



**Economic Development Implementation Partners Meeting Summary
September 28th, 2017 2:30PM to 3:30PM**

Presenters:

Jerry Duke, Dauphin County Planning Coordinator, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC), gduke@tcrpc-pa.org

Steve Deck, Planner, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, sdeck@tcrpc-pa.org

Attendees:

Marie Byers, Harrisburg International Airport

Tyler Good, CREDC

Bob Wesoloskie, Dauphin County Community and Economic Development

Lauren Zumbrun, Derry Township

Jerry Duke opened the meeting by reminding attendees of the main goal of the Dauphin County Comprehensive Plan: to be implementable. He noted that the plan is online and offers a feature called Tracking our Progress (found here: <https://www.dauphincountycompplan.org/tracking-our-progress-intro/>) which will allow individuals to see what strive the County and partners are making in regards to implementation efforts. **Mr. Duke also spoke about the 6th Annual Premier Project Awards, the categories of which will now align with the three focus areas of the Comprehensive Plan.** Mr. Duke encouraged attendees to submit projects and has also put out a call for judges. More information on the Premier Project Awards can be found here: <http://www.tcrpc-pa.org/dauphin#ppa>

Steve Deck moved on to a review of Goals and Key Action Items, which came directly from the text of the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Deck stated that Key Action Items may change with time but that all work done as comprehensive plan implementation must remain true to the original Goals in order to avoid having to send the plan for re-adoption. **A full listing of Goals and Key Action Items can be found on the Dauphin County Comprehensive Plan webpage, www.dauphincountycompplan.org**

In preparation for the meeting attendees were sent a Prioritization Form that gave them the option to rate all Key Action Items as either High, Medium, or Low Priority. The votes were tallied and weighted (3 points for High, 2 points for Medium, and 1 point for Low) and averaged by the number of attendants who responded. Four (4) members of the Community Development Committee returned their Prioritization forms. **It was noted that the ranking of Key Action Items is meant as an unofficial measure to determine relative importance and does not necessarily reflect the order in which tasks**

will be approached or accomplished. All committee members should submit a completed Prioritization Form by sending them to Alexa Korber, akorber@tcrpc-pa.org

Mr. Deck mentioned that only two participants had returned prioritization forms, so initial rankings would not be calculated for this meeting. Ms. Byers mentioned that some organizations may not have returned to their Prioritization forms because they did not feel that they had specific knowledge about certain areas and did not want to rank them Low Priority for that reason, or that organizations may have worried about their place in ranking items that they were unable to assist with. **Mr. Duke clarified that an organization is free to rate any Key Action Item as N/A and that it is appropriate to rate an Item High Priority even if an organization feels they cannot specifically assist in implementation.**

Mr. Duke proposed that one of the initial actions taken through the committee be the completion of a **County-Wide Economic Development Strategy.** An outline of the proposed approach was provided. major components of the plan would include data collection for economic drivers, industry clusters/strengths, educational needs, and land use/growth management. There was general consensus on moving forward with the plan, which TCRPC is looking to initiate after the prioritization forms are received and analyzed.

Mr. Wesoloskie stated that now is a great time to be discussing educational needs because school enrollments in many districts are slightly down and many school districts are very open to “teaming” with employers to identify and address needs.

Mr. Good mentioned a Workforce Development program developed by CREDC that works with the State to facilitate workforce programs. He stated that is important to recognize that economic development and workforce development are slowly becoming one.

Ms. Byers mentioned that manufacturing industries in Lancaster County are creating programs to educate high-school students that not every job requires a four-year degree, and that certain industries are more lucrative and high-tech than one might think.

Ms. Zumbrun talked about the Future Business Leaders breakfast hosted twice a year by the Derry Township School District where the question of what sort of skills school districts should be focused on teaching is posed. She noted a need for additional adult education opportunities. Ms. Byers agreed that it is difficult to find educational opportunities as an adult without entering in to an official degree program. Ms. Zumbrun continued on to say that an economic development plan would have to be both people- and site-oriented.

Mr. Duke closed the meeting by reminding attendants that **Dauphin County is looking to form a collaborative effort, where an organization’s own goals and projects can be used as part of the Comprehensive Plan’s implementation measures.** He asked that attendants keep future meeting dates in mind as well advise as who else might possibly benefit from attending.

Next Steps:

Reminders will be sent out asking for completion of the prioritization forms from the members who were unable to complete. This will assist in determine the importance towards the completion of action actions as well as indicate if any organization is able to take a lead on a specific item. There will be continued efforts toward the completion of County wide Economic Development strategy. A possible scope of work will be developed. In addition, there will be effort as well on other action items, including possible activities such as developing strategies for working with the educational institutions with providing specific workforce skills.

No schedule date was made for the next meeting. The Implementation Partners will asked to meet again when there is progress to report on the results of the efforts.