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COMMUNITY CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Need for Goals and Objectives

Any community planning effort by its very nature must include goals. Without goals there would be little direction to the future of the community. In the case of planning for a residential/recreational community such as Porter Township, goals establish the framework for change and growth management, and the foundation for maintaining key community characteristics. Goals pronounce the community's expectations and provide a vision of how the community plans to evolve into the future. Objectives are specific actions which are designed to achieve goals and satisfy community needs. Making decisions based on planning goals and attaining specific objectives improves the physical condition of the community and sustains and enhances the overall quality of life.

Shared Vision - Every successful business, organization, or individual has a plan for the future. Communities are no different. If nothing else, a community needs to agree on a shared vision of what it wants to become. This vision should address the full range of local concerns: schools, housing, economic development, neighborhoods, parks and open space. Creating a shared vision is important because it provides a blueprint for the future of the community. People may differ on how to achieve the community's vision, but without a blueprint nothing will happen.

Source: Balancing Nature and Commerce in Gateway Communities, Howe, J., McMahon, and Propst, L., Island press, Wash., D.C., 1997, p. 48.

Community Balance

Rural communities and residents of rural communities are characteristically unique from their more urban counterparts, and have the opportunity to directly mold their communities. The same can be said for the Township which is clearly a rural community in transition. *The rural community is seen as the conservator of its own resources, habitat, and culture. Local citizens are directly involved in the control of community assets as they plan for the retention, enrichment, and equitable use of those assets for present and future generations.*

*Along with the community's goals, specific objectives must be identified; actions and methods for achieving the goals. Some objectives will be the direct responsibility of local elected and appointed officials. Others will require the cooperation and participation of other levels of government and the private sector.*¹

The goals of all residents of the community will not be the same. Some residents will demand community conservation and environmental protection while other residents will favor increased economic development. Some residents will demand more community facilities and services, while others prefer lower taxes. Some residents will strive for land use diversity while others would prefer to live in a residential community. One function of the community planning process is to strike a balance between these varied expectations and develop a shared vision to meet the overall goals of the community.

County Planning and Area Wide Planning

A key factor in formulating a set of local goals and objectives is the planning conducted at the county level. Typically, a county-wide comprehensive plan establishes a broad framework for the future growth and development of the county. As mandated by the Pennsylvania Municipalities



¹ P. Lusk, J. A. Rivera, F. O. Sargent, M. Varela, (1991) *Rural Environmental Planning for Sustainable Communities*, Island press, Washington, D. C., p. 5

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Planning Code (MPC), the Pike County Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners adopted the first county-wide comprehensive plan in 1993, and adopted an updated plan in 2006. The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code §301.4, states *municipal comprehensive plans which are adopted shall be generally consistent with the adopted county comprehensive plan*. This *Porter Township Comprehensive Plan* should strive to maintain consistency with the recommendations of the *Pike County Comprehensive Plan* to the extent that the *County Plan* is not untenable in terms of the key provisions of the *Plan*.

Another test of consistency for this plan will be addressed in terms of the plans of neighboring municipalities along with the plans of other public entities and community organizations providing community facilities and services and dealing with growth and development issues. The East Stroudsburg School District is a good example of such an entity.

A Guide and Policy Statement

This *Comprehensive Plan* is intended to serve as a means of addressing the future growth and development of the Township by identifying key issues and establishing goals and objectives. The community planning process is also aimed at fostering cooperation between Pike County and the Township as envisioned by §306 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code which states, *both the county and the municipality shall each give the plan of the other consideration in order that the objectives of each plan can be protected to the greatest extent possible*.

The following goals and objectives were developed by local officials based on the planning process. The goals and objectives are intended to serve the Township as a guide and policy statement for land use management and community facilities and services decision making. Any significant action taken by a local municipality, be it the adoption of a zoning ordinance amendment or the improvement of a municipal building, should be evaluated in terms of the community's goals and objectives. In addition, community planning and land conservation and development management is an on-going process, and the Township must periodically evaluate the goals and objectives to ensure that they adequately reflect current community conditions and the expectations of residents and officials.

General Community Development Objectives

This statement of the General Community Development Objectives is intended to set the overall tone for the *Comprehensive Plan* and its implementation. More detailed goals and specific objectives for particular aspects of the community follow in a later section.

Cooperation - To use the comprehensive planning process to explore the potential for cooperation between the Township and other municipalities and the County on growth and development issues of area wide concern.

Internal Coordination - To strive for coordination between policies, plans, and programs in the community through cooperation among governing officials, appointed boards, community interest groups, and residents.

Public Information - Achieve greater awareness, understanding and participation of residents with the recommendations in the *Comprehensive Plan* via an active public information process with such methods as a web site, newsletter, and public meetings.

Use of Land - To achieve the best use of the land within the while allowing for

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reasonable residential and commercial development. The focus will be on the preservation the environment and open space. This will ensure that the varying uses of land will complement one another and thus improve the economic, social, and aesthetic character of the overall community.

Range of Land Uses - To allow a range of residential and commercial uses at appropriate locations and establish performance standards through zoning to ensure that such uses do not unduly affect adjoining properties or the public health, safety and general welfare and are consistent with the historic and gateway character of the communities.

Population Density - To establish realistic population densities in order to ensure health standards, privacy and open space and in order to allow for the provision of community facilities and services in the most convenient and efficient manner.

Streets and Roads - To maintain and improve the street and road system for better internal circulation and to protect residential neighborhoods from through traffic.

Facilities and Services - To provide the necessary community facilities and services to meet the needs of increased development and the increasing and changing population.

Environmental Protection - To guide the location of future development and establish performance standards to minimize negative impacts (*externalities*) on the natural and community environment.

Housing - To provide the opportunity for a wide-range and variety of housing types at reasonable densities to meet the needs of all residents; newly-formed households, growing families and senior citizens.

Economic Development - To provide, within the context of overall community conservation, the opportunity for local business and strengthen the area economy by encouraging well-planned commercial, industrial, residential, and recreational growth which will provide for local employment, shopping facilities, and recreational opportunities which in turn will strengthen the local tax base.

Monitoring - To update and revise planning goals and objectives, and the operational tools necessary for implementation, in light of new data and changing conditions, and to meet a changing population, both current and new residents, in concert with maintaining small town character and quality environment

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GOAL 1**

Maintain the Township's existing rural-woodland character and quality lifestyle; and, conserve open land and forest land as important elements of the local recreation-tourism based economy.

The Township's physical environment, regional location and past development practices have shaped and maintained its character as a rural-woodland community with limited commercial development. Aside from recreation and tourism, timber harvesting continues to be the primary economic activity associated with the expanse of woodland in the Township. Agriculture has never played an important economic role in the Township and there are now no active farms.

Open land was the cornerstone of the foundation of the area when its earliest settlers arrived, and has played a key role in the growth and development of the Township. Without this open land and the natural resources it offered the character of the Township would be dramatically different. Maintaining open land and the quality lifestyle associated with it is key to the future of the area. The large privately owned parcels of land, the extensive participation of the owners of those properties in the Act 319 Clean and Green preferential assessment program, and the few residential subdivisions clearly document the importance of forestry and open land in general as an element of the Township's existing character, and future expectations for land conservation. Porter Township is perceived as an attractive community offering a high quality of life. Future development must be controlled and managed with an overriding concern to sustain the Township's community character.

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OBJECTIVES:**Open Land and Rural Character****Preserve and conserve forest land, open space, significant natural features and sensitive land areas to maintain rural character.**

- Important Areas - Identify and prioritize areas important for preservation.
- Connections - Form a connected network of open space to facilitate natural resource and habitat protection and passive recreational opportunities (e.g., trail networks) with particular attention to connection with public lands.
- Innovative Conservation Methods - Evaluate more progressive means of open land preservation including purchase of conservation easements and transferable development rights, especially in cooperation with the Pike County office of Community Planning and the Scenic Rural Character Preservation Board, and conservancy and land trust organizations.
- Conservation Design - Consider requiring the use of *conservation subdivision design* to cluster residential development away from important natural, historic, scenic and cultural features, and preserve the resulting open space.
- Clean and Green - Encourage continued use of Act 319 *Clean and Green* as a means of forestalling development.

Note About Open Space

The preservation of open space is a common thread of this *Comprehensive Plan*. Open space is land which has not been developed for a constructive or productive use and is intended for environmental and natural resource protection, scenic, or recreational purposes. Open space may include, for example, woodland, wetlands, watercourses, reverting farmland, and floodplain. In the case of a development project, open space may include passive recreation areas such as ballfields, lawns and buffer areas. Agricultural land is certainly open land, but not truly open space because it is in fact highly developed for crop and livestock production.

DRAFT**Commercial Uses****Ensure consistency of commercial uses with existing community character.**

- Performance Standards - Apply zoning performance standards to address noise, lighting, outdoor storage, and other potential effects as well as ensuring appropriate landscaping and signage.
- Commercial Design - Develop guidelines for commercial building design, landscaping and parking that will ensure high aesthetic quality and while meeting basic development needs.
- Location and Scale - Carefully control the location and scale of commercial establishments while recognizing the importance of such development to the convenience of local residents and the tax base.
- Tourism and Recreation - Provide for tourism and recreation related businesses in all areas where conflicts with existing residential uses will not occur.
- Forestry Enterprises - Do not overly restrict forestry enterprises with unnecessary zoning regulations.

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GOAL 2**

Conserve streams, lakes and other natural resources and open space and use the resources in a way to sustain the area's economy.

Without careful planning and management, the use of the natural resources and sensitive environmental areas in the Township can lead to the decline of community character and the quality lifestyle it affords, with eventual direct threats to the environment and public health and safety. Of special concern are lakes, streams, ground water, forest and soil resources. If the quality of the area's natural resources are diminished, the quality of life and the local economy will suffer.

Pecks Pond, Porters Lake, Pickerel Lake, Blue Heron Lake, Lake Minisink, Little Mud Pond, Saw Creek Pond, Twelvemile Pond, Bushkill Creek and Saw Creek, along with other water bodies, have long been key ingredients of the Township's character and economy. These water bodies have long been associated with recreation in Porter Township and good surface water quality must be maintained to sustain their value to the Township and region. Watercourses also carry flood waters, and this capacity must also be considered.

OBJECTIVES:**Conservation and Sensitive Natural Areas**

Conserve open land, including those areas containing unique and sensitive natural features such as woodlands, steep slopes, streams, flood plains and wetlands, by setting them aside from development.

- Identification Identify sensitive natural areas such as wetlands, groundwater recharge areas, woodlands, steep slopes, poor soils and flood plains, and adopt regulations to protect such areas by requiring resource sensitive development.
- Critical Resource Areas - Promote the conservation of open space within the Township and the County and actively promote the long-term preservation and maintenance of valuable natural resource areas through public negotiated acquisition, private dedication of easements, and other cooperative efforts.
- Land Use Ordinances - Evaluate and develop land use ordinances in terms of effects on natural resources with the goal of maintaining open space to the greatest extent possible while allowing a reasonable density of development.
- Development Standards - Maintain up-to-date standards in Township ordinances for storm water control, soil erosion and sedimentation control, sewage disposal, solid waste disposal and other environmental concerns.
- Development Incentives - Implement adopted municipal policies to conserve a variety of irreplaceable and environmentally sensitive resource lands, including provisions for reasonable incentives to create a greenway and trail system for the benefit of present and future residents.

The purpose of conservation: The greatest good to the greatest number of people for the longest time.
- Gifford Pinchot

I recognize the right and duty of this generation to develop and use our natural resources, but I do not recognize the right to waste them, or to rob by wasteful use, the generations that come after us.
- Theodore Roosevelt

If we learn, finally, that what we need to "manage" is not the land so much as ourselves in the land, we will have turned the history of American land-use on its head.
- Gaylord Nelson, Founder of Earth Day

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- Conservation Design - Use of *conservation subdivision design* to cluster residential development away from important natural, historic, scenic and cultural features, and preserve the resulting open space.
- Transferrable Development Rights - Use transferrable development rights to direct development to locations with adequate infrastructure and enable conservation-minded landowners to preserve their properties.
- Area Wide Cooperation - Coordinate environmental preservation efforts with neighboring jurisdictions, and establish an action plan targeting environmental concerns that require a regional approach.
- Small Business - Encourage home occupations and small businesses as a means of allowing the owners of large parcels to realize economic gain thereby forestalling the development of open land.
- Economic Development - Encourage local economic development groups to make natural resource protection an integral part of all promotion efforts.

Water Supply and Surface Water

Protect the supply and quality of drinking water and protect surface water quality.

- E & S Control - Reduce erosion and sedimentation by requiring compliance with DEP regulations
- Stormwater - Adopt an up to date stormwater ordinance to control runoff through the use of best management practices.
- Water Quality - Consider the impacts of residential and nonresidential development on water quantity and quality and encourage the use of best management practices.
- Waterfronts - Consider adopting use regulations applicable to waterfront land recognizing that Article VI of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code enables local municipalities to adopt zoning ordinances which *may permit, prohibit, regulate, restrict and determine uses of land, watercourses and other bodies of water.*
- Sewage Disposal - Monitor the effectiveness of on-lot sewage disposal systems and evaluate central sewage disposal as a means of correcting any widespread problems.
- Well Ordinance - Apply well construction standards with a well ordinance in areas not served by community water supply.
- Community Water Supplies - Apply well head protection standards to maintain good drinking water quality.
- Floodplain - Use land use controls to direct new residential and commercial development away from floodplain to areas where land is adequate to provide facilities necessary to support development and flood damage is minimized.
- State Agencies - Work with the Pennsylvania Fish Commission, the Pennsylvania

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Department of Environmental Protection and other agencies to identify and address water quality and public safety issues.

Wildlife Habitat

Protect critical wildlife habitat areas.

- Pike County Natural Areas Inventory - Protect sites of rare, threatened, and endangered species as identified in the Pike County Natural Heritage Inventory (formerly Natural Areas Inventory).
- Forest - Conserve large forested areas that provide habitat.
- Corridors - Protect wildlife corridors, consisting of networked open space areas and stream corridors.

Ridge Lines and Scenic View Sheds

Conserve ridge lines and scenic view sheds.

- Development Standards - Consider measures that will preserve the characteristics of important ridge lines and scenic view sheds by limiting the amount and type of clearing associated with development.

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GOAL 3**

Develop a Township land use plan that integrates all aspects of growth and development including residential, commercial, industrial and open space.

Land use management is a complex process that depends on the interrelationship of a number of factors including the historic development pattern, regional location, demographics, the regional economy, the transportation network, and soils and land capability. Most of these factors are beyond the control of local municipalities. However, this *Comprehensive Plan* gives the Township the opportunity to work together provide the foundation to manage the growth and development of the community using innovative land use management ordinances, careful programming of public facilities, and active participation of residents.

A healthy economy fosters a healthy community by providing business development and employment opportunities. Given the historical development pattern of the Township with limited commercial development, residents rely on the greater Pike County area, Hawley, Scranton, and the East Stroudsburg/Stroudsburg area for employment, shopping and personal services. Local government may choose to not take a direct role in economic development, but can institute land use control and development policies that have a positive effect on the local economy and tax base, while addressing community conservation concerns. Recreation and tourism and forestry enterprises continue to be important to the Township economy and steps should be taken to sustain these activities.

OBJECTIVES:**Incompatible Uses****Provide adequate separation between incompatible land uses.**

- District Location - Evaluate the location of zoning districts relative to one another.
- Commercial - Evaluate the allowed uses in commercial zoning districts and encourage retail, office, and service uses.
- Industrial - Create a separate zoning district for industrial manufacturing, warehousing, and similar high impact uses.
- Setback/Buffers - Provide appropriate setbacks and buffers between land uses.
- Landscaping - Provide landscaping along road frontages in commercial and industrial areas

Residential**Encourage the development of livable communities and preserve existing neighborhoods.**

- Open Space Access - Create neighborhoods with direct visual access to open land,

Rampant land conversion is a first consequence of the way Pennsylvania is growing. Quite literally, development-as-usual is consuming the Commonwealth's traditional rural landscape of farmland, forests, wetlands, and open spaces. Overall, Pennsylvania developed some 1.14 million acres, or 1,800 square miles, of fields, open space, and natural land between 1982 and 1997 – the sixth-largest such conversion after Texas, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and California.

This also means that fully one-third of all the land that the Commonwealth has ever urbanized since its founding was developed in just 15 recent years. Put another way, over those 15 years the state consumed land at a rate equivalent to 209 acres a day, or 9 acres an hour, every hour.

Source: *Back To Prosperity, A Competitive Agenda for Renewing Pennsylvania*, p. 47.

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with amenities in the form of neighborhood open space, and with a strong neighborhood identity.

- Diversity - Provide for a diversity of lot sizes, building densities, and housing choices to accommodate a variety of age and income groups and residential preferences, so that the community's population diversity may be maintained.
- Landowner Development Options - Provide multiple development options for landowners in order to minimize impacts on environmental resources (sensitive lands such as stream corridors, wetlands, flood plain, and steep slopes) and disturbance of natural or cultural features (such as mature woodlands, hedgerows and tree lines, critical wildlife habitats, historic buildings, and fieldstone walls)..
- Design - Provide greater design flexibility and efficiency in the siting of services and infrastructure, including the opportunity to reduce length of roads, utility runs, and the amount of paving required for residential development.
- Residential - Eliminate incompatible uses in residential districts.

Commercial

Promote innovative forms of commercial development that are in harmony with the rural-recreational character of the community.

- Standards - Adopt, monitor and update commercial and industrial development standards to protect the public health, welfare and safety, to preserve community character, and to minimize conflicts with the tourism-recreation trade by controlling such activities as noise; outdoor manufacturing, processing and storage; lighting; and other potential effects.
- Scale - Provide opportunities for innovative and community-scaled retail commercial use as opposed to strip commercial development.
- Services - Facilitate community service uses such as a pharmacy and medical center.

Economic Development

Expand the Township's existing economic base by exploring economic development opportunities consistent with and building on the existing rural-recreational character in order to strengthen the existing general and tourist economy, create employment opportunities and generate tax revenue.

- Tourism - Support the efforts of the Pike County Chamber of Commerce and the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau to maintain and promote tourism.
- Location - Welcome new commercial and industrial development to areas of existing similar development and where community facilities are adequate so that the development is compatible with existing land use and community character.
- Home Occupations - Encourage local economic viability by allowing home occupations consistent with residential districts and small businesses consistent with recreation and tourism and the overall community character.
- Economic Development - Recognize the importance of the regional economy and cooperate with local business development organizations to promote commercial

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development which builds on community assets and which will not compromise the quality of life.

- Government Efficiency - Continue to maintain an efficient government and keep taxes low as an incentive for economic development.
- Existing Business - Support the continued development and possible expansion of existing businesses providing local employment and contributing to the tax base.

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GOAL 4****Provide for secure and sound housing in a variety of types and densities.**

Families and individuals of all income levels reside in Porter Township and need continued access to decent and affordable housing with proper community facilities. Demand for housing by higher income families buying vacation homes or moving to the Township from metropolitan areas has increased the cost of housing beyond the means of many local families. The special needs of young families looking for their first home and senior citizens on fixed incomes must be addressed.

The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code requires *a plan to meet the housing needs of present residents and of those individuals and families anticipated to reside in the municipality, which may include conservation of presently sound housing, rehabilitation of housing in declining neighborhoods and the accommodation of expected new housing in different dwelling types and at appropriate densities for households of all income levels.*

Zoning must provide for housing of various dwelling types encompassing all basic forms of housing, including single-family and two-family dwellings, and a reasonable range of multifamily dwellings in various arrangements, mobile homes and mobile home parks.

OBJECTIVES:**Current Residents****Meet the housing needs of current Township residents.**

- Sound Housing - Encourage preservation of presently sound housing.
- Rehabilitation/Reuse - Encourage the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of existing older homes which typically are larger and more difficult to maintain, especially for individuals on fixed incomes.
- Housing Programs - Encourage participation in all county, state and federal housing rehabilitation and assistance programs to ensure residents receive full benefit from such programs.
- Condition - Consider the adoption of an ordinance to regulate nuisances and safety hazards associated with dilapidated and dangerous structures.

Housing Growth**Accommodate anticipated housing growth in appropriate locations, at appropriate densities, and with suitable amenities.**

- Density - Provide for varying densities suited to the Township's character and landscape.
- Multi-Family - Allow multi-family dwellings in conservation design in all zoning districts at the same density as single-family dwellings.
- Amenities - Provide for recreation and open space amenities within residential developments.
- Design Standards - Require all residential development to meet adequate design standards and provide proper community facilities via the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.
- Facility Maintenance - Require in the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance the continued ownership and maintenance of all improvements and

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facilities associated with residential development.

Types and Affordability**Provide a diversity of housing types and affordability levels.**

- Senior Housing - Encourage the development of nursing homes, adult care centers, assisted living facilities and other housing types which provide amenities that are attractive to retirees.
- Type and Density - Allow residential development of various types in suitable areas at a density sufficiently high to moderate the land cost of the increasing cost of housing, while requiring adequate off street parking, water supply and sewage disposal.
- Fair Share - Ensure that the Township provides its required *fair share* of housing
- Gated Alternatives - Promote alternatives to private, gated communities.
- Innovative Design - Advocate conservation design, village style or traditional neighborhood development.
- Incentives - Consider density and design incentives to encourage the development of age-restricted and affordable housing.

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GOAL 5**

Ensure that community facilities and services are provided to meet the needs of the Township.

Residents rely on community and public facilities and services to meet their transportation, educational, water supply, sewage disposal, police protection, emergency response, recreation and other daily living need. Municipalities do not, and cannot, provide all the facilities and services demanded by residents, many such services being provided by other levels of government or volunteer organizations. Nevertheless, without diligent and ongoing attention to the operation and maintenance of existing facilities and services, and planning for new facilities and services, a municipality can fall short in adequately serving its residents.

Community facilities and utilities should be considered resources with limited capacities that are to be provided in appropriate places to support and implement a multi-municipal comprehensive plan. The location of certain key facilities, including water, sewer, schools, and roads, are often essential to providing the necessary services to accommodate more intensive residential and nonresidential development. Conversely, these services will facilitate unintended development in areas, such as important farming areas or areas with limiting natural resources, where growth may not be appropriate. The location of other services, facilities, and utilities should be considered in relation to their ability to support or conflict with the land use planning for the multi-municipal area. The land use planning should facilitate the efficient and economic provision of public, quasi-public, and privately provided community services wherever possible.

Source: *Planning Beyond Boundaries*, p. 3-18.

OBJECTIVES:**Facilities and Services**

Maintain existing public facilities and services and plan carefully for new public facilities and services.

- Maintenance - Provide necessary maintenance of existing municipal buildings, equipment and other community facilities to extend the useful life and forestall unnecessary capital expenditures.
- Efficiency - Manage all municipal facilities and services efficiently and effectively.
- Capital Improvements Program - Systematically identify the need for local municipal community facilities and services, including useful life replacement of existing facilities, and develop a capital budget to meet the needs.
- Infrastructure Needs - Encourage the County to take the lead with area municipalities to coordinate planning for the infrastructure needs of Pike County.
- Cooperation - Encourage and participate in any area intergovernmental cooperation efforts for community facilities planning and economies of scale for joint purchasing, recreation and other facilities and services.
- Cable/Internet Access - Work with Blue Ridge Cable, Verizon and other providers to ensure universal access to cable television service high-speed (256 KBPS or higher) internet service.
- Cellular Telephone - As a matter of public safety, work with cellular communications providers to ensure the entire township is adequately served with 3G service, including the federally mandated locating abilities for mobile phone users within the bounds of the zoning ordinance relative to tower location and antenna collocation.

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- Child Care / Elder Care - Monitor the need for additional child care and elder care facilities and work with community organizations to meet any identified needs.
- Urgent Care Service - Encourage the County and regional health care providers to develop urgent care facilities to bridge the gap between doctors and emergency rooms to better use health care resources.

Emergency Services**Protect the Township with effective emergency services.**

- Expanded Service - Identify isolated and under served areas and assess the need for expanded or additional fire and ambulance stations.
- Volunteer Organizations - Acknowledging the critical importance of such groups to the community, encourage and continue to support volunteer fire, ambulance and other public service organizations.
- Police Protection - Continue to rely on the State Police, but monitor the need for local police protection.

Water Supply and Sewage Disposal**Ensure adequate water supplies and sewage disposal facilities.**

- Well Ordinance - Apply well construction standards with a well ordinance in areas not served by community water supply.
- Community Water Supplies - Apply well head protection standards to maintain good drinking water quality.
- Sewage Disposal - Monitor the effectiveness of on-lot sewage disposal systems and evaluate central sewage disposal as a means of correcting any widespread problems.
- On-Site Sewage Systems - Ensure that on-site sewage systems are maintained, and that failing systems are repaired and new systems are installed in accord with DEP standards.

Storm Water**Improve Stormwater Management.**

- Existing Problems - Evaluate storm water management facilities and develop a plan to address existing problems.
- Improvements - Include require stormwater management improvements in the capital improvements program.
- Innovate Controls - Incorporate innovative stormwater management techniques into new development.
- Education - Address existing problems with stormwater runoff through outreach and education of landowners

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New Development

Ensure that an adequate and safe water supply system, a proper sewage disposal system, well designed and constructed roads, stormwater management and other facilities are provided by developers as part of any residential development.

- SALDO - Periodically update the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance to include standards to ensure most current and sound development practices.

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GOAL 6****Establish and maintain an adequate road system to safely and efficiently move people and goods.**

Safe and well maintained roads are vital to all communities, serving not only as the means of travel within the community, but as the direct link to the region and beyond. State Route 402 runs north and south through Porter Township, and serves as the major Route in the Township. The Township has direct jurisdiction over 6.21 miles of the roads in the community, being responsible for improvements and maintenance, with the more heavily traveled routes owned and maintained by the State totaling 20.13 miles. About five miles of Township roads are paved with the balance gravel and all are not designed to carry large volumes of traffic or bear the weight of large numbers of commercial truck traffic. The Township owns and maintains two small bridges on Snow Hill Road. Local officials must plan carefully to ensure adequate funding for the improvement and maintenance of locally-owned roads.

Land use management tools must consider the capacity of roads, directing commercial and higher density development to areas served by roads capable of carrying increased traffic and the trucks necessary to serve resort and other commercial establishments.

Circulation - Planners typically talk about "circulation" rather than transportation because circulation (getting around) is the goal of the citizens they serve, whereas transportation is just a method of achieving that goal. A good circulation plan includes more than streets and roads – it includes means of pedestrian and bicycle circulation and, in many communities, some form of mass transportation.

Although good circulation plans involve more than roads, the starting point for an existing conditions analysis of circulation is a map of streets and highways in the community.

Source: *Community Planning, an Introduction to the Comprehensive Plan*, p. 80.

OBJECTIVES:**Classification****Inventory and classify according to function all public roads and bridges, and assess maintenance and safety concerns and the improvements needed.**

- Road Task Force - Participate in the Pike County Road Task Force to address regional traffic impacts and highway improvement needs.
- Planning - Actively participate in all County and PennDOT highway planning programs.
- Improvements - Identify key intersections and other problem areas, and plan for improvements.

Local Actions**Develop a coordinated Township program to maintain an adequate capacity of the road network.**

- Development Location - Limit higher density and higher traffic impact development to areas with adequate highway capacity.
- Highway Occupancy Permit
 - Require as part of zoning approval for new or expanded uses, the issuance of a highway occupancy permit by the Township or PA DOT, as appropriate.
 - Maintain an up-to-date Township road occupancy ordinance setting standards for driveway access to Township roads and storm water and utility

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improvements within the Township road right-of-way.

- Parking and Access - Require adequate off-street parking and loading, limit curb cuts, and require well designed access points.
- New Development - Maintain up-to-date standards for construction of new subdivision roads.
- Road Linkages - Include the consideration of through road connections as part of the development review process.
- Improvements Program - Develop a local road and intersection maintenance and capital improvements program.
- Road Dedication - Continue the policy of not accepting development roads for public dedication unless the road serves a clear benefit that accrues to the public as a whole and not only residents of the development.
- Official Map - Using an official map, establish and reserve public street alignments and adequate rights-of-way for planned street improvements.

Pedestrians and Bicyclists **Consider the needs of pedestrians and bicyclists in all transportation planning.**

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GOAL 7****Protect historic resources as an important part of the character of the Township.**

A number of historic sites and structures are found in Porter Township, ranging from residences and outbuildings to a school. Buildings were erected as part of a growing community, and although many of the early structures are now gone, the many which remain add tremendously to the character of the community. In addition to buildings, stone walls and fences are significant historic features throughout the Township. Originally an integral part of early agricultural practices, stone wall and fences are now being incorporated into home design and as the prime feature in landscaping. The preservation of historic buildings and other features, and encouraging new development to be consistent with the existing historic character are critical to the future of the community.

Pennsylvania has more than 100,000 historic resources identified by the National Register of Historic Places. Thousands more could be identified across the state, in cities, towns and villages, and rural areas. This rich heritage is under threat-from abandonment and demolition of decaying urban building stock, destruction of rural landscapes and prime farmland for housing and business, and highway construction to accommodate the tidal wave of trucking and passenger traffic. As with our natural resources, we must strengthen our values and develop strategies to maintain our historic resources. Historic resources are worth saving. Without these resources, communities would lose their integrity, identity, and their attractiveness to newcomers. The goal is to strike a balance between development and saving what's important to the community's past.

Source: Better Models for Development in Pennsylvania, p. 83.

OBJECTIVES:**Historical Society**

Work with the Pike County Historical Society to promote historic preservation in the Township.

- Historical Society - Consider the creation of a local historical society.

Identify and Evaluate

Develop an inventory of historic resources and evaluate the resources for register status.

- Historic Register - Based on the historic resources inventory, create a local historic register and consider nomination of qualifying structures and places to the National Register of Historic Places.

Adaptive Reuse

Encourage the adaptive reuse of historic resources.

- Adaptive Use - Allow the adaptive use of large older homes to enable owners to adequately maintain the structures.

Design Guidelines

Develop guidelines for residential and commercial development to encourage historically sensitive design.

Education

Educate property owners on the significance and value of historic resources, and of the opportunities for their preservation.

Funding

Identify funding sources for historic preservation.