

Exit Survey Summary

107 people attended the town hall and 54 people returned a survey (51% of attendees)

Attendees were asked to note how they learned of the meeting

- 20 (35%) - read about it in a newspaper
- 14 (25%) - saw a Flyer / Poster
- 11 (19%) - heard about it from a friend
- 12 (21%) - Other

Attendees were asked how effective the open house was to help them understand the planning study

- 26 (48%) - thought it was very effective
- 25 (46%) - thought it was somewhat effective
- 3 (5.6%) - that it was not effective

Attendees were asked how the open house could be improved

- Not conducive to audience, more specific information needed with accurate maps
- Earlier notification to local businesses and residents
- More discussion, less reading
- State objectives of the study at the beginning of the meeting

Attendees were asked if they lived in Jefferson or Somerset Townships or another municipality

It is important to note that most respondents answered yes to this question and did not list which municipality they lived in.

- 28 (68%) - Jefferson Township
- 9 (22%) - Somerset Township
- 1 (2.4%) - Milford Township
- 2 (5%) - Somerset Borough
- 1 (2.4%) - Donegal Township

Attendees were asked how their property was currently being used

- 42 (70%) - Residential
- 11 (18%) - Business (retail, medical, lumber company, gymnastics, construction, winery, trout farm)
- 6 (10%) - Recreation (Hidden Valley, State Park, hunting, fee fishing, resort, camping)
- 1 (2%) - Other (farm)



Attendees were asked how long they have owned this particular property

- 7 (13%) - One to five years
- 9 (18%) - Six to ten years
- 35 (69%) - more than ten years

Attendees were asked if they thought the corridor was visually appealing and how they would like to see it improved

Most respondents felt the corridor was visually appealing, but felt that specific areas within the corridor were unattractive due to sporadic development and sign clutter. Improvements listed include:

- Preserve farmland
- Provide riparian corridors
- Landscaping (specifically noted was at the quarry)
- Setbacks
- Less signs
- Pride of ownership

Attendees were asked if there were historic and/or natural assets along the Corridor that should be protected

The majority of respondents felt the views of Laurel Ridge, farmland, and barns should be protected. Other assets include:

- Laurel Hill, Kooser, and Laurel Ridge State Parks
- Forbes State Forest
- Hunting Areas
- Trails within State Parks and State Forest
- Campsites
- Preserve the water supply at Shaffer Run
- Kooser Run
- Laurel Hill Watershed
- Water Supply
- Wetlands
- Glades Pike Inn
- Pioneer Park
- Samuels Church
- Glades Pike (the road has significant history)
- Small communities (Bakersville and Lavansville)

Attendees were asked if there were locations that should be preserved as scenic views

Most of the respondents felt that the entire State Route 31 West Corridor should be preserved for its scenic views. Specific locations noted include:

- The portion of SR 31 from Laurel Mountain Inn to Hidden Valley
- Views from Glades Pike Inn and Glades Pike Winery
- The portion of SR 31 from Coxes Creek to Lavansville
- Areas of the former wildlife preserve
- Views from the village of Bakersville
- Jimtown Road

Attendees were asked to identify specific locations on State Route 31 West that pose accident and safety problems

Specific intersections noted include:

- SR 31/Gardner Road
- SR 31/Trent Road
- SR 31/Kimmel Road
- SR 31/Jimtown Road
- SR 31/Gardner/ Short School House Road
- SR 31/Bakersville intersection at CoGo's

Portions of the corridor noted include:

- SR 31 from Marteeny Road to Lavansville
- SR 31 from the Somerset Borough line to Coxes Creek
- Commercial area on SR 31 near Somerset Borough line
- SR 31 from the Summit to Kooser State Park
- Blind spots on SR 31 near Laurel Mountain Inn
- SR 31 near the Route 31 Board and Ski Shop
- Hidden Valley entrance
- Quarry entrance
- Passing zone in front of Kooser State Park and Oakhurst Tea Room

Other issues noted include:

- Speed limit in Bakersville is too high
- Bridge on Mt. Zion Road needs to be replaced
- Open parking lots at various commercial business on SR 31 are dangerous
- Snowdrifts on SR 31 near Trent Road
- Blind curves with passing zones
- Truck lane needed on the mountain



Attendees were asked if heavy trucks pose a problem on the corridor

- 48 (94%) - Yes (Speed, noise, dust, dirt, they can't stop fast enough due to speed, some are over the weight limit, stopped school buses in danger of being hit by speeding trucks)
- 3 (5.9%) - No

Attendees were asked if they could make one transportation improvement along the corridor what would it be

- Lower speed limit
- Limit truck traffic
- Intersection of SR 31 at Bakersville near CoGo's access
- Add bike lanes
- Speed enforcement
- Remove passing lanes
- Add bike lane along SR 31
- Turn lane at Jimtown Road
- Slow traffic near Bakersville
- Replace bridge on Mt. Zion
- Stop signs on Bakersville-Edie Road and Short School Road
- Install traffic light at the commercial section of SR 31 near Somerset Borough line
- Install caution lights in Bakersville
- Lower truck speed limit
- Add turning lanes throughout SR 31 corridor

Attendees were asked if they bike/walk along the corridor

- 9 (18%) - Yes (Beautiful views, good access)
- 42 (82%) - No (Dangerous, too much traffic, fast speeds, berms not maintained)

Some respondents added that they would bike/walk if there was a bike lane or walking path.

Attendees were asked if the signage used to identify businesses, roadways, and tourist attractions along the corridor are adequate

Most respondents felt that the signage was adequate but confusing to visitors. Others felt that signs should be uniform and blend in with the character of the area. Most agreed that there are too many signs and billboards along the corridor. Also of concern is the bright lights on signs located next to residential homes.

Attendees were asked what they would like the corridor to look like 10 to 20 years from now and what are the threats or challenges to making that happen

The majority of respondents would like the corridor to stay the same. Threats noted include:

- Lack of planning
- Tacky development
- Signage
- Congestion and traffic
- Commercial development
- Property maintenance
- Windmills on Laurel Ridge

Attendees were asked if they were in favor of adopting land use regulations, specifically zoning

- 45 (94%) - Yes
- 3 (6%) - No (Should not be told how to live)

Overwhelmingly, the respondents are in favor of zoning, but with education and landowner input. Respondents believe zoning will keep the rural appeal of the corridor, maintain a pleasing environment and protect the natural beauty and avoid a SR 601 situation. Regulations that are desired include billboard and sign regulations and access management ordinances.

Other Comments

- Do not deplete the Shaffer Run water supply for future development
- Laurel Hill Creek can not afford to loose any water
- Need water from the Quemahoning Pipeline
- Control unchecked and unsustainable development
- Increased sedimentation is a problem
- Trees are needed along SR 31
- Businesses should maintain a mountain/rustic feel
- Direct commercial development in Bakersville
- Keep businesses at the end of the corridor near Somerset Borough



Town Hall Meeting Comments

The following comments were taken from meeting attendees at the various stations.

Land Use Identification Station

Attendees were asked what type of development they would like to see along the corridor over the next 10 to 20 years. Colored dots were used to identify areas for preservation (green), low-density residential (yellow), medium-density residential (orange), and commercial (red).

Most attendees want the SR 31 Corridor preserved for future generations. Green dots were placed all along the Corridor, specifically around Kooser, Laurel Ridge, Laurel Hill State Parks and Forbes State Forest. Other locations include areas near Laurel Hill Creek, Jimtown Road, Trent Road, and around the village of Lavansville. Most attendees want commercial development centered around Bakersville and near the Somerset Township/Somerset Borough municipal border. Medium-density residential development is desired in a few locations in the village of Bakersville. Comments from attendees at this station include:

- No more development, keep it rural
- Preserve agricultural and hunting lands
- Clean up commercial uses
- Protect viewshed-especially the Laurel Ridge
- No commercial windmills
- Would like to see the corridor remain “as is”
- Do not want the corridor to look like “Deep Creek” area
- Use green building technology (impervious surfaces, groundwater recharge)
- Keep like uses together, avoid spot development
- Developers should be required to provide money to create trails and parks
- Must use sustainable development
- Impact fees for recreation
- Do not want SR 31 to look like SR 601
- Possible hotel development across from Laurel Mountain Inn if sewerage is extended
- Preserve scenic vistas on SR 31 from Windsor to Marteeny Roads

Issue Identification Station

Attendees were asked to identify transportation issues and concerns along the SR 31 Corridor as well as existing historic and environmental assets that should be preserved. The following issues, concerns, and assets were noted:

Transportation

- Truck traffic and speeding is a problem
- Speed limit needs to be lowered in Bakersville – speeding is a problem
- Add turning lanes where needed
- Limit road cuts-use connector roads between developments
- Parallel access roads connecting businesses are needed
- Lack of signing on SR 31 at the crossing of the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail
- New Enterprise entrance is dangerous due to trucks leaving/entering
- Hidden Valley entrance is dangerous
- Water on SR 31 freezes at the entrance of New Enterprise
- Passing zone near Kooser State Park is dangerous
- Blind curve near Laurel Mountain Inn
- Replacing bridge on Mt. Zion should be priority
- Intersection in Bakersville near CoGo's is dangerous
- 2 lanes needed on Trent Road for turning
- Fog lays in the valley near Trent Road, people don't stop at stop sign, need lights on the stop sign
- Speeding near the Somerset Township/Somerset Borough line
- Snowdrifts on SR 31
- Bad sight distance on Kimmel Road
- Oakhurst Tea Room's parking lot has poor access
- Passing lane near Oakhurst is dangerous
- Turning on SR 31 from Laurel Run Road is dangerous
- Bad sight distance at SR 31/ Samuels Road/ Sportsmen Road

Historic

- Samuels Church
- Glades Pike Inn

Environmental

- Sewage should not be piped out-groundwater recharge
- Concerned with the amount of water taken from Laurel Hill Creek Watershed



- Net loss to Laurel Hill Creek because sewage goes out through Coxes Creek Watershed
- Riparian corridors along streams are needed
- Distinguish between new sewage and water loss (Laurel Hill Creek is losing water and Coxes Creek is gaining surface water)
- Laurel Hill Creek is a classic coldwater trout stream of exceptional value
- Cross county skiing and hiking is an asset
- Preserve Bakersville Community Grove
- Hike and bike road-logging railroad potential
- Mining operation is an eyesore, impacts watershed, invasive plant introduction
- Gas well mining is a major concern from water use, chemical introduction from fracking
- A SWM plan is needed for Laurel Hill Creek
- Increased snow making at resorts is leading to loss of water in watershed
- Wells on Jimtown Road are drying up
- Crise Run in Jefferson Township needs to be protected
- Scenic views by Bakersville need to be protected

Attendees were also shown an existing water and sewerage map with proposed extensions. They were asked to place a dot to show where they live in the corridor. It is important to note that everyone did not place a dot where they lived.

- 32 along SR 31 in the Project Corridor
- 14 in Bakersville
- 8 in Hidden Valley
- 4 near Trent Road and Laurel Hill State Park
- 3 on Kuhntown Road
- 2 on Gardner Road
- 2 White Oak Road
- 2 on Coxes Creek Road
- 1 on Tunnel Road
- 1 in Donegal Township
- 1 on Jimtown Road
- 1 on Stahl Road
- 1 on Shaffer Run Road
- 1 on Duck Pond Road
- 1 off of SR 281 South in Somerset Township

The following comments were given concerning existing and proposed water and sewerage:

- Public water extensions are a concern because of using groundwater and wells for public water and drying up other residents wells
- Public water is needed along the corridor
- No sewerage or water on Kuhntown Road
- Glades Pike Winery wants sewage

Land Use Management Station

Attendees were asked how they felt about land use controls such as zoning and what they liked or disliked about zoning.

Most attendees were in favor of zoning and provided the following comments:

- Less billboards
- Signage should be attractive with regulations on size
- Limit signing and billboards
- Need trees and other landscaping to screen residential from commercial uses
- Architectural guidelines for building appearance
- Need property maintenance regulations
- Require regulations on abandoned cars and junk
- Tree buffer zones between commercial residential and SR 31