Economic Development Implementation Partners Meeting Summary
February 21ˢᵗ , 2019
Madeline Olewine Memorial Library

Organizers:

Steve Deck, Executive Director, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, sdeck@tcrpc-pa.org
Jerry Duke, Dauphin County Planning Coordinator, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, gduke@tcrpc-pa.org
Alexa Korber, Planner, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, akorber@tcrpc-pa.org

Attendees:

Dave Black, CREDC
Marie Byers, Harrisburg International Airport
Karen Cullings, DC Library System
Shaun Donovan, Harrisburg Regional Chamber
Derek Whitesel, Harrisburg Young Professionals

Review from Previous Meeting

There was a brief review of the Goals and Key Action Items from the Economic Development section of the Dauphin County Comprehensive Plan. In previous sessions group members were asked to rank the Action Items to determine where they thought County focus should be. The highest ranked actions are as follows:

- Develop a countywide economic development plan;
- Develop a countywide transit development plan for traditional and specialized transportation needs;
- Enhance intermodal services supporting the Harrisburg International Airpot

Group members were also supportive of researching the **link between jobs and housing** and **workforce development and education.** For a reminder of all Goals and Key Action Items for this section of the Comprehensive Plan, please follow this link and navigate through the different subsections: https://www.dauphincountycompplan.org/growing-our-economy-intro/

What is the County doing?

Steve Deck, the Executive Director of Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC), spoke about the Harrisburg Area Transportation Study (HATS) program. TCRPC serves as the staff body for HATS and have been working on the 2040 update to the **Regional Transportation Plan** (RTP), which was adopted in December, 2018. The plan is online, interactive, and can be accessed here: https://www.hatsregionaltransportationplan.org/

Currently, HATS is engaged with an effort with PennDOT called the **I-81 Improvement Strategy**, wherein PennDOT will identify areas of existing infrastructure need on I-81 from the Maryland state line up the Interstate 78 split. TCRPC is also working with CAT to evaluate **ridership data** to assist them with route evaluations and develop a Transit Development Plan for the system.

Focus Areas and Next Steps

Transportation

The group mentioned a need for more efficient **public transit** and the potential need for transit development plans for public providers. They cited that the younger generation is more apt to take public transit if it is available, and that reliable public transit can promote **infill development** and denser communities.

 Workforce/Community Development

What will it take to encourage people to live near their work? This topic also involves transportation, but will also touch on **affordable housing, education** and **development** considerations**.** TCRPC hosts a roundtable discussion on affordable housing issues twice a year.

Countywide or Regional Economic Development Plans

To promote economic development on a countywide level will have to involve a variety of shareholders and partners who can create a list of principles and best practices. The group saw value in a the creation of a **Community Economic Development Survey** that could take an inventory of the economic assets within Dauphin County. The group also mentioned that there might be value in considering multi-county or regional approach to creating economic development plans.

Next Step: Who should be involved in future discussions?

The next meeting of the Economic Development Implementation Partners will be in the summer of 2019. If you would like to be added to the email list please contact Alexa Korber at akorber@tcrpc-pa.org or 717-234-2639.