



Cumberland County Planning Commission

2019 Annual Report

Cumberland County Planning Commission
310 Allen Road
Carlisle, PA 17013
717-240-5362

ABOUT US

The Cumberland County Planning Commission (CCPC) is comprised of nine members who serve four year terms. Appointments to the CCPC are made by the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners. Staff support for the CCPC is provided through the Cumberland County Planning Department (CCPD). The CCPC meets the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 a.m. at 310 Allen Road, Conference Room B, Carlisle, PA.

The CCPC is charged with a variety of responsibilities as required by the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) or as assigned by the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners including:

- ✓ Municipal subdivision and land development plan review
- ✓ Municipal ordinance amendment review
- ✓ Municipal comprehensive plan review
- ✓ County Comprehensive Plan preparation and implementation
- ✓ Municipal technical assistance
- ✓ Transportation planning
- ✓ Farmland preservation

CCPC MISSION AND VISION

Mission: The Cumberland County Planning Commission helps build strong urban, suburban, and rural communities by promoting responsible economic development, providing transportation choices, encouraging housing diversity, and conserving natural resources.

Vision: Planning with a purpose for today and tomorrow.

CCPC CORE VALUES

- **Accountability** – Every project is completed according to established performance standards and demonstrates clear value to County residents.
- **Integrity** – Our primary obligation is to serve the public interest through the transparent, honest, and ethical execution of our responsibilities.
- **Competency** – We pursue planning excellence through continuous professional development and certification maintenance opportunities that expand the capacity and improve the quality of our planning services.
- **Partnerships** – Building strong relationships with municipal governments, the public, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector; creates a collaborative environment that broadens the reach and impact of our planning initiatives.
- **Be Present** – Successful planning requires local familiarity and experience that can only be gained through our personal presence in every community throughout the County.
- **Respect Local Autonomy** –We support the local government structure in the County and commit to working cooperatively with communities to develop “grass roots” solutions tailored to meet local needs.

2019 CCPC Members

John Epley, Chairman
James D. Ross, Vice-Chairman
Robert Fisher, PLS, PE
Rick Trynoski
Heather Sweitzer
Jack Showley, DDS
Ed Franco
Brenda Landis
Tim Johnson
Gary Eichelberger, Commissioner Liaison

2019 Planning Department Staff

Kirk Stoner, AICP, Director of Planning
Jeff Kelly, AICP, Planning Manager*
Stephanie Williams, Senior Planning Manager
Steve Hoffman, Planning Manager
Elizabeth Grant, AICP, Planning Specialist
Justin Miller, Recycling Coordinator
Melissa Piper Nelson, Planning Technician
Barbara Sue Hershey, Office Manager

**Retired January 2019*

2019 IN REVIEW

The Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan guides all activities of the CCPC. The plan is organized around three key themes; conserve, grow and connect. Highlights of the CCPC's 2019 accomplishments in each theme area are summarized below.

CONSERVE

- ✓ **Floodplain Mapping** – The CCPD worked in cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to review and solicit community input on preliminary flood insurance rate maps (FIRMs) that were developed for the county. FIRMs are official maps of a community on which FEMA has delineated the Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) and the risk premium zones applicable to the community. Insurance agents use the zones and base flood elevations (BFEs) in conjunction with information on structures and their contents to assign premium rates for flood insurance policies. The CCPC provided an online FIRM map viewer, provided comments on the map and hosted a public meeting that was attended by over 100 residents. FEMA is anticipating that these preliminary maps will take effect in spring of 2021.



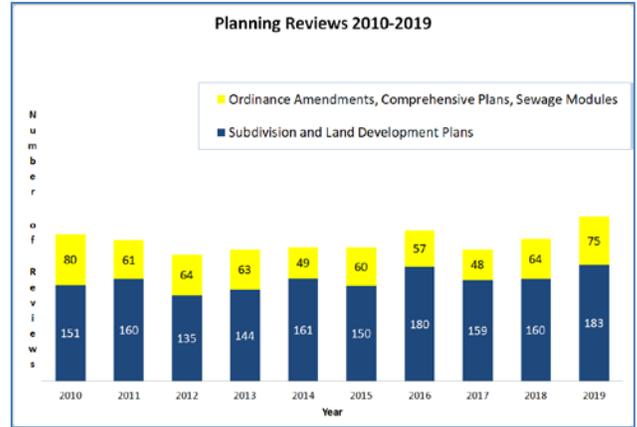
- ✓ **Land Partnerships** – The Land Partnerships Grant Program provides financial assistance to municipal and nonprofit stakeholders to complete parks, trails and greenways projects that are consistent with the Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan. Subsidized using Act 13 Marcellus Shale Legacy Funds, Land Partnerships provided \$333,945 for 13 projects in 2019. Implementation of those projects enables the county to achieve its conservation goals through partnerships with other stakeholder organizations.

- ✓ **Recycling and Waste Reduction** – Cumberland County continued its successful electronics recycling and household hazardous waste (HHW) collection events in 2019. Staffed by the CCPD, the electronics recycling facility collected 317,000 pounds of electronics. The annual HHW program changed to a reservation only, fee based event that covered three days. Nearly 100,000 pounds of material was collected from 824 customers over the three day period. The new fee based system resulted in no net costs assumed by the county.



- ✓ **Hazard Mitigation Plan** – The CCPD in partnership with the Geographic Information System (GIS) Department and Department of Public Safety (DPS) began the update of the Cumberland County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). The HMP evaluates the natural and manmade hazards facing the county through a structured planning process and identifies project and policy recommendations that will limit the loss of life and property from hazard events. The plan is updated every 5 years and is required to secure certain types of federal pre-disaster mitigation funding. CCPC, GIS and DPS coordinated the plan update with a stakeholder steering committee of over 50 people. The final plan is expected to receive FEMA approval in 2020.

✓ **MPC Reviews** – The Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) requires county planning agencies to review and comment on all municipal subdivision and land development plans, ordinance amendments and comprehensive plans. The CCPC completed over 258 MPC required reviews in 2019, the highest number of reviews over the past 10 years. A summary of growth trends identified through the MPC reviews can be found in a separate document on the CCPC’s website.



✓ **Municipal Technical Assistance** – CCPD staff provides technical assistance to individual municipalities through the Local Planning Assistance Program (LPA). Municipalities commonly use CCPD staff through the LPA Program to update comprehensive plans and ordinances that they otherwise would not have the staff or resources to complete. CCPD staff assisted our municipal partners on three zoning ordinance updates and five comprehensive plans in 2019. The updated plans reflect current planning practices and are consistent with the Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan.

✓ **Providing Housing Variety** – In partnership with the Cumberland Area Economic Development Corporation (CAEDC) the Cumberland County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (CCHRA), and Shippensburg University, the CCPC began an evaluation of housing affordability in the county. The study will identify the factors that increase the cost of housing in the county and include an action plan to address those issues with the goal of making housing affordable to all income levels. The plan is expected to be completed in mid-2020.



✓ **Revitalizing Core Communities** – CCPD staff supported productive revitalization initiatives in South Middleton Township and New Cumberland Borough. New Cumberland Borough completed its revitalization strategy and formed implementation committees focused on specific strategies aimed at improving economic development, mobility, housing, and culture. South Middleton Township completed a market assessment of the Village of Boiling Springs and formed committees to guide transportation improvements, repairs to Children’s Lake, historic preservation, and economic development.

CONNECT

✓ **County Bridge Program** – CCPD staff continued implementation of the County Bridge Capital Improvement Program. The County began the \$5 million replacement for Orrs Bridge in Hampden Township and let a \$3.2 million project to replace Wolf Bridge in Middlesex Township. Bid solicitations were advertised for Kunkle Bridge in South Middleton Township and Sample Bridge in Silver Spring Township. Collectively, these 4 projects represent over \$13 million of bridge replacement projects that will be completed in 2020.



✓ **I-81 Improvements** – Cumberland County continued its support for improvements to I-81 in the region in 2019. The county partnered with the Carlisle Area Chamber of Commerce to host a breakfast program with PennDOT and business leaders to gather business feedback on the need for improving I-81. County Commissioners and CCPD staff advocated for improvements through participation in the I-81 Improvement Strategy that was launched by the Harrisburg Area Transportation Study in mid-2019.

✓ **Providing Transportation Choice** – The CCPD facilitated a Transit Options Forum on behalf of the County Commissioners that provided over 100 business leaders and municipal partners with an overview of employee transportation opportunities both now and in the future. The forum included information on ride sharing programs, public transit, and autonomous vehicles. County Commissioners and CCPD staff participated in Capital Area Transit’s 2020 Network Redesign that looks to realign CAT’s bus routes to better residents in the region.

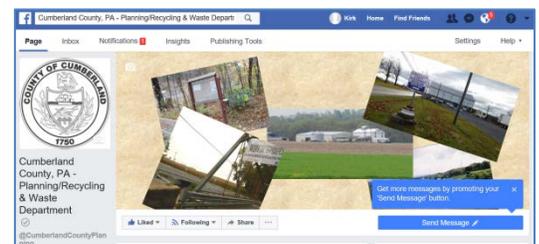


FOR MORE INFORMATION

The CCPC’s website and social media accounts provide more detailed information on the activities of the CCPC as well as a wealth of data on County and municipal growth trends. The images below have live links to the CCPC webpage and Facebook account.



CCPC Website



CCPC Facebook Page