

DAUPHIN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

DAUPHIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE – HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17101

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To: Smart Growth America - Elizabeth Schilling and Ilana Preuss
From: Leah Pearlman-Storch, AICP
Date: December 8, 2014
Re: Dauphin County Planning Commission Progress Report #3

Since our last progress report in June, staff has been working on multiple projects to assist in implementing smart growth. A major consideration throughout Dauphin County is flood resilience. With the impact of recent significant flooding events, staff has been working with organizations to develop a Flood Inundation Mapping tool, and the County is working with municipalities to initiate a Community Rating System program. With recently adopted legislation regarding the increases to flood insurance, it is critical that we provide up-to-date information for our residents and businesses.

Here are some measures we feel show a successful implementation of Smart Growth Principles:

- Application to Local Share Municipal Grant for funding the County Comprehensive Plan
- Held outreach meetings in County to discuss planning issues. The attendees of these meeting represented 19 of the County's 40 municipalities
- Worked with Ft. Indiantown Gap to develop a land use study to provide recommendations to adjacent municipalities for future land use decisions. Additionally, developed open communication between military and civilian needs
- Initiated discussions with MindMixer for use as a public outreach tool
- Received seven entries for the 2014 Dauphin County Premier Project Award
- Continued work on the development of the West Hanover Township Comprehensive Plan and updating its urban growth boundary
- Worked with interested groups on the future of the more than 300-acre State Hospital property
- New tools are being developed for the Regional Toolkit that is available to all municipalities and the public as needed
- Continued work with Millersburg Borough on the adoption of first zoning ordinance
- Working with City of Harrisburg to amend ordinances to expedite minor land development plans and renovations

The process of integrating smart growth into the county planning agenda has been successful over the past year. As we begin to analyze the land development and building permit data for 2014, staff will get a better understanding of how this agenda has been put into practice at a municipal level. We now have a better framework to measure our process in the future.