings in less than a two-month period. The results of their efforts culminated the County's strategic comprehensive planning process.

Finally, the County's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance was updated to implement various Action Strategies contained within the Comprehensive Plan, as well as to accommodate changes in the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) and comply with other applicable laws and regulations.

Plan Elements - Goals, Objectives and Action Strategies

INTENT

Snyder County is a predominantly rural, agricultural community that is increasingly being influenced by its transportation systems. These transportation systems provide the County with a high level of accessibility to major urban centers, such as Harrisburg and Williamsport, and points beyond. As a result, the County's eastern tier municipalities have experienced a tremendous amount of growth and development stemming outward from U.S. Routes 11/15 and 522. These growth pressures in turn are impacting the outlying rural municipalities through conventional development practices, which pose a series of impacts to local communities.

This Future Land Use Plan provides a general framework for managing future growth and development in Snyder County. Snyder County understands that its growth, if managed properly, will have positive benefits for its present and future residents. This growth management concept will be directed by the following Goals and Objectives, which among other things require development to be coordinated and well planned.

The components of this Future Land Use Plan are as follows:

- ▶ Goal, Objectives and Action Strategies
- ▶ Future Land Use Plan (Map)
- ▶ Future Land Use Plan Summary

FUTURE LAND USE PLAN (MAP)

The purpose of the Future Land Use Plan is to develop a general spatial framework for development that will be implemented through the Snyder County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, local comprehensive plans and ordinances. Recent amendments (June 2000) to the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) gives

greater emphasis to consistency between county and municipal comprehensive plans, as well as between local plans and zoning regulations. This means the Snyder County Comprehensive Plan should contain an overriding concept of goals and objective statements that can be related to local plans. The goals and objective statements contained herein establish the County's desired actions for the future. Goals provide a basic direction to guide the treatment of an issue while objectives are statements of commitment to achieve a desired end result.

The Future Land Use Plan applies the concept of "growth areas" to the County's overall existing and future development patterns. A growth area is a tool that can be used to implement this Comprehensive Plan. Specifically, a growth area is a spatial delineation of a particular area where development at higher densities is encouraged and infrastructure to serve such development is provided for or planned. This benefits municipalities because it attempts to focus municipal resources to ensure that as the market creates the demand for development, the necessary infrastructure will be implemented. Through private and public cooperation, Snyder County's future growth needs are met by providing for development in locations where it is appropriate and limiting growth pressures where it is less desired.

The Future Land Use Plan map was developed using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology. The County's objective for this Land Use Plan was to direct new development to areas having the supportive infrastructure (i.e., sewer and water) thereby, protecting the County's outlying rural and natural resource areas.

The Future Land Use Plan map depicts four general land use categories—Town Centers, Village Centers, Rural Areas, and Unique

Natural Landscapes and Resources. A detailed discussion of these four land use categories is provided in the following narratives.

Town Centers

The Town Centers land use category delineates those portions of Snyder County that are served by both public sewer and public water services and are most appropriate for accommodating higher density development. The Town Center area was developed by buffering the existing service areas by 1,000 feet to accommodate future development for uses such as residential, commercial, industrial and institutional. The Future Land Use Summary Table located at the conclusion of this chapter provides a detailed overview of the Town Center and recommendations for its revitalization and development.

The majority of the County's Town Centers are concentrated in the Selinsgrove and Shamokin Dam Borough areas, which are predominantly serviced by the Eastern Snyder County Regional Authority (ESCRA). The remaining Town Center areas are concentrated along the U.S. Route 522 and PA Route 35 and 104 corridors and are serviced by various entities.

Village Centers

The Village Centers land use category broadly defines those portions of Snyder County that have a limited (i.e., providing either public water or sewer service) public infrastructure systems. Similar to the Town Centers, the Village Centers were defined by buffering the existing service areas by 1,000 feet to accommodate future development.

In addition to accommodating a variety of residential uses, the Village Centers may serve

as small-scale commercial service and retail nodes for surrounding Rural Areas. It is recommended that future development be encouraged to strengthen the commercial retail and service uses desired by rural residents to fulfill basic, daily needs, rather than uses that are more properly located in the Town Center areas of the County.

The Future Land Use Summary Table provides a detailed overview of the Village Center and recommendations for its development.

Rural Areas

The Rural Areas land use category comprises the majority of Snyder County's land area and primarily consists of traditional family farm operations, open spaces, forest lands, low density residential uses, commercial agricultural operations, natural resource production operations and small-scale industrial uses. The purpose of the Rural Development Area is to delineate those portions of the County whereby a rural living environment is the desired and most appropriate use. This, in part, helps preserve the County's existing agricultural-based community and resources, as well as to protect and sustain the Plain Sect population's way of life.

The Plain Sect, Amish and Mennonite, have largely remained dependent upon their agricultural way-of-life and communal society, therefore, necessitating the need to retain their land holdings for future generations. Land acquisition in the vicinity of existing Amish or Mennonite communities, (e.g., Chapman Township) is a high priority in escalating farm values. Development in these areas of the County is minimal despite the improvement in roads and other modern conveniences. The subdivision of family farms among the male children is common

when additional land is not available. Brian Lande emphasizes these points in his 1998 work entitled, *Cultural Change and Survival in Amish Society*—“Many older Amish hand down their farms to their children. This keeps many Amish men from going into debt and leaving the Order and furthers the growth of Amish society.”¹

To limit the potential of high density growth, the Rural Area is not intended to be serviced by public sewer systems. However, the County promotes each municipality to update and implement their Act 537 plans to appropriately address malfunctioning on-lot sewage disposal systems.

The Future Land Use Summary Table provides a detailed overview of this category and recommendations for its preservation and development.

Unique Natural Landscapes and Resources

The purpose of this land use category is to identify those areas containing unique natural landscapes and resources and to identify areas posing severe constraints on land development. These areas include steep sloped areas (i.e., >25 percent), 100-year floodplains, wetlands, surface water resources, scenic vistas and public lands. The Future Land Use Summary Table provides a detailed overview of this land use category.

GOAL: To provide a sound, Countywide framework to guide local land use patterns through municipal cooperation and public outreach.

¹ Lande, Brian. 1998. *Cultural Change in Amish Society*. Online. www.windycreek.com/Brian/amish-cultural-dynamics.html.

Action and Implementation Strategies:

Action and Implementation Strategies have been developed to fulfill the goal and objectives developed for this planning element. Action and Implementation Strategies serve as recommendations for enhancing Snyder County’s planning activities and provides guidance for the overall growth and development of its municipalities. Each strategy contains an Action Statement (AS) and a Recommendation(s) for implementation. Each strategy is given a priority level (i.e, H=High, M=Medium, and L=Low), and identifies the County Department(s) and cooperating public/private entity(ies) responsible for implementing a specific recommendation (i.e., L=Local Municipalities, S=State Agencies, P=Private; or SD=School Districts). Each Action Strategy also provides a suggested time frame for its implementation. Finally, each strategy is referenced to the categorized list of potential funding sources contained in Part One of this Comprehensive Plan.

Centralized Planning Objective: By enabling Snyder County to provide enhanced planning and development services to both the private and public sectors.

AS: Develop a County-based public outreach program to enhance communications and interaction with local officials and citizens.

Recommendation(s):

- ▶ As recommended in the Government Facilities and Services Plan, the County should implement a Geographic Information System (GIS) program to provide a platform for Countywide planning services and technical assistance for local communities. This GIS program

should be used to facilitate the County's public outreach and technical assistance objectives. The County's "Local Government GIS Assistance Program" may be modeled after similar programs established in Union and Mifflin Counties.

- ▶ The County should implement a "Community Planning and Development Services Program" to provide the leadership and education necessary to assist local communities in planning for their future. Through this program, the County may provide technical assistance, such as:

- Prepare a program to promote awareness of the Snyder County Comprehensive Plan. This program should include an overview of the Plan's goals and objectives and the growth management concepts promoted herein.
- Review local plans and ordinances to ensure consistency with the Snyder County Comprehensive Plan.
- Educate the public and private sector on the benefits of Smart Growth; particularly, in the context of land use, economics, infrastructure, and fiscal impacts. In addition to the Governor's Center, the Smart Growth Network (www.smartgrowth.org/index2.html) is an excellent resource for obtaining information to conduct such education activities.

- ▶ The County should support the various community-based organizations such as Leadership Susquehanna Valley and the County's Township Supervisors' Association (TSA).

Priority Level: H

Responsible Dept./Agencies: Commissioners, Planning

Cooperating Entity(ies): L, DCED, PSU

Time Frame: Ongoing

Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Sources

Agricultural and Open Space Preservation Objective: By encouraging and assisting local governments to implement effective land use regulations to control the impacts of growth on the County's rural and environmentally sensitive areas.

AS: Encourage local municipalities to implement land use regulation techniques that effectively preserve Snyder County's productive agricultural areas and open space resources.

Recommendation: The County should perform a technical review of existing municipal zoning ordinances to ensure they include provisions for effective agricultural and open space preservation. This action should be conducted in cooperation with local surveyors and developers. An exhaustive list of such techniques are provided in the Center for Local Government Service's publication entitled, "Land Use In Pennsylvania: Practice and Tools, An Inventory." This publication and its accompanying land use reports may be obtained through the Center at 1-888-223-6837.

Priority Level: H

Responsible Dept./Agencies: Planning

Cooperating Entity(ies): L, DCED, P

Time Frame: Ongoing

Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Sources

AS: Provide increased incentives to enhance the Snyder County's Agricultural Land Preservation program.

Recommendations:

- ▶ Through its annual Budgeting Program, the County should increase its matching contribution to the state agricultural easement program.
- ▶ To promote awareness, the Snyder County Agricultural Land Preservation Board should develop an education program and literature targeted to the County's farming community.
- ▶ Future agricultural preservation efforts should be focused towards the portions of the County containing prime farmland soils (See Future Land Use Map).

Priority Level: H

Responsible Dept./Agencies: Commissioners, Planning, Ag. Land Preservation Board

Cooperating Entity(ies): L, PA Dept. of Ag.

Time Frame: Ongoing

Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Sources

Land Development Objective: By establishing a Countywide system of growth areas to protect and preserve important natural resources, direct growth and development to appropriate locations, and facilitate coordinated planning at all levels of government.

AS: Encourage the general implementation of the land use pattern depicted on the Future Land Use Map.

Recommendations:

- ▶ First, consider developing planning regions within the County consisting

of municipalities having similar growth issues and development trends.

- ▶ Second, the municipalities within these regions should be encouraged to develop multi-municipal comprehensive plans and ordinances consistent with this Comprehensive Plan and in accordance with the Municipalities Planning Code. Multi-municipal planning processes are facilitated through the Intergovernmental Cooperative Planning and Implementation Agreement mechanism provided by the Municipalities Planning Code. Some of the major incentives to these agreements are as follows:

- Establishes a process whereby participating municipalities may achieve general consistency between the multi-municipal comprehensive plan and zoning ordinances, subdivision and land development ordinances, and capital improvement plans.
- Establishes a process whereby participating municipalities are provided the opportunity to review and provide approval for developments posing significant impacts on the region.
- Establishes a comprehensive plan implementation process for participating municipalities, such as the provision of public infrastructure services, affordable housing and the purchase of real property within the multi-municipal planning area.

- Priority is given to participating municipalities for state funding opportunities.
- Provides for the sharing of tax revenues and fees between participating municipalities.
- Enables participating municipalities to implement a multi-municipal transfer of development rights program(s).
- Provides increased incentives for joint municipal zoning. If implemented, then each municipality is no longer required to provide for every use (i.e., uses are established on a regional basis).
- Municipalities entered into the agreement shall have additional powers to provide for sharing of tax revenues and fees and adopt a multi-municipal transfer of development rights (TDR) program².

- ▶ As part of the Community Planning and Development Services Program recommendation, the County should then assist each Regional Planning Commission in implementing their respective comprehensive plans.

Priority Level: H
Responsible Dept./Agencies: Commissioners, Planning
Cooperating Entity(ies): L, DCED, P
Time Frame: Ongoing
Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Sources

AS: Develop and maintain an inventory of Snyder County's Community Facilities and Services using Geographic Information Systems technologies.

Recommendation: As recommended in the Transportation Plan, a Countywide community facilities and infrastructure plan should be developed and adopted as an amendment to this Comprehensive Plan. The results of this plan should, among other facilities, provide a detailed (i.e., collection and conveyance systems) GIS mapped inventory of all public water and sewer service areas. A preliminary inventory of the County's public and water sewer service areas was recently conducted by the Planning Commission and is depicted on the Future Land Use Map. Specifically, these areas are included in the Town Centers and Village Centers land use categories.

Priority Level: H
Responsible Dept./Agencies: Commissioners, Planning
Cooperating Entity(ies): L, P
Time Frame: Ongoing
Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Sources

AS: Further investigate the interrelationship between local development patterns and the County's major transportation corridors.

Recommendation: Transportation Corridor Plans should be developed for the U.S. Routes 11/15 and 522, and State Route 35 and 104 corridors. A transportation corridor plan is both a description and a vision of what the corridor is, what it should be and what it may be in the future. More specifically, a corridor analysis plan seeks to maintain corridor mobility, increase motorist safety, and establishes priorities for preserving and enhancing corridor amenities. The plan assists in capital improvement planning, and reduces the need for extensive capital improvements through better and more

² TDR is a zoning tool whereby development rights established for a given piece of land may be separated from the title of that property and are transferred in fee simple to an established receiving area.

efficient use of the existing corridor. Moreover, the plan provides opportunities for regional cooperation and multi-municipal planning. The results of the plan can be used for traffic management issues, to establish access management policies before development creates traffic management problems, and to manage existing traffic conditions.

Priority Level: M

Responsible Dept./Agencies: Commissioners, Planning
Cooperating Entity(ies): L, PADOT, P

Time Frame: 2001-2004

Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Sources

Sustainable Agriculture Objectives:

- ▶ **By supporting agricultural operations that are capable of maintaining their productivity and usefulness indefinitely.**
- ▶ **By promoting agricultural operations that are resource-conserving, socially supportive, commercially competitive and environmentally sound.**

AS: Strengthen Snyder County's agricultural sector through the exploration of alternative farming methods.

Recommendations:

- ▶ In cooperation with the Penn State Cooperative Extension Office, consider conducting local forums with members of the farming community to consider their interest in pursuing modern sustainable and traditional farming methods. This forum session(s) should also explore opportunities for preserving the County's agricultural base and serve as a catalyst for continued

strengthening of the County's agricultural base.

- ▶ Consider opportunities for the development of commercial agricultural operations.

Priority Level: H

Responsible Dept./Agencies: Commissioners, Planning
Cooperating Entity(ies): L, PSU, PA Dept. of Agriculture, Local members of the farming community, Conservation District

Time Frame: Ongoing

Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Sources

AS: Strengthen Snyder County's role as the County's leader in planning education.

Recommendation: Consider developing a County-based planning course designed to familiarize and educate the public on the various land use planning and regulation applications common to Snyder County and surrounding jurisdictions. This planning course may be modeled after the "Master Planner Course" currently offered through the Lancaster County Planning Commission. For more information visit the website at <http://www.co.lancaster.pa.us/Master/masterplan.htm> or contact the Commission at 717-299-8333.

Priority Level: M

Responsible Dept./Agencies: Commissioners, Planning
Cooperating Entity(ies): L, Other pertinent professionals

Time Frame: Ongoing

Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Sources

Natural Resource Production Objective: By encouraging and supporting the proper management and extraction of Snyder County's natural resources for a healthy, diversified and sound economy.

AS: Encourage the continued management and extraction of Snyder County's natural resources as a viable land use activity.

Recommendations:

- ▶ Advise local officials on the recent amendments to the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code; specifically, the provisions contained in Section 603 regarding the regulation of forestry, agricultural and mining activities.
- ▶ Work with natural resource production operations to identify future resource extraction opportunities and ensure these land areas are consistent with local land use and environmental regulations.
- ▶ Natural resource production areas should be protected from encroachment by land uses that would be incompatible with their continued operation or with future expansion.

Priority Level: H

Responsible Dept./Agencies: Commissioners, Planning, Conservation District

Cooperating Entity(ies): L, PADEP

Time Frame: Ongoing

Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Sources

Future Land Use Plan Summary

	Town Centers	Village Centers	Rural Areas	Unique Natural Landscapes and Resources
Objective	Strengthen Town Centers to serve as the County’s primary economic centers supported by a high concentration of commercial and industrial activity, institutions, cultural amenities and a mixture of affordable housing opportunities.	Strengthen Village Centers to serve as mixed use communities accommodating a variety of residential uses and small-scale commercial retail and service activities that support the Rural Areas.	Preserve the open, rural character of Snyder County by strengthening traditional agriculture uses and accommodating commercial agriculture and small-scale industrial activities.	Restrict development in areas with significant natural resources, including stream corridors, woodlands, wetlands, groundwater recharge areas, steep slopes (>25%), and prime agricultural soils.
Recommended Land Uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing (<i>single family detached, townhouses, duplexes, and apartments</i>) Light to Heavy Industry Warehousing, Whole/Retail Stores, Commercial Retail Facilities Commercial Service Facilities Professional Offices Community Facilities Educational Facilities Transportation Facilities Recreation Facilities Parks/Open Space Sale of Agricultural Products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing (<i>single family detached dwellings, duplexes, apartments, and mobile home parks</i>) Neighborhood Commercial Uses Light Industry Professional Offices Community Facilities Educational Facilities Transportation Facilities Recreation Facilities Parks/Open Space Agricultural Sales and Services Sale of Agricultural Products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing (<i>single family detached dwellings</i>) Commercial Agricultural Uses Traditional Agricultural Uses Agricultural Sales and Services Recreation/Open Space Uses Natural Resource Production Uses Small scale-industry, businesses, stores, offices and community facilities, which by their nature require a rural location or are designed to mainly serve the surrounding rural area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single family detached housing in steep slope (<25%) areas. Parks and Open Space Woodlands Pastureland Agriculture
Recommended Densities	Density ranges (per acre) with public utilities of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single Family Detached (4-6) Duplexes (6-12) Townhouses (8-15) Apartments (8-50) Note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No separate density standard for non-residential uses Maximum density of 1 dwelling unit per acre with on-lot utilities 	Density ranges (per acre) with public utilities of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single Family Detached (4-6) Duplexes (6-15) Apartments (8-15) Planned Residential Developments (4-12) Open Space/Cluster Development (Densities same as above) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum density of one (1) dwelling unit per acre. Sliding Scale (Density is based on the size of the lot) Open Space/Cluster Development (Densities same as above) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum Density of one (1) dwelling unit per three (3) acres for slopes >=15% Maximum Density of one (1) dwelling unit per five (5) acres for slopes >=18% Maximum Density of one (1) dwelling unit per ten (10) acres for slopes >=20%
Recommended Sewer and Water Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public sewer and public water systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public sewer and public water systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-Lot Disposal Systems (OLDS) Sewage Management Programs Small Flow or Community Package Treatment Facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-Lot Disposal Systems (OLDS) Sewage Management Programs
Recommended Land Use Practices and Tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PA DCED’s Inventory of Land Use Practices and Tools (1-888-2CENTER) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PA DCED’s Inventory of Land Use Practices and Tools (1-888-2CENTER) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PA DCED’s Inventory of Land Use Practices and Tools (1-888-2CENTER) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PA DCED’s Inventory of Land Use Practices and Tools (1-888-2CENTER)

INTENT

The Government Facilities and Services Plan is intended to provide recommendations for improvement to Snyder County’s facilities and operations. Snyder County needs to continue to improve services and outreach to its citizens, the business community and local governments. This can be achieved by providing information services, accessible facilities, and creating continuous outreach and dialogue with the public and private sectors.

GOAL: To achieve a high level of inter-governmental coordination and public-private cooperation.

COUNTY OPERATIONS OBJECTIVES

Outreach Objective: Support effective planning at all levels of government through outreach, improved services, and educational programs.

AS: Develop a Countywide Municipal Outreach Program.

Recommendation: The Plan recommends the Outreach Program be developed incrementally over time starting with simple processes and educational opportunities and increasing in complexity as the County garners municipal interest, creates educational/training partnerships and provides staff support. An assessment of staff requirements and the time to implement any of the following components will be integral to the timing of new outreach opportunities. Components of the outreach program may include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following ideas (components are listed in order of complexity from the simplest to implement to the most complex):

1. *Outreach through special events or meetings:*
 - ▶ Hold regular county planning commission meetings at various locations throughout the County. The advantages of “taking the meetings on the road” are it encourages attendance by local officials, planning commission members, and citizens; provides the opportunity to highlight the role and function of the County Planning Commission; and creates a forum for the discussion of local issues of Countywide importance.
 - ▶ Develop a schedule to hold regular County Board of Commissioner’s meetings at various locations throughout the County and during evening hours. Advantages are the same as the planning commission meetings (see above). The preparation and publishing of specific agendas would help the local communities make the most of the outreach opportunity.
 - ▶ Schedule County Board of Commissioners attendance at select municipal meetings. The Board would have a place on the local agenda and would be prepared to discuss topics agreed upon in advance of the meeting.
 - ▶ Hold semi-annual or quarterly subregional meetings (may be a function of the planning department, planning commissioners and/or Board of County Commissioners). The objective of these meetings would be to share county projects of local and countywide importance, obtain feedback and opportunity to meet and speak with other officials.

Government Facilities and Services Plan

- ▶ Schedule ad hoc countywide meetings or special issues forums. These special events are held on an as needed basis and are focused on a specific issue or on the need for the Commissioner's or the Planning Commission to obtain a higher level of municipal input or education to either make a decision or implement a new idea or program. Various partners (e.g, SEDACOG, universities, local or state agencies, or business and industry) may be part of an educational team for the event.
 - ▶ Organize and hold an annual countywide convention including sessions on issues of current interest, displays, and roundtable discussions. The advantage of the convention is that it offers the County the opportunity to showcase County programs, "best local planning practices", and implementation activities on the Comprehensive Plan; to share new ideas and promote effective planning; and to discuss new issues and/or concerns. The planning of a Countywide Convention assumes the involvement of many agencies and other partners in the County.
 - ▶ Create a Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) with representation from local staff and government officials. The LGAC meets monthly to discuss projects, issues and make assignments for reporting at the next meeting.
2. *Outreach through written materials and/or media relations.*
- ▶ Distribute the Snyder County Planning Commission Annual Report to all municipalities.
 - ▶ Encourage local municipalities to join and become active in the Pennsylvania Planning Association, a Chapter of the American Planning Association.
 - ▶ Continue to routinely submit planning activities and event news to the local news media (including print, television – public access, and radio). Specifically highlighting actions taken to promote effective planning, outreach opportunities to local municipalities and measures taken to implement the County Comprehensive Plan. Seeking the advice of a media relations professional would assist the County in the development of newsworthy messages and talking points for county planners and commissioners.
 - ▶ Develop and conduct an inventory to uncover local resources and talents that might help to further the interests of effective planning and identify potential partners to assist in the implementation of outreach opportunities.
 - ▶ Develop a library and compendium of planning materials available to local governments for copying or lending. The library would include items such as existing and model ordinances; new planning concepts and ideas; Planning Advisory Services Reports, publications from the American Planning Association and Urban Land Institute, etc. Several options may be considered – development of the library within the Planning Department or development as a part of the County Library System or University Library System (open to local communities) or partnership with SEDA-COG.

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- ▶ Develop a Countywide Newsletter of the Snyder County Planning Commission and/or Board of Commissioners. The newsletter should highlight projects in status reports on implementation of the Comprehensive Plan, grant opportunities, “best planning practices”, and educational articles. The newsletter process may be started as a joint venture with SEDA-COG or as a byline in a SEDA-COG publication. Distribution would be to municipal planning commission members and officials.

- ▶ Produce and distribute educational flyers and brochures on planning practices and/or ideas, county services and contacts, and meeting dates and times. Materials may be reproducible from other sources, provided in bulk from state agencies, or original works of Snyder County. The materials may include promotion of ideas found in other sections of the Comprehensive Plan including the Land Use Plan and the Infrastructure Plan (e.g., delineation of primary and secondary growth boundaries).

3. *Outreach through electronic and digital format. It is assumed this outreach venue would not be available until the County Information System, Geographical Information System and Website are functioning (See the Countywide Information Systems Development and the Countywide Geographic Systems Development Action Strategies contained herein).*

- ▶ Advertise, summarize and highlight outreach meetings and events on the Snyder County Website, when developed or through email messages to municipalities.

- ▶ Describe County services and projects and email contacts.
- ▶ Provide digital access to public domain information.
- ▶ Share countywide GIS data (subject to the development of GIS policy).

Priority Level: H

County Dept./Agency(ies): Commissioners, Planning

Cooperating Entity(ies): DCED, PSATS, PSAB

Time Frame: 2001-2002 for initial implementation and Ongoing for program sustainment

Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Resources

Information System Development Objectives:

- ▶ **Advance the level and the use of technology in county government operations and local initiatives.**
- ▶ **Develop a baseline database to improve routine operations, plan proactively, and monitor progress.**
- ▶ **Develop an information management and support system to ensure the information systems become a part of routine operations.**

AS: Develop an Information System (IS) Strategic Development Plan – This plan should target the inter-County Department System first with the development of links to other local and regional agencies second.

Recommendations:

- ▶ Creation of a Snyder County Information System Long-Range Planning Committee to include representatives from each County Department. The function of the Committee is to review and steer the

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IS Development Plan Process and to continue to monitor the on-going development of the system.

- ▶ Acquisition of technical support from a consultant and/or new information system manager/director.
- ▶ Consider consultant alternative advantages (e.g., equipped with latest knowledge / experience, offers quick start-up and response; offers multiple approaches) and disadvantages (e.g., not as familiar with routine operations, not on site at all times, leaves or is retained when project is complete).
- ▶ Consider IS manager/director alternative advantages (e.g., familiar with in-house operations, always accessible, dedicated full time to the project, continues management function) and disadvantages (e.g., cost of new employee with appropriate level of experience and difficulty in finding a full-time Information Technology expert).
- ▶ Consider the combination of consultant team and information system manager (see advantages and disadvantages above).
- ▶ Completion of a Six-Step Planning Process, as follows:

Phase 1: Inventory by Department.

- Inventory historic data (one-time or continuous)
- Inventory current data collection (format – digital or paper & frequency).
- Identify additional data needs / wants currently uncollected.
- Identify data similarities and differences by Department.

Phase 2: Vision

- Interview key persons by Department (with department staff and managers).
- Identify short-term data goals.
- Identify long-term data goals.
- Identify goals for use and flow of data.

Phase 3: Needs Assessment

- Identify hardware needs.
- Identify software needs.
- Identify space needs.
- Identify other infrastructure needs.

Phase 4: Deployment/Policy/Management Plan.

- Recommend a program of deployment to meet the needs and goals for the short- and long-terms.
- Develop policy on confidentiality.
- Develop policy on public domain.
- Develop policy on access & costs of access.
- Determine a plan for administration/management and placement in the County's organizational structure.
- Develop a policy for the use and flow of information between departments.

Phase 5: Implementation Schedule

- Prioritize Phase 4 recommendations.
- Determine costs for hardware, software, staff, and training and cost recovery.
- Prepare benefits analysis (quantifiable and non-quantifiable).
- Determine funding.
- Assign start and completion dates for short-term recommendations and start dates by quarter and year for the long-term recommendations.
- Assign responsibility for completion.

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Phase 6: Initiate Deployment/Implementation of Plan.

- On-going information systems management.
- Develop the management system as part of the Information Systems Plan.
- Assume as the County becomes more automated additional services will be required of the IS Manager with the potential to transition to an IS Department, particularly as the County begins to share information with local municipalities and outside resources.
- Sharing of information with the local level.
- Utilize fiberoptics and technology which becomes available to increase the connectivity between the County and local municipalities (see Infrastructure Plan).
- Develop a county website. To determine the information to be included on the site, inventory local officials to determine their needs for county-level information and services and review similar website of other 6th and 7th Class Counties (e.g., Union, Perry, Juniata, Adams, Bedford, etc.)

Priority Level: H
County Dept./Agency(ies): Commissioners, Planning, with support form other county offices
Cooperating Entity(ies): Local Utility Providers, SEDA-COG
Time Frame: 2001-2003
Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Resources

Geographical Information Systems Development Objectives: Establish a fully functional Countywide Geographical Information System (GIS) to link baseline data and mapping for various governmental functions and operations.

AS: GIS Strategic Development Plan. The Plan recommends the development of a

geographical information system for county and municipal level data and mapping.

Recommendations:

- ▶ Recognition of the potential to coordinate some of the GIS development activities with the Enhanced 911 project being completed by SEDA-COG and consultant engineers. The current assets include: aerial photography has been completed and planimetric -base map layer has been discussed.
- ▶ Recognition of the need to create a plan for the development of a GIS to develop countywide data for county and municipal use. The planning process is similar to the process in developing the IS. It is assumed data collected in the IS process will be transferable to the GIS process. The following phases should be integrated into the planning process to ensure needs are met and avoid duplication of services.

Phase 1: Needs Assessment

- Understand function of each department and use of mapping.
- Develop a listing of needed data layers.
- Describe the priorities and application of data including current and future use and products.
- Determine any mapping needs based on mandated requirements at the local, county and state levels.

Phase 2: Requirements Analysis

- Identify software options/functionality.
- Identify hardware options/functionality.

- Identify organizational requirements (i.e., personnel, training, role of GIS, relationships).

Phase 3: Implementation Strategies: immediate, short-term, long-term.

- Prepare recommendation on GIS applications.
- Prepare recommendation on GIS data.
- Prepare recommendation on systems integration.
- Prepare GIS development schedule, including acquisition /setup, operational procedures, evaluation / revision and expansion.
- Prepare costs estimates for personnel, hardware/software, data, cost recovery.
- Prepare benefits analysis both quantifiable and non-quantifiable.
- On-going geographic information systems management.
- Develop the management system as part of the Geographic Information Systems Plan.
- Assume as the county becomes more automated additional services will be required of a GIS Manager with the potential to transition as a part of an IS Department or compatible Department in county government, particularly as the county begins to share information with local municipalities and outside resources.

Priority Level: H
County Dept./Agency(ies): Commissioners, Planning, with support from other county offices
Cooperating Entity(ies): SEDACOG
Time Frame: 2001-2003
Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Resources

COUNTY FACILITIES OBJECTIVE

Facilities Objective: provide adequate physical facilities to support program functions, information systems development, and space needs for all Snyder County operations.

AS: Develop a County Government Facilities Plan.

Recommendation: A two-tier approach is recommended: short-term strategy (3 to 5 years) and long-term strategy (beyond 5 years). The recommendation recognizes that the master facilities plan must link the development of County programs with the space requirement needed for the efficient and expeditious delivery of these services. Factors that will impact current and future facility needs include, but are not limited to:

- ▶ Expansion of existing or development of new programs (e.g., county outreach programs, inmate rehabilitation programs, rent/rebate programs, legal assistance programs, and computerized jury selection processes); particularly if over the course of the next planning period the County becomes a sixth class county.
- ▶ Space for staff and equipment to meet the needs of new and/or expanded programs (see Information System Strategic Development Plan and Geographic Information System Strategic Development Plan discussed herein).
- ▶ Articulation of services / programs which must stay within the Courthouse or within close proximity to the courthouse compared to those operations which may be located at more remote locations or sites.

Government Facilities and Services Plan

1. *Short Term Strategy: Development of a short-term strategy (12 to 18-month implementation period). The expectations are this recommendation will meet the County's facilities needs for the next three to five years. Components of the strategy are as follows:*
- ▶ Reallocate space within the Courthouse based on the movement of the 911 Center. The new facility includes plans to bring a T-1 line (fiber optic cable for high speed transmission - JNET) from the facility to the courthouse and adds six new tower sites countywide. This advancement in connectivity will allow the county to move all staff to the new facility, enhance communications, plus provide a rerouting option in the case of an emergency with the primary system. Space reallocation may include:
 - ▶ Move the District Attorney to unallocated space (pending funding) on the third floor (1700 square feet of third floor office space available) of the courthouse.
 - ▶ Give consideration to moving the Public Defenders' Office into the old 911 Center (to be vacated in the basement of the courthouse).
 - ▶ Give consideration to space vacated by the Public Defender's Office to provide additional space to the Judge.
 - ▶ Consider the vacated space from the District Attorney to be allocated for the Probation Office.
 - ▶ Complete an environmental study on the vacant AMP building to determine if it will be a useable site for County facilities. The results are expected by the end of the year 2000. The building has 48,000 square feet; the County plans on utilizing 30,000 square feet. Uses being considered include the Housing Authority and County Career Links (training programs).
 - ▶ Consider the space eventually vacated by the Housing Authority for expansion of other services, such as Domestic Relations.
 - ▶ Complete the current architectural study on the County Jail – facility improvements will be dependent on the results of the study and the available funding stream.
 - ▶ If possible, mitigate the following unresolved needs for the short-term:
 - Provide optical scanning for the Register's / Recorder's Office.
 - Provide space for public access, mapper, records storage and printer/ computers for the Assessment Office.
 - Provide additional space for Children and Youth Services, in addition to soundproofing, safety improvements and environmental improvements (a long-term remedy will be required for the majority of these improvements).
 - Provide additional space and public access for Tax Claim Office.
 - Work with the Union Snyder Transportation Alliance on office space and maintenance facility needs (ridership continues to increase placing more demands on the Alliance).

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- Continue to look for a new site for the Recycling Center.
- Provide additional space for the Sewage Enforcement Office and the Area Agency on Aging.

The following is a proposed short-term facility concept strategy that is subject to change based on funding and/or further assessment:

Short-term Facility Concept Strategy

Facility	Uses		
Unallocated Space on Third Floor	District Attorney's Office	Probation Office	
Old 911 Center	Public Defender's Office	Judge's Office	
AMP Building (if environmentally sound)	Career Links	Housing Authority	Domestic Relations

2. *Development of a long-term remedy (beyond five years). The Plan recognizes the short-term strategy is not a remedy for long-term space needs but is a cost-effective method for meeting as many current needs as possible. The short-term strategy will not meet all current and future facility needs. Therefore, the Plan recommends a comprehensive facilities assessment and master plan be completed within the next five years to determine the full extent of county facilities needs and the funding mechanisms available to incrementally meet these needs. The following components are recommended for consideration:*

- ▶ Complete annual, internal departmental strategic plans to determine the department's program and facility needs for the next three years (a consistent format should be

developed for the strategic planning process – currently Children and Youth Services completes an annual process and the Area Agency on Aging has completed a four-year assessment). Based on the annual evaluations, monitor the space allocations and facility needs to determine when departments will reach capacity and/or programs will require additional facilities.

- ▶ Initiate the master facilities assessment and study prior to the majority of the departments exceeding existing facility capacities. The master facilities plan should consider:
 - ▶ Assessment of the conditions and features of existing physical facilities and plant (listing of assets and deficiencies).
 - ▶ An evaluation of departmental programs and facility needs, including the physical location of departments relative to other services and the courthouse.
 - ▶ Assessment of the existing facilities' ability to meet these needs.
 - ▶ Recommendations regarding the use and/or expansion of existing facilities, purchase and/or construction of new facilities.
 - ▶ Presentation of alternative solutions and the cost-benefit analysis and tax implication of each.
 - ▶ Recommendations regarding the funding of each solution and the pay-back period.
 - ▶ Inclusion of a public participation program.

- ▶ Selection of the chosen solution and outline of an implementation schedule.

Priority Level: H

County Dept./Agency(ies): Commissioners with support from pertinent County offices

Cooperating Entity(ies): n/a

Time Frame: 2001-2007

Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Resources

COMMUNITY SERVICES OBJECTIVES

Two objectives relate to the development of a countywide community services and facilities plan:

- ▶ **Develop a study outline(s) and methodology(ies) to gain a better understanding of the existing levels of community services within the County, including emergency services (police, fire, and ambulance), health services, recreational services, senior services, and children and youth services.**
- ▶ **Focus the study on (1) identifying under-served and needs areas, (2) developing a strategic action plan for countywide community service initiatives and projects, (3) recommending local-level initiatives and opportunities for inter-municipal cooperation, and (4) identifying grant and funding priorities.**

AS: Prepare a Community Facilities and Services Plan.

Recommendation: The picture of community services and facilities is not clear for Snyder County. This functional element was not part of the plan of study for the plan; however, it is recognized as a critical element in the

comprehensive planning process and a part of the required studies enabled by the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC). The Plan as such recommends the County complete this element of the Comprehensive Plan as a special study to be incorporated as a chapter of the Plan.

The Community Services and Facilities Plan, more than any other element in the Comprehensive Plan, provides the opportunity to build on and initiate new ventures and partnerships in inter-municipal, intergovernmental, and inter-agency cooperation and collaboration. The Plan should give high priority to uncovering and fostering these opportunities.

The following listing of community services and facilities obstacles and assets (completed as a part of the planning process) provides a beginning point for the development of the chapter.

Consideration of the following *Obstacles/Needs* - the following considerations represent community service / facility obstacles or needs:

- ▶ Loss in volunteers for emergency services due to mandated service restrictions, educational/training requirements, and fundraising activities.
- ▶ Hospitals nearby but no hospitals in Snyder County (travel time is a variable depending on one's location in the County).
- ▶ No pediatricians in the County.
- ▶ Transportation an issue for public transportation dependent individuals.
- ▶ No dentist or eye care professionals in the County who will accept access cards (medical assistance).
- ▶ Sufficient nursing home care currently; however, the picture is constantly changing and the County

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does not have a system in place to monitor these changes or to assess where needs are occurring countywide.

- ▶ Area Agency on Aging currently has a freeze on services due greater demand for the services. The County has a need to find relief; possibly through the development of a nonprofit foundation.
- ▶ Unclear picture regarding what organizations are providing mental health and drug and alcohol services locally.

Consideration of the following *Assets* – the following considerations represent community service and facility assets:

- ▶ The Enhanced 911 project will be providing a street addressing database for emergency service providers.
- ▶ The 911 Center has information regarding the service areas of the fourteen fire departments, five ambulance companies (associated with the fire departments) and the eight quick response services (associated with the fire departments) in the county.
 - ▶ Beaver Springs fire / ambulance
 - ▶ Beavertown fire/ ambulance
 - ▶ Freeburg fire / quick response
 - ▶ McClure fire / quick response
 - ▶ Middleburg fire / ambulance
 - ▶ Port Trevorton fire / quick response
 - ▶ Hummels Wharf fire / quick response
 - ▶ Selinsgrove fire / quick response / ambulance
 - ▶ Shamokin Dam fire / quick response
 - ▶ Mt. Pleasant Mills fire / quick response
 - ▶ Penns Creek fire / ambulance
 - ▶ Kreamer fire / quick response
 - ▶ Kratzerville fire / quick response
 - ▶ Bannerville fire

- ▶ The picture of police services is varied: regional police, State Police and local police. Local police departments include: Beavertown Borough, McClure Borough, Middleburg Borough, Selinsgrove Borough, Shamokin Dam Borough, Spring Township.
- ▶ The County has access to health services including Evangelical Hospital, Sunbury Hospital, Geisinger Hospital, and Lewistown Hospital. These are all located outside of the County but offer residents high quality services.
 - ▶ Senior Services – Area Agency on Aging recently completed a four-year needs assessment. Senior centers in Beaver Springs, Penns Creek and Selinsgrove provide services to seniors within these areas.
 - ▶ Action Health (a nonprofit consortium with Evangelical Hospital) completes community health studies.
 - ▶ Recreation assets include West Snyder Recreation Association’s Recreation Center Study.
 - ▶ PACWIS will be providing (by 2001) an automated data system for children & youth, which will compile data statewide. Children and Youth Services do an annual plan to assess needs for service.
 - ▶ The Union/Snyder Office for Human Resources is a valuable data resource for the county.
 - ▶ Public schools systems also are a valuable data resource.
 - ▶ The attitudinal survey results indicated public support for the following programs: housing (i.e., elderly, affordable, rehabilitation); countywide parks and recreation facilities and programs, including active recreation; tourism; local government cooperation; and countywide library system.

- ▶ The following county economic development ideas: job market diversification, local government tax breaks to new businesses, development of new industrial facilities, assistance to existing businesses to retain/expand manufacturing & retail/wholesale trade, retention of young people, and development of waterways and waterfront districts.

Completion of the Community Facilities and Services Plan through a similar planning process utilized for the other elements of the Comprehensive Plan and for the full range of community services (i.e., emergency; recreation; educational, including daycare and headstart; social, health care, library, and human resource services). This plan should consider the following:

- ▶ An inventory of services.
- ▶ Description of Services (data collection, including interviews, surveys, mapping and profiles).
- ▶ Assessment of Service Needs.
- ▶ Vision for Future Services, reflected through statements of goals and objectives.
- ▶ Strategic Action Plan to meet the vision and objectives.
- ▶ Implementation Schedule to complete the actions.
- ▶ Public participation components, including the use of community advisory committees by service type.

Funding Objective: Assist the public and private sectors in identifying and applying for various state and federal funding opportunities.

AS: Develop a county-based funding program.

Recommendation: The funding objective centers around grantsmanship and the

development of a countywide grants program. This program is more important than ever to Pennsylvania municipalities and counties, especially with the passage of new amendments to the PAMPC which for the first time tie grants and state funding programs to consistency requirements between county and local level plans.

Respond to current obstacles in seeking grants, including:

- ▶ Staffing – requires additional staff to identify, pursue, administer and manage grants.
- ▶ Data problems – no uniform way of keeping data (confidentiality – laws requiring the sharing of data).
- ▶ Maintenance – expectation when the grant money ends and government must finance the new program without grants.
- ▶ Need to know the “ins and outs” of the program.
- ▶ Respond to current assets in utilizing grants, including:
 - ▶ The availability of money that would otherwise be unavailable.
 - ▶ The opportunity to do projects which otherwise may not be considered.
 - ▶ The opportunity to leverage projects through a variety of funding sources.
 - ▶ Once eligibility accepted, other opportunities may become available from same or other sources.
 - ▶ Once the grant process is learned, other opportunities easier to access.
 - ▶ Recognize that grant opportunities may be available to many departments and levels of government. Grant requirements and application procedures will vary depending on the program and function of the department.
- ▶ Identify common needs in County Government and between departments / functions.

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- ▶ Build service programs and seek grants to fit the program rather than finding grants and building programs to fit the grant.
 - ▶ Understand a grants program will require the resources of more than one person (i.e., the person who is familiar with the program in which grant funding is needed and a person who is familiar with the various aspects of grantsmanship.)
 - ▶ Recognize a need for a new position in County government – Grants Coordinator (options include full-time, part-time, consultant or agency partner/shared position). The person occupying this position should possess the following set of skills:
 - Basic understanding of where to look for resources.
 - Knowing how to provide technical assistance to departments and local governments.
 - Understanding the grants process; that is, handling grants from the beginning to the end.
 - Being creative in the evaluation of what will work, available options and/or new ideas for finding funding for a particular program.
 - Having an existing network with other grantwriters and/or programs.
 - Having strong skills in basic math, bookkeeping, accounting and management.
 - Having a high level of administrative skills.
 - Being able to perform multiple functions for a variety of grants.
 - Having good writing skills.
- Having the ability to relate to the public and possessing good communication skills for relating the complexities of grants and/other funding sources.
2. *Development of a long-term remedy (beyond five years). The Plan recognizes the short-term strategy is not a remedy for long-term space needs but is a cost-effective method for meeting as many current needs as possible. The short-term strategy will not meet all current and future facility needs. Therefore, the Plan recommends a comprehensive facilities assessment and master plan be completed within the next five years to determine the full extent of county facilities needs and the funding mechanisms available to incrementally meet these needs. The following components are recommended for consideration:*
- ▶ Complete annual, internal departmental strategic plans to determine the department’s program and facility needs for the next three years (a consistent format should be developed for the strategic planning process—currently Children and Youth Services completes an annual process and the Area Agency on Aging has completed a four-year assessment). Based on the annual evaluations, monitor the space allocations and facility needs to determine when departments will reach capacity and/or programs will require additional facilities.
 - ▶ Initiate the master facilities assessment and study prior to the majority of the departments exceeding existing facility capacities. The master facilities plan should consider:

- Assessment of the conditions and features of existing physical facilities and plant (listing of assets and deficiencies).
- An evaluation of departmental programs and facility needs, including the physical location of departments relative to other services and the courthouse.
- Assessment of the existing facilities' ability to meet these needs.
- Recommendations regarding the use and/or expansion of existing facilities, purchase and/or construction of new facilities.
- Presentation of alternative solutions and the cost-benefit analysis and tax implication of each.
- Recommendations regarding the funding of each solution and the pay-back period.
- Inclusion of a public participation program.
- Selection of the chosen solution and outline of an implementation schedule.

Priority Level: H

County Dept./Agency(ies): Commissioners, Planning, with support from other county offices

Cooperating Entity(ies): Public sector

Time Frame: 2001-2003

Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Resources

INTENT

The Housing Plan is to provide a framework for realizing the vision for providing the housing needs of all residents in Snyder County. These needs are expressed in terms of quality, affordability, location and amenities. Furthermore, this plan also recognizes that a variety of housing types must be available to all residents.

GOAL: To create a residential environment and housing pattern that strengthens Snyder County’s sense of community, fosters residential stability and character, promotes economic investment, and enhances the overall quality of life.

Objectives:

- **By preserving the character and integrity of Snyder County’s boroughs and villages, including the historic districts of Troxelville and Middleburg.**
- **By promoting, preserving, and enhancing the county’s existing supply of housing to discourage impacts of sprawl.**
- **By encouraging the development of owner-occupied and rental housing consistent with the location and availability of existing infrastructure.**
- **By assessing the need for housing and related care for special populations and developing a program(s) for meeting those needs.**
- **By supporting and promoting efforts of the Snyder County Housing Authority or other entities to expand affordable housing**

opportunities for all citizens, regardless of age, race, income, or ability.

- **By assuring existing and future residential neighborhoods are designed and located to provide protection from stormwater and flooding impacts.**
- **By rehabilitating and sustaining Snyder County’s older housing units for continued use.**

Action and Implementation Strategies:

Action and Implementation Strategies have been developed to fulfill the goals and objectives developed for this section. Action and Implementation Strategies serve as recommendations for enhancing Snyder County’s housing supply and programs. Each strategy contains an Action Statement (AS) and a Recommendation(s) for implementation. Each strategy is given a priority level (i.e, H=High, M=Medium, and L=Low), and identifies the County Department(s) and cooperating public/private entity(ies) responsible for implementing a specific Action Strategy. (i.e., L=Local Municipalities, S=State Agencies, P=Private; or SD=School Districts). Each Action Strategy also provides a time frame in which it should occur. Finally, each strategy is referenced to the categorized list of potential funding sources contained in this Comprehensive Plan.

AS: Encourage sustainable development practices throughout Snyder County to facilitate the provision of adequate and affordable housing opportunities.

Recommendations:

- ▶ Amend the Snyder County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance to revise the provisions for Specialized Subdivisions and Land Development (Section 7) and Lot Requirements (Section 5.3).

Priority Level: H

County Dept./Agency(ies): Planning

Cooperating Entity(ies): L, DCED, P

Time Frame: 2001

Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Resources

- ▶ Where applicable, encourage local officials to amend their respective land use regulations to implement the “Incentives for Affordable Housing” as contained in the DCED publication entitled, “Reducing Land Use Barriers to Affordable Housing: Planning Series #10. To obtain a free copy of publication contact DCED at 1-888-2-CENTER or download from www.dced.state.pa.us.

Priority Level: H

County Dept./Agency(ies): Planning, Housing Authority

Cooperating Entity(ies): L, P

Time Frame: 2001

Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Resources

- ▶ Consider conducting a series of education seminars to orient local developers, realtors and officials on the benefits of sustainable land development and the provision of affordable housing.

Priority Level: M

County Dept./Agency(ies): Planning, Housing Authority, Commissioners

Cooperating Entity(ies): L, DCED,

Time Frame: Ongoing

Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Resources

AS: Orient and assist first-time home buyers in obtaining the knowledge and resources necessary to secure home ownership.

Recommendations:

- ▶ Implement a first time home buyers program using HOME, Act 137 funds and other resources such as the (Barbara) Hafer HomeBuyer Program. The goal of this program would be to increase home ownership opportunities throughout Snyder County.

Priority Level: H

County Dept./Agency(ies): Planning, Housing Authority

Cooperating Entity(ies): L, DCED, PHFA

Time Frame: 2001-2002

Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Resources

AS: Amend the Snyder County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance to provide for effective stormwater management controls and provisions for enhanced site design.

Recommendations:

- ▶ Overall, the County’s stormwater management provisions (Section 5.83) are deficient and should be revised and improved. For example, the ordinance should provide for the following:
 - Design criteria for stormwater management facilities
 - Enhanced runoff calculation methodologies

- Erosion and sedimentation requirements
- Guidelines for fees and expenses relating to stormwater management activities, such as drainage plan reviews, site inspections and other additional costs
- Performance guarantees
- Maintenance responsibilities

Priority Level: L
County Dept./Agency(ies): Commissioners, Planning, Engineer and Housing Authority
Cooperating Entity(ies): L, P, Dept. of Labor and Industry
Time Frame: 2002-2005
Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Resources

AS: Explore the feasibility of developing a senior housing facility in Snyder County close to existing facilities and services.

► Enforcement and Penalties

- The PA Department of Environmental Protection’s latest criteria for stormwater management, including water quality, peak discharge, groundwater discharge, channel protection and large-event controls should be included in the Ordinance.

Recommendation: Consider opportunities to develop a nursing and retirement facility in eastern Snyder County and in close proximity to existing service and market areas.

- Once Act 167 studies have been prepared for the county’s watersheds, the County’s, as well as local, stormwater management controls should be amended to specifically address any additional control criteria required by these studies.

Priority Level: M
County Dept./Agency(ies): Commissioners, Planning and Housing Authority
Cooperating Entity(ies): L, Dept. of Health
Time Frame: 2001-2008
Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Resources

AS: Consider implementing a Countywide program to inventory and map the County’s housing stock to determine their location, construction age, type and tenure. This information then may be used to further and more accurately evaluate the County’s housing needs on a municipal basis.

Priority Level: H
County Dept./Agency(ies): Planning, Conservation District, Engineer
Cooperating Entity(ies): L, DEP
Time Frame: 2001
Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Resources

AS: Consider preparing and implementing countywide building code standards to upgrade substandard housing units and to remove non-repairable structures.

Recommendation: Enact a standardized national code such as BOCA (Building Officials and Code Administrators).

Recommendation: The County’s standardized addressing and GIS mapping program has developed an initial inventory of the County’s housing units. Building upon this initial inventory, the County could employ part-time staff and/or interns to collect and attribute each housing unit’s GIS record. Furthermore, this data should be used to supplement the County’s enhanced 911 emergency communications system and associated databases.

Priority Level: L

County Dept./Agency(ies): Snyder County Housing Authority, Planning, Commissioners, Emergency Services

Cooperating Entity(ies): Real Estate Agencies, Local Government, Home Owners, Susquehanna University

Time Frame: 2003-2010

Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Resources

INTENT

The residents of Snyder County realize their existing quality of life is highly dependent upon the protection and preservation of its environmentally sensitive and culturally significant features. To this extent, it is the intent of this Plan to facilitate and encourage the identification and protection of these features. Furthermore, the Goals and Objectives of this Plan serve to promote the awareness and significance of preserving these features for current and future populations.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES GOAL: To protect the physical environment and enhance the character, quality and livability of Snyder County by preserving its natural assets.

Environmental Resources Objectives:

- ▶ **By implementing effective land use controls to preserve and minimize adverse impacts to the natural environment.**
- ▶ **By updating the Snyder County Sewage Facilities Plan to effectively address malfunctioning on-lot sewage disposal systems.**
- ▶ **By maintaining and enhancing Snyder County’s surface water and groundwater resources through the preparation and implementation of an effective countywide stormwater management planning process.**
- ▶ **By educating and encouraging public and private involvement in implementing best management practices.**
- ▶ **By developing a Countywide Geographic Information System**

(GIS) database of natural resource features that can be disseminated to the public and private sectors.

- ▶ **By preparing a study to inventory Snyder County’s existing parks, recreation, and open space facilities and assess their future demands.**

Action and Implementation Strategies:

Action and Implementation Strategies have been developed to fulfill the goals and objectives developed for this planning element. Action and Implementation Strategies serve as recommendations for enhancing Snyder County’s environmental and cultural resources. Each strategy contains an Action Statement (AS) and Recommendation(s) for implementation. Each Action Strategy is given a priority level (i.e, H=High, M=Medium, and L=Low), and identifies the entities responsible for implementation (i.e., C=Snyder County, L=Local Municipalities, S=State Agencies, P=Private; or SD=School Districts). Each Action Strategy also provides a time frame in which it should occur. Finally, each strategy is referenced to the categorized list of potential funding sources contained in this Comprehensive Plan.

AS: Require development applicants to document the effected environment on which their proposals would have significant implications.

Recommendation: Amend the County’s (or municipal) subdivision and land development ordinance to require preliminary and final plans to include the following information:

- ▶ A description or generalized mapping of natural site conditions with an emphasis on significant environmental features that would be impacted by the

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proposed development or retained upon completion of the project. The mapped information shall address the following, where applicable:

- Gradients expressed in percent slope.
 - Impervious and pervious surfaces.
 - Use of natural ground surface features and drainage patterns for the purpose of managing stormwater runoff.
 - Existing and proposed transportation facilities
 - Public water and sewer supply.
 - Areas that will remain in a natural or undisturbed state upon completion of the project.
 - Endangered or threatened plant and animal species and species of special concern.
 - 100-year floodplain boundary.
- ▶ A description of mitigation efforts that will occur as part of the proposed development.
- ▶ An impact assessment that discusses the anticipated effect of the proposed development on the environment.
- ▶ Measures that are proposed by the applicant to mitigate the impacts of the proposed development on the environment.

Priority Level: H
County Dept./Agency(ies): Planning
Cooperating Entity(ies):
Time Frame: 2001 and Ongoing
Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Resources

AS: Snyder County should be pro-active in the area of infrastructure planning including the update of the Snyder County Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan.

Recommendation: In collaboration with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and local wastewater authorities, consider updating the County's sewage facilities plan in accordance with the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act (Act 537).

Priority Level: M
County Dept./Agency(ies): Planning
Cooperating Entity(ies): Local Governments, PADEP
Time Frame: 2002-2005
Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Resources

AS: Support local efforts to improve existing public wastewater treatment facilities.

Recommendation: Collaborate with municipal officials to ensure public wastewater treatment facility improvements are performed in context with the Future Land Use Plan. For example, urban and suburban levels of development should be located where public wastewater treatment facilities can adequately accept additional growth, either at present or through limited expansion and upgrading, consistent with the Future Land Use Plan. Furthermore, the County should assist local municipalities to actively seek grants and other funding sources to provide adequate public wastewater service to existing urban and suburban areas and proposed growth areas.

Priority Level: H
County Dept./Agency(ies): Planning
Cooperating Entity(ies): Local Governments and Authorities, PADEP
Time Frame: Ongoing
Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Resources

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AS: Provide technical support to municipalities to implement the recommendations contained within their respective Act 537 Plans.

Recommendation: In cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the County should consider preparing brochures concerning on-lot sewage system maintenance and other sewage disposal issues. In addition, this may include holding seminars for municipal officials, citizens, realtors, developers, and other constituents regarding sewage facilities planning and plan implementation, as well as a review of the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) guidelines. Moreover, the County should distribute copies of the Pennsylvania Association of Township Supervisor's publication entitled, "Local Government Planning Procedures and Management Practices for Improving On-lot Sewage Programs." A copy of this guide may be obtained through the URL www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/local_gov/Sewage/Sewage.htm.

Priority Level: H
County Dept./Agency(ies): Planning
Cooperating Entity(ies): PADEP
Time Frame: Ongoing
Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Resources

AS: In accordance with the Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Act (Act 167), implement a Countywide initiative to prepare stormwater management plans for each of the County's seven state designated stormwater management watersheds [Middle Creek, Penns Creek, Mahantango Creek (West), Susquehanna River, Jacks Creek, Honey Creek, and Juniata River].

Recommendations:

- ▶ The County should consider preparing stormwater management plans for the watersheds impacted by the Future Land Use Plan. As established by Act 167, Counties are required to prepare stormwater management plans for each watershed located within its boundaries. To assist in this process, the PADEP develops grant agreements with the County to pay for 75 percent of the costs associated with preparing each of the seven plans.
- ▶ Capitalize on the state's "Growing Greener Environmental Stewardship and Watershed Protection Act" program. This may be best accomplished by adding a County staff person for grant procurement duties.

Priority Level: L
County Dept./Agency(ies): Planning
Cooperating Entity(ies): PADEP
Time Frame: 2001-2006
Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Resources

AS: Educate and promote the use of Best Management Practices in the private and public sectors.

Recommendations:

- ▶ The County should consider the various community-based environmental projects conducted under the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts' (PACD) "Mini-Project Grant Program." The PACD in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency administers two grant programs that provide up to \$1,000 for small projects

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that benefit the environment. The Chesapeake Bay Program Mini-Project Program is targeted to activities within Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay watershed, and the Clean Water Act Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Mini-Project Program is open to all applicants in Pennsylvania. For more information and examples of locally implemented mini-projects, visit www.pacd.org/products/mini_programs.htm.

- ▶ The County should improve its planning library by obtaining a copy of *The Pennsylvania Handbook of Best Management Practices for Developing Areas*. This publication is a tool created to assist developers, engineers, municipal officials, conservation district personnel and others involved with the planning, design, review and approval or building development projects. It describes practices and principles that are aesthetically pleasing and space efficient, while protecting water quality and improving wildlife habitat. Copies may be obtained by visiting www.pacd.org/products/bmp/bmp_handbook.htm or contacting the PACD at 4999 Jonestown Rd., Harrisburg PA 17109, 717-545-8878.

Priority Level: H
County Dept./Agency(ies): Conservation District
Cooperating Entity(ies):
Time Frame: Ongoing
Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Resources

AS: As recommended in the Government Facilities and Services Plan, the County

should implement a GIS/MIS program to supplement current and future planning and development activities.

Recommendation: Once implemented, the County should develop a countywide natural resources spatial database to include such features as surface waters, wetlands, floodplains, geologic formations, soils, and public lands. Many of these features and other non-natural feature GIS data sets are available as free downloads from the Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access web site (www.pasda.psu.edu/flash.shtml).

Priority Level: H
County Dept./Agency(ies): Commissioners, Planning and other pertinent agencies
Cooperating Entity(ies):
Time Frame: 2001-2003
Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Resources

AS: Work to provide a diverse set of passive and active (e.g, indoor and outdoor) recreational facilities that are suitable for all age groups and abilities. Also, maintain an inventory of existing private sector and other jurisdictional parkland and open space facilities for use in future park analyses.

Recommendations

- ▶ Consider preparing and adopting a Countywide Comprehensive Recreation, Park, and Open Space Plan to aid in identifying recreation issues, needs, policies, and capital investment priorities. This plan would serve as a guide for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, and protection of resources, and provision of recreation opportunities and services to the citizens of Snyder County. Once adopted the county should create and support a Parks and Recreation Department to oversee the

plan's implementation. This may also include developing a countywide greenways study to aid in the preservation of green space areas along the Susquehanna River.

- ▶ Consider preparing a Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) for Snyder County. The Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory conducts inventories and collects data to identify and describe the Commonwealth's rarest and most significant ecological features. These features include plant and animal species of special concern, rare and exemplary natural communities, and outstanding geologic features. Site-specific information describing these features is stored in an integrated data management system consisting of map, manual, and computer files. The PNDI information system is continually refined and updated to include recently discovered locations and to describe environmental changes affecting known sites. The goal is to build, maintain, and provide accurate and accessible ecological information needed for conservation, development planning, and natural resource management. This information will enhance the County's ability to identify potential impacts from future development plans.

Priority Level: H
County Dept./Agency(ies): Conservation District
Cooperating Entity(ies):
Time Frame: Ongoing
Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Resources

CULTURAL RESOURCES GOAL: To enhance Snyder County's quality of life through the identification and preservation of its cultural resources.

Cultural Resources Objective:

- ▶ **By promoting the identification, protection, and recognition of scenic settings and culturally significant resources.**

AS: Prepare a countywide Historical Sites Survey.

Recommendation: Consider developing an inventory and assessment of the County's cultural and historic resources resulting in a master plan containing a series of goals and planning recommendations for the enhancement and continued preservation of these resources. The County should work in cooperation with local historical organizations, as well as the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

Priority Level: M
County Dept./Agency(ies): Planning
Cooperating Entity(ies): Historical Society
Time Frame: 2001-2004
Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Resources

AS: Encourage public and private investment and preservation opportunities for the education and enjoyment of the county's cultural resources.

Recommendation: Assist the Snyder County Historical Society and the various grass-roots historical organizations in applying for the various grants, tax credits and other assistance programs offered through the National Park Service; particularly, the Certified Local Government Program. For more information go to www.cr.nps.gov/places.htm.

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Priority Level: M
County Dept./Agency(ies): Commissioners
Cooperating Entity(ies): Private Sector
Time Frame: Ongoing
Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Resources

AS: Encourage compatible development within and adjacent to significant cultural features and landscapes.

Recommendations:

- ▶ Where applicable, assist local municipalities to amend their zoning ordinances for incorporating Historic District Overlay and other cultural resource protection measures. Develop model historical overlay regulations for their consideration. The county's GIS system should also be used to assist local municipalities in locating historically significant resources.

- ▶ During subdivision and land development reviews, the County should document any proposed actions that may impact National Historic properties or properties deemed eligible for the National Register by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

Priority Level: H
County Dept./Agency(ies): Planning
Cooperating Entity(ies): Local Governments, Developers
Time Frame: Ongoing
Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Resources

INTENT

The intent of this Plan is to provide Snyder County with a basic framework to meet the existing and future transportation needs of its citizens, and serve as a useful guide to program future transportation improvement projects.

GOAL: To provide an efficient and well maintained transportation system to maximize the accessibility and safe movement of people and goods through cooperative transportation planning with local governments, SEDA-COG, and the Commonwealth.

Action and Implementation Strategies:

Action and Implementation Strategies have been developed to fulfill the goals and objectives developed for this section. Action and Implementation Strategies serve as recommendations for enhancing Snyder County’s transportation facilities and services. Each strategy contains an Action Statement (AS) and Recommendation(s) for implementation. Each strategy is given a priority level (i.e. H=High, M=Medium, and L=Low), and identifies the County departments/agencies and public/private cooperating entities responsible for implementation (i.e., L=Local Municipalities, S=State Agencies, P=Private, SD=School District) *the responsibilities for the County are broken down by Department (i.e. CC=County Commissioners, P=Planning Department, ES=Emergency Services)*. Each Action Strategy also provides a time frame in which it should occur. Finally, each strategy is referenced to the categorized list of potential funding sources contained in Appendix A of this Comprehensive Plan.

Highway and Bridges Objective: By providing safe and accessible highway and bridge systems to support the efficient movement of people and goods throughout the County and SEDA-COG region.

AS: Annually identify, prioritize, and implement transportation system improvements, as well as enhance existing conditions.

Recommendations:

- ▶ Encourage the establishment of a transportation committee, comprised of a representative from PennDOT, Local Officials, and the County, to identify projects and improvements to be included in PennDOT’s twelve year program.
- ▶ Keep the public/citizens informed of the process and recommendations for support and involvement.

Priority Level: H
Responsible Dept./Agencies: Commissioners, Planning
Cooperating Entity(ies): L, PennDOT, SEDA-COG, P
Time Frame: Ongoing
Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Sources

Public Transit Objective: By coordinating public transit and facilities planning to ensure accessibility to existing and new development.

AS: Efforts should be made to improve public transit service between Selinsgrove, Sunbury, and Lewisburg.

Recommendation: Conduct a survey to establish the need for Public Transportation within the County or region.

Priority Level: M
Responsible Dept./Agencies: Commissioners, Planning, USTA
Cooperating Entity(ies): L, PennDOT, SEDA-COG, P, Penn Valley Airport Authority
Time Frame: 2001-2004
Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Sources

Aviation Objective: By improving, expanding, and marketing the Penn Valley Airport's facilities and services to support future economic growth.

AS: Promote the Penn Valley Airport as a benefit to economic development opportunities.

Recommendations:

- ▶ Partner with the Central Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce to recruit businesses that would utilize airport facilities.
- ▶ Continue to encourage municipal/community support in the operation of the Airport Authority.
- ▶ Encourage the County to take an active role in support, promotion, and development of the Airport.

Priority Level: H
Responsible Dept./Agencies: Commissioners, Planning, USTA
Cooperating Entity(ies): L, PennDOT, SEDA-COG, P, Penn Valley Airport Authority
Time Frame: Ongoing
Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Sources

Rail Objective: By supporting and encouraging the continued use of Snyder County's rail freight services.

AS: Continue to support those activities and/or entities as necessary to strengthen Snyder County and the region's rail freight services.

Recommendations:

- ▶ Work with SEDA-COG's Joint Rail Authority, and the Central Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce to recruit rail uses to the area.
- ▶ Preventative maintenance needs to be addressed, railroad crossings need to be better marked or signalized.
- ▶ Enhance communications with Norfolk Southern rail officials to foster a cooperative relationship in sustaining the Bridge Line Route and Sunbury Line rail systems.

Priority Level: H
Responsible Dept./Agencies: Commissioners, Planning, USTA
Cooperating Entity(ies): L, PennDOT, SEDA-COG, P, Penn Valley Airport Authority
Time Frame: Ongoing
Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Sources

Liveable Communities Objective: By promoting the concept of livable communities through the development of pedestrian walkways and bikeways that interconnect residential areas with employment, transportation, business, and recreation centers.

AS: Provide non-vehicular facilities, where possible, to link residential areas to scenic and natural areas, schools, businesses, and other community facilities; non-vehicular facilities include pedestrian walkways, trails, and bikeways.

Recommendations:

- ▶ Assist the Snyder County Planning Department with the development of bike routes within the County.
- ▶ Explore various funding sources such as Keystone Community Grants, and CDBG monies to develop sidewalks or trails.
- ▶ Encourage municipalities to adopt regulations that require sidewalks and provide design standards.

Priority Level: H

Responsible Dept./Agencies: Commissioners, Planning, USTA

Cooperating Entity(ies): L, PennDOT, SEDA-COG, P

Time Frame: Ongoing

Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Sources

Land Development Objective: By developing a study to gain a better understanding of the existing levels of community facilities and public utilities and services within Snyder County, including public sewer and water utilities, telecommunications, electric power, and natural gas facilities.

AS: As required by Section 301 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC), Snyder County should prepare a planning element for community facilities and utilities and amend this Comprehensive Plan to include it.

Recommendations:

- ▶ The plan element should evaluate existing facilities and services as specified by the MPC, and identify deficiencies to be corrected or changes that will need to be made to accommodate future growth. Following this evaluation, a

community facilities and utilities plan will be developed to focus on setting forth recommendations having strategic significance on the County's ability to accommodate future growth and development opportunities.

- ▶ Prepare and submit a (DCED) Single Application for Assistance for the Land Use Planning and Technical Assistance Program (LUPTAP) to prepare this study.
- ▶ Consider the feasibility of offsetting costs by soliciting monetary support from local business and utility providers, such as PP&L, Pennsylvania Gas and Water and AT&T. Local businesses should have a vested interest in this comprehensive planning effort because it is a countywide blueprint for growth and development.

Priority Level: H

Responsible Dept./Agencies: Commissioners, Planning

Cooperating Entity(ies): DCED

Time Frame: 2000-2001

Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Sources

Transportation Planning Objective: By continuing to provide a countywide transportation planning program to enhance and sustain the County and region's efficient movement of people, goods and services.

AS: Continue to work with local officials and SEDA-COG in identifying and programming local and regional transportation system improvements.

Recommendations:

- ▶ Establish a formalized County coordinated transportation planning

program that involves all of Snyder County's municipalities, SEDA-COG, local legislators and PennDOT District 3-0. Such a program could be modeled after Union County or Mifflin County's transportation planning programs.

Priority Level: H
Responsible Dept./Agencies: Planning
Cooperating Entity(ies): L, PennDOT, SEDA-COG
Time Frame: 2001-2005
Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Sources

Priority Level: H
Responsible Dept./Agencies: Commissioners, Planning
Cooperating Entity(ies): L, PennDOT, SEDA-COG, P
Time Frame: Ongoing
Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Sources

- ▶ Work with local officials to evaluate the Plain Sect's transportation issues and concerns, particularly in terms of mobility along State Route 104 and other roadways located in the County's southeastern region.

Priority Level: H
Responsible Dept./Agencies: Planning, Conservation District
Cooperating Entity(ies): L, PennDOT, SEDA-COG, PSU Cooperative Extension, P
Time Frame: Ongoing
Funding Sources: See Part One, Potential Funding Sources

- ▶ Prepare corridor studies of U.S. Route 522 from Middleburg to Selinsgrove and State Route 35 from Mount Pleasant Mills to Selinsgrove. These studies would look at improving traffic capacities, levels of service, recommend overall improvements including road realignment and widening where necessary, and review land uses along this corridor.

Plan Interrelationships

INTRODUCTION

Section 301.(a)(4.1) of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) requires a comprehensive plan to include “a statement of the interrelationships among the various plan components, which may include an estimate of the environmental, energy conservation, fiscal, economic development and social consequences on the municipality.”

Based on Snyder County’s Comprehensive Plan’s goals and objectives, the primary interrelationships addressed herein include:

- ▶ the relationship of the preferred land use pattern to the environmental resources of the County;
- ▶ the general way that energy conservation concepts are reflected through the County’s growth management strategy; and
- ▶ the provision of a sustainable development pattern reflected in the channeling of higher density developments to areas with access to a full range of public services and facilities.

The recommendations presented in this Comprehensive Plan are intended to pose favorable consequences on the County and its environment, energy and fiscal resources, economic health and quality of life.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Land Use Pattern and Related Infrastructure

This Comprehensive Plan attempts to minimize the impacts of future development on the County’s sensitive environmental resources by encouraging a sustainable development pattern. Essentially, this plan encourages the maximum use of existing

facilities and services, and provide for the protection of the natural environment.

Energy Consequences of the Proposed Land Use Pattern and Related Infrastructure

This Comprehensive Plan recommends a future land use pattern that, when implemented, will achieve a considerable level of energy conservation. Rather than focus on the unnecessary development of new facilities and services, this Plan encourages the revitalization and sustainment of the County’s existing infrastructure. This will ultimately reduce the amount of energy and fiscal resources consumed, thereby providing a sustainable development pattern.

Fiscal and Economic Consequences of the Proposed Land Use Pattern and Related Infrastructure

By promoting sustainable development, Snyder County’s municipalities will fiscally benefit from a balanced land use pattern. The Future Land Use pattern provides an opportunity to strengthen both the County and municipalities’ tax bases by managing the rate of residential growth, strengthening industrial growth and preserving the existing agricultural and open space areas. Timothy W. Kelsey, author of the publication entitled *Fiscal Impacts of Different Land Uses: The Pennsylvania Experience*, states “The way land is used in your community affects your taxes and the quality of your life. Land uses influence the size of your local government, the types of services it offers, the types of equipment it must purchase, and the taxes and tax rates it must levy (1).

Social Consequences of the Proposed Land Use Pattern and Related Infrastructure

The recommendations contained within this Comprehensive Plan will enhance and sustain the quality of life currently enjoyed by the residents of Snyder County. For example, the preservation of the County's agricultural, open spaces and sensitive environmental resources will allow the continued enjoyment of the area's recreational opportunities, scenic landscapes, and sensitive flora and fauna. In addition, recommendations for improving the County's circulation patterns will benefit all residents and visitors.

Plan Review, Maintenance and Approval

INTRODUCTION

Section 302 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) sets forth the procedures that are to be followed to provide for review and adoption of the Snyder County Comprehensive Plan. This section specifies that the County provide copies of the proposed plan to its municipalities, school districts and contiguous counties prior to the public hearing on the Plan. These agencies then have 45 days to provide review and comment on the proposed Plan.

Adoption of the Plan begins with the Snyder County Planning Commission. Under Section 302(a), the Planning Commission is required to hold at least one public meeting prior to forwarding the plan to the Snyder County Board of Commissioners. Subsequently, the Board of Commissioners are required to hold at least one public hearing on the plan and shall consider comments of municipalities, school districts, counties, public meeting comments and recommendations of the Planning Commission. Approval shall be by a resolution adopted by a majority of the Board of Commissioners.

Recent amendments to the MPC (Section 302(d) require county comprehensive plans to be updated every 10 years, as contrasted with municipal and multi-municipal comprehensive plans, which must be reviewed every 10 years [Section 301(c)]. However, the Snyder County Comprehensive Plan will only be useful if it is regularly used and updated. For this to occur, it is recommended that the Board of Commissioners and Planning Commission perform the following actions:

- ▶ Annually evaluate the Comprehensive Plan and, if necessary, make modifications to the plan to ensure it remains useful in terms of guiding the decisions made regarding the future

growth and preservation of the County.

- ▶ The Planning Commission should submit an annual written report to the Board of Commissioners summarizing its conclusions on the evaluation of the Comprehensive Plan, the past year's major activities, the upcoming year's major projected activities, and crucial issues that will or may impact the County, as well as its municipalities and contiguous counties.

In addition to the above recommendations, it is highly recommended that Snyder County officials carefully study the recent amendments to the Municipalities Planning Code. Among the various changes, is the general consistency requirement. Specifically, the MPC amendments establish the goal of general consistency between municipal and multimunicipal plans and county comprehensive plans. In addition, municipal zoning ordinances must be generally consistent with and generally implement the municipal, multimunicipal or county comprehensive plan.

Moreover, Section 301.4 requires county planning commissions to provide advisory guidelines to municipalities that promote general consistency with the county comprehensive plan and uniformity in ordinance terminology.

Potential Funding Sources

INTRODUCTION

The development and implementation of a Capital Improvements Program will require support from a variety of funding sources. These sources can help to fund a variety of projects ranging from community planning, development and conservation to transportation. A directory of potential funding is provided in Table PF-1.

In addition to the funding sources contained in Table PF-1, the PA Department of Community and Economic Development's (DCEd) Customer Service Center (CSC) publishes an annual Funding Source Directory containing information on DCEd's programs and services. This directory serves as the entry point for the DCEd Single Application for Assistance. Both the Funding Source Directory and Single Application for Assistance can be obtained by pointing your Internet browser to http://www.dced.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/DCEd/business/application.htm.

The Rural Information Center (RIC) has compiled and published a directory entitled, *Federal Funding Sources for Rural Areas: Fiscal Year 2001*. The RIC is a joint project of the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service and the National Agricultural Library (NAL). RIC provides information and referral services to local government officials, community organizations, health professionals and organizations, cooperatives, libraries, businesses, and rural citizens working to maintain the vitality of America's rural areas. To obtain a copy *Federal Funding Sources for Rural Areas: Fiscal Year 2001*, go to www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ricpubs/funding/federalfund/fed00ful.pdf.

Currently, Pennsylvania has six major programs supporting parks, greenways and trails, which are relevant to the county. They

are administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT):

- ▶ Keystone Planning, Implementation and Technical Assistance Program (DCNR)
- ▶ Keystone Acquisition and Development Program (DCNR)
- ▶ Keystone Land Trust Program (DCNR)
- ▶ The Recreational Trails program (DCNR)
- ▶ Growing Greener Grant Program (PADEP)
- ▶ Transportation Enhancements Program (PennDOT)

However, funding sources change with bills passed, budgets adopted, and programs initiated by state and federal governments. For example, based on recommendations made by the 21st Century Environment Commission, Governor Tom Ridge is proposing to change the way over \$1.3 billion will be spent in the next five years to put Pennsylvania on the path to Growing Greener in the 21st Century (www.dep.state.pa.us/growgreen).

**Table PF-1
Directory of Potential Funding Sources**

Program	Program Description	Administering Agency/Internet Address
Community Planning, Development, and Conservation Funding Sources		
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	Offers grants for a wide variety of activities, provided the applicant proves by survey or census that the project will benefit 51% low and moderate income persons or handicapped persons or eliminate "blighted" conditions in officially designated areas. Funds can be used for water and sewage improvements, storm drainage, handicapped accessibility, housing rehabilitation, parks and recreation, street and sidewalk improvements, code enforcement, community planning, and historic rehabilitation.	U.S. HUD funds, implemented by DCED www.dced.state.pa.us/ www.hud.gov/
CDBG Section 108	Program offers loan guarantees to municipalities to allow financing of large loans for major physical projects.	Same as CDBG
Community Facilities Loan Program (Federal)	Offers low-interest loans to construct, enlarge or improve essential community facilities for public use in rural areas and towns with population less than 50,000. Also offers guarantees of loans by private lenders.	U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Housing Service (formerly Farmers Home Administration) www.rurdev.usda.gov/
Historic Preservation Tax Credits	Offers Federal income tax credits for a percentage of the qualified capital costs to rehabilitate a certified historic building, provided the exterior is restored. The program is generally limited to income-producing properties.	National Park Service www.nps.gov/
Historic Preservation - Certified Local Government Grants	Provides modest-sized matching grants to provide technical assistance to municipalities that have official historic districts and meet other criteria to be "certified".	Federal program administered by PHMC www.phmc.state.pa.us/
Historic Preservation Survey and Planning Grants	Matching grants for historic surveys, historic preservation planning and National Register nominations. Available to municipalities and non-profit organizations. Cannot be used for construction.	PHMC
Housing Programs - mainly including Federal HOME Program (Home Investment Partnerships Program)	Provides grants, low-interest loans and loan guarantees to for-profit and non-profit developers for the construction or rehabilitation of housing for low and/or moderate income persons. Funds are provided to local community-based housing development organizations to develop housing. Funds are also provided through private lenders to assist with down payment and closing costs for low income and disabled persons to purchase a home for their own occupancy.	PA Housing Finance Agency and DCED www.phfa.state.pa.us www.dced.state.pa.us
Industrial Sites Reuse Program	This program provides grant and low interest loan financing to perform environmental site assessment and remediation work at former industrial sites. A 25 percent match is required.	DCED www.dced.state.pa.us
Infrastructure Development Program	This program provides grant and low interest loans to finance public and private infrastructure improvements needed in order for a business to locate or expand at a specific site. It also provides financing for infrastructure costs required to redevelop industrial and commercial sites that have been idle for over six months.	DCED www.dced.state.pa.us

**Table PF-1
Directory of Potential Funding Sources**

Program	Program Description	Administering Agency/Internet Address
Keystone Acquisition and Development Grant Program - Community Grants	Provide funding for the purchase of land for park, recreation, or conservation purposes and the rehabilitation and development of park and recreation areas and facilities, including greenways and trails. Municipalities COGs and some authorities are the only eligible applicants.	DCNR www.dcnr.state.pa.us/
Keystone Acquisition and Development Grant Program - Rails-to-Trails Grants	Provide for acquisition of abandoned railroad right-of-way and adjacent land, and to develop them for recreational trail use. Open to municipalities and non-profit organizations.	DCNR www.dcnr.state.pa.us/
Keystone Acquisition and Development Grant Program - Rivers Conservation Grants	Available to both municipalities and appropriate organizations for acquisition and development projects recommended in an approved Rivers Conservation plan (such as those created under the PITA Program; see below). To be eligible for acquisition or development funding, the Rivers Conservation Plan must be listed in the Pennsylvania Rivers Registry.	DCNR www.dcnr.state.pa.us/
Keystone Historic Preservation Funds	Provides 50% matching grants to fund analysis, acquisition or rehabilitation of historic sites. The site must be on the National Register of Historic Places, or officially determined to be eligible for listing. The site must be accessible to the public after funding. The grants can be made to public agencies or non-profit organizations.	PHMC www.phmc.state.pa.us/
Keystone Land Trust Program	Provides grants to non-profit land trusts, conservancies, and organizations for acquisition and planning of open space and critical natural areas that face imminent loss. Although these funds are targeted to protecting critical habitat with threatened species, many of these lands also provide key open space, greenway, bikeway, trail and heritage corridor opportunities and connections in greenway systems. Lands must be open to public use and acquisition must be coordinated with the communities or counties in which the property is located. Funds require a 50-percent match.	DCNR www.dcnr.state.pa.us/
Keystone Planning, Implementation and Technical Assistance (PITA) Program - Community Grants	Provides 50% matching grants to municipalities to fund overall planning for park and recreation, master plans for individual parks, acquisition of parkland and nature preserves, countywide natural area inventories, and rehabilitation and improvements to public recreation areas. Grants up to \$20,000, without a local match, are available for material and design costs in small municipalities.	DCNR www.dcnr.state.pa.us/
Keystone Planning, Implementation and Technical Assistance (PITA) Program - Rails-to-Trails Grants	Available for feasibility studies, master site plans, acquisition and improvement of former railroad lines for recreation trails. A 50% local match is required. Open to municipalities, authorities and non-profits.	DCNR Southcentral Regional Office www.dcnr.state.pa.us/
Keystone Planning, Implementation and Technical Assistance (PITA) Program - Rivers Conservation Grants	Available to municipalities and appropriate non-profit organizations for conducting watershed and river corridor studies and plans, many of which include greenway and trail elements. A 50% local match is required.	DCNR Southcentral Regional Office www.dcnr.state.pa.us/
Land Use Planning and Technical Assistance Program	Provides financial assistance to municipalities for developing and strengthening community planning and management capabilities.	DCED www.dced.state.pa.us/

**Table PF-1
Directory of Potential Funding Sources**

Program	Program Description	Administering Agency/Internet Address
PENNVEST	Offers low interest loans for construction and improvement of drinking water and wastewater systems.	PA Infrastructure Investment Authority and DEP Bureau of Water Supply Management www.dep.state.pa.us/
Recreational Trails Program (Symms National Recreational Trails Act)	Grants are available to federal and state agencies, municipal government, organizations, and even private individuals. Money may be used for a variety of purposes, including work on trails to mitigate or minimize the impact on the natural environment, provide urban trail linkages, and develop trail-side and trail-head facilities. A 50% local match is required.	DCNR Southcentral Regional Office www.dcnr.state.pa.us/
Growing Greener Grant Program	The new Growing Greener Program signed into law by Gov. Tom Ridge will invest nearly \$650 million over the next five years to preserve farmland and protect open space; eliminate the maintenance backlog in State Parks; clean up abandoned mines and restore watersheds; and provide new and upgraded water and sewer systems.	DEP http://www.dep.state.pa.us/growgreen/default.htm
Stream Improvement Program	Provides design and construction assistance to eliminate imminent threats to flooding and streambank erosion.	DEP Bureau of Waterways Engineering. www.dep.state.pa.us/
Urban Forestry Grants	Provides grants for tree planting projects. Is also a Federal "America the Beautiful" grant program for tree planting.	DCNR www.dcnr.state.pa.us/
Office of Justice Programs	Operation Weed and Seed, a Department of Justice community-based initiative, is an innovative and comprehensive multi-agency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention, and community revitalization. Weed and Seed is a strategy to prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity in targeted high-crime neighborhoods of all sizes nationwide.	U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/reports/98Guides/rural/
Volunteer Fire Assistance Program(Formerly Rural Community Fire Protection)	This program authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to provide technical, financial and related assistance to rural fire departments for training and equipping firefighters. The program is aimed at assisting rural communities with populations of 10,000 or less to establish new fire departments and to upgrade fire suppression capabilities of existing departments.	U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/planning/vfa/
Transportation Funding Sources		
Impact Fees	Acts 203 and 209 of 1990 provide legal justification for the assessment of impact fees. The County and municipalities could give some consideration to implementing such a system to supplement state and other local sources; although the initial costs of establishing impact fees will likely prove too expensive for the individual municipalities.	PennDOT www.dot.state.pa.us/

**Table PF-1
Directory of Potential Funding Sources**

Program	Program Description	Administering Agency/Internet Address
Impact Fees (cont'd.)	<p>The laws authorize the use of impact fees for costs incurred for improvements designated in the municipalities' transportation capital improvement program attributable to new development, including the acquisition of land and rights of way; engineering, legal and planning costs; and all other costs directly related to road improvements within the service area or areas, including debt service.</p> <p>Municipalities are expressly prohibited under the impact fee law from using impact fees for: (1) the construction, acquisition or expansion of municipal facilities that have not been identified in the Township's Transportation Capital Improvement Program; (2) the repair, operation or maintenance of existing or new capital improvements; (3) the upgrade, update, expansion or replacement of existing capital improvements to serve existing developments to meet stricter safety, efficiency, environmental or regulatory standards that are not attributable to new development; and, (4) the preparation and development of land use assumptions and the Capital Improvements Plan.</p> <p>As a prerequisite to proceeding with plans for an impact fee ordinance, a municipality must have adopted a Township or County Comprehensive Plan, a subdivision and land development ordinance, and a zoning ordinance. In addition, municipalities must meet a number of specific requirements before adopting an impact fee ordinance, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint an impact fee advisory committee • Develop future land use assumptions • Conduct a roadway sufficiency analysis • Develop a Capital Improvements Plan • Prepare an Impact Fee Ordinance <p><i>Official Map</i> - Municipalities could prepare an official Map in accordance with Article IV of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code as amended. The Official Map would be used to delineate areas for future land acquisition or easements for future roadway and infrastructure needs.</p>	
Highway Transfer or Road Turnback Program	<p>Under this program, PennDOT will bring a road up to current specifications and then dedicate it to the participating municipality. Annual maintenance fees are also included by PennDOT. In most instances, the municipalities may get a new roadway and funding for maintenance.</p>	<p>PennDOT www.dot.state.pa.us/</p>

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Program	Program Description	Administering Agency/Internet Address
Local Share of Liquid Fuels Tax	This provides for a permanent allocation of part of the liquid fuels taxes collected by the state for municipalities. Liquid fuels allocations may be used for any road-related activity including maintenance, repair, construction, or reconstruction of public roads or streets. In any given year at least a portion of the money could be used for transportation facility projects.	PennDOT www.dot.state.pa.us/
SAMI: Safety and Mobility Improvements Program -	This program is aimed at improving highway safety and reducing congestion. The source of the funding is the Center for Program Development and Management at PennDOT.	PennDOT www.dot.state.pa.us/
Transportation Equity Act for the 21 st Century (TEA-21)	Provides money for highway, highway safety, transit and other surface transportation programs through Fiscal Year 2003. TEA-21 builds on the initiatives established during Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA). Significant features of TEA-21 are assurance of a guaranteed level of Federal funding for surface transportation; extension of the DBE Program; strengthening of safety programs; and continuation of the program structure established under ISTEA. These elements include: scenic beautification along highways, historic preservation, restoration of historic transportation facilities (such as canals), preservation of rail corridors (particularly for bicycle/walking routes), control and removal of outdoor advertising, archeological research, and mitigation of water pollution due to highway runoff. All projects must have a direct relationship to transportation.	USDOT/FHWA funds administered by PennDOT. Typically prioritized through regional or county transportation planning organizations
Transportation Partnerships	Under Act 47 of 1985, as amended, it provided for the formation of "partnerships" between municipalities and, in most cases, local developers and businesses. A formal partnership requires the designation of a transportation development district in which all improvements will take place and in which assessments may be charged. Municipalities should consider participation in this program as a means of obtaining funding for roadway improvements.	PennDOT www.dot.state.pa.us/

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Program	Program Description	Administering Agency/Internet Address
Transportation and Community and System Preservation Pilot Program	The Transportation and Community and System Preservation Pilot program is a comprehensive initiative of research and grants to investigate the relationships between transportation and community and system preservation and private sector-based initiatives. States, local governments, and metropolitan planning organizations are eligible for discretionary grants to plan and implement strategies that improve the efficiency of the transportation system; reduce environmental impacts of transportation; reduce the need for costly future public infrastructure investments; ensure efficient access to jobs, services, and centers of trade; and examine private sector development patterns and investments that support these goals. A total of \$120 million is authorized for this program for FY's 1999-2003.	USDOT/FHWA tcsp-fhwa.volpe.dot.gov/

Sources: Publications and Internet sites of various agencies, in addition to January 1997 issue of *Pennsylvanian* magazine, and the 1997 Pennsylvania Planning Association Statewide Conference.

Abbreviations: DCED - Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development
 DCNR - Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
 DEP - Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
 FHWA - Federal Highway Administration
 HUD - U.S. Dept. Of Housing and Urban Development
 NRCS - U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service
 PennDOT - Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
 USDOT - U.S. Department of Transportation