

Build From Within**Education, Education, Education****Create a Tourism and Recreation Mecca****Attract the Next Generation of Leaders****Create an Implementation Mindset****Transportation****Zoning and Land Development Ordinances****Create a Modern Utility Infrastructure System****Create a Community Redevelopment Program****Develop a Market Rate Housing Program****Introduction**

In the Fall of 2005, the Somerset County Commissioners held a series of open houses throughout Somerset County to present the key initiatives of the Comprehensive Plan and to solicit the public's comments and ideas concerning the project. Open houses were held in each of the eleven school districts:

- Somerset
- Salisbury
- Meyersdale
- Turkeyfoot
- Shade-Central City
- Shanksville
- Berlin
- Rockwood
- North Star
- Conemaugh Township
- Windber

More than 100 persons attended the various open houses, demonstrating strong interest in both the Comprehensive Plan and the future of Somerset County. The format of the presentations allowed attendees to review each of the ten key plan initiatives and to record comments related each initiative. The comments showed that similar issues exist throughout Somerset County, and that the Comprehensive Plan is on track in identifying and addressing these issues.

The open house comments that follow are organized by each of the ten key initiatives, separated by each open house location, and are unedited:

BUILD FROM WITHIN

SOMERSET

- Don't forget Somerset County's coal industry. It is currently in a fast growth mode.
- Existing manufacturers and businesses—we have emphasized capturing some large outside business to come here and solve our employment problems. The odds are long. We need to emphasize growth from within.
- Bioenergy production may be the future of Somerset County agriculture.
- We need public transportation within all areas of the county—essential!

MEYERSDALE

- Develop and market certified organic food grown in Somerset County including certified dairy products.
- Sounds good – place more emphasis on fostering small business.
- Provide support for existing industry/business for expansion opportunities.
- Encourage entrepreneurship and incubation so that jobs and opportunities can be “grown” locally.

TURKEYFOOT

- **Attract craft mfg. Industries to Confluence – needed bad!**
- Establish small mfg. subcontractors to major 'players'.
- Emphasize vocational training (i.e. trades, elec., plumbing, auto repair).
- Get high schools involved with developing implementation strategies for Comprehensive Plan?
- We produce a labor force with little to no jobs with household income resource available. Municipal govt. and schools both suffer from lack of job opportunities in the area.
- Obtain land for industrial park.
- Provide some public transportation. It's hard to get around this area if you don't drive.
- Encourage the arts! (in all communities)

SHADE

- Make Somerset County a HUB zone for federal government contracts.
- Make property tax rates for the few large companies in Somerset County equal to the rest of the tax paying. This would open up more land opportunities for future growth.

SHANKSVILLE

- Transportation is a major factor to employment.
- Balance growth with keeping the beauty of the hills. Don't go overboard with windmills and cell phone towers which destroy the scenic beauty.
- Have more promotion of vo-tech training.

WINDBER

- Include Penn. Highlands Community College for future employment skills.

- Again, rail infrastructure can play a significant role in business development.
- Let the Chamber of Commerce invite county owned companies to “mixers” where company exec’s can come and explain how we can be more responsive to their needs. (Before they just announce their departure.)
- Need to focus more on Windber Industrial Park (road and utilities) to promote growth. Without help, this area is not progressing.

CONEMAUGH TOWNSHIP

- Somerset Daily American should be bought back by private owners (even stock ownership) who are Somerset County residents.
- Somerset County is 8th in PA and 91st in US in county production of dairy products. To maintain this \$4 million/yr. industry a critical mass of farms needs to be preserved. Maintain the infrastructure needed to support those farms.
- Promotion of planning in agriculture can lead to new markets as organically produced meat and milk.
- First Industry Economic Development loans can be used to develop value added farm enterprises.
- Agriculture should partner with tourism efforts to provide farm tours, farm vacation homes, etc.
- Finish Rt. 219 South to Rt. 68.
- Work with JARI to bring in industry to Hollsopple area (Hoganas).

BERLIN

- Promote a local “farmers market” to keep our local producers going.
- Keep Somerset beautiful – protect our ridge tops, don’t overdo the cell towers/windmills.
- Develop clean energy.
- Manufacturing is going overseas and tourism support is often low paying. What can we do to develop our skills/resources in other directions?

- Help the local farm community as much as possible.

EDUCATION, EDUCATION, EDUCATION

SOMERSET

- **Train individuals for employment in both the hospitality and mining industries.**
- Need to emphasize the trades as these skills can be used locally.

SALISBURY

- **Enlarge the Salisbury Public Library.**
- Expand course options.
- Better technology equals greater computer and Internet access.
- Local schools promoting themselves via websites for quality education; low student to teacher ratios.

MEYERSDALE

- Encourage libraries to cooperate.
- Bring back school-to-work programs and try to develop real career opportunities.
- Workshops in various occupations – show what skills are needed in Somerset County.
- Improve overall educational programs and lobby state to better fund their responsibility to education – also pay and support teachers better to attract higher quality individuals.
- Engage young people in community development dialogue and activities early to build community pride; gain their buy-in and capture their visions for the future.
- Encourage, educate, and promote local “entrepreneurship” as part of career development education activities.
- Support statewide effort to encourage young, educated people to return to the area after college or attending technical training programs to reverse the “brain drain”.
- Bring broadband Internet to all areas of the county.

- Encourage businesses to locate in the area.
- Encourage education!
- Social studies include taking care of your community leadership.

TURKEYFOOT

- Educate young people as to what is available to them within our county.
- Encourage people (young and old) to stay here.
- Encourage church related activities.
- Encourage the expansion of the Turkeyfoot Reading Center into a library.
- Every small village and town needs a library! Provide incentives for young community leaders interested in growth and development.
- Help Allegany College of Maryland expand in Somerset County.

SHADE

- Encourage grass roots organizations (i.e. Shade Creek watershed) to sponsor an environmental education workshop for school and community members.
- Allegany College of Maryland Somerset site should charge Somerset County residents in county/instate rates (as in Allegany Co. Maryland and surrounding areas (WV).
- The Somerset County Tech Center needs to encourage private sector involvement on all advisory committees.

SHANKSVILLE

- Funding employment in County is a primary issue!
- Adult education job skills.
- Allegany College of Maryland provides some opportunities but is not the sole answer to higher education needs. It would be great to have other options.
- Do not increase taxes for any project.

ROCKWOOD

- Train for the available jobs in Somerset County. Technical training and Associate's degrees at maximum. Most Somerset County jobs do not require four or six years of college.
- Agree!

NORTH STAR

- **Train individuals for employment in carpentry, masonry; stone cutting, electrical and all other related fields. We agree with bullet point #2 Somerset's Open House.**
- Introduce and develop a Somerset County Youth Leadership with cooperation of all schools and Chamber of Commerce.
- Have schoolwork with local employer promote job shadowing to get youth involved in the business of Somerset County.
- Effort to gain PDE and state support for Allegany College of Maryland.

WINDBER

- Windber needs to play a substantive role in Somerset County's efforts in this activity.
- Employ mentoring programs for county offices/county government.
- Partner with Johnstown Vo-Tech.

CONEMAUGH TOWNSHIP

- Explore connection with Cambria County Community College – a satellite campus.

BERLIN

- **Create more opportunities for distance learning. You need high speed Internet to fully utilize distance learning which would open up educational opportunities.**

- The Windber Research Center has a lot to offer in the way of science education.
- Seek a residential, four-year higher education college to bring in outside dollars to grow our economy.
- Our education system needs to develop the ability to place our kids in high tech, light industry that has a competitive pay scale.
- Encourage better utilization of the Vo-Tech – to better train new workers in areas needed in county; for students at main high schools to use part time for some coursework.
- Encourage all school districts in the county to have some type of job shadowing.

CREATE A TOURISM AND RECREATION MECCA

SOMERSET

- Work with ATA on Trail promotion.
- Improve training opportunities for employees in the hospitality industry.
- Promote conservation easements along trail.
- Promote an annual ride on rails to trails. Connect/organize right of ways to connect to the Allegheny Passage from other county locations.
- Stimulate growth of interest to all ages – teens to seniors.
- Create more festivals/outlets for those in the 13-21 age range.

MEYERSDALE

- Assist community festivals to ensure communities work together-not compete against each other—perhaps transportation provided from one festival to another.
- Make sure the Great Allegheny Passage Hiking-Biking Trail is fully utilized and connected to trail town activities.
- Somerset Historical Society – Utilize and publicize it more. Everyone passes by it but you don't know much about it.

- Goals sound good – make sure trail and support facilities are well maintained and adequate for the needs of all users.
- Expand local, statewide, national, and international marketing of the Trail.
- Work to improve the level of compatibility and focus for county economic development services so that they support recreation and tourism-based economic development opportunities.
- Stop “polluting” the scenic beauty of our region. If tourism is the future, pretty counts.
- Get rid of the old cars and tires in the area. Especially at the entrance to town.

TURKEYFOOT

- **Cell phone tower – urgent need!**
- High speed Internet.
- Encourage and promote locally.
- Encourage the crafts and entrepreneurship.
- Clean up the community.
- Set standards for Allegheny Highlands Trail; vending restaurants.
- Support local tourism associations.
- Break down the news barrier that exists at the state line. It is hard to find out what is going on in Maryland and West Virginia and it's hard for the people in Maryland and West Virginia to find out what's going on in Somerset County.
- Maintain existing quality of natural resources for recreation.
- Encourage volunteerism!
- Hotel tax great thing for \$ needed in small communities.
- Take the plans for future into high school classrooms.
- Spread the historical story around!

SHADE

- We have a wonderful park in Central City and Shade Twp. In addition, we have a great museum. We need to be in touch better with Somerset. We're neglected here.

- Help us develop our hiking and biking trails and connect them all together.
- Incentives for Bed and Breakfast “homes”.
- Brochures to encourage white water activities on Dark Shade.
- Clean up Dark Shade by treating mine water from the four largest mine discharges on Dark Shade.
- Connect points of interest in small communities via bike trails.
- Use interest in Lincoln Highway corridor to develop information centers in small communities.
- Seek Keystone Action Zone status through PADCNr for county in Stonycreek Quemahoning initiative and trail network, recreation sites, etc.
- Encourage more acid mine drainage cleanups through interaction with private owners.
- Investigate the Ridge Rider Program-ATV sites on abandoned coal areas-through PADCNr.
- Encourage Laurel Highlands Visitor’s Bureau to promote spring skiing.

SHANKSVILLE

- Open up Rails to Trails.
- Better security at Flight 93!

ROCKWOOD

- Help existing arts/culture/history facilities to reach their potential rather than focusing on creating new/additional sites.
- Wake up people to business potentials due to trail.
- Be sure to protect the natural beauty along the trail.(2).
- Encourage entrepreneurs to develop trail support businesses – B&B, bike shops, etc.
- Agree with all above!
- How about Live, Work, Play, and Retire?

NORTH STAR

- Intern program for county residents – at the local resorts.
- Additional clean up of old mining sites (DEP?)
- Additional promotion of county waterways

WINDBER

- Don’t forget the arts! We need to promote existing facilities for example: (Arcadia Theater, Rockwood, Laurel Arts). Promoting the arts can be a factor when people are looking for a great place to live.
- Development of the Stonycreek River Corridor.
- Recreational trail development on abandoned railroads to help create a countywide trail system.
- CSX Rail line provides a key access to several tourist destinations in Somerset County.

CONEMAUGH TOWNSHIP

- Tourism Lincoln Highway/Laurel Mountain.
- Enhanced coordination of Stonycreek Quemahoning Projects in northern Somerset County with other attractions in the county, including Flight 93, Highlands Trail, etc.
- Tourism development is great except it brings many minimum wage jobs. The \$ goes to the developers.
- Develop and promote programs such as Garrett Co. Maryland has to promote agriculture related tourist efforts.

BERLIN

- Recreation area for ATV’s (2 comments).
- Senior citizen center in Berlin.
- Recreation for youth, skating rink, etc.
- Protect our ridge tops from development.
- Same along the bike and hiking trails.
- Promote the PW&S Trails.

- Protect the legacy of the past given to us for future generations. Keep our ridge tops as an undeveloped natural backdrop for the rest of the county.
- The boro needs to work with the school district. Promote activities and recreation for the youth in the community.
- Get 219 finished!!

ATTRACT THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

SOMERSET

- Identify resources in the County, retired folks, to aid and assist in educational development.
- Why not focus on attracting retired folks. Have money, no children in school, and low impact on infrastructure. Create jobs in healthcare, trades.
- Encourage youth to serve on Chamber of Commerce, family reform project, etc. for ideas.

SALISBURY

- Conduct seminars in area schools focusing on the importance of local leaders. Would be very helpful in attracting younger members of the community, as would job shadowing.

MEYERSDALE

- Make use of Retired Sr. Volunteer Program.
- Jobs!
- Young adults need more entertainment and leisure activities.
- Encourage businesses and government to provide better wages and benefits any way you can! Better paying jobs and benefits will retain young people.
- Work to engage young people in community activities.
- Encourage young people to learn about and take pride in regional history and heritage.

- Work to match education programs with economic needs and opportunities so that young people are educated and trained to fill locally available jobs and stay in area.
- Encourage people to become active in the community.

TURKEYFOOT

- Encourage youth leadership
- More youth-shadowing programs.
- Encourage volunteering.
- Educate, Educate, Educate.
- Continue to upgrade education opportunities.
- Provide local jobs for students' future. Keep some at home.
- Look at entrepreneurs—offer grants and other support. Have high school program for entrepreneurs!
- Senior businesspersons—retired—to mentor young people.
- Regional and local heritage and history—extremely important.

SHADE

- **We need to push for our share of government directed jobs.**
- Encourage graduates of Leadership Somerset County to serve on various municipal and non-profit boards.
- Support PA Free Enterprise Week.
- Educate parents, teachers, and school administrators on what jobs are available in Somerset County.

SHANKSVILLE

- Hopefully this will improve employment opportunities.
- Youth need to develop a positive outlook on Somerset County, realizing that they can have a successful future here.
- I agree!

CREATE AN IMPLEMENTATION MINDSET**ROCKWOOD**

- We need to create decent job opportunities to retain our high school graduates in Somerset County.
- Support the Chamber's Leadership program (Yes, yes!!)
- Need job placement opportunities through high school programs.
- Educate parents that four-year may not be the need and promote two-year education, trades and tech center so county has the workforce we need.

NORTH STAR

- Publish weekly or monthly articles in newspapers and websites of the positive things taking place in the small towns of our county.
- (in response to the above comment) Advertise before they happen to increase attendance.
- Create a local magazine for Somerset County to highlight people, businesses, and events as Johnstown did last year.
- Create a Youth Leadership Group for the county.

BERLIN

- Work to match educational programs with county needs. We don't necessarily want to be another Philadelphia or Baltimore.
- Develop light industries that are environmentally friendly.
- Local businesses need to continue to work with school districts to help prepare our students for good local jobs.
- Continue to work with Allegany College of Maryland and other colleges and trade schools to bring programs to the county.

SOMERSET

- Combine/reduce the number of municipal authorities. i.e. countywide watershed wide responsibilities.
- Coordinate state and federal funding priorities. There are a number of acid mine treatment systems in the county. These facilities have been constructed with state/federal/local funds. However, funds to maintain these systems are not available. Some systems are on land owned by the Somerset County Conservancy, a non-profit organization. Others are on municipal land and privately owned land. These entities could be competing for funds to maintain these systems. A countywide plan would allow the Somerset Conservation District to set priorities to maintain the system where they greatest need exists.
- I hope that you will utilize existing career link staff and county assistance office staff and knowledge. We do this daily (react to economic development.)

MEYERSDALE

- Encourage municipalities to work together for the common good of the area. i.e. Meyersdale Borough and Summit Twp.
- Continuous efforts to improve countywide water and sewer infrastructure.
- Encourage municipalities to share services more. Especially police and similar services – several govt. units sharing cost for various services
- Make for better paying jobs, attracting better employees
- Strategically allocate funds to communities throughout the county to ensure that overall, countywide opportunities and needs are addressed.
- Why have a county run like it's still 1700? Why not a central county government as found in other states (Maryland).
- Too much duplicity and effort by many school boards when purchasing food and custodial supplies.
- Delighted to see the importance of implementation and follow-up as a goal.

TURKEYFOOT

- Promote economic development throughout the whole county.
- Get young people involved.
- Close cooperation with high schools and businesses.
- Project priorities extremely important!

SHADE

- No one communicates with out area (newspapers, TV, radio).
- Particularly the county officials. There IS life north of Route 30.
- Develop a countywide partnership that meets regularly to discuss ongoing economic development initiatives.

ROCKWOOD

- Agree with economic development, but need to protect our natural resources to maintain tourism opportunities.

NORTH STAR

- Action team is a great idea – can answer questions.
- Regular communication by county to the locals to keep them abreast of the plan

CONEMAUGH TOWNSHIP

- There is a need to utilize First Industry Funds to expand, improve, and bring innovation to Somerset County Agriculture. Bedford County was the first county in Southern Alleghenies to use those programs. They have 8-scale projects in Bedford Co. ranging from beef, dairy, and apple orchards to farm vocation home development.
- Coordinated marketing such as “Just Somerset County” would be a way of marketing Somerset County milk, meat, cheese, beef, ostrich, maple products, apples, etc.

BERLIN

- Promote Somerset County as a whole – quit the infighting/competition for funds and grants – let’s work together.
- Look at the total picture when planning
- Help educate our local community on how to obtain grants to help the community.

TRANSPORTATION**SOMERSET**

- Comprehensive transportation system. With increasing population of the elderly, better public transportation is a great need.
- Interchange at 219 and 31.
- Develop an AMTRAK station in Rockwood.
- Skier train – trail system.
- Consider a cross-town bypass/connector road in Somerset from Rt. 31 and Rt. 601.
- I second the above – it could be 281 to 31 to 601.
- Develop a 219 and turnpike exit to relieve truck traffic.
- Extend airport runway to land bigger corporate planes and maybe get a connector airline.
- We need public transportation for all for job and employment.
- First impressions count!

SALISBURY

- Completion of 219 to I-68 is essential for growth, whether it be recreation or industry, etc.

MEYERSDALE

- Route 219 – Get it done!
- (2 people dittoed the above comment)

- Complete 219 – vital to the county
- Will it truly bring business or will it be a road to get from here to there (like I44 in MD)
- Should there be one or two industrial sites in southern Somerset County with 219 being (eventually) built. Meyersdale and Salisbury or just one?
- Yes, get 219 finished. It's way over due.

TURKEYFOOT

- Rt. 281 south of Somerset not designed to move traffic. Also Route 523 from Confluence. Route 40 same problem. Very few safe passing areas.
- Route 281 South of Confluence needs repaved badly.
- Need larger sign on Rt. 40, directing traffic to Confluence—tourist/visitor “friendly”
- Possible public trans system within county similar to Fayette
- Agree with above – we need public transportation and improvement in our roads.
- Award historic restoration efforts in small villages.
- Also, need larger sign directing traffic to Confluence on Rt. 40 coming from Maryland.

SHADE

- **Route 160 outdated.**
- More bicycle trails connecting communities.

SHANKSVILLE

- Comprehensive transportation system for county, which could then connect with CamTran. Many people commute from Somerset County into Cambria and vice versa.
- Completion of Rt. 219, please.

ROCKWOOD

- Land development regulations are critical.
- Route 219 completion is essential.

- Don't forget east/west routes.
- Complete 219
- AMTRAK
- AMTRAK station in Rockwood would be an asset for the entire county.

NORTH STAR

- Finish Route 219 – let's quit talking and see it actually accomplished!
- Suggestion for interchange – 219-turnpike.
- More infrastructure at 219/30 – more development needed there to draw.
- Need to continue Que pipeline and make sure it is finished.

CONEMAUGH TOWNSHIP

- Complete 219
- Public transit for communities – at least from home to Somerset, county seat.
- Agree entrance airport – if you build, they will come.
- Expand airport and lengthen runway to attract commercial business from Pittsburgh area looking for cost efficient base of operation.
- Completing 219 is the most important. It will provide a hub for businesses to be attracted to the interchange with the turnpike.
- Traffic safety Rt. 30 and 160
- Do more to enforce speed limits.
- Cut down on 4-wheeler and dirt bikes on roads.

BERLIN

- Complete Route 219
- Resurface South Street and existing streets.
- More public transportation
- Land development regulation important – control sprawl
- Rt. 219 and 31 Interchange (2 comments)
- Maintain the county roads and improve as needed.

- Would like to see a public bus system stop in the county (i.e. Greyhound)

ZONING AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCES

SOMERSET

- Zoning throughout the county or at the very least, in developing or potentially developing areas.
- Route 31 development future zoning.
- Develop zoning to control signage and standardize sign sizes and placement.
- Develop zoning plans to provide side road access to strip malls with better roads to eliminate the need for multiple traffic lights.
- Consider a system to buy development rights to prevent rural land development.
- Require builders to contribute to infrastructure and recreation funds.
- Route 31 West will develop quickly with sewage system going in. We must act now!
- The highest growth areas of the county are along the ridgelines with scattered site and residential subsidiaries. This area is beyond most planning and zoning districts.
- Amen!

MEYERSDALE

- Zoning laws are only good if enforced.
- Don't lose the natural beauty – balance.
- Emphasize incentives to comply with overall plan and don't assist or support companies that don't comply!
- Protect the county's natural and rural features with easements, zoning, buffer purchase, and whatever means is appropriate for the situation.
- We need zoning and we need it enforced.

TURKEYFOOT

- As the busiest community in county, Somerset Township needs to show some leadership in intelligent zoning—it's close to looking like Donegal.
- Provide educational opportunities for intelligent zoning to control future 'smart' growth.
- Protect historic areas with ordinances and zoning.
- Incentive programs for zoning – great idea!

SHANKSVILLE

- **Keep Somerset County beautiful**
- Land use ordinance need to be a high priority. Zoning is the only way to preserve the unique attributes of Somerset County. We need to pro-actively plan for the future, rather than allowing the future to be determined for us by others. The county should assist and encourage municipalities to initiate planning.
- No – on the comment to “tax” builders for infrastructure and recreation funds – already in place. They are called property taxes.

ROCKWOOD

- Protect the natural landscape along the Great Allegheny Passage, ensuring Somerset County's place as the jewel of the rail trail in North America.
- Agree!

NORTH STAR

- Assist other municipalities in developing zoning rules

WINDBER

- Alternative transportation should be developed to provide access to Flight 93 Memorial. Extending rail line to site from CSX track would materially reduce traffic impact on existing road system. Some of the cost savings on road construction

could be diverted to rail construction. Environmental impact would also be minimized. Rail line would also channel tourists to Somerset Borough and other Somerset County communities thereby enhancing economic development opportunities.

CONEMAUGH TOWNSHIP

- Don't allow communities to become strip commercial areas- don't develop another Richland business section. Need foresight in zoning regulations.
- Zoning and land should be done to preserve agriculture in Somerset County. A 100 dairy cow herd brings in \$265,250 a year but because dairy farms purchase locally, a 100-cow dairy herd has a \$663,150 local economic impact.
- Parenting nuisance ordinances will help promote agriculture.

BERLIN

- Protect existing watersheds, don't take water for granted!
- Keep the water in the watershed – no intrabasin transfers
- Protect our natural resources; the countryside is what brings people in. Zoning is ok.
- Consider erosion and sedimentation when developing zoning laws.
- Protect our natural resources, water, and air.
- Take the initiative to protect the ridge tops from development intrusive to the scenic beauty of the county.
- Establish a "wind production zone" off the main ridge tops for all future wind development.
- Require cell companies to share towers to get the best coverage with least number of towers.
- Consider zoning now vs. the future when planning is already limited by haphazard development.

CREATE A MODERN UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM

SOMERSET

- We should integrate a program to rehabilitate polluted waters, acid mine drainage, etc., with any water development plans.
- Sewage system for Bakersville area.
- Quemahoning water supply is a product of good planning and forward thinking.
- High speed Internet connections will enhance development and keep young people in the county more than anything else. We could do it. It is the future.

SALISBURY

- County water supplies—we should integrate a program to rehabilitate polluted waters, acid drainage, etc, with any water development plans.

MEYERSDALE

- High speed internet via electrical lines (Somerset REC).
- Cell phone coverage in Trent/Camp Soles area.
- Cell phone coverage in Southern Somerset County.
- Sounds good – working together and combining small systems is a great idea – for services such as police protection also!
- Yes, get rid of the mine acid drainage in Meyersdale.

TURKEYFOOT

- **Cell phone coverage Confluence and Trail areas.**
- High speed Internet through fiber, which would also give the ability to deliver television and phone service.
- Push Act 537 in the zip code 154 area.
- County water supplies plan should be one of the first items addressed.
- Better management of Yough Dam outflow – power co./water quality and temperature

- Upgrade cell phone and Internet services.
- Improve water supply systems for future growth.
- Upgrade our phone systems – it's antiquated!
- Encourage public water and sewage systems.
- Cell phone service.
- Upgrade cell phone and Internet service.
- Website information spread to attract tourism.

SHADE

- Cell phone service!!!
- Communicate with municipalities other than e-mail.
- Ambulance service – station in township or borough.
- Water grants – Shade Township – extend water lines.
- Upgrade Internet service.
- Upgrade Internet and cell phone service.

SHANKSVILLE

- Agree with the coordination of the Act 537, especially for the smaller municipalities.
- Need broadband Internet access in rural areas of the county.

ROCKWOOD

- The Rockwood Area needs cell phone service.
- Cell phone service along full length of the Great Allegheny Passage.
- High-speed Internet access and cell phone access.

NORTH STAR

- Ensure sufficient water supply and sewage development to allow each community to grow and develop.
- Verizon to live up to promise of DSL Line computers for business.
- We like the Que Line – build soon.
- Better signage/directions to attractions in the area.

WINDBER

- **Don't forget rail infrastructure!**
- Affordable high-speed Internet access.
- North end of county (Paint Twp.) needs professional leadership to extend sewer system.
- Paint Twp. Sewage system needed for future development.

CONEMAUGH TOWNSHIP

- Complete infrastructure to enable industries to build manufacturing facilities.
- Work to complete sewage facilities in all communities.
- CTMA should buy their water from Somerset County not Cambria County. Keep it in the county. Bill Schrock, Ogle Township
- Encourage development of utilities for growth of future Paint Township –Windber/Industrial Park.

BERLIN

- Protect watersheds – no interbasin water transfers.
- Bakersville needs its own sewage system.
- Coordinate AMD with water quality – personal company use and recreational.
- Broadband and high speed Internet important for county.
- **Protect watersheds and improve acid mine drainage.**
- Promote better utilization of Quemahoning water supply, use this water to reduce withdrawals from Laurel Hill Creek watershed.
- Continue to monitor local coal operators so they aren't damaging our water supplies.

CREATE A COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**SOMERSET**

- Penalize owners of rundown properties.
- Work to screen junk car lots.
- Identify community strengths and find ways to capitalize on their strengths i.e. river front locations.
- Keep green spaces – limit windmills.
- Great need for single-family condo-type units for our aging baby boomers.

MEYERSDALE

- Windmills are clean energy. Do not limit their use.
- Meyersdale has started. We have to complete our development. We really are at a crossroad.
- Emphasize redevelopment and improved live-ability of our towns and villages while retaining the area's rural character.
- Assist communities that are trying to initiate redevelopment efforts. Many of the same issues, barriers, and challenges need to be addressed (Ex. Blighted properties, underutilized buildings, etc.)
- Would be helpful if countywide guidance, examples, and support were available.
- Why is Garrett County growing and Somerset seems to be left in the dust?
- Consider cluster communities to prevent urban sprawl.
- Limit business sprawl.

TURKEYFOOT

- **Health services – 25 miles from closest emergency facilities.**
- Full time medical staff due to bike trail, residences, personal care homes, and majority of population being elderly.
- Provide funding avenues for Confluence Park and Borough projects.

- Have interested citizens assist with ideas.
- Revise Confluence Park – make more 'user friendly'.

SHANKSVILLE

- **I need grant writing support! – Jill Durant, Director, Next Step**
- Balance Somerset Boro sprawl with jobs. Try to reuse buildings/strip mall areas before building outward. Redevelop the center of towns.
- Make sure the right process/permits are in place before Flight 93 growth takes hold. I live here for the rural setting.
- County government should buy local when possible, including computer equipment and security products. This would encourage local business development.
- Be sure the community here is totally aware and involved in the Flight 93 project decision process.

NORTH STAR

- Tax breaks for refurbishing existing properties/homes vs. buying or building new—keeping the open spaces open.
- Grant writing support.
- Allow for the development of the unused land around 219 and Route 30.
- Planning assistance to improve national historic district.
- The "support" has to be hands on – they will not go to a meeting; you need to go to them (grant writing support).

WINDBER

- Development of the existing railroad infrastructure under local management and control would serve as an effective catalyst toward achieving these community goals.

CONEMAUGH TOWNSHIP

- There should be an appreciation for present business in Somerset County such as agriculture which presently brings

in \$5.6 million in income. The dairy industry generates \$44 million/year. The beef industry brings in almost \$10 million/year.

- Agriculture would benefit from business planning to grow, improve, and stimulate innovation in present enterprises.
- Apply for funds to eliminate blighted buildings.

BERLIN

- Tax breaks for refurbishing existing building.
- Control sprawl – don't let development proceed without some guides – keep our open areas.
- Promote "downtown" enterprises; encourage clumped commercial development vs. sprawl. Bond new development on previous agricultural or open land so it can be restored to its previous state if desired.
- Encourage establishment of historic districts – make the county's towns and villages a destination for travelers.
- County's towns and villages a destination for travelers.
- We need to find ways to help small businesses open and stay open in our community.

DEVELOP A MARKET RATE HOUSING PROGRAM

SOMERSET

- Create plans that link residential areas in small towns with walking/bike trails.
- Need 1-level housing condos-not like existing senior centers-but modern units for those retiring or wishing to live here part of the year. Few can afford \$300,000 at Seven Springs or Hidden Valley.
- Thanks for letting us share comments!

MEYERSDALE

- Utilize in-borough sites. Don't put everything out of town. Create greenways within boroughs.

- Still eyesores that need to be eliminated or cleaned up.
- Keep housing unit developments small and dispersed!
- Promote regulations that allow and encourage mixed-use, integrated development.
- Promote the benefits of "downtown" living.
- Get the bike trail finished and keep it clean.

TURKEYFOOT

- Clean up eyesores.
- Provide funding to renovate historical structures and assist local historical societies.
- Help C.O.G with condemned property action.
- Encourage clean up of properties on Oden St. One house 'out of control'. Provide funding to make houses attractive to visitors coming to Confluence.
- Financing important to save historic structures.

SHADE

- Remember the needs of the senior citizens. Housing is needed that will accommodate their capabilities.
- Penalize owners of rundown properties. Don't allow them to purchase additional properties at sheriff sale.
- Encourage more judicial sales on tax delinquent properties that can be recycled into new housing sites.

SHANKSVILLE

- Affordable housing very necessary.
- Agree. Senior housing, one level, assist and unassisted, 1-2 bedroom, cluster types with support nearby—medical help with transportation. Look into state supported subsidized options, but not restrict to low income only.
- Keeping our historical things to our past!

ROCKWOOD

- Don't abandon older homes. Create a rehab program.

NORTH STAR

- Convert Kircher Place Housing Authority to a retirement community.
- Target housing to "turn key" housing – townhouses/condos.

WINDBER

- Use these identified strategies to help curb urban sprawl.
- Consider more buildings like the Que. Tower Housing located in the center of Somerset County towns to keep the population centers closer to the downtown areas.

CONEMAUGH

- Mix used housing is great – but don't we then need good public transit?
- No new building, no subsidized housing. There are plenty of beautiful homes (older) and farms that are very fairly priced all over the county within 20-30 minutes of the town of Somerset. Bill Schrock.
- Fix up the old, We don't need anything new. Subsidized housing brings in the wrong folks.

BERLIN

- **More apartment buildings for elderly and low-income people.**
- Senior housing – 1 level, greenways, affordable.
- More affordable housing for middle income.
- Young families just starting out.

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Appendix f | Geographic Information Systems Maps

Somerset County Comprehensive Plan



