

**Countywide Advisory Team
Meeting #9 Summary**

The ninth meeting of the Countywide Planning Advisory Team (PAT) for *Cultivating Community: A Plan for Union County's Future* was held on Thursday, November 13th, 2008 at the Carriage Corner Restaurant in Mifflinburg.

I. Welcome & Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Shawn McLaughlin of the Union County Planning Commission at 7:00 PM.

II. Review of Recent Public Outreach Activity

Mr. McLaughlin and Mr. Kerns provided a summary of the panel discussion that was held in Mifflinburg on September 25th that featured Bill Fontana, Executive Director of the PA Downtown Center; James Cowhey, Lancaster County Planning Director; and John Trant, Strategic Planner for Cranberry Township. There were approximately 70 participants in attendance and questions were taken from the audience by the moderator. The overall message from the panelists is that communities need to plan and be prepared for change. They also stressed thinking creatively about implementation and the need to explore techniques that may not have been used before such as Transfer of Development Rights (TDR), traffic impact fees, Traditional Neighborhood Design (TND), and official maps.

Mr. McLaughlin also reported on the presentation by Reid Ewing on his book *Growing Cooler* that was held at Bucknell in October in partnership with the University Environmental Center. Mr. Ewing, from the National Center for Smart Growth, discussed how land use patterns and transportation impact the environment and contribute to climate change. He stressed the need for more compact neighborhoods and the need for communities to provide multi-modal transportation choices.

III. Distribution of the Draft Plan

Mr. Kerns and Mr. Rouse provided an overview of the draft plan organization. The draft was then distributed to PAT members. It was presented in the following three parts: *I-Vision and Framework for the Future*; *II-Comprehensive Plan Elements*; and *III-Partnerships for Implementation*. The PAT had previously seen most of the text with the exception of Part III. Mr. Rouse explained how the implementation section was organized into countywide actions and separate action plans for each of the multi-municipal planning areas.

There was some concern by the PAT members regarding the volume of implementation actions listed in the plan for both the county and multi-municipal areas. Mr. Kerns noted that it is a ten year plan and not everything is intended to be accomplished immediately. Mr. McLaughlin stated that one project, such as updating zoning ordinances to be consistent with the plan, might actually result in multiple actions being completed simultaneously.

Mr. Kerns instructed the PAT members to review the draft documents and provide comments to the Union County Planning staff. PAT members were also asked to rank the countywide actions in importance within each of the topical elements (i.e. transportation, land use, housing) and the top five overall.

IV. Tentative Schedule

Mr. McLaughlin reviewed the upcoming PAT schedule and informed the PAT that there would not be a December meeting. The remainder of November and all of December would be dedicated to reviewing the documents with the next meeting to be held on the 2nd Thursday in January 2009. With no further discussion the meeting adjourned.