



2018 Annual Report
Mifflin County
Planning Commission

PHOTO LOCATIONS:

TOP ROW – BROWN TOWNSHIP DEMOLITION PROJECT BEFORE AND AFTER

BOTTOM ROW – DEDICATION OF JUNIATA RIVER TRAIL (S. H. ROTHERMEL TRAIL) AND TRAIL

*MIFFLIN COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION
2018 ANNUAL REPORT*

Prepared by

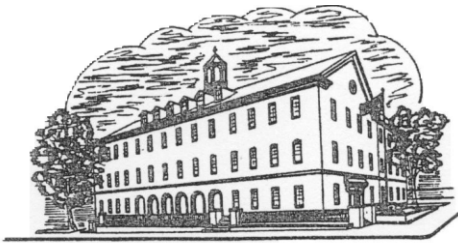
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April 4, 2019



MIFFLIN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Courthouse, 20 North Wayne Street, Lewistown, PA 17044 (717) 242-0887

April 4, 2019

Mifflin County Board of Commissioners
Mifflin County Courthouse
20 North Wayne Street
Lewistown, PA 17044

Dear County Commissioners:

The Mifflin County Planning Commission is pleased to submit to you and the citizens of Mifflin County our 2018 Annual Report. For over 45 years, the Planning Commission has been actively involved with planning and community development projects throughout Mifflin County and the surrounding region. Our report for 2018 describes new projects of broad community interest and reports progress on continuing projects.

Since the adoption of *Visions for the 21st Century*, the Planning Commission members and Planning and Development Department staff have focused on implementing recommendations outlined in the Comprehensive Plan. We have partnered with diverse groups to advocate sound land use, sustainable economic development, responsible environmental stewardship, and a better quality of life for the residents of Mifflin County.

As always, our accomplishments would not have been possible without the continued support and assistance of the County Board of Commissioners. In consideration of this, and in fulfilling our obligation under the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Act 247 as amended, it is with great pleasure that we present you with the 2018 Annual Report.

Thank you again for your invaluable help throughout the year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kay Semler".

Kay Semler
Chair

MIFFLIN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION



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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Mifflin County Board of Commissioners

Kevin P. Kodish, Chairman
Stephen T. Dunkle, Vice Chairman
Robert P. Postal, Jr., Secretary



The Board of Commissioners is the County's chief governing body. The Commissioners appoint the Planning Commission as an advisory board, which is provided for in the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC).

1.2 Mifflin County Planning Commission

Kay Semler, Chair
Dan Dunmire, Vice Chair
Neal Shawver, Secretary
Michelle Bair
Jason Cunningham
*Alternate Member

Thomas Lake
David Pennebaker
James Spendiff
Kent Spicher
*Cyle Vogt

Linus Fenicle, Solicitor
Reager & Adler, P.C.

The mission of the Mifflin County Planning Commission is to provide strategic, coordinated and objective guidance and oversight to the growth, planning and development activities of Mifflin County. In doing so, it is the goal of the Planning Commission to ensure Mifflin County's future is characterized by a healthy environment, economy and society achieved through proactive planning, citizen representation, effective communication and the provision of professional services from the Mifflin County Planning and Development Department.

1.3 Mifflin County Planning and Development Department

William Gomes, AICP, Director
James Lettiere, AICP, Community Development Administrator/Assistant Director
Douglas Marks, Housing Rehabilitation Specialist/Construction Manager
Stacey Herman, CDBG Fiscal Manager
Chastity Fultz, Office Manager/Grants Manager



The Planning and Development Department is responsible for providing staff assistance to the Mifflin County Planning Commission; administering the Mifflin County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, Home Investment Partnership Program, Act 137 (The Affordable Housing Fund Program) and Housing Rehabilitation program; maintaining the Mifflin County Comprehensive Plan; and coordinating with other agencies in the areas of transportation, housing, economic development, municipal waste management, hazard mitigation, recreation and tourism.

In addition to the projects outlined in this report, staff members of the Planning and Development Department were active in several community groups and committees to support efforts to improve the quality of life for residents of Mifflin County. Some additional activities of the staff include involvement with and participation on the SEDA-COG Regional Transportation Advisory Committee, Mifflin County Parks and Recreation Council, Mifflin County Internet Advisory Committee, Juniata River Valley

Visitors Bureau, Mifflin County Agricultural Preservation Board, Downtown Lewistown, Inc. (DLI), Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association, Juniata Valley Behavior and Developmental Services Citizen Advisory Board, PA County Planning Directors Association, YMCA, PA Municipal Planning Education Institute, Area Agency on Aging/Call-A-Ride Services Local Advisory Committee and the Mifflin County Housing Coalition.

1.4 Planning and Development Committees

The following committees were active in 2018:

CDBG/Housing Rehabilitation Advisory Committee: The CDBG/Housing Rehabilitation Advisory Committee provides guidance on policy and programmatic issues to the Planning and Development Department staff. The committee reviews the annual proposals for CDBG funds and makes funding recommendations to the Mifflin County Board of Commissioners, as well as resolves program issues that require policy interpretation or policy revision.

Neal Shawver William Gomes James Lettiere Doug Marks Kay Semler

Subdivision and Land Development Review Committee: The Subdivision and Land Development Review Committee reviews subdivision and land development plans and provides recommendations to the Mifflin County Planning Commission regarding approval of these plans. This committee meets monthly.

Daniel Dunmire David Pennebaker James Spendiff

*William Gomes *James Lettiere

*Staff representatives from Planning and Development Department

Mifflin County Parks and Recreation Committee: The Mifflin County Parks and Recreation Committee provide recommendations concerning recreational policies, facilities, finances and programs. The Committee works with municipalities throughout the county and provides assistance to Mifflin County in reviewing projects submitted under the Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund program for open space and recreation.

Clint Aurand Jamie Fultz Tom Kerstetter Kevin O'Donnell Ann Thompson

David Bolger *Aleta Kammerer Marie Mulvihill Venus Shade Cyle Vogt

Steve Dunkle Ann Kanagy Ron Napikoski Matt Stringer

* Oksana DeArment, William Gomes and Aleta Kammerer serve as ex-officio members.

Mifflin County Internet Advisory Committee: The Mifflin County Internet Advisory Committee seeks to develop options and opportunities to improve broadband internet service in Mifflin County through a collaborative effort that includes residents, businesses, internet providers (Atlantic Broadband, Century Link, Comcast, Nittany Media, and Verizon), Mifflin County School District, and local government. Effectively addressing both the existing and future telecommunication needs of the County is the central goal.

Clint Aurand Michael Hain Matt Moore Kristen Ritchey Michael Tate

Craig Bubb Barb Harer John Rhone Kay Semler Gene Wolfkill

Doug Cunningham Scott Kramer* William Gomes** Chastity Fultz**

*advisory representative from SEDA-COG

**advisory representatives from Planning and Development Department

Mifflin County Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee: The Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee is responsible for updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan and evaluating the plan annually.

Brenda Aumiller	Sharina Harshbarger	Paul Maidens	Ronald Napikoski	Matt Stringer
Craig Bubb	Bob Henry	Matt Moore	Pat Shoop	Ann Thompson
Rex Fink	*Phil Lucas	*William Gomes	*Chastity Fultz	

*William Gomes and Chastity Fultz serve as staff representatives from the Planning and Development Department. Phil Lucas represents the Public Safety Office.

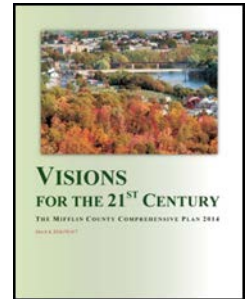
SECTION 2: PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Planning

Comprehensive Plan

The Mifflin County Comprehensive Plan was adopted by the Mifflin County Commissioners on April 24, 2014. The Comprehensive Plan examines population trends and long term needs for housing, transportation, community facilities, economic development and natural resource protection and recommends changes or continued efforts in county policy and regulations.

Since the Plan's adoption, the Mifflin County Planning Commission decided to annually work toward implementing some features in the plan. This past year the focus was follow-up on activities started in 2017 related to transportation, connectivity, open space/recreation and natural/manmade resource protection and development.



Electric Avenue/Mill Road Intersection Improvement Study

In the Mifflin County Comprehensive Plan (2014), as well as the SEDA-COG Long Range Transportation Plan (2016), the Electric Avenue/Mill Road intersection was identified as a safety concern. As a result, Mifflin County in conjunction with Derry Township and SEDA-COG sought assistance through PennDOT to develop the Electric Avenue/Mill Road Intersection Improvement Study. The overall purpose of the Intersection Improvement Study was to undertake a transportation and land use study to address an intersection deficiency, conflicts and safety issues just off of the U.S. Route 322 corridor, and resulted in the development of an action strategy for implementation. The study was completed in March of 2018 with five specific recommendations including: traffic control improvements at the US 322 westbound off ramp; intersection improvements that would restrict left turns to and from Mill Road; encourage enhanced police enforcement at the U.S. 322 west bound exit ramp; propose to



McDonalds' to relocate their All Traffic Must Turn Right sign; and share with PennDOT a proposed realignment alternative for the U.S. 322 west bound off ramp that could lead to the pursuit of funding to implement some of these recommended improvements. In July of 2018, Mifflin County, with the support of Derry Township, applied to PennDOT for approximately \$230,000 in Automatic Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) funds to assist with implementing this project. This application is still under review by PennDOT.

Mifflin County Internet Advisory Committee

In 2018, the Mifflin County Planning and Development Department continued working with the Mifflin County Internet Advisory Committee to find ways to improve broadband service in Mifflin County. The committee met eight times over the year, including presentations by the director of the Governor's Broadband Initiative and the regional director of USDA.

Early in 2018, the committee received the results of the Mifflin County School District on broadband needs that went out to 4,938 families electronically. The survey netted, after accounting for duplicates, 246 responses or a 4.99% response rate. The majority (63%) was satisfied with their internet service, which was different from the county's residential survey results showing 54% with limited service and wanting improved service. The county survey, however, was considered statistically valid and more reliable with a 28% response rate from throughout the county.

During the year, the Committee continued looking at funding alternatives including working with SEDA-COG and their ARC Power Grant proposal that included four other counties. The focus of their application that was submitted in the summer of 2018 was to develop a feasibility study for the participating counties. Mifflin County decided not to participate since the county did not believe this approach would garner much more than what was already known by the county and not advance an implementable project in a timely manner.

Two key elements of note over the year included some improved service and/or consideration for expanded service by two providers, Comcast and Nittany Media, and better information sharing by these providers. As a result, the County GIS Department was able to develop an improved provider service area map. Another important accomplishment was the decision to hire the consulting firm Noovis, LLC to help the county develop a strategy to advance pilot projects that could be eligible for grant assistance. Financial support for hiring the consultant came not only from the county, but nine municipalities (Derry, Wayne, Granville, Armagh, Brown, Menno, Oliver and Union Townships and Lewistown Borough), the Mifflin County School District, Geisinger Lewistown Hospital, the Municipal Authority of Lewistown Borough, MCIDC and a private individual. The results of this strategy should be known by May of 2019.



Open Space and Rural Recreation

The Mifflin County Planning and Development Department continued its collaboration with the United Way of Mifflin-Juniata, by working with the Mifflin County Parks and Recreation Council to promote the goals and objectives of the Juniata-Mifflin County Greenways, Open Space and Rural Recreation Plan. The Plan, which was adopted by the Mifflin County Commissioners in 2010, encourages the expansion of recreational opportunities and advancing active healthy lifestyles for residents in the community.

The Council, with the assistance of the Planning and Development Department and the United Way, focused on completing the Juniata River Trail project, working with the Main Line Canal Trail project, exploring trail expansion and management of the Act 13 Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund.

The first segment of the S.H. Rothermel Trail (Juniata River Trail) was completed in November of 2018. This is the first multi-purpose recreation trail in Mifflin County along the Juniata River providing residents and visitors a facility for walking, jogging and cycling. Phase I of the trail is 3/4 of a mile in length following the towpath of the old Juniata Canal, extending from Victory Park and the boat launch, and west along the north shore of the river to Crystal Springs Avenue. All of Phase 1 is located on property owned by the Borough of Lewistown. The improvements include a ten-foot wide, ADA accessible, paved walking path, signage, solar lighting around the boat launch parking area, benches and trash receptacles. Funds for the project include \$250,000 from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources awarded in 2017 to the Borough of Lewistown, \$230,000 awarded to Mifflin County from the PA Department Community and Economic Development in 2016 and approximately \$42,000 from the Borough of Lewistown's CDBG program. The project is consistent with the Juniata/Mifflin



County Greenways and Open Space Rural Recreation Plan, which led to the development of the Juniata River Trail Feasibility Study. This Juniata River Trail Feasibility Study was completed in 2015 and recommended this section of the Juniata River Trail as the first phase for development.

The future second phase of the Juniata River Trail will hopefully extend onto the property owned by Juniata Concrete and the State Fire Academy. Outreach began to the two property owners following the completion of phase 1. Both property owners are positive about the proposed ½ mile extension that will require property easements. An easement across the Fire Academy property will require State legislative approval and that is likely to occur in 2019. Plans to extend the trail will involve the same two grant agencies as phase 1 and applications will hopefully be submitted in the spring of 2019.

Another ongoing trail study that began in 2017, and was completed in December of 2018, was the Huntingdon County and Mifflin County Trail Feasibility Study for the Main Line Canal Greenway. This trail will form part of the Pittsburgh to Harrisburg Main Line Canal Greenway, a 320-mile corridor that follows the historic path of the Pennsylvania Main Line Canal. The study shows the proposed trail following the Juniata River where possible, as well as low-volume back roads near the river. The S.H. Rothermel Trail (Juniata River Trail) is a component of this trail as it passes through Lewistown.

The Main Line Canal Greenway Trail will also be part of the 1,300-mile long September 11th National Memorial Trail linking the three major memorials associated with the September 11th tragedy. This trail will ultimately serve as a key segment of the September 11th National Memorial Trail across central Pennsylvania. This study was developed on behalf of the Allegheny Ridge Corporation, in coordination with Mifflin and Huntingdon Counties, with consultants from Campbell Thomas & Co. and Laird LA. Presentations on the proposed trail alignment have been made in both Mifflin and Huntingdon Counties. Both the Mifflin and Huntingdon County Planning Department staffs have worked with the consultants to provide input to the study.

In 2018, the Mifflin County Parks and Recreation Council also started working with the Mifflin County Planning and Development Department in looking at developing a feasibility study that would connect Victory Park, the Kish River Walk, Rec Park in Lewistown and Kish Park in Derry. This trail connection was a recommendation in the County's Greenways, Open Space and Rural Recreation Plan. The study will explore if and how this trail would work as well as a possible connection with the Stone Arch Bridge. A proposal is under review to develop this study in 2019.

Another joint project was the management of the Act 13 Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund program. The Council reviewed seven applications from municipalities to improve open space and recreational opportunities for residents in Mifflin County. From this review, six projects were recommended to the Mifflin County Commissioners for approval. Most of these projects will be undertaken in 2019.

Hazard Mitigation Plan

In the summer of 2018, Mifflin County received a grant from the PA Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assist the County in updating the current Hazard Mitigation Plan adopted in 2014.

Every five years the county is required by PEMA/FEMA to update its Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plan update will address and expand upon the previous plan coverage of multiple natural hazards and manmade hazards. The purpose of the update is to review current data pertaining to hazards

affecting the county, costs associated with hazard occurrences, the existing capacity to deal with hazards and to identify future actions/projects to mitigate such hazards. Unless a municipality participates in the development of the Hazard Mitigation Plan and adopts the final plan after it is approved by the grant agencies and the County Commissioners, they will not be eligible for future Hazard Mitigation Grant funds after an emergency or natural disaster occurs. The expected outcome is a fully updated regional plan to be adopted by the sixteen municipalities in the county.

In preparation for the plan update, Mifflin County solicited the services of a consultant to assist the County in completing the plan. In December, the County selected Michael Baker International Inc. to undertake the Plan update.

As part of the process, there will be a public participation process that includes a citizens' advisory committee, which was appointed by the County Commissioners representing municipalities, the school district, emergency services and organizations representing those with disabilities. The public outreach will also include public meetings as the plan develops and a public hearing prior to adoption. This project will be managed by the Mifflin County Planning and Development Department in collaboration with the Mifflin County Public Safety Office. The plan update is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2019.



SEDA-COG Natural Gas Cooperative – Mifflin County 2018 Activities



The SEDA-COG Natural Gas Cooperative, Inc. was incorporated in June 2016. The vision of the Cooperative is to “provide Pennsylvania’s Natural Gas to Pennsylvanians”, and its mission is to “support and establish new and upgraded natural gas service to central Pennsylvania businesses and residents in an environmentally responsible and cost-effective manner to promote economic growth, cost savings, and the use of cleaner energy.” The Cooperative expects to fulfill its mission through facilitating, supporting, and developing natural gas infrastructure throughout its service area by pursuing grant and loan funding and building and working through partnerships with private and public partners.

Currently, the Cooperative has a 17-member Board of Directors from the six member counties and SEDA-COG. Mifflin County Directors include Commissioner Rob Postal, William Gomes, and Michael Tate. Montour and Union Counties are expected to join the Cooperative in early 2019.

The Cooperative also has a Capital Projects Committee (CPC), which is responsible for evaluating, rating, and ranking potential projects associated with the priority TIAs (targeted investment areas) identified in the Regional Gas Utilization Initiative (RGUI) studies. Mifflin County is represented on this committee by William Gomes and Craig Bubb. The CPC has worked on providing recommendations back to the Board on projects to be addressed and their order for development, including Mifflin County.

During 2018, the Cooperative received grant funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Appalachian Regional Commission to begin a virtual pipeline liquefied natural gas (LNG) delivery project with Metzler Forest Products near Reedsville, and to conduct a study to identify potential LNG route-based customers in the Cooperative’s member counties, including Mifflin County. Delivery service to Metzler’s is to commence in the spring of 2019, and LNG will be provided by Frontier Natural Resources (Bellefonte, PA). Expected completion date for the study is mid-2019.

The Cooperative's Board and its Capital Projects Committee continued to evaluate potential projects in its member counties. One such project being examined in Mifflin County is the U.S. 322-Milroy/Armagh Township interchange and surrounding area. This location was identified in the 2016 Regional Gas Utilization Initiative study as a priority targeted investment area. The study stated this area has significant potential for providing virtual pipeline-based natural gas delivery services to support business-related operations, as well as new service for residential areas. In December 2018, the Cooperative conducted a pre-planning meeting with representatives from the County, Armagh Township, and Brown Township to consider initial steps for developing the project. During the spring of 2019, it is anticipated that an information gathering and interest meeting will be conducted to include representatives from these entities and potential larger business customers in the area. If sufficient interest is received in participating in a natural gas project, it is hoped that initial funding for a virtual pipeline-based delivery project will be pursued in 2019 for an initial implementation phase. The project could begin as a route-based delivery setup, with installation of a limited, standalone pipeline network to follow in succeeding phases.

In Centre County, construction on the initial phase of a pipeline delivery system serving Centre Hall should begin in early 2019. The Cooperative was instrumental in obtaining funding and connecting participants to make the project happen.

For more information on these initiatives, please contact Don Kiel at SEDA-COG at dkiel@seda-cog.org.

Planning Services

The Planning and Development Department provides planning services to Derry Township to assist the Derry Township Planning Commission with reviewing their subdivision and land development plans and regulations, as well as zoning ordinance changes. Professional planning staff in the department attends regularly scheduled Derry Township Planning Commission meetings and keep the Township informed of important matters. Over the past seventeen years, the Planning and Development Department has assisted the Township with reviewing approximately 191 subdivision or land development plans.

This type of contract service agreement is available to municipalities in the County. In addition to the services mentioned above, the Planning and Development Department can also provide assistance with comprehensive planning, Capital Investment Program/Budget reviews and planning commission training and education.

Revolving Loan Fund Program

Mifflin County established its Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) in 2005 based on a grant provided to the County of \$99,000 and authorized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) program. The purpose of the Revolving Loan Fund Program is to encourage business retention and expansion for new and existing businesses in the Greater Lewistown area (Burnham and Lewistown Boroughs and Derry and Granville Townships). The goal is to create or save one job for each \$10,000 loaned with a maximum loan amount of \$50,000. The program is set up in collaboration with participating local lending institutions. If the local bank is comfortable with the loan, they partner with Mifflin County in overseeing the loan, which results in reduced loan costs for the local business. Three banks have agreed to participate in the program including Kish Bank, Juniata Valley Bank and Mifflin Savings Bank. In 2018, the Mifflin County Industrial Development Corporation (MCIDC) received approval for a loan from the RLF for renovations in the MCIDC Plaza. Over the past thirteen years, Mifflin County has provided four loans through the RLF to area businesses.

The Planning and Development Department has two active loans. Revolving loan funds are available for interested businesses in the greater Lewistown area.

Transportation Planning

Monument Square Streetscape Project - Phase V

The Monument Square Streetscape Project Phase V is part of a multi-phase project started in 2004 to further the goals of Mifflin County and Lewistown Borough to create a safe, attractive and welcoming environment coming into Downtown Lewistown for both residents and visitors. PennDOT, through the Transportation Assistance Program, awarded \$608,000 to Mifflin County to construct Phase V and these funds will be complemented with \$82,000 from the Borough of Lewistown's CDBG program for final engineering design. This will bring the total project cost to \$690,000, excluding preliminary design work developed as part of the grant application process.



This phase includes South Main Street below the Embassy Theatre and then turns east at the intersection of Water Street and goes one block to meet the Mann Edge Terrace II senior housing project. Existing conditions in this area include no sidewalks on the south side of Water Street, unsafe sidewalks, overgrown trees that are heaving up sidewalks and poorly delineated crosswalks.

During 2018, the final engineering design for the project was completed and approved by PennDOT. Following a field visit with PennDOT in January 2018, it was determined that the proposed pocket park adjoining Mann Edge Terrace II apartments would not be feasible. Based on a follow-up site meeting in July of 2018, PennDOT determined there were other ongoing construction issues that would likely impact on the Monument Square project. These issues related to the proposed bridge construction project at the corner of Water Street and South Main Street and the demolition and easements associated with a building at this same corner. As a result of this meeting and other PennDOT engineering requirements, it was determined that a delay in construction for the Monument Square project was necessary.

The bid solicitation for this project went out in December 2018 and bids were received in January of 2019 from six contractors. The successful bidder was G&R Charles Excavating and work should start in early April of 2019 with completion in the summer of 2019. The EADS Group continues to be the designer/engineer for this project. This project will further enhance ongoing improvements taking place in the downtown area.

Reedsville Streetscape Project Approved



In May of 2018, PennDOT awarded \$834,610 to Mifflin County through the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Transportation Block Grant program to assist in the development of the Reedsville Streetscape Project. This project encompassed three blocks along Main Street in Reedsville from Tony Street to the old fire house. This was a very competitive application process for \$66.8 million, with 172 applications submitted and 82 being approved.

Since 2016, Brown Township and a local citizens group, the Reedsville Community Association, have been working to improve the

appearance and restore the vitality of downtown Reedsville. This effort has resulted in the mini-park, Brown's Mills Square, and ADA improvements along Main Street. However, a complete, unobstructed sidewalk system is missing, and is important in the township's effort to improve pedestrian access. Main Street has overgrown trees in some places that are heaving up sidewalks, while the rest of the corridor has either deteriorating sidewalks, or no sidewalks other than gravel areas. These unsafe conditions pose potential problems for pedestrians. The existing conditions can likewise make travel quite difficult for disabled pedestrians.

Considering this situation, Brown Township requested that Mifflin County assist them in the summer of 2017 with an application to PennDOT for Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Surface Transportation Block Grant Program funds to assist with this project. As part of this process, a preliminary design and cost estimates were prepared by The EADS Group. Aside from sidewalk replacement or installation, the project will include trees, pedestrian level lighting, improved stormwater facilities and better delineate crosswalks where appropriate.

Following the kick-off meeting in September of 2018 involving PennDOT staff, township officials and the consulting engineer, it was determined that many of the existing sidewalks were on private property instead of in the public right-of-way and that the location of the right-of-way may not match what was on the ground. This discovery led to the decision by PennDOT that a Right-of-Way Plan would be required to clearly show the right-of-way and determine where additional right-of-way would need to be required. With the completion of the Right-of-Way Plan in early 2019 and securing of easements, bidding for the project is anticipated to take place by the end of 2019 with construction to occur in 2020.

SEDA-COG Metropolitan Planning Organization

The Planning and Development Department continued to represent Mifflin County on the SEDA-COG Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), which guides the transportation planning and programming process in Clinton, Columbia, Juniata, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, and Union counties.

The MPO is responsible for recommending projects for the Commonwealth's Twelve-Year Transportation Plan and assisting in the development of the SEDA-COG Regional Transportation Improvement Program and Long-Range Transportation Plan. The Long Range Plan is a multi-modal plan, which describes performance measures, assesses the transportation needs and recommends a list of projects to be developed and delivered over the life of the plan. This plan is linked to the SEDA-COG Unified Planning Work Program that in the past provided financial assistance toward the development of the Mifflin County Comprehensive Plan and the Mill Road/Electric Avenue Interchange Improvement Study.

The MPO also reviews and recommends projects submitted for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Local Access Roads program funds. The types of projects evaluated include bicycle, pedestrian, historic preservation, public transit and roadway access enhancements. Examples of the TAP program impacting Mifflin County are the Monument Square Streetscape Project – Phase 5 in Lewistown that will be completed in 2019 and the Reedsville Streetscape Project in Brown Township that will be completed in 2020. Other projects have included infrastructure improvements through ARC for the Primary Health Network Facility (former Derry Heights project) and the related Automated Red Light Enforcement Program (ARLE) project involving a traffic signal and intersection improvements at the corner of Ferguson Valley Road (SR 1007) and Freedom Avenue. These projects are proposed to be undertaken in 2019.

Other MPO programs have included a bike pedestrian plan impacting on several of the SEDA-COG counties and a recently completed Strategic Plan. This plan will recommend strategies and identify issues that will provide direction over the next five years as well as support overall community economic development activities for the region.

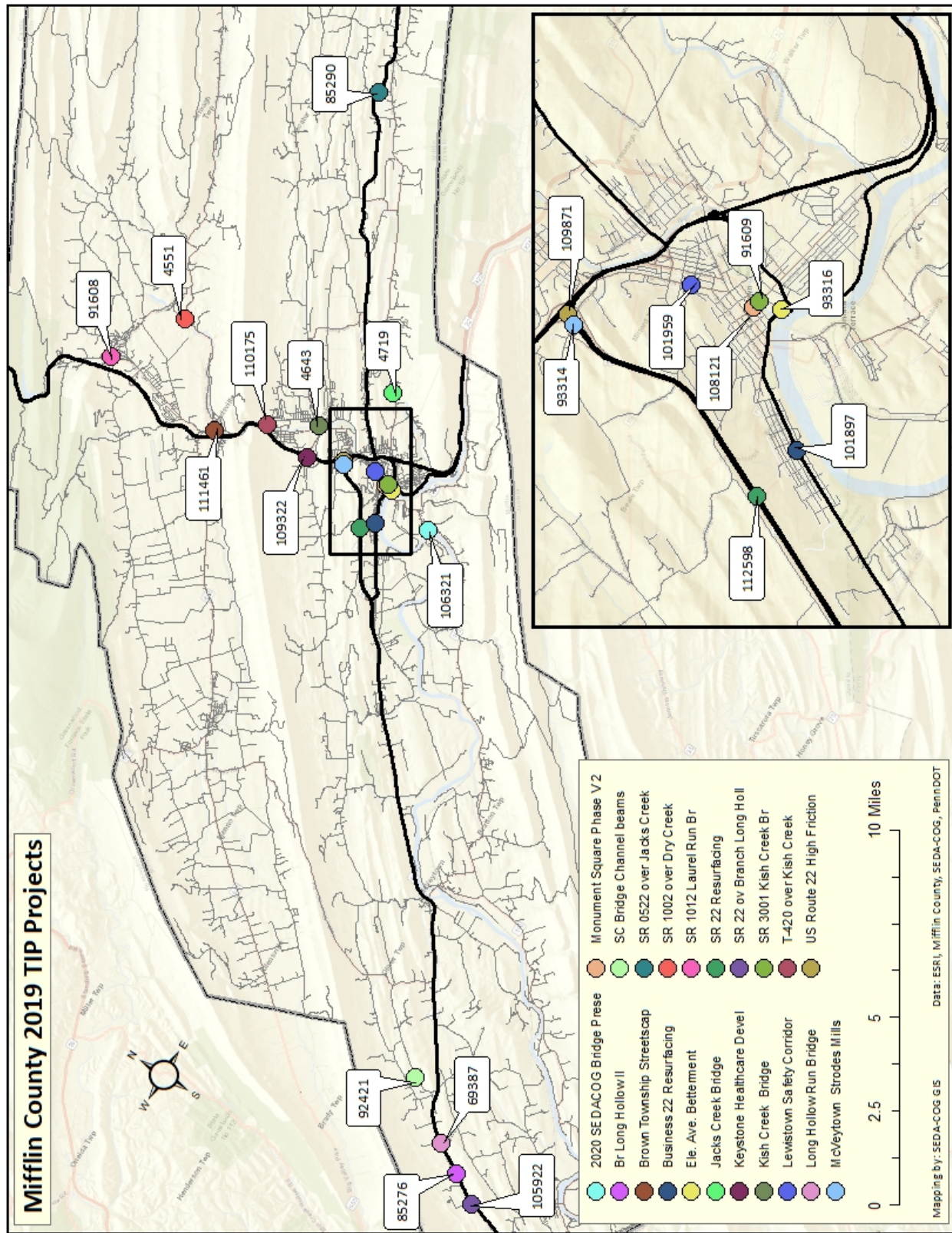
State Transportation Commission

Every two years the State Twelve Year Plan (TYP) is updated. The 2019 TYP was adopted in the summer of 2018 and is part of a systematic way to prioritize state transportation resources/funds. Unfortunately, no new projects submitted by Mifflin County were included in the 2019 Twelve Year Plan of the State Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP is considered the first four years of the TYP. Considering this, Mifflin County decided to take a more proactive position in late 2017 to assist municipalities with bridges by authorizing the collection of a five dollar fee tied to vehicle registrations. (See current 2019 TIP map on page 12.)

In 2018, Mifflin County developed a program to address both the large and small structurally deficient municipal bridges throughout the County. The Local Use Fee, collected by PennDOT when vehicles are registered, provided the impetus for a larger infrastructure initiative that will total over \$3.5 million. The County will be using approximately \$200,000 per year generated from the Local Use Fee to pay off a Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank loan from PennDOT. The loan, plus the PennDOT grant of up to \$2 million and a 10% contribution from the participating municipalities will finance the municipal bridge program. Four of the nine priority bridges over 20 feet in length recommended by Mifflin County for inclusion in the 2019 TYP will be addressed in the next couple of years through this program. They include: the replacement of the Kishacoquillas Creek Bridge on West Railroad Street (T-439) in Brown Township; the Walnut Street Bridge (T-350) over Kishacoquillas Creek in Union Township; and the Kishacoquillas Creek Bridge on Spring Run Road (T-368) in Union Township. Other bridges less than 20 feet in length will be targeted at a later time through this initiative.

The process to update the current Twelve Year Plan (TYP) will begin in March 2019, and a new TYP will be adopted in the summer of 2020. As part of the process, The EADS Group, which is under contract to do bridge inspections, will work with County representatives and SEDA-COG in developing a new list to submit to PennDOT. During their review of bridges 20 feet or longer, The EADS Group will develop recommendations based on safety and traffic concerns, the project location, and specific needs of the community.

Also of importance to Mifflin County are the ongoing improvements along State Route 322 into Centre County. A ground breaking ceremony was held in the fall of 2014 for the Potters Mills Gap Project, which is part of a three phase construction project. Phase Three began in 2018 and should be completed by the end of 2020. As part of this process, a “Needs Analysis” of the Route 322 corridor was completed in 2018. In February of 2019, Governor Wolf announced a \$5 million dollar award in order to begin preliminary engineering design that will ultimately lead to the completion of the rest of the work needed for the Route 322 corridor. As part of the announcement, additional funding over the next 10 years will be provided to complete this “missing link” connecting Mifflin County to Centre County.



2.2 Community Development

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

The CDBG program helps strengthen the community by improving housing and public facilities to provide suitable living environments for citizens, principally those with low-moderate incomes. The program can support a range of activities from housing rehabilitation, public services, community facilities, infrastructure improvements, economic development and planning and administration. Projects must benefit low/moderate-income people, through the elimination of community slum and blight, or meet an urgent need in the community.

The Planning and Development Department administers the CDBG programs for Mifflin County, Derry and Brown Townships and since 2015, the Borough of Lewistown and Granville Township. This change is in accordance with the PA-Department of Community and Economic Development's (PA-DCED) direction and Act of 1984, P.L. 906 No. 179. This DCED directive shifts the administration from borough and townships (entitlement municipalities), with populations under 10,000 persons to county governments.

Derry, Granville and Brown Townships Boards of Supervisors and the Lewistown Borough Council, direct the use of the funds in their respective municipalities. However, agencies desiring to apply for non-County CDBG funds may petition those municipalities for CDBG funds. The municipalities other than Mifflin County have the sole discretion to allocate their CDBG funds to eligible and fundable projects. The County's role for these municipalities is planning and administrative grant management functions. Ultimately, the County is responsible for all County wide CDBG funds, which includes those entitlement municipalities.

Mifflin County 2018 Application Status

Each year, local municipalities, authorities and agencies are invited to submit proposals to the Mifflin County Planning and Development Department for funding only for Mifflin County CDBG funds. The Mifflin County CDBG Advisory Committee, comprised of Planning Commission members and staff of the department, reviews the proposals and ranks them based on a rating system according to established, objective criteria. These include community needs, economic distress, leveraging other funding, project initiation, program priorities and previous CDBG experience. The Mifflin County Commissioners make the final determination of which projects to fund for submission to the PA-DCED.

The Planning and Development Department received two applications for funding for Mifflin County's 2018 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The first public hearing was held August 23, 2018 for applicants to present their proposals to the Mifflin County Planning Commission. In addition to the presentations, the public hearing also provided an opportunity to receive citizens' views, comments, and suggestions for consideration by the Mifflin County Planning Commission on the 2018 CDBG application and prior years funding. Following the first public hearing, the CDBG/Housing Rehabilitation Advisory Committee met to prioritize projects that were submitted to the Mifflin County Commissioners to consider prior to a second public hearing. The second public hearing was held on September 20, 2018 by the Mifflin County Commissioners who approved funding two of the applications submitted, and also included funding for the countywide Housing Rehabilitation Program. Public hearings were also held in Brown, Derry, and Granville Townships, and the Borough of Lewistown resulting in a total of seven projects, which are shown in Tables 2B, 2C, 2D and 2E on the following pages. The governing body of each municipality decides which projects to fund and they do not have a formalized application process.

On October 18, 2018, the County Commissioners adopted a Resolution recommending approval to DCED for the projects and funding amounts listed in Table 2A-2E inclusive. The County’s CDBG application was submitted to the PA-DCED on October 26, 2018. This application was made for Mifflin County and on behalf of Brown, Derry, and Granville Townships and the Borough of Lewistown.

The County’s 2018 CDBG allocation is \$227,362.00. The following tables delineate the recommended funding amounts for each project for the County’s 2018 CDBG application and on behalf of Brown, Derry, and Granville Townships and the Borough of Lewistown, which are currently under review by the DCED. At the time of this writing, a contract has not been entered into for 2018 funding with DCED. The cumulative total of CDBG funds for the County and on behalf of those entitlement municipalities is \$666,245.00.

Table 2A MIFFLIN COUNTY			
		Project Activity	Funding Amount
1.	Mifflin County Youth Park, Brown Township	Fair share project for ADA upgrades to the public restrooms at the Mifflin County Youth Park Facility, Brown Township (project costs only)	\$ 21,150.00
2.	Armagh Township Supervisors	Slum/blight demolition of 73 North Main Street, Milroy, Armagh Township (project and delivery)	\$ 51,000.00
3.	Single-family housing rehabilitation	Countywide housing rehabilitation for single-family, owner occupied, income eligible households (project and delivery)	\$114,287.00
4.	Administration	Planning and administration activities	\$ 40,925.00
	Total Mifflin County CDBG Funding:		\$227,362.00

Table 2B BROWN TOWNSHIP			
		Project Activity	Funding Amount
1.	Mifflin County Youth Park, Brown Township	Fair share project for ADA upgrades to the public restrooms at the Mifflin County Youth Park Facility, Brown Township (project costs only)	\$ 3,915.00
2.	Single-family housing rehabilitation	Township wide housing rehabilitation for single-family, owner occupied, income eligible households (project and delivery)	\$ 7,910.00
3.	ADA ramps with truncated domes	Walnut and Church Streets, Logan and Waterfront Street, and Lynn and Waterfront Streets ADA ramps with truncated domes (engineering, project and delivery)	\$61,145.00
4.	Administration	Planning and administration activities salaries and benefits	\$16,017.00
	Total Brown Township CDBG Funding:		\$88,987.00

Table 2C DERRY TOWNSHIP			
		Project Activity	Funding Amount
1.	Mifflin County Youth Park, Brown Township	Fair share project for ADA upgrades to the public restrooms at the Mifflin County Youth Park Facility, Brown Township (project costs only)	\$ 7,065.00
2.	Single-family housing rehabilitation	Township wide housing rehabilitation for single-family, owner occupied, income eligible households(project and delivery)	\$ 91,823.00
3.	Administration	Planning and administration activities salaries and benefits	\$ 21,707.00
	Total Derry Township CDBG Funding:		\$120,595.00

Table 2D GRANVILLE TOWNSHIP			
		Project Activity	Funding Amount
1.	Single-Family Housing Rehabilitation	Township wide housing rehabilitation for an income eligible single-family home owner (project and delivery)	\$81,259.00
2.	Administration	Planning and administration activities salaries and benefits	\$17,837.00
	Total Granville Township CDBG Funding:		\$99,096.00

Table 2E LEWISTOWN BOROUGH			
		Project Activity	Funding Amount
1.	Single-family housing rehabilitation	Borough wide housing rehabilitation for single-family, owner occupied, income eligible households (project and delivery)	\$110,675.00
2.	Administration	Planning and administration activities salaries and benefits	\$ 19,530.00
3.	Total Lewistown Borough CDBG Funding:		\$130,205.00

Mifflin County Community Development Plan – Three-Year Plan

Mifflin County’s Three-Year Community Development Plan (CDP) is based on the goals and objectives included in the Mifflin County Comprehensive Plan: Visions for the 21st Century. The Three-Year Community Development Plan is evaluated annually and priorities are adjusted to reflect work completed and new community needs. The plan has been updated with 2010 United States Census data

and 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) data. Moreover, all CDBG municipalities, including Brown, Derry and Granville Townships and Lewistown Borough, must maintain and update separate three-year community development plans. The County is ultimately responsible for these updates. Additional updates will be made based on more recent American Community Survey (ACS) data as it becomes available.

Mifflin County Project Status

The following is a summary of work in progress during calendar year 2018.

- A. *West Wayne Sewer Authority Project* – On August 21, 2018, bids were received from three contractors for sewer line replacement and pump station upgrades for the project in the Cedar Crest area of Wayne Township. The low bidder was HRI, Inc. of State College in the amount of \$149,425.00. GHD, Inc. of Huntingdon is the project engineer on the project following a request for qualifications process. The construction was started in the latter part of 2018 with the replacement of the sewer line and manhole work. The pump station upgrades will take place in the spring of 2019. Funds came from federal fiscal years (FFY's) 2015 and 2016 funds including engineering and project costs.



- B. *McVeytown Borough Authority Sewer Rehabilitation* – This project consists of open cut trench repairs and cured in place pipe (CIPP), public lateral replacement, as needed, throughout a majority of the areas in McVeytown Borough and a small portion of Oliver Township. The existing line was videoed and areas needing repair/replacement were identified by the engineer, Gwin, Dobson & Foreman, Inc. of Altoona. Bids were due in early August, 2017 and a total of four were received. The low bidder was State Pipe Services, Inc. of Cranberry Township, PA with a bid amount was \$846,375.00. A contract was signed in early October and the notice to proceed was issued on October 16, 2017. Work began in late October 2017 and final restoration was completed in the early summer of 2018. The project is now complete. This project, including engineering costs, was funded with FFY's 2014, 2015 and 2015 competitive funds.



- C. *Countywide Housing Rehabilitation Program* – Seven houses have currently been inspected and are in the process of the lead based paint risk assessment, asbestos and radon testing and the electrical inspection and one additional house is awaiting an initial inspection. Following all of these processes, the project will go out for bid in early 2019. These projects will be funded with CDBG FFY's 2015, 2016 and 2017 funds, including County, Brown Township and ACT 137 funds.

Derry Township Project Status

The following is a summary of work in progress during calendar year 2018.

- A. *Lewistown Heights/Hamilton Terrace Stormwater and Road Reconstruction Project* – In September 2018, an engineering and design agreement was signed with Buchart-Horn, Inc. of State College. The project will consist of storm water improvements and road reconstruction. It is anticipated that bidding will take place in the spring of 2019 with construction to be completed by fall of 2019. This project is being funded with FFY's 2015, 2016 and 2017 funds.



Brown Township Project Status

The following is a summary of work in progress during calendar year 2018.

- A. *ADA Fishing Pier project at Bender Park in Reedsville* – This project was completed in late 2018 with minor site restoration to take place in the spring of 2019. A handicapped accessible fishing pier and paved pathway from the existing paved pathways was installed in Bender Park along Honey Creek in Reedsville. The purpose was to eliminate architectural barriers in the area and to improve fishing access for handicapped or elderly individuals. This project was bid in June of 2018 and two bids were submitted. The low bidder and contractor for the project was G & R Charles Excavating, LTD. of Port Trevorton, PA. The engineer for the project was C. S. Davidson, Inc. of York, PA. The construction cost was \$27,785.00. This project was funded with FFY's 2014 and 2015 funds.



Lewistown Borough Project Status

The following is a summary of work in progress during calendar year 2018.

- A. *South Wayne Street and Spring Street Reconstruction* – In August 2018, two bids were received for the road reconstruction project at South Wayne and Spring Streets. The project consisted of milling notches at cross streets and road reconstruction. Jay Fulkroad & Sons, Inc. of McAlisterville was the low bidder in the amount of \$163,361.64. Work began and was completed in October 2018. This project was funded with FFY's 2015, 2016 and 2017 funds.



Granville Township Project Status

The following is a summary of work in progress during calendar year 2018.

- A. *Snook's Hill Bridge Replacement in Granville* – In the spring of 2018, the replacement of the deteriorated bridge with a new pre-cast concrete box culvert near the intersection of Snook's Hill and Granville Roads in the village of Granville was completed. This road was closed during the construction phase and reopened as soon as possible following completion. The low bidder was Kevin E. Raker Construction, LLC of Sunbury in the amount of \$281,866.76. The engineer for the project was The EADS Group, Inc. of Lewistown. This project was funded with FFY's, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 CDBG funds.

Original bridge



During construction



During construction



Final bridge surface



Rip Rap shoreline after construction



Final Bridge after construction

Mifflin County Microenterprise Loan Program

This loan program began in 1997 as a collaboration between Mifflin County, Granville and Derry Townships and Lewistown Borough using CDBG funds to encourage businesses to hire low to moderate income persons. The funds from this program have been recycled several times over the past several years. The County has not completed any loan transactions since 2016. However, the Mifflin County Planning and Development Department is exploring other options available for the reuse of these funds.

Housing Rehabilitation Program

The Planning and Development Department administers the housing rehabilitation program on behalf of the Mifflin County Commissioners. The County receives funding for the program from the CDBG program, the HOME program, and Act 137 funds, which is the County Housing Trust Fund.

Since 1984, Mifflin County has rehabilitated approximately 510 homes totaling more than \$5,000,000 in grants for qualified homeowners. The housing rehabilitation program provides grants to low and moderate income families for certain types of home repairs. Emphasis is placed on repairs that will correct the most serious building code violations, i.e., health, safety and energy efficiency issues. Minor or cosmetic renovation activities are not normally undertaken. Examples of repairs made under the program are exterior and interior general construction, plumbing, heating and electrical. Repairs are limited to 75% of the home's fair market value.

The program is generally a first come, first served grant program and qualifying applicants are placed on a waiting list. It can possibly take up to four years or more before rehabilitation begins. Currently, 27 low/moderate income applicants are on the waiting list for housing rehabilitation.

Applicants are required to own their home and the property taxes must be current. A five-year second mortgage is filed when the rehabilitation job is complete. Annual income guidelines are set by The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at \$33,900/year or less for one-person households, plus at least \$4,600/year for each additional person depending on family size. The income limits change yearly. All homes built prior to 1978 must comply with lead-based paint requirements.

The 2015 HOME grant award in the amount of \$500,000 consisted of a local target area of Juniata Terrace, Lewistown and Kistler Boroughs. These three boroughs have the highest concentrations of low/moderate income residents in Mifflin County. Currently, 13 clients are at some point throughout the rehabilitation process of their homes, ranging from initial interview, inspection, lead based paint risk assessment, asbestos and radon testing, electrical inspection, bidding and contracting to completion. We will have 7-10 projects under construction in the coming year. The Department of Labor and Industry has recently required a hybrid version of the PA State Prevailing Wages to be included in rehabilitation projects exceeding \$25,000 in costs. This, along with other factors, has diminished the total number of houses we can assist with funds. Our average rehab costs have increased from \$25,000 to approximately \$37,000 per house. This cost per unit is primarily due to the state prevailing wage rates and is compounded by the requirement to complete lead based paint abatement on most of our homes, as well as completing asbestos removal and radon mitigation on some of the homes. This program will be completed by July of 2019. Our two contractors are working diligently on the houses and all homes will be completed by that date.

For an update on regular housing rehabilitation, refer to Mifflin County Project Status C on page 15 for an update on our other projects that are not funded under the HOME program.

SECTION 3: LAND USE

3.1 Subdivision and Land Development

An important function of the Mifflin County Planning Commission is the review and approval of subdivision and land development plans, as authorized by the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC), Act of 1968, P.L. 805 No. 247 as amended. The County Planning Commission approves, approves with conditions, or denies subdivisions and land developments that occur in the municipalities without a Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance which includes: Bratton Township, Juniata Terrace Borough, Kistler Borough, McVeytown Borough, Newton Hamilton Borough and Wayne Township. Reviews and decisions for these municipalities, are carried out according to the Mifflin County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, adopted in 1995, updated in 2003 and amended in 2006.

The Planning Commission reviews and provides comments and recommendations to the municipalities with a Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance and/or a zoning ordinance which includes: Armagh Township (no zoning ordinance), Brown Township, Burnham Borough, Decatur Township (no zoning ordinance), Derry Township, Granville Township, Lewistown Borough, Menno Township (no zoning ordinance), Oliver Township (no zoning ordinance), and Union Township. The aforementioned municipalities have final approval making powers for plans submitted within their municipalities.

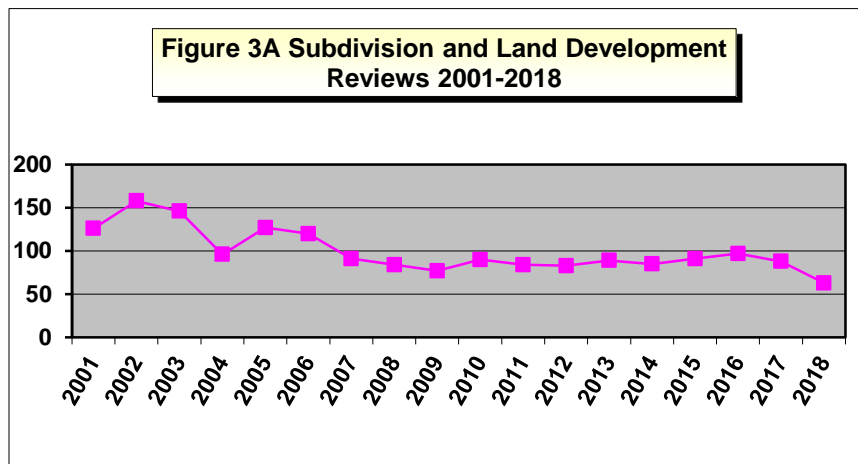


Figure 3A above shows the number of plans reviewed since 2001. The trend since 2005 has been a decreasing number with minor increases in 2010, to a slightly lower consistent number of plans during 2011-2015. However, in 2015 and in 2016, the number of plans rose slightly each year above the 2011 level and slightly decreased during 2017 and significantly decreased by twenty-eight percent (28%) during 2018. The Mifflin County Planning Commission reviewed a total of 63 plans in 2018.

Table 3A below shows the number of plans reviewed from 2013 through 2018, with lot additions and lot line adjustments, which are considered minor subdivisions. Of the plans reviewed in 2018, 21 new residential lots were created, covering 147 acres. Among the land development plans proposed, 8 new commercial or industrial lots were created, accounting for 17 acres of developed land, or 740,520 square feet of new commercial/industrial land.

Table 3A Subdivision and Land Development Plan Reviews 2013-2018				
Year	Minor Subdivision	Major Subdivision	Land Developments	Total
2013	70	1	17	88
2014	66	2	17	85
2015	76	1	16	93
2016	82	0	15	97
2017	65	0	23	88
2018	38	0	25	63
Totals	397	4	113	514

Figure 3B below shows the percentage of plans submitted by type. Of the 63 plans submitted for review, a number of plans contained multiple types within one plan (e.g., a minor subdivision with a lot addition, or a subdivision with a land development). However, the percentages in Figure 3B do not reflect duplications. Therefore, the 63 plans reviewed consisted of 5 types as noted within the legend in Figure 3B. The majority of plans (40%) were land development plans, which are plans for constructing buildings and developing property, while (30%) were minor subdivisions of one to six lots. There were no major subdivisions during 2018. Major subdivisions include more than 6 lots. Lot additions accounted for 30%. No plans involving lot line adjustments were reviewed. A lot addition involves adding a portion of land from one lot to another lot. A lot line adjustment involves adjusting a lot line between two lots.

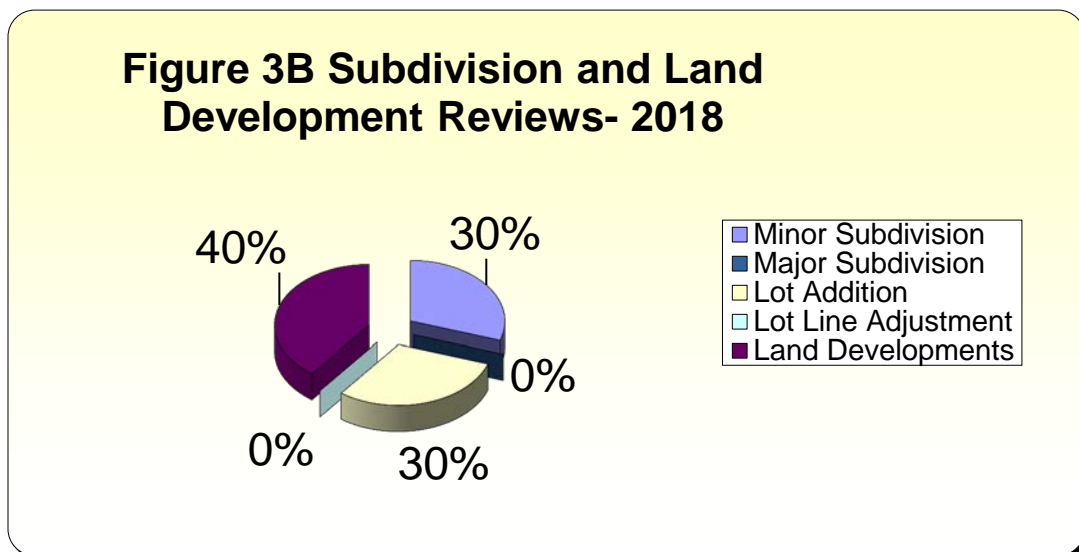
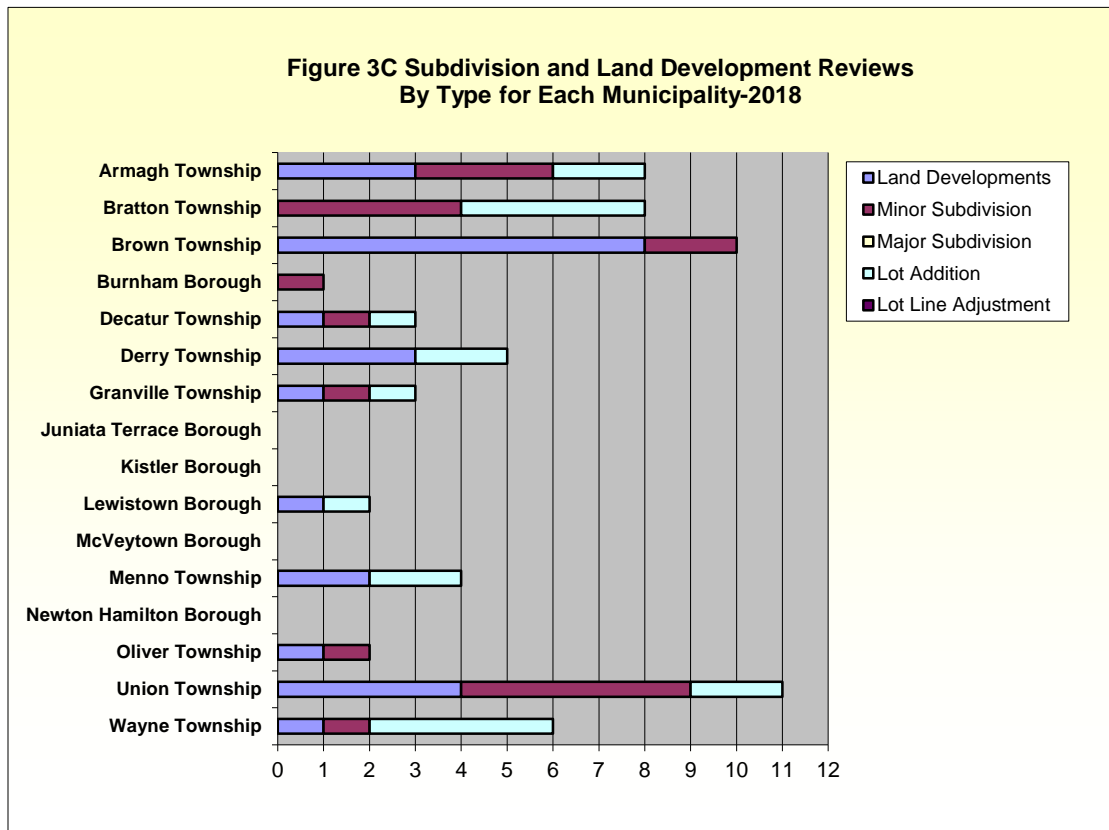


Table 3B below shows the number of plan types reviewed in each municipality during 2018.

Table 3B Subdivision and Land Development Plan Reviews-2018						
Municipality	Land Developments	Minor Subdivision	Major Subdivision	Lot Addition	Lot Line Adjustment	Total
Armagh Township	3	3	0	2	0	8
Bratton Township	0	4	0	4	0	8
Brown Township	8	2	0	0	0	10
Burnham Borough	0	1	0	0	0	1
Decatur Township	1	1	0	1	0	3
Derry Township	3	0	0	2	0	5
Granville Township	1	1	0	1	0	3
Juniata Terrace Borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kistler Borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lewistown Borough	1	0	0	1	0	2
McVeytown Borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Menno Township	2	0	0	2	0	4
Newton Hamilton Borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oliver Township	1	1	0	0	0	2
Union Township	4	5	0	2	0	11
Wayne Township	1	1	0	4	0	6
TOTALS	25	19	0	19	0	63

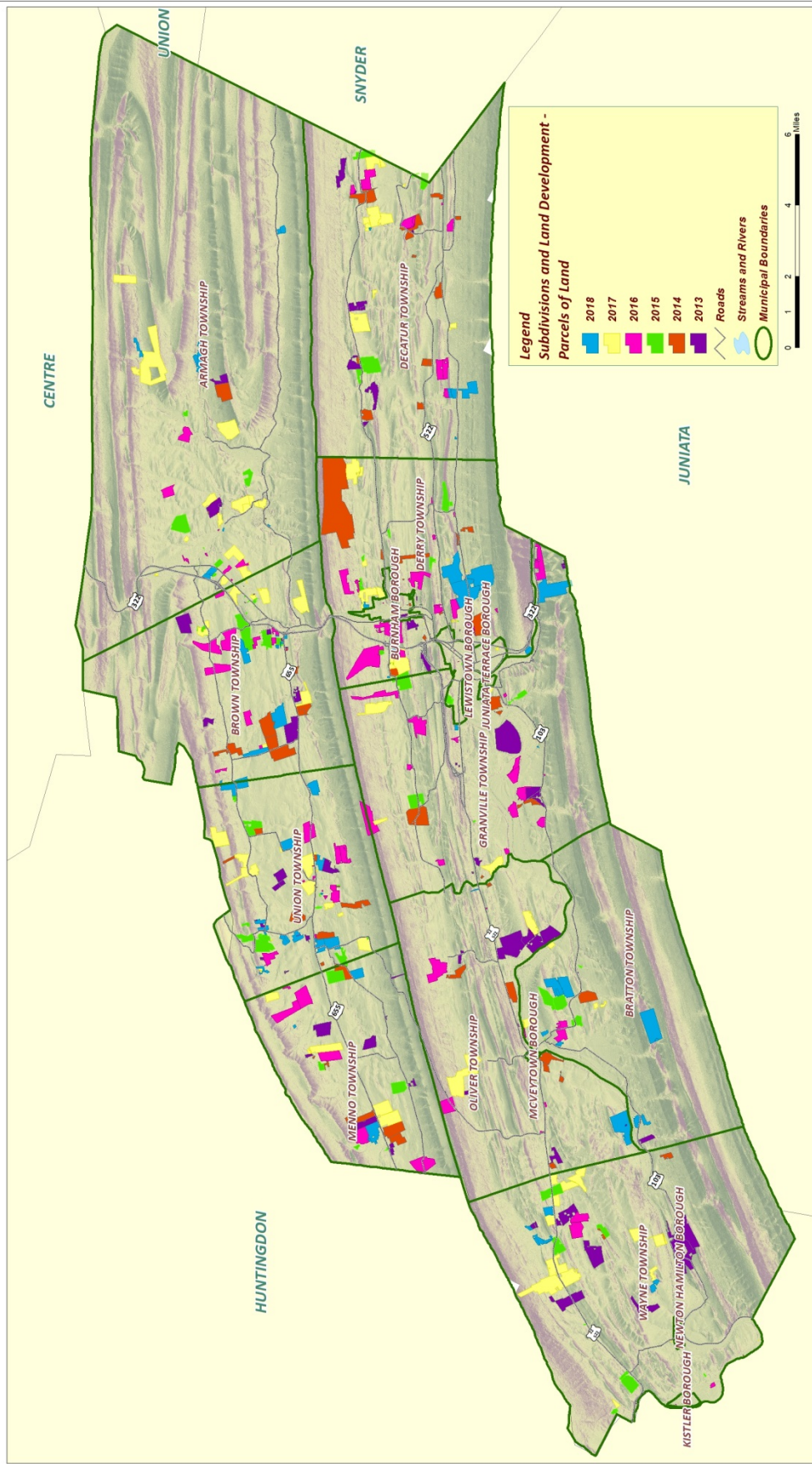
Figure 3C below shows a comparison of the number of plan reviews and types by municipality in 2018. Union and Brown Townships had the most plans with a total of 11 and 10 respectively. The next highest number of plans received and reviewed was in Armagh and Bratton Townships with 8 each. In terms of the other municipalities, there were 5 plans reviewed in Derry Township, 3 plans each in Decatur and Granville Townships, 4 plans in Menno, 2 each in Oliver Townships and Lewistown Borough, 1 plan in Burnham Borough and 6 plans in Wayne Township. There were no land developments or subdivision plans submitted in the Boroughs of McVeytown, Newton Hamilton, Kistler, and Juniata Terrace.



Some areas of Mifflin County are experiencing faster growth than other areas. One way to pinpoint growth areas is to track the location of subdivisions and land developments looking for clusters of activity. The map on the following page illustrates the locations of parcels that have had subdivision and land development plan activity in Mifflin County from 2013 to 2018.

MIFFLIN COUNTY SUBDIVISIONS AND LAND DEVELOPMENTS 2013-2018
 Prepared by the Mifflin County GIS Department March, 2019. Data sources from the Mifflin County Planning and Development Department.

Mifflin County Planning Commission 2018 Annual Report



3.2 Municipal Building Permit Activities

Table 3C lists building permits issued in each municipality for 2016 to 2018. The *Other* category includes permits for renovations, additions, garages, barns, sheds, recreational camps, pools, decks, etc.

Table 3C Municipal Building Permits Issued, 2016-2018															
Municipality	Single/Multi Family Home			Manufactured Home			Commercial/ Industrial			Demolition			Other		
	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
Armagh Township	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	5	42	32	21
Bratton Township	2	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	1	3	18	8	8
Brown Township	7	10	9	0	0	0	0	4	3	4	6	6	50	33	39
Burnham Borough	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	3	0	0	0	1	7	13	3
Decatur Township	1	3	7	3	3	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	21	19	12
Derry Township	13	11	8	0	1	0	11	5	10	1	2	2	61	35	90
Granville Township	7	7	2	2	8	3	16	3	10	6	9	6	26	18	34
Juniata Terrace Borough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Kistler Borough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	2
Lewistown Borough	2	0	0	0	0	0	35	3	5	8	5	2	250	38	20
McVeytown Borough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	3
Menno Township	1	2	4	0	0	0	0	3	2	1	3	3	21	21	35
Newton Hamilton Boro.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oliver Township	2	3	3	1	2	2	3	1	0	1	1	3	29	18	26
Union Township	4	13	4	0	2	0	8	5	3	8	10	4	45	35	38
Wayne Township	10	2	4	6	2	3	1	1	5	5	3	3	33	19	18
Totals	49	51	42	12	21	11	76	29	39	42	48	39	606	291	349

Source: Mifflin County Tax Services Bureau

Note: A new permit tracking system was developed in 2017.

3.3 Residential Building Costs

Table 3D on the following page reflects average new residential single-family and multi-family home construction costs, excluding land, in the municipalities of Mifflin County. The total homes and the average estimated cost are based on the totals and average cost from 2016 - 2018. There were no single family (S.F.) homes or multi-family (M.F.) homes reported in any of the following Boroughs or Townships from 2016 to 2018: Armagh, Burnham, Juniata Terrace, Kistler, McVeytown, and Newton Hamilton. There were two multi-family homes built in Brown Township and two in Union Township from 2016 to 2018. The average estimated new home cost throughout the county from 2016-2018 for a single family house was \$164,247.15 and for multi-family homes, \$234,950.00. It should be noted that the average cost amounts in Table 3D come directly from the building permit estimates and may not be a reflection of actual building costs.

Table 3D
Average Estimated Residential Construction Costs, 2016 – 2018

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Single Family Homes</u>	<u>Total Value of S.F. Homes</u>	<u>Average Estimated Cost*</u>	<u>Multi Family Homes</u>	<u>Total Value of M.F. Homes</u>	<u>Average Estimated Cost*</u>
Armagh Township	0	\$ -	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -
Bratton Township	3	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 116,666.67	0	\$ -	\$ -
Brown Township	24	\$ 3,642,700.00	\$ 151,779.17	2	\$ 360,000.00	\$ 180,000.00
Burnham Borough	0	\$ -	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -
Decatur Township	11	\$ 1,835,300.00	\$ 166,845.45	0	\$ -	\$ -
Derry Township	32	\$ 6,032,665.00	\$ 188,520.78	0	\$ -	\$ -
Granville Township	16	\$ 2,088,150.00	\$ 130,509.38	0	\$ -	\$ -
Juniata Terrace Borough	0	\$ -	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -
Kistler Borough	0	\$ -	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -
Lewistown Borough	2	\$ 185,000.00	\$ 92,500.00	0	\$ -	\$ -
McVeytown Borough	0	\$ -	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -
Menno Township	7	\$ 914,000.00	\$ 130,571.43	0	\$ -	\$ -
Newton Hamilton Borough	0	\$ -	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -
Oliver Township	8	\$ 1,260,000.00	\$ 157,500.00	0	\$ -	\$ -
Union Township	19	\$ 3,767,783.72	\$ 198,304.41	2	\$ 579,800.00	\$ 289,900.00
Wayne Township	15	\$ 2,590,508.00	\$ 161,906.75	0	\$ -	\$ -
Totals	133	\$ 22,666,106.72	\$ 164,247.15	4	\$ 939,800.00	\$ 234,950.00

*Costs are from estimates on building permit applications, excluding land.

Source: Mifflin County Tax Services Bureau

SECTION 4: MEMBERS AND STAFF

4.1 Planning Commission

At the reorganization in January 2019, the officers of the Mifflin County Planning Commission were elected as follows: Kay Semler, Chair; Dan Dunmire, Vice Chair; and Neal Shawver, Secretary.

Member Development

Each year the Mifflin County Planning Commission is provided presentations of interest to assist them in better understanding programs that will have or may have a direct impact on the County. Below are a summary of those programs.

Mainline Canal Greenway Trail

Bob Thomas of Campbell Thomas & Co., Doug Maisey of Campbell Thomas & Co., and Jim Laird of Laird Recreation and Land Planning gave a presentation at the January 2018 meeting of the Mifflin County Planning Commission on the proposed Mainline Canal Greenway Trail Study.

Mr. Thomas is working with both Huntingdon and Mifflin Counties and the Allegheny Ridge Corporation to bring a trail along the Main Line Canal Greenway, which is one of the state's heritage corridors and extends from Pittsburgh to Harrisburg. The September 11th National Trail is a trail system that is being aligned to connect three major points associated with September 11th, including the Flight 93 Memorial, Pentagon Memorial and New York City Memorial. The September 11th Trail, which is linked to this trail, is designed to have access via a biking/walking trail, back roads and public transportation. Several detailed maps have been developed and reviewed in order to determine the path of the trail. The first public meeting was held in Huntingdon on April 5, 2018 to present alternatives. Further detailed work to determine the selected alignment was presented at a second meeting on June 28th in Mifflin County. The final draft report was completed in December 2018.

The next step after the feasibility study is completed is to apply for design funding in 2019. Construction could take place over the following four to five years and could take place in phases.

Electric Avenue-Mill Road Intersection Improvement Study

Michelle Brummer of Gannet Fleming presented the Electric Avenue-Mill Road Intersection Improvement Study to the Mifflin County Planning Commission at their February 2018 meeting. The 2014 Comprehensive Plan looked at this intersection among several others and recommended it for further review. The purpose of this study was to look at practical ways to address the intersection with relatively low cost, high benefit options before there is a severe crash or fatality. The study initially looked at Mill Road and later, the Electric Avenue corridor. The EADS Group was the lead engineer of the study. Throughout the process, many people were engaged, including the Planning Office, Derry Township, Lewistown Borough, SEDA-COG, PennDOT, Penelec, and public outreach. Preliminary improvement options were reviewed, ranked and presented to the public. The overall ideas of the report have been agreed to by the committee with minimal language changes to the report itself.

The final three alternatives in the study included improvements to the ramp, including pavement markings and signage since this was raised at the public meetings. Alternative #1 restricts left turns from Mill Road with signage and a partial concrete island. Alternative #2 restricts left turns from Mill Road

and channelizes and offsets left turns along Electric Avenue. Alternative #3 restricts left turns to and from Mill Road with signage and a concrete island.

The committee concluded that enhanced signage, operational improvements (restrict left turns) and minor physical improvements could be done on a phased basis. Further pursuit of funding and programming of intersection improvements to restrict left turns to and from Mill Road, which is Alternative #3, was also part of the recommendation. Alternative #3 is estimated to cost \$209,061, including engineering.

Annual Economic Update

Nick Felice, President of MCIDC, provided an annual economic update to the Mifflin County Planning Commission at their April 2018 meeting. MCIDC has 24 tenants in the Plaza Buildings and two tenants in the Business Center Buildings. MCIDC invested over \$1 million in capital investments over the past year, which included many maintenance projects on various buildings. Mr. Felice stated that the maintenance budget has increased \$20,000 over the past year in order to help with future upkeep and projects. Additionally, Mr. Felice reviewed potential projects to promote developer interest and discussed improving their website.

As part of the presentation, Mr. Felice also shared information on the new video conferencing center that was facilitated by a USDA grant through Ben Franklin Technology Partners. The equipment has been installed at the Career Link, and the Tuscarora Intermediate Unit (TIU) has partnered with MCIDC to manage the equipment. Video conferencing services will be offered to businesses and other entities at a marginal fee.

Another project MCIDC initiated through a partnership with the Chamber of Commerce is a series of entrepreneurial meetups in a local coffee shop setting. Current or new entrepreneurs can gather and exchange information, advice and grow their networks. These are held the last Wednesday of the month.

Mifflin County School District Update

Jim Estep, Superintendent of Mifflin County School District, and Dan Potutschnig, Administrative Director of the Academy of Science and Technology, gave a presentation to the Mifflin County Planning Commission at their May 2018 meeting. This summer, the school district plans to begin a two-phase project on facilities to complete an energy savings that will focus on Lewistown Intermediate School, Mifflin County Middle School, East Derry Elementary School and Strodes Mills Elementary School. These are the oldest buildings and the ones that have not had significant rehabbing in recent years, with the exception of East Derry. Other construction projects impacting the district will involve improving lighting across the district to make better use of LED lighting to reduce the operating cost of lighting. Security will also be addressed with secure vestibules being added to buildings where they do not exist.

Mr. Estep further mentioned there will be a heavy STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) focus that will be integrated into Kindergarten through fifth grades. The district is also looking at security by adding two more part time resource officers for schools in the Borough.

Mr. Potutschnig provided an update of The Academy and noted recent student achievements, including 83% of the senior class receiving advanced or competent on their NOCTI/NIMS testing scores. Student attendance this past year was 93.23% with a goal of 94% for next school year.

Adult education has continued to be a focus, including the Nurse Aid program increasing to a full-time program, the CDL (Commercial Driver's License) program is up and running, and a cosmetology teacher preparation program. The Academy is looking to bring adults into the facility and is developing a strategic business plan with Delta Development.

Mr. Potutschnig is trying to remove the stigma behind certain jobs and occupations and decided to take a key initiative to market to elementary students to show students and parents what is available. By partnering with First Quality, The Academy is trying to engage every program at the elementary level.

Annual Transportation Update

Tom Zurat, Assistant District Executive of Design for PennDOT (District 2) provided an update on the area transportation plans at the June 2018 meeting of the Mifflin County Planning Commission. Mifflin County has 271.5 miles of roadway and 184 state owned bridges. There are 12 structurally deficient (SD) bridges in Mifflin County, which are all programmed on the upcoming TIP (Transportation Improvement Plan) and design has begun on each of these bridges.

Mr. Zurat went on to review current construction projects in the area. The East Charles Street Bridge project will be a superstructure replacement, which will include narrowing the sidewalks, widening the road a little and extending the turning lane. The Potters Mills Gap Project in Centre County also continues. The last phase of this project was bid earlier in the spring of 2018 and construction is occurring now.

Mr. Zurat also reviewed capital highway projects in Mifflin County. The Burnham Interchange project was recently bid on June 21, 2018 and a notice to proceed is expected to be issued mid-July. This will include relocating and lengthening the 322 westbound on/off ramps. The ramps will line up with the entrance to Derry Heights. Improvements will also occur at Ferguson Valley Road in this area.

Current design projects include a bridge replacement over Kish Creek near the Standard Steel in Burnham. This bridge will be relocated slightly and widened to include three lanes. A temporary two-lane bridge will be constructed as part of the project. Mr. Zurat is hoping the temporary bridge will be in place by early next year.

Other miscellaneous projects taking place in 2019 include signal upgrades in Lewistown Borough along Market, Third and Valley Streets, a bridge replacement along Jacks Creek, repaving along business Route 322 near Lowe's, and an ARLE project in Derry Township for signal installation at the Calkins' interchange.

National Flood Insurance Program Update

Marita Kelley, Deputy Executive Director of DCED's Center for Local Government Services provided an update on the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in Pennsylvania at the September 2018 meeting of the Mifflin County Planning Commission. Ms. Kelley is currently the National Flood Insurance Program Coordinator.

Every municipality in the floodplain must have a floodplain ordinance in place. Floodplain ordinances are primarily designed to mitigate risk. The Community Rating System (CRS) can be adopted by municipalities or counties who have established the ordinances. This can reduce costs for policyholders. Municipalities can participate in the CRS to obtain discounts for their residents of 5%-45%. The average discount is 6%-10%. It is fairly easy to get the 5%, but it is more difficult to obtain higher discounts. Ordinances must be updated when new maps are established.

Natural Gas Cooperative Update

Don Kiel of the SEDA-COG Natural Gas Cooperative provided an update at the October 2018 meeting of the Mifflin County Planning Commission. The Natural Gas Cooperative now includes Centre, Clinton, Juniata, Mifflin, Northumberland and Perry Counties

The USDA has recently sponsored a project through their Rural Business Development Grant at Metzler Forest Products in Reedsville. Metzler's intends to replace their propane tanks with liquid natural gas storage tanks for one of their two kilns. Metzler's may, in the future, serve as the trucking company to transport the liquid natural gas. This process will run for one year and the cooperative will own the storage tank.

Armagh Township is the next potential project area to review despite the potential Hawbaker project falling through. UGI provides service in Reedsville, but it is too costly to expand. Mr. Kiel is hoping to approach this area as a virtual pipeline project. He is tentatively planning to meet with township supervisors and to host a town hall meeting to gauge public interest. He has not talked to the larger employers in the area. UGI may be interested in purchasing any constructed system in the future. This project will be similar to the one for Metzler's, but would utilize a larger storage tank.

Presentation of Harrisburg Area Community College

Jennie Baar, Dean of Academic Affairs, and Dr. John Sygielski, President, from Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) made a presentation to the November 2018 meeting of the Mifflin County Planning Commission. Ms. Baar provided a history of HACC's beginnings in Lewistown. John Czerniakowski reached out to HACC and a community meeting was held in April of 2016 with approximately 40 in attendance. HACC discovered many interested parties and saw a clear need to provide locally accessible education. HACC met with the county commissioners in July of 2016 and announced that HACC would offer classes in Mifflin County.

HACC did a soft launch for the 2017-2018 academic year with five classes and overlapped Penn State classes before Penn State fully withdrew from the area. Five classes were held at the Geisinger-Lewistown Hospital School of Nursing and Mifflin County Junior High, including English and Biology classes in the fall and Computer Information Systems and Biology classes in the spring. The classes were initially geared towards the School of Nursing and their general education requirements. During this year, a lease was secured for their location at 152 East Market Street, Suite 201.

Enrollment has tripled since their first semester of 20 students to nearly 60 students for the fall of 2018. There is a strong demand for the Anatomy and Physiology class. The classes are restricted due to only having one lab space. This limits the ability to expand Biology classes in the evening. The School of Nursing and The Academy utilize the lab during the daytime.

Ms. Baar stated that HACC wants to determine how to build out with other educational organizations and not compete. They want to supplement the county's needs. Dr. Ski would like the educational facilities to get together, evaluate and map out each other's strengths to then create programs each are good at.

Presentation of South Hills School of Business and Technology

Barbara Harer, Director of the Lewistown campus, Paul Mazza, President of South Hills School of Business and Technology and Venus Shade, instructor for the Criminal Justice program, attended the

December 2018 meeting of the Mifflin County Planning Commission to provide an overview of the school.

South Hills School has been in Lewistown for 20 years. Full degree programs were not initially offered, but students could begin working towards degrees in Lewistown. They had to finish and earn degrees at the State College main campus. All programs offered at the Lewistown campus can now earn an associate's degree; however, only five full programs are offered at Lewistown. Ms. Harer added that there are three campuses of South Hills School with the main campus being in State College, one branch in Altoona and the other branch in Lewistown.

South Hills is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges with an additional healthcare program accreditation through the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools for the medical assistant program. Financial aid is available for those who qualify, including grants, loans, or scholarships. South Hills has multiple articulation agreements in place to allow for bachelor degree completion programs through other colleges or universities. The five programs offered through the Lewistown campus include Criminal Justice, Business Administration Management and Marketing, Administrative Professional, Medical Assistant and Information Technology.

4.2 Planning and Development Department

Staff Development

Staff members of the Planning and Development Department have participated in conferences, workshops and other events through the year to continue their training and professional development.

County Planning Directors Association

Planning Directors from counties throughout the Commonwealth meet several times a year to discuss issues affecting county planning offices and commissions. The County Planning Directors Association is affiliated with the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) and was formalized in 2004 as the County Planning Directors Association. Mifflin County is a member of this organization, and William Gomes has been attending these meetings. The association met three times during 2018 and reviewed and discussed the following: State Agency Peer Program through DEP, PennDOT, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED); strategic plan update; rural broadband; the PA Water Implementation Plan; protecting private water supplies; source water protection; and legislative updates.

Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute (PMPEI)

The Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute (PMPEI) is an affiliate of the PA Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA). The purpose of PMPEI is to provide, develop and promote planning education across Pennsylvania for the general public with specific attention to those involved with municipal planning and development. James Lettiere has served on this board since 2017.

CDBG: CD and H Practitioners Conference

On March 26 and 27, 2018 James Lettiere, Douglas Marks and Stacey Herman attended the Pennsylvania CD&H Practitioners Annual Conference in State College, PA. This annual conference

reviews compliance requirements for the effective and efficient use of Community Development Block Grant and HOME funds and provides updates on legislative actions that impact these programs. The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (PA-DCED) focused on the following financial and programmatic items:

- Disaster resilience and housing community development planning
- PEMA pre-disaster recovery plan
- How Community Development Plans and housing assessments feed to the PA plan
- Consolidated plan feedback-needs, impediments and opportunities
- Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS) and financial management
- Affordable housing
- Using CDBG to address public service needs
- Successful administration of the HOME program
- How to creatively address environmental review requirements
- Community Development and Housing Advisory Committee with practitioners
- National Flood Insurance Program/Community Rating System (CRS)

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association 2018 Annual Conference

From October 16-18, 2018, William Gomes and James Lettiere attended the PA Chapter of the American Planning Association's Annual Conference in Erie, PA. Sessions attended provided diverse information including topics on: Achieving Effective Planning through Leader Recruitment and Development; Real Time Collaboration through Google Drawings; the Affordable Housing Toolkit; Understanding Property Zoning and the Limits of Zoning; Planning for Tackling Blight; Measuring Blight Impact; Selling Stormwater Management; Rethinking Parking Requirements using Drone Imagery; Opioid Epidemic and Planning; and Exploring Erie's wine region.

