



# Cumberland County Planning Commission

## 2020 Annual Report

Cumberland County Planning Commission  
310 Allen Road  
Carlisle, PA 17013  
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## ABOUT US

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 meets the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 a.m. at 310 Allen Road, Conference Room B, Carlisle, PA.

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:

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

## CCPC 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.

## CCPC 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.

### 2020 CCPC Members

James D. Ross, Chairman  
Robert Fisher, PLS, PE Vice-Chairman  
Heather Sweitzer  
Jack Showley, DDS\*  
Ed Franco  
Brenda Landis  
Tim Johnson  
George Tyson  
Joseph Zume  
Jean Foschi, Commissioner Liaison

### 2020 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  
Melissa Piper Nelson\*\*, Planning Technician  
Barbara Sue Hershey, Office Manager

*\*Deceased September 2020*

*\*\*Retired March 2020*

## 2020 IN REVIEW

The Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan guides all activities of the CCPC. The plan is organized around three key themes; conserve, grow and connect. Highlights of the CCPC's 2020 accomplishments in each theme area are summarized below.

### CONSERVE

- ✓ **Cumberland County Clean Water Action Plan (CAP)** – Working in conjunction with the Cumberland County Conservation District, the CCPD successfully developed the first ever CAP. The CAP identifies best management practices that are required to achieve pollutant reduction loadings by 2025 to local streams and the Chesapeake Bay as required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The CCPD led a robust outreach effort that included municipalities, watershed groups, farmers and conservation organizations to help identify and pursue BMPs with the greatest pollutant reduction potential. DEP provided the county with a \$390,000 grant to jump start implementation efforts of the plan that will be evaluated annually to identify updated priorities.
- ✓ **Hazard Mitigation Plan** – The CCPD secured approval of the Cumberland County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in December. The HMP evaluates the natural and manmade hazards facing the county through a structured planning process and identifies project and policy recommendations that will limit the loss of life and property from hazard events. The plan is updated every 5 years and is required to secure certain types of federal pre-disaster mitigation funding. The updated, completed using CCPD and Department of Public Safety staff, received commendations from FEMA for its quality.



- ✓ **Land Partnerships** – The Land Partnerships Grant Program provides financial assistance to municipal and nonprofit stakeholders to complete parks, trails and greenways projects' that are consistent with the Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan. Subsidized using Act 13 Marcellus Shale Legacy Funds, Land Partnerships provided \$247,616 for 11 projects in 2020. Implementation of those projects enables the county to achieve its conservation goals through partnerships with other stakeholder organizations.
- ✓ **Climate Change** – Cumberland County was one of nearly 20 communities statewide accepted into the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Local Climate Action Planning (LCAP) cohort for 2020. The County partnered with faculty and students from Dickinson College and Shippensburg University to complete a greenhouse gas inventory in 2020. Building on that work, the CCPD will be working with a variety of residential, commercial, institutional, private sector and governmental organizations over the course of 2021 to complete a Climate Action Plan (CAP) that will include voluntary objectives and actions for reducing GHG emissions. CCPD partnered with South Mountain Partnership, Dickinson College, Shippensburg University Center for Land Use and Sustainability, Cumberland Conservation Collaborative, and others to provide a three part Climate Action Series on climate planning and mitigation strategies via Zoom in 2020.

# 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 235 MPC required reviews in 2020, the third highest number of reviews over the past 11 years. 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 assisted our municipal partners on three zoning ordinance updates and four comprehensive plans in 2020. The updated plans reflect current planning practices and are consistent with the Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan.



✓ **Fighting Blight** – The CCPD partnered with the Cumberland Area Economic Development Corporation (CAEDC) and the Cumberland County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (CCHRA) to launch the county’s blight revitalization strategy. The strategy identifies nearly 100 blighted properties in the county and establishes an organizational and operational blueprint for how county and private sector funding can be leveraged to demolish and redevelop those properties. The County Commissioners approved a \$15 fee on mortgage and deed recordings that will be leverage state grant sources and allow the program to quickly see progress in 2021.

✓ **COVID-19 Relief** –The CCPD was appointed to the County’s Renew Cumberland Task Force that guided the distribution of \$29 million in federal COVID-19 relief funding to businesses, local governments, and nonprofit organizations. The funding helped to offset the economic hardships created by the pandemic. The CCPC led the application, review, award, and compliance activities for 34 local government grants valued at over \$1.2 million.

✓ **Housing Affordability** – In partnership with CAEDC, CCHRA, and Shippensburg University, the CCPD completed an evaluation of housing affordability in the county. The study identified the factors affecting the cost of housing in the county and an action plan to address those issues. With the goal of making housing affordable to all income levels, the CCPD will work with CAEDC’s workforce housing task force in 2021 to further evaluate and pursue implementation of priority recommendations from the study.



# CONNECT

✓ **County Bridge Program** – CCPD staff continued implementation of the County Bridge Capital Improvement Program. The County completed the \$5 million replacement for Orrs Bridge in Hampden Township and the \$3.2 million Wolf Bridge replacement project in Middlesex Township. Construction work began on for Kunkle Bridge in South Middleton Township and Sample Bridge in Silver Spring Township. Collectively, these 4 projects represent over \$13 million of bridge replacement projects.



✓ **Virtual Meetings** – The COVID-19 pandemic forced the CCPC to use virtual meetings in 2020 in lieu of in person meetings to connect with residents and stakeholder organizations. Using the Zoom platform, the CCPC conducted its meetings virtually and actively discussed agenda items with applicants and residents. Virtual training sessions hosted by the CCPD staff focusing on wireless communication facilities and subdivision plan review were attended by over 50 people.



✓ **Transit Regionalization** – Cumberland County continued its transit regionalization efforts with Dauphin, York, Adams, and Franklin Counties. The Boards of Directors for Capital Area Transit (CAT) and the Central Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (CPTA) formed a regionalization committee that developed draft articles of agreement and an organizational structure for a new merged organization, the Susquehanna Regional Transportation Authority (SRTA). With approval from the participating counties, SRTA could become operational in mid-2021.

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### In Memory...

The CCPC mourned the loss of one of its beloved members, Dr. Jack Showley, in September of 2020. Jack tirelessly served the County on the CCPC for 8 years. The CCPC shares its condolences with the Showley family and thanks them for Jack's years of service.

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## 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 Page](#)