

Appendix A

Plan Process

1. Plan Process
2. 8 Countywide Priority Issues with Related Multi-Municipal Thematic Issues

Plan Process

Although Article III of the Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) establishes parameters and requirements for comprehensive planning in PA, the process itself is largely left in the hands of the municipalities preparing the plan. This plan is the 10-year update to the 2006 Comprehensive Plan for Lycoming County, PA – Phase II.

As in the preparation of the 2006 Plan, a Planning Advisory Team (or PAT) was established to help guide the process and content related to this plan. However, with this update process, a series of teams were established. Three distinct teams represented the rural municipalities located outside of the multi-municipal plan areas: Rural-East, Rural-Central, and Rural-West. See Map 4 in Appendix D for the geographic delineation of these planning areas. The purpose of the advisory teams was to provide initial input, feedback, and pertinent information pertaining to the development of the Comprehensive Plan, as well as to present issues and concerns facing the future of Lycoming County. These PAT's had broad representation from various sectors in the community, including: municipal government, municipal authorities and other entities, public safety agencies, education and health institutions, community organizations and other relevant institutions within the planning areas. The Rural-West PAT met for four meetings and the Rural-East and Rural-Central PAT's met three times between September 2015 and April 2017. The full list of participants and meeting notes can be found in the next section of the Appendices.

In addition to the above-mentioned PAT's, the Lycoming County Planning Commission acted as the Countywide PAT that helped the County prioritize the issues of greatest importance, helped conceive the strategic project lists, and provided feedback to the written plan.

Lycoming County Planning and Community Development (PCD) staff facilitated the County Comprehensive Plan process. The beginning of the planning process was marked by four public outreach meetings around the County to inform the public about the process and also collect feedback on current issues. Meetings were held in Trout Run (Lewis Township), Jersey Shore Borough, Hughesville Borough and in the City of Williamsport in September 2015.

As part of the 2018 Comprehensive Plan Update Community Outreach Strategy, Lycoming County conducted a series of focus group meetings in spring of 2016 with key stakeholders representing a cross-section of the County. Each meeting concentrated on a specific subject area and included participants from organizations with relevant subject matter expertise including local governments, county government, emergency service providers, utility providers, public authorities, non-profits, for-profit businesses, community leaders and others. Focus Group sessions were conducted on the following topics: Economic Development; Community Development; Community Facilities and Infrastructure; Public Safety; Heritage, Culture and the Arts; Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Forestry; Transportation; and Youth perspectives. The findings of these meetings were incorporated into the identification of the county-wide issues and the development of priority projects and initiatives included in the 2018 Comprehensive Plan Update and Multi-Municipal Plan Updates.

Staff also facilitated an on-line and intercept survey to the public that took place late summer/early fall 2016. The results are conveyed in the Research and Analysis section of Appendix C.

8 Countywide Priority Issues with Related Multi-Municipal Thematic Issues

These 8 Countywide Priority Issues were determined by the Lycoming County Planning Commission (the countywide Planning Area Team) as the most important issues to be addressed over the next ten years. These Issues were derived from the 14 Issue Statements identified as most important to the six multi-municipal planning areas during the 2017 Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan (MMP) Update process. All of the Issues in the right-side column were identified as priority issues by at least one PAT in the Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plans. In two cases, several MMP Issues were consolidated to create one Countywide Priority Issue.

8 Countywide Priority Issues	Multi-Municipal Thematic Issues
<p>1. Infrastructure does not meet the needs of all areas of the County.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications infrastructure (especially cell phone and broadband internet) do not meet the needs of all areas of the County. • Natural gas infrastructure is not adequate in all areas of the County. • Outdoor recreation resources are not fully developed, protected and promoted. • Our multi-modal transportation system, particularly the airport, has deficiencies in safety, physical condition, and availability of facilities in some areas of the County. • Water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure systems are not sufficient across the County to meet all needs. • More diversity of housing types and price range is needed.
<p>2. The economy is changing, and our communities and workforce are not optimally positioned to realize our untapped economic potential and become resilient to economic trends.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The economy is changing, and our communities and workforce are not optimally positioned to realize our untapped economic potential and become resilient to economic trends. • Significant cultural and historical resources are not adequately documented, protected, and promoted. • Downtown and village center areas across the County are not thriving or achieving their maximum potential.
<p>3. Fragmentation of local government and the sense of being disenfranchised are challenges facing Pennsylvania municipalities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fragmentation of local government in Pennsylvania is a barrier to efficient delivery of some public services.

<p>4. Flooding is a threat to life, property, and communities throughout the County.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flooding is a threat to life, property, and communities throughout the County.
<p>5. Current land use regulations and enforcement do not consistently and adequately meet community visions and respond to changing conditions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current land use regulations and enforcement do not consistently and adequately meet community visions and respond to changing conditions.
<p>6. Volunteerism and civic engagement, particularly among young people, are insufficient to sustain community institutions and services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Volunteerism and civic engagement, particularly among young people, are insufficient to sustain community institutions and services.
<p>7. Water quality is vital, but is vulnerable to a multitude of threats.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water quality is vital, but is vulnerable to a multitude of threats.
<p>8. Drugs, particularly heroin, are creating significant social, economic, public health, and safety problems across the County.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drugs, particularly heroin, are creating significant social, economic, public health, and safety problems across the County.