

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



PLANNING DEPARTMENT

C u m b e r l a n d   C o u n t y

310 Allen Road  
Suite 101  
Carlisle, PA 17013

## PLANNING COMMISSION

The Cumberland County Planning Commission (CCPC) is comprised of nine members who serve four year terms. Appointments to the CCPC are made by the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners. Staff support for the CCPC is provided through the Cumberland County Planning Department (CCPD).

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

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

### 2021 Planning Commission Members

James D. Ross, Chairman  
George Tyson  
Matt Fisher, PE  
Heather Sweitzer  
Tracey Vernon  
Timothy Johnson, PE  
Brenda Landis  
Edward Franco  
Joseph Zume  
Jean Foschi, Commissioner Liaison

### 2021 Planning Department Staff

Kirk Stoner, AICP, Director of Planning  
Stephanie Williams, Senior Planning Manager  
Steve Hoffman, Planning Manager  
Elizabeth Grant, AICP, Planning Specialist  
Justin Miller, Recycling Coordinator  
Mark Kimmel, Planning Technician  
Jessica Cohick, Office Manager

## Mission and Vision

**Mission:** The Cumberland County Planning Commission partners with our urban, suburban, and rural communities to implement plans that promote economic development, provide more housing and transportation choices, and protect clean air, land, and water.

**Vision:** Securing Cumberland County's future through collaboration, innovation, and planning excellence.

## Core Values

**Accountability** – Every project is completed according to established performance standards and demonstrates clear value to County residents.

**Integrity** – Our primary obligation is to serve the public interest through the transparent, honest, and ethical execution of our responsibilities.

**Competency** – We pursue planning excellence through continuous professional development and certification maintenance opportunities that expand the capacity and improve the quality of our planning services.

**Partnerships** – Building strong relationships with municipal governments, the public, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector; creates a collaborative environment that broadens the reach and impact of our planning initiatives.

**Be Present** – Successful planning requires local familiarity and experience that can only be gained through our personal presence in every community throughout the County.

**Respect Local Autonomy** – We support the local government structure in the County and commit to working cooperatively with communities to develop “grass roots” solutions tailored to meet local needs.

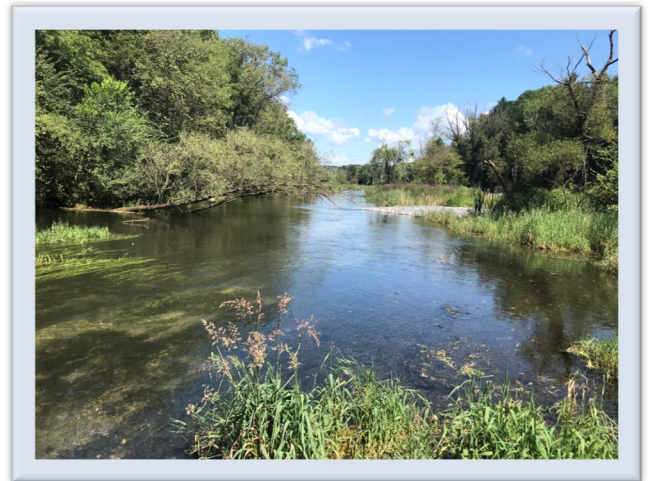


## 2021 In Review

The Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan guides all activities of the CCPC. The plan is organized around the three key themes, conserve, grow and connect. Highlights of the CCPC's 2021 accomplishments in each theme area are summarized below.

### Conserve

- ◆ **Clean Water Countywide Action Plan** - The Department of Environmental Protection awarded \$283,500 to Cumberland County to install conservation landscaping practices on 10 acres of turfgrass and hay and to support improvements to streambanks, and reforestation of a riparian buffer in a municipal park in partnership with Trout Unlimited. The CCPD also coordinated and submitted a federal grant proposal to National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for \$500,000, to enhance agriculture conservation and stewardship practices as well as water quality monitoring, volunteer development and outreach in support of the Clean Water Cumberland effort.



- ◆ **Land Partnerships** – The Land Partnerships Grant Program provides financial assistance to municipal and nonprofit stakeholders to complete parks, trails and greenway projects that are consistent with the Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan. Subsidized using Act 13 Marcellus Shale Legacy Funds, Land Partnerships provided \$148,457 for 7 projects in 2021. Implementation of those projects enables the county to achieve its conservation goals through partnerships with other stakeholder organizations. Additionally in 2021, Cumberland County applied for and received a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for \$35,000 to update the Land Partnerships Plan in 2022.

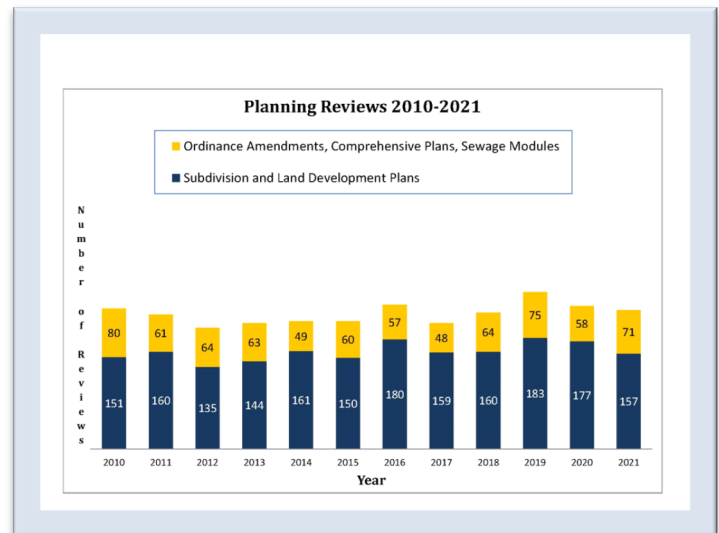
- ◆ **Climate Action Plan** - Cumberland County has completed its climate action plan as part of the Department of Environmental Protection Local Climate Action planning cohort. The plan was adopted by the Cumberland County



Commissioners in January of 2022. The CCPD prepared the plan with support from Shippensburg University Center for Land use and Sustainability and Dickinson College faculty and students. The plan consists of an inventory for greenhouse gas emissions on a countywide scale as well as actions that may be taken to reduce emissions and mitigate the effect of climate change. The process to develop the plan involved stakeholder focus groups as well as a public survey which received more than 2,300 responses. Focus groups included representation from major sectors analyzed in the greenhouse gas inventory – transportation, waste management, utilities, agriculture as well as school districts, businesses and municipalities. The County is using consulting assistance from DEP to implement the plan by evaluating opportunity to convert the its vehicle fleet from conventional gas vehicles to electric vehicles.

# Grow

- ◆ **MPC Reviews** – The Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) requires county planning agencies to review and comment on all municipal subdivision and land development plans, ordinance amendments and comprehensive plans. The CCPC completed over 220 MPC required reviews in 2021. A summary of growth trends identified through the MPC reviews can be found in a separate document on the CCPC’s website.



- ◆ **Municipal Technical Assistance** – CCPD staff provides technical assistance to individual municipalities through the Local Planning Assistance Program (LPA). Municipalities commonly use CCPD staff through the LPA Program to update comprehensive plans and ordinances that they otherwise would not have the staff or resources to complete. CCPD staff provided assistance to 12 municipal partners in 2021 to complete updates to zoning ordinances, subdivision ordinances, and comprehensive plans. The final products reflect current planning practices and are consistent with the Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan.



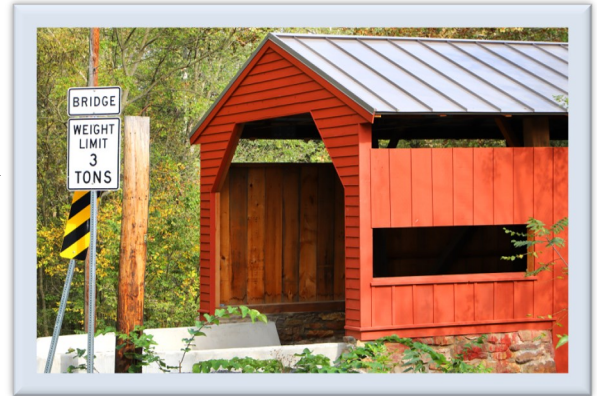
- ◆ **Affordable Housing** – Working in partnership with the Cumberland Area Economic Development Corporation, the CCPD staff participated in a forum aimed at identifying barriers to affordable housing in the County. Following that forum, CAEDC and CCPC staff worked with a developer interested in constructing over 100 units of affordable housing on a CAEDC-owned property in North Middleton Township and Carlisle Borough. Meetings were held with the host municipalities to present initial renderings and discuss planning requirements for the project. The project will be further evaluated in 2022.





## Connect

- ◆ **County Bridge Capital Improvement Program (CIP)**– Cumberland County completed construction on 3 bridge replacement projects and 1 major rehabilitation project in 2021. Bid documents were prepared for replacing a bundle of 3 bridges that represents the final projects in the CIP. Started in 2015, the CIP included \$40 million of bridge projects over the course of 6 years.

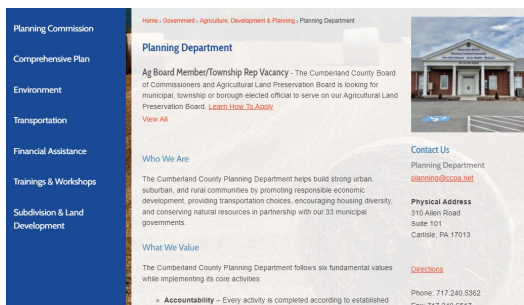


- ◆ **Transit Regionalization** – The Susquehanna Regional Transportation Authority hosted its first meeting in November of 2021. SRTA is the result of the successful merger between Capital Area Transit and the Central Pennsylvania Transportation Authority. The merger, which was in the works for over 10 years, has resulted in substantial cost savings and enables borderless fixed route transit service between Cumberland, Dauphin, York, Adams and Franklin Counties.
- ◆ **I-81 Investment Strategy** – Cumberland County continued its participation with the Harrisburg Area Transportation Study's evaluation of necessary improvements to I-81 in the county. CCPC members and staff participated in public meetings along side of businesses to provide insight on potential new interchanges, ramp closures, and lane additions aimed at improving safety and congestion in the I-81 segment from Exit 44 to Exit 52. Final recommendations will be presented in 2022 with preconstruction work starting thereafter.



## For More Information

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



[CCPC Website](#)



[CCPC Facebook](#)