



Blair County Planning Commission 2017 Annual Report

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Dear Blair County Residents,

On behalf of the Blair County Planning Commission, we are pleased to present the 2017 Blair County Planning Commission Annual Report.

During the past year, we have continued our efforts in five primary areas. First, was the development of the regional comprehensive plan, Alleghenies Ahead. This major effort will guide the region for the coming decade with impacts lasting for years to come. An update is presented beginning on page five. In hand with the comprehensive plan, the second major effort is the hazard mitigation plan, known as BRAVE. It identifies and profiles the major hazards facing Blair County and proposes mitigation measures to ameliorate their effects. An update appears on page thirteen.

Our three ongoing foci include our public health initiatives, transportation planning, and development reviews. We continue to expand WalkWorks throughout the county and have been engaged with the Healthiest County Challenge throughout 2017. 2017 saw the development of the new Transportation Improvement Program, several active transportation projects, and the completion of the Frankstown intersection. It was also a moderate year for development proposals, although we have now gone a full decade without a major subdivision (10 or more lots) in Blair County.

Other activities undertaken in the past year include a greater social media presence and communication strategy, Title VI compliance for those with limited English proficiency, and working with the Census on some preparation projects for the 2020 census and the Census Bureau's Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) effort.

As we move into 2018, we are excited to begin implementation of the several plans currently reaching adoption stage and moving the county forward so we can call Blair County a great place to call home.

Looking Forward,

Vincent DiLeo
Board Member

Blair County Planning Commission Staff

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We're on the Web!
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We're on Facebook!
<https://www.facebook.com/Blair-County-Planning-Commission-1615307782052150/>

Overview of the Blair County Planning Commission

The Blair County Planning Commission (BCPC) is a nine member board that consists of three members representing the City of Altoona, three members representing the townships collectively, and three members representing the boroughs collectively.

The Planning Commission meets monthly to review proposed subdivisions and land developments, as well as to discuss any other planning issue that affects Blair County and its constituent municipalities.

Tentative upcoming meeting dates for BCPC are listed below:

2018 Blair County Planning Commission Meeting Dates and Times

Date*	Time	Location
March 29, 2018	8:30 AM	Altoona City Water Authority
April 26, 2018	8:30 AM	Altoona City Water Authority
May 31, 2018	8:30 AM	Altoona City Water Authority
June 28, 2018	8:30 AM	Altoona City Water Authority
July 26, 2018	8:30 AM	Altoona City Water Authority
August 30, 2018	8:30 AM	Altoona City Water Authority
September 27, 2018	8:30 AM	Altoona City Water Authority
October 25, 2018	8:30 AM	Altoona City Water Authority
December 13, 2018	4:30 PM	Fort Roberdeau



2017 Board of Directors

Name	Term	Other Public Office
Bill Hall, Chairman	2020	Tyrone Borough Authority, Chairman
Herb Shelow, Secretary	2018	Bellwood Borough Council President
Jim Dixon, Treasurer	2020	Altoona City Planning Commission Member
Patrick Baechle	2021	Past Hollidaysburg Planning Commission Member
Vincent DiLeo	2021	Altoona Drug & Crime Commission
Dennis Hammel	2020	Williamsburg Borough Council
Randy Isenberg	2018	Altoona City Planning Commission Member
Ben Postles	2021	Williamsburg Community SD Board Member
Linda Smith	2018	Blair County Board of Assessment Appeals

Blair County Planning Commission 2017 Financial Report

While the rest of the Annual Report focuses on a calendar year, the fiscal year for the Blair County Planning Commission runs from July 1 to June 30. This statement reflects the status as of June 30, 2017. The major sources of income for the 2017 fiscal year were local support (municipal and county), transportation funding, and emergency management funding. We had a strong year for development reviews as well. Our major expense is employee compensation, accounting for 69% of expenses. The deficit at year-end is due to a pre-paying of our obligation to the grant match for the regional comprehensive plan.



2017 Financial Statement

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

Transportation	219,215.93
Community Development	80,000.00
Planning	111,504.08
Miscellaneous	225.78

Total Income	410,945.79
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Expense

Personnel	285,685.77
Operating	77,962.78
Contract	52,097.21
Uncollectable Funds	12.00

Total Expense	415,757.76
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Net Result	-4,811.97
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Communication Links

This past year Blair County has been HAPPY! Blair County Planning Commission started off 2017 with plans on making fun promotional and informational videos to show off just how wonderful Blair County really is. Blair Planning partnered with the Historical Society, News Printing Company, Inc., Altoona Farmers Market, and many more local organizations to help produce the HAPPY BLAIR COUNTY video, which now can be viewed on our website. While working on the Happy video, Planning also began working with CGI Communications to create promotional videos to showcase what Blair County offers to its citizens. Although it is not complete yet, make sure to look out for it soon this year on blairplanning.org .

Check out the HAPPY! video now at www.blairplanning.org



News From the Digital World

Great news from the digital world, as part of our federal Title VI requirements, Blair Planning is on now on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram! Please like us on Facebook at Blair Planning, Metropolitan Planning Organization MPO for Blair County Altoona MSA and Blair WalkWorks and follow us on twitter at Blair Planning. Don't forget to visit www.blairplanning.org and check out our new Blair Planning logo and our newly redesigned website!



Alleghenies Ahead: Comprehensive Plan

2017 saw the development of our new comprehensive planning effort, entitled *Alleghenies Ahead: Shared Strategies for a Stronger Region*. The project started as a brainstorm of the six county planning directors acting as the Planning Advisory Committee for the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission. Five of the six counties have comprehensive plans that are approaching the end of their life expectancies and were in need of an update. The planning directors recognized the many commonalities among the six counties as well as the fact that many of the background studies needed for a comprehensive plan had just been completed in conjunction with the Southern Alleghenies' Comprehensive Economic Development Study (CEDS) in 2015. By utilizing that data collection and pooling resources, a very large cost savings could be realized.

The county commissioners in each of the six counties came on board with the idea, and a grant application was made to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development to develop an implementable comprehensive plan – a plan that would be a living document, not just sit on a shelf. After a competitive procurement process, the firm czb from Alexandria, Virginia was selected as lead consultant on the project. The initial meetings to kick-off the project were in late 2016.

The plan was developed using the native knowledge of the planning directors, the outside perspectives of the consultant team, a regional steering committee, six county-level steering committees, a public survey garnering 300 responses in Blair County alone, interviews with key community leaders, and so-called 'kitchen table' discussions with average people throughout the region. Even with these diverse origins of perspectives and knowledge, several common threads emerged. These were arranged into fundamental observations, core values, planning principles, and the 'big things' we need to focus on and get right to move the region forward in a positive manner.



Fundamental Observations

We have an apparent contradiction in our economy. The workforce indicated a lack of jobs whereas the employers indicated a lack of employees. This contradiction is an indication of a fundamental shift in the economy where the skills in the workforce are not matching the skills required by industry.

We are geographically well positioned within the population centers of the nation. We are directly in between the emerging northeastern and great lakes megaregions. We are also located within a one-day drive of over two-thirds of the US population. Our proximity to Pittsburgh – the renaissance city of the eastern US – provides economic and cultural support but is distant enough to allow us our own identity.

Alleghenies Ahead: Comprehensive Plan

We have excellent natural resources available for a high quality of life. The forests, mountains, streams, and wildlife provide a wide array of recreation opportunities as well as a natural environment that is attractive and omnipresent in our daily lives.

We are fast approaching a 'demographic cliff' regionwide. Our population is aging faster than the state and national averages, and vast numbers of business owners, managers, and high-level skilled employees will likely be retiring before the end of the decade. Additionally, many of our retirees age and die in place leaving vacant and slowly deteriorating properties throughout the region. We do not have the younger people in place to replace these retiring workers and occupy these vacant properties.

We do not have the capacity in many of our communities to provide basic local services. Our governments are small and fragmented both functionally and geographically. Many do not have the staff or financial capability needed to meet the true needs of their residents. We are losing the capacity to invest in ourselves and determine our own course and are increasingly reliant on those outside our communities to meet our basic needs.

We have four 'bad habits' we need to overcome as a region. We do not invest and yet we expect to gain. We shift costs and blame onto others for problems and issues rightfully ours. We maintain a contradictory set of values relative to our actions. Finally, we are adverse to risk taking. The four habits together are holding the region back and preventing the growth and attractiveness needed for a better future.

Core Values

Core Values are deeply held beliefs that are widely shared. They are characteristics that define how we view ourselves and our community. Core Values are things that we will fight vigorously to preserve, strengthen, or achieve. They are building blocks for a vision of the future: what we are working toward.

We value our families, our strong social connection, and our neighbors. Our families, friends, civic clubs, and faith traditions make our communities strong, resilient, and neighborly. We aspire to improve how we treat newcomers, outsiders, and those of diverse backgrounds to make them feel more welcome and part of our communities and social networks.

We value independence and self-reliance. Living here has taught us the value of hard work, of adapting to overcome adversity, and the dignity of self-determination. We are responsible for our future and for the heavy-lifting that will be needed to achieve our goals.

We value our natural resources and connections to the land. Our land shapes our communities, our way of life, and the opportunities that lie ahead. We aspire to continue improving the way we treat our environment and our natural landscapes.

We value our heritage and the sense of identity it provides. Our history, building, institutions, and traditions give our communities a strong and unique sense of place. We aspire to improve as stewards of the assets left to us by previous generations.



Alleghenies Ahead: Comprehensive Plan

Planning Principles

Planning Principles are a by-product of our core values and prevailing conditions. They form a basis for making decisions about our community that align with our values, our vision for the future, and what we're building from.

We must first look within. We will invest in what we want to improve or change. We will leverage our ingenuity to seize opportunities and address challenges. We will protect and strengthen assets that give our region value. We will not look to Washington or Harrisburg to fix our problems – we will look to them as partners in realizing our own vision. We will not sell ourselves short by setting a low bar for what is acceptable and what we can achieve.

We must work together. We will make collaboration central to how we get things done. We will actively look for common ground. We will embrace the perspectives and contributions of those who are new to the region or who come from diverse backgrounds. We will not see our political boundaries as limitations to whom we work with or how problems are addressed. We will not exclude or isolate newcomers from decision-making.

We must protect our region's natural beauty and historic character. We will nurture the economic and cultural value of our natural landscapes. We will preserve and strengthen our agricultural heritage as a fundamental part of our region's sustainability and character. We will promote high quality design and upkeep in our communities. We will create environments that promote active and healthy lifestyles – in nature and in our communities. We will not evaluate opportunities based purely on economic gain. We will not make choices that deface our natural or built environment without careful consideration of alternatives.

We must support creativity. We will encourage risk-taking by individuals and organizations because inventiveness is part of our independent streak. We will accept that nothing is guaranteed and that breaking new ground is part of our heritage. We will not simply dismiss or criticize something that doesn't work - we will learn from it and move forward.

The “Big Things”

Broadband and Cellular Service. Adequate internet speeds are essential to competing in the 21st Century, connecting otherwise isolated areas to a global economy. Broadband and cellular services that are reliable and high quality are essential to economic competitiveness and even public safety – and anecdotes abound about their shortcomings in the Southern Alleghenies. For younger households and most businesses today, access to high speed internet and reliable cell service is an expectation not unlike electricity. Places that don't have it cannot be competitive.

Collaboration and Coordination. The region's ability to implement its priorities and maintain critical assets is tied to how well a variety of partners work together. Many issues cut across municipal boundaries and require productive working relationships between multiple entities and sectors. Retirements, looming labor force shortages, and stagnant tax bases make partnerships and structural change not only desirable but necessary. Collaborations that bring together the expertise and resources of multiple communities and sectors makes implementation of almost any initiative more likely to happen and more likely to succeed over time.

Agriculture. The region's single largest active land use, agriculture plays a significant role in the development of a diverse local food economy. It involves everything from dairy and other commodity farming that serves national and international markets, to organic farms that serve local and regional niches. Rural agricultural townships and the boroughs that service them are facing some of the most acute struggles to fill decision-making boards and fund investments in aging infrastructure.

Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP)

Register for 2018 LTAP Courses!

The PennDOT Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) program was created to share transportation knowledge, improve road maintenance and safety skills, and put research and new technology into practice at the municipal level. The Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission schedules the classes for the region and Blair Planning helps provide LTAP information to the Blair County municipalities.

What is the Roads Scholar Program?

Offered by the Pennsylvania Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP), the Roads Scholar Program provides an opportunity for municipal employees to be trained by LTAP's professional team in the latest road-related technologies and innovations.



The Road Scholar I program provides a professional certification to municipal employees and officials who attend LTAP workshops within a three-year period.

For Roads Scholar I:

- Complete 10 approved Roads Scholar I courses within a three-year period
- Pass (70% or higher) an in-class quiz taken at the end of each course

For Roads Scholar II:

- Complete 8 approved Roads Scholar II courses within a three year period

To register for a class, visit the LTAP website at:

<https://www.dot7.state.pa.us/ltap>

or contact

Janice Streightiff at
(814) 949 6523 or
streightiff@sapdc.org

Please register no later than
one week in advance..



2018 Schedule of Blair County LTAP Courses

Upcoming Courses	Course Date	Course Location
Work Zone (Temporary) Traffic Control	April 17, 2018 Road Scholar I	Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission
Stormwater Facility Op- eration and Maintenance	May 22, 2018 Road Scholar I	Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission
Bridge Maintenance & Inspection	June 12, 2018 Road Scholar I	Hoss's Steak and Sea House, Duncansville
Posting and Bonding of Local Roads	June 21, 2018 Road Scholar I	South Hills School of Business Altoona
Risk Management	August 21, 2018 Road Scholar I	Hollidaysburg Borough Office Building
Speed Limits and Speed Management	October 10, 2018 Road Scholar II	Antis Township Municipal Building
Salt & Snow Management	October 23, 2018 Road Scholar II	Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission
Project Overview: Moni- toring Quality by Asking the Right Questions	November 9, 2018 Road Scholar II	Martinsburg Borough Office Building

Purpose of the Metropolitan Planning Organization

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Blair County (Altoona MSA) was formed in 1965 to prepare plans and programs through a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive (3 C) process that certifies the county as eligible to receive federal transportation funds. The MPO's role is to perform transportation studies, provide planning assistance to work with the municipalities, the public, non-profit and private sector organizations, and state and federal legislators to plan for the program improvements to the region's transportation network.

Blair Planning serves the MPO by convening three to four MPO meetings a year and preparing meeting notices, agenda, minutes, maintaining the MPO's Facebook page, convening MPO and Technical Committee meetings and performing transportation planning work required by the federal and state departments of transportation. Two major requirements are preparing and updating a long range transportation plan every five years and working with PennDOT to update the highway, bridge and transit transportation improvement programs every two years.

In addition to providing assistance to the County of Blair and the municipalities with getting projects included in the long range plan and transportation improvement program, Blair Planning helps municipalities apply for PennDOT funding programs like the Multimodal Transportation Fund, Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (formerly Transportation Enhancements), Green Light-Go (traffic signal upgrades) and the Automated Red Light Enforcement Program (traffic signal or roadway capacity upgrades and pedestrian safety improvements).



Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program

TA Set-Aside Program is a federally funded program that comes through PennDOT for projects that build pedestrian and bicycle facilities, improve access to public transportation, create safe routes to school, preserve historic transportation structures, provide environmental mitigation, create trails that serve a transportation purpose, while promoting safety and mobility. An example of a project awarded funding is the City of Altoona's 12th Street Pedestrian Crossover that will be rehabilitated this year.



In 2017, Blair Planning informed the municipalities and school districts of the application period for PennDOT's 2018 Transportation Alternative Set-Aside Program. In December, the MPO recommended the Logan Valley Streetcar Trail in Antis Township and the Borough of Bellwood and the Margaret Avenue, Safe Route to School Link in the City of Altoona to the statewide committee for funding. The next application period is expected to occur sometime in 2019.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/12 Year Program

In 2017, the MPO approved the draft 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP, which is updated every two years, is also part of the state required 12 Year Transportation Program of highway, bridge and transit projects.

Earlier in the year, we informed municipalities of the 2019 Twelve Year Program update for which they could send in recommendations to the BCPC and/or to the State Transportation Commission.

The MPO's draft 2019-2020 TIP contains \$47.4 million for highways and bridges that included three new local bridges: the 5th Avenue Bridge over Mill Run in the City, County Bridge #67 on Loop Road in Frankstown Township, and County Bridge #33 over Mill Run in Logan Township. Other new bridge and highway projects included in the draft 2019-2022 TIP are as follows:

- preliminary design and alternatives study to address congestion at the Roaring Spring Borough and Taylor Township Intersection of PA Routes 36 and 164;
- study for safety improvement from I-99 to the Roaring Spring Borough intersection;
- resurfacing Logan Blvd. from Plank Road to Broad and Beale Avenue in the City;
- resurfacing project on US Route 22 from Plank Road to Turkey Valley Road;
- resurfacing PA 453 from the Tyrone Interchange of I-99 to the County line;
- resurfacing PA Route 764 from 17th Street to Greenwood;
- resurfacing Frankstown Road from Amelia Avenue near Logan Town Centre to Plank Road and examine the Plank Road Intersection to reduce traffic congestion to the Pleasant Valley Shopping Center;
- bridge replacement on California Avenue and bridge on 58th Street by Texas Hotdogs;
- painting the Grazierville Truss Bridge;
- bridge replacement on PA Route 36 near the Baker Mansion on Union Avenue;
- PA 453 Sinking Run Culvert in Tyrone Borough.

PennDOT will also evaluate what safety improvements could be made for two other County Planning Commission priorities: the Del Grosso Intersection in Antis Township and the US Route 22 curves on Short Mountain in Frankstown and Catharine Townships.

PennDOT Connects



On December 19, 2016 the Pennsylvania Secretary of transportation announce the PennDOT Connects Process, which is designed to strengthen its partnership with communities by involving local government at the very beginning of the project process so that community needs, where appropriate, can be addressed with each transportation project to improve the quality of life and economic competitiveness. As a result, in

2017, the planning commission staff attended meetings and project scoping field view to discuss the current transportation improvement program projects with PennDOT and the municipalities for most of the highway and bridge projects on the current 2017 TIP and most highway and bridge projects on the draft 2019 TIP. In addition, staff attended three sessions of PennDOT Central Office's Planning and Engineering Executive 360 training.

Other Transportation Planning Activities

- Attended two PennDOT Planning Partners' meetings and quarterly conference calls.
- Consulted the City's Department of Public Works regarding the 5th Avenue bridge for funding on the 2019 TIP.
- Completed the US DOT's 2017 Freight Program Assessment questionnaire regarding Blair County freight activities.
- Obtained the MPO's approval to support the statewide target of a reduction in fatalities and serious injuries by 2% over five years on Blair County roadways.
- Consulted the County of Blair for its bridge priorities for funding on the 2019 TIP.
- Held meetings with PennDOT and a meeting with the City for drafting a request for special study funding to help implement the transportation portion of City's Downtown Investment Plan.
- Drafted a letter of support for the Township of Logan's Green Light-Go application for traffic signal improvements.
- Amended the transit TIP for Blair Senior Services, Inc. to include accessible transit buses.
- Worked with PennDOT and Altoona Blair County Development Corp. and the MPO to recommend the following as critical freight corridors: PA Route 764 from Duncansville to Sugar Run Road; PA Route 36 from I-99 to Smith Transport; Sheetz Distribution Center to I-99; PA Route 453 from Tyrone to Walter Street; PA route 350 from I-99 to Centre County.
- Reviewed and/or collected data for PennDOT on 96 state and municipal owned liquid fuel roadway segments and attend annual Highway Performance Monitoring training. The data is for assessing federal-aid roadways to determine federal funding levels and of roadway condition. In 2017, PennDOT rated the BCPC's an accuracy for this data at 97.7%.
- In support of walking and bicycling, suggestions were made in BCPC development reviews for sidewalks, grading for walking in absence of sidewalks, landscaping, and street trees, and bicycle parking where appropriate. Recommendations were also made in parking availability and storm water drainage and landscaping to help with storm water retention.

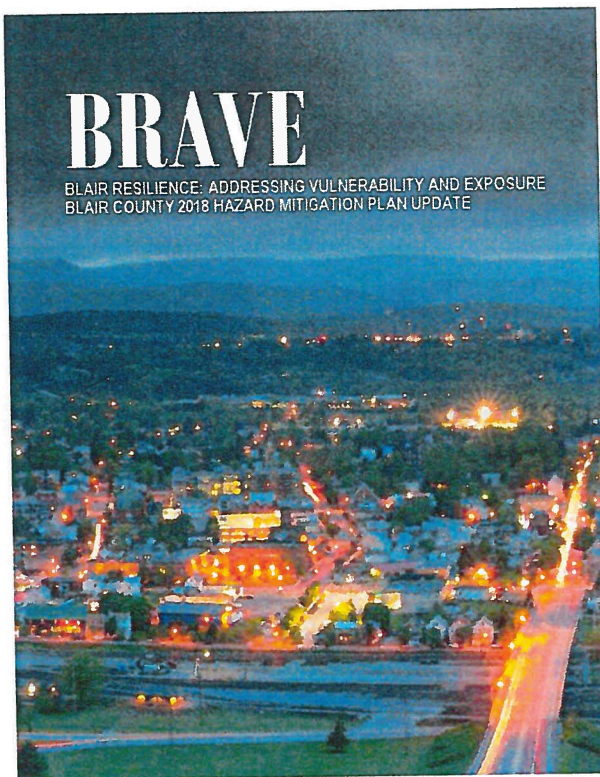


BRAVE: Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Disaster Management Act of 2000 requires governments at all levels to adopt a hazard mitigation plan every five years to identify hazards within the community and develop mitigation strategies to deal with those hazards. The last update for Blair County was in 2013. In 2017, Blair Planning began the update process for the 2018 plan update, entitled BRAVE: Blair Resilience Addressing Vulnerability & Exposure.

Our current (2013) plan focused primarily on flooding and community outreach. It has been mostly implemented with a few exceptions that are outside local control. The 2018 update will build on that progress and momentum.

Five natural hazards and five human-induced hazards were identified in the planning process as well as a strong concern on our capacity to deliver emergency services in the county. These will all be profiled in the plan document with discussion on their impacts on Blair County and its municipalities.



Based on the public outreach and committee meetings, the following ranked as the top five concerns for natural hazards and for human-induced hazards:

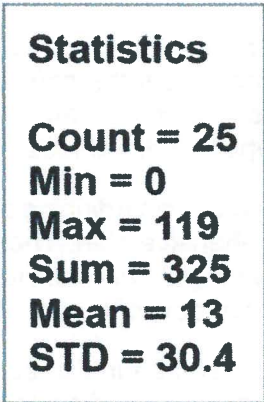
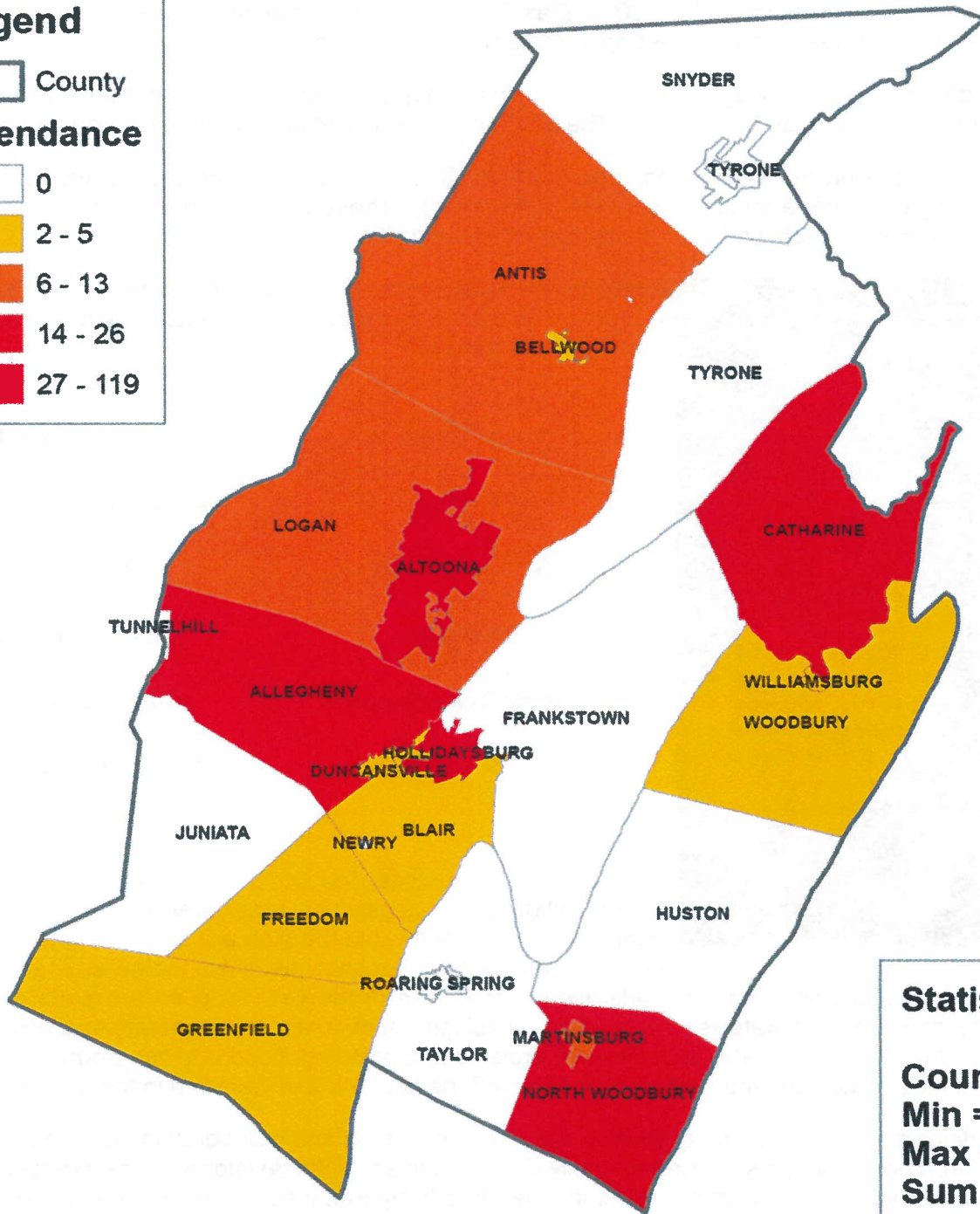
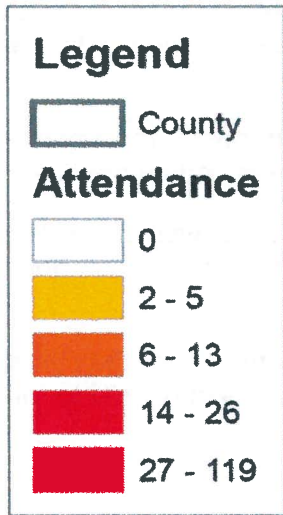
NATURAL	HUMAN-INDUCED
Flooding	Transportation Accidents
Strong Storms	Pandemic
Drought	Clandestine Lab
Extreme Temperatures	Utility Interruption
Invasive Species	Domestic Terrorism

As 2017 drew to a close, the committee was preparing a list of hazard mitigation strategies for consideration in the plan document. Strategies identified in the plan are given a higher consideration for grant funding, but once identified, the government expects them to be implemented. Strategies under consideration at the close of the year included a system of dry hydrants throughout the county in non-water-serviced areas, development of continuity of operations plans for governments and critical facilities, storm water management projects and planning, flood buy-out programs, elimination of repetitive flood-loss properties, and continuation of the efforts put forth and identified in the 2013 plan.

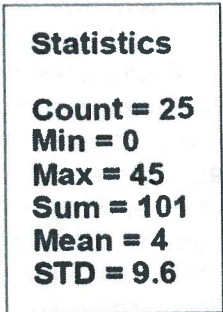
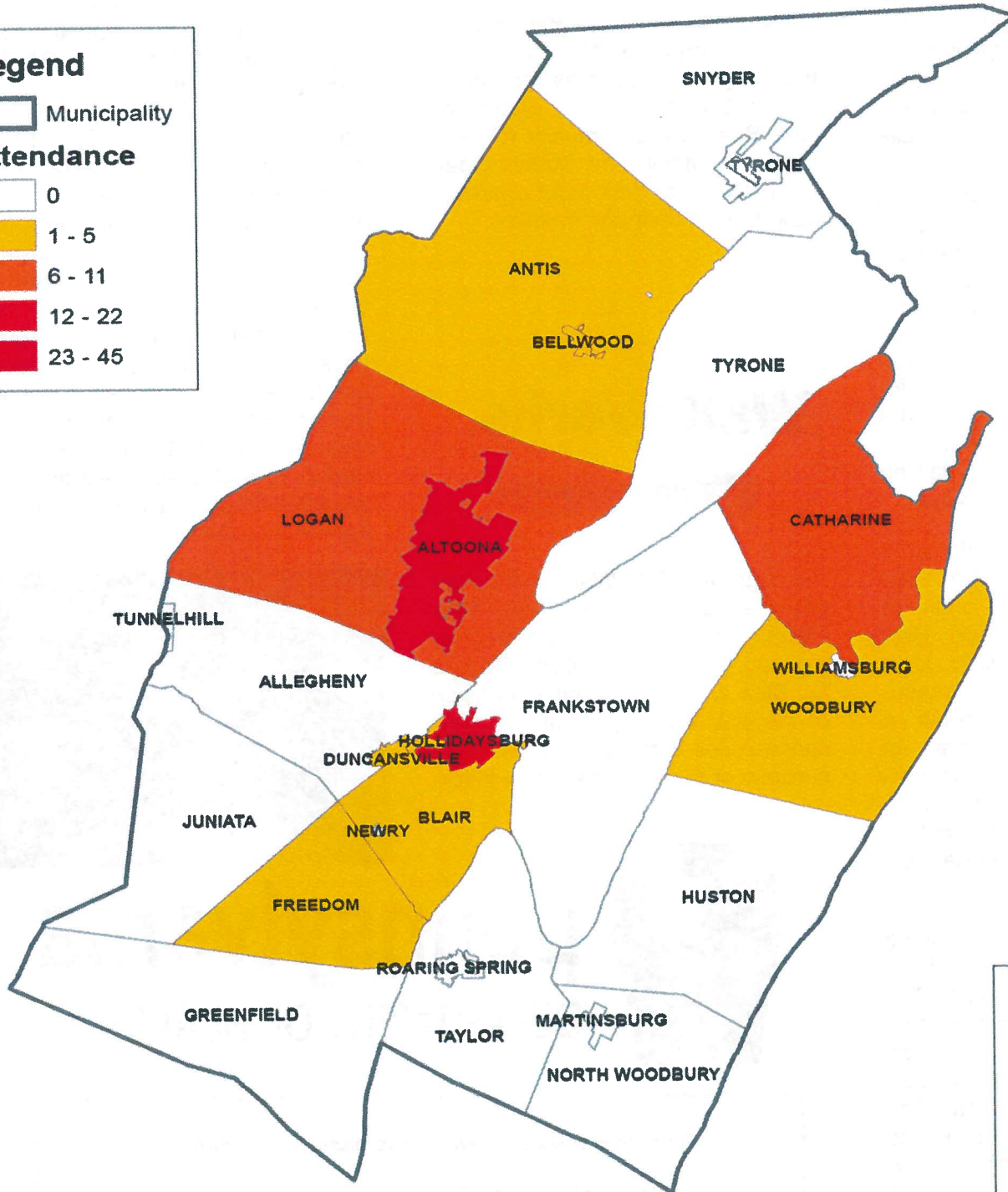
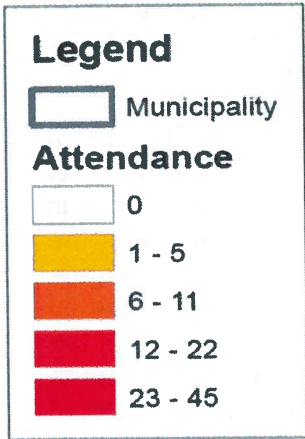
The concerns regarding capacity in the county dovetail with the cooperation and collaboration goals in the regional comprehensive plan. These concerns will be more fully defined with solutions developed in the broader context of that plan, but with the hazard mitigation concerns in mind. It is likely that these goals will extend beyond the five-year window of the 2018 plan update.

As was presented in the 2013 plan, hazard mitigation is the responsibility of every resident of the county. It begins well before the disaster strikes and can have long-lasting impacts afterward. Planning is crucial for the resilience of the community and the well-being of its residents.

LTAP Attendance By Municipality Since 4/1/15



LTAP Attendance By Municipality 2017



WalkWorks

In 2017, the Blair Planning received third-year funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Health for the Pennsylvania WalkWorks Program. The PA WalkWorks Program is an initiative implemented in partnership with the University Of Pittsburgh Graduate School Of Public Health Center for Public Health Practice with the goal to improve the health of Pennsylvania residents.

The purpose of WalkWorks is to increase opportunities for physical activity, by creating a network of fun, fact-filled, community-based walking routes and walking groups.

The goal of WalkWorks is to identify and promote safe walking routes. In order to accomplish this task Blair Planning worked with local communities to identify potential routes and conduct a walkability assessment of these areas to make recommendations for existing conditions and to make the potential routes more pedestrian friendly.

In spring 2017, Blair Planning established two WalkWorks routes for Williamsburg Borough. Both routes are approximately two miles in length and are located in notable areas of the Borough. The Lower Trail River Walk Route includes a portion of the Lower Trail between Grannas Station and Indian Head Rock. The Pirate's Treasure Hunt Route located in downtown Williamsburg includes

portions of Schwabtown and Big Spring.

In the past year, Blair Planning engaged the public and various special interest groups, such as the Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Area Business Community (DBAC), and the Healthy Blair County Coalition (HBCC) for their input regarding walkability in their communities.



Although the PA WalkWorks Program ended in June 2017, Blair Planning hopes to encourage walking and in turn a healthier lifestyle for Blair County through expansion of the WalkWorks program in other communities in the County. Through success of the City of Altoona Walk-

Works routes and Hollidaysburg Borough routes, Blair Planning was able to secure a supplemental funding for route sustainability through June 2017 from the PA Department of Health.

For the spring of 2017, Blair Planning is happy to announce two new Blair County WalkWorks routes in the community of Williamsburg the Pirate's Treasure Hunt Route (located in the downtown area of Williamsburg community) and the Lower Trail River Walk Route (located along a one-mile section of the Lower Trail between Grannas Station and Indian Chief Rock). A kick-off event for the two new Williamsburg routes was held on June 10, 2017 in conjunction with Chad Edmondson Day.



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

For more information on WalkWorks, please see the following:

<http://www.blairco.org/Planning/Pages/WalkWorks.aspx>

Or on Facebook at Blair WalkWorks

Healthiest Communities Challenge

During the spring of 2016, Blair Planning partnered with Healthy Blair County Coalition (HBCC) and the University of Pittsburgh Center for Public Health practice (CPHP) on the mission of the AETNA Foundation's Healthiest cities and Counties Grant Challenge. In August, 2016, Blair Planning was awarded \$10,000 seed funding from the AETNA Foundation as part of the Healthiest Cities and Counties Challenge or "The Challenge". The seed funding will be utilized for active transportation expansion in Blair County with the intent of improving health and the quality of life for Blair County residents through opportunities in the built environment to engage in physical activity.



As part of "The Challenge", in the summer of 2017 work began on developing five new routes in Blair County including routes in Bellwood, Martinsburg, Roaring Spring, Claysburg, and Tunnelhill Borough.

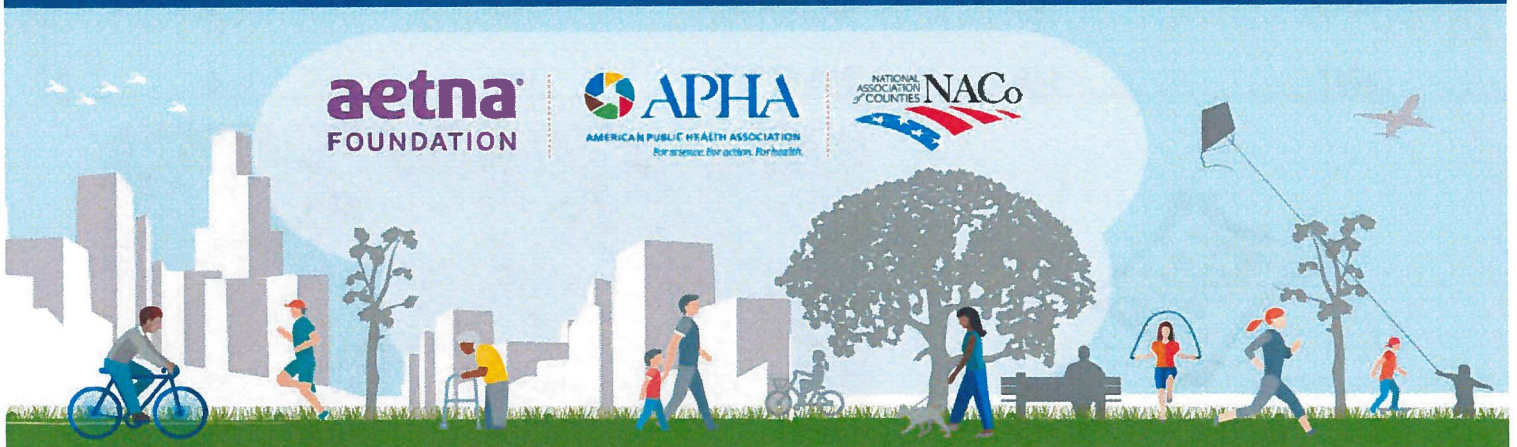


Also as part of "The Challenge", BCPC partnered with HBCC and the South Hills School of Business in Altoona to develop an active living map/brochure to serve as a directory for anyone visiting or residing in Blair County to play, get active, and have fun! Look for the active living map/brochure to go live in April 2018 on the HBCC website and for more information on kick-off events for these five communities in the spring and summer of 2018. If your community is interested in creating a more walkable community, please contact Blair Planning at 814-693-2080.

The Challenge award runs from October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2018 and puts Blair Planning in the running for an additional award of one of five \$25,000 grants and one grand prize award of

\$500,000. Visit <http://www.healthiestcities.org> for information about the grant. Help us win the \$500,000 award by working with us to increase active transportation opportunities in your community. Municipalities can sign up for a no-cost walkability / audit / assessment for your community that will provide recommendations without obligation for your community to improve pedestrian safety. Contact Blair Planning today at (814) 693-2080 for more information.

HEALTHIEST CITIES & COUNTIES CHALLENGE



Subdivision & Development Reviews

Section 502 of the *PA Municipalities Planning Code* gives the Planning Commission authority to review and comment on subdivision and land development proposals submitted to local municipalities in those municipalities that have a subdivision and land development ordinance. A fee sufficient to cover the costs for the review is also authorized. The Commission also comments on consistency with the Blair County Comprehensive Plan in accordance with Section 303 of the *PA Municipalities Planning Code; Acts 14, 67, 68, 127, 247, and Act 537, the PA Sewage Facilities Act. Federal Executive Order #12372* also provides the authority to comment on the consistency of federally-funded projects.

In 2017, the Planning Commission reviewed 149 subdivision and land development plans, which was greater than the years 2013-2015, but slightly lower than the 165 plan reviews in the previous year. Review fees collected for subdivision and land development reviews were also greater than the totals for years 2013-2015, but were lower than the fees collected in 2016, corresponding to the reduction in review totals from the previous year. Additionally, Intergovernmental review requests were lower in 2017 than totals from the previous four years. The table below provides information of the annual review totals by type.

Annual Review Totals by Type

Calendar Year	Subdivision/ Development Reviews	Review Fees Collected	Intergovernmental Requests	Actions By Governing Bodies
2013	125	\$27,400.00	145	13
2014	111	\$29,975.00	113	6
2015	107	\$23,375.00	112	4
2016	165	\$36,900.00	120	9
2017	149	\$33,375.00	100	5



Subdivision & Development Reviews

In 2017, municipalities with the highest levels of subdivision and land development activity were the City of Altoona, Logan Township, Allegheny Township and Antis Township. See table below for the annual Subdivision and Land Development Review Totals by Municipality from 2013—2017.

Annual Subdivision and Land Development Review Totals by Municipality					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
City of Altoona	15	10	13	24	31
Bellwood Borough*	0	0	0	0	0
Duncansville Borough	1	0	0	0	1
Hollidaysburg Borough	9	7	3	4	3
Martinsburg Borough*	0	0	0	0	0
Newry Borough*	0	0	0	0	0
Roaring Spring Borough	0	1	0	1	1
Tunnelhill Borough*	0	0	0	0	0
Tyrone Borough	6	2	0	1	5
Williamsburg Borough*	0	0	0	0	0
Allegheny Township	14	13	14	16	15
Antis Township	10	7	18	6	12
Blair Township	6	5	10	4	4
Catharine Township	3	7	2	2	3
Frankstown Township	2	0	1	13	12
Freedom Township	4	4	7	9	5
Greenfield Township	8	9	4	15	10
Huston Township	6	3	1	9	7
Juniata Township*	0	0	0	1	0
Logan Township	17	20	13	16	18
North Woodbury Township	5	7	4	13	5
Snyder Township	1	6	5	6	4
Taylor Township	9	3	1	10	5
Tyrone Township	2	3	2	4	3
Woodbury Township	7	4	9	11	5
Total	125	111	107	165	149

* Municipalities without Subdivision and Land Development Ordinances - BCPC Review is not required by law.



Government Advisory Committee

The Blair County Government Advisory Committee met twice in 2017. As we continue to revitalize this committee and its role in the county, several potential charges have come to the forefront.

The cooperation and collaboration goal identified in both the regional comprehensive plan and the hazard mitigation plan update comes to the forefront. Momentum behind these concepts has been building for some time; the formalization of these goals in two planning documents gives it much more credence and thrust to move forward. The regional comprehensive plan identifies the Government Advisory Committee as one of the agencies responsible for implementing this goal.

We also continue to seek input from the elected officials on how they view this committee's role in our community. It was created as an oversight board for both the planning commission and what is now the MPO. That role faded in the 1980s but may still be an appropriate one as both agencies seek local input into regional planning issues. The Committee was also the primary communication conduit between the municipalities and the two planning organizations. With the advent of modern communications technology this role has been reduced, however one aspect that would be good to restore is the pipeline that enables us to work on issues of multi-municipal concern—one of our primary purposes.



We are planning on three meetings for this committee in 2018 to further the cooperation and collaboration issues and to support municipal interests in our daily operations. We look forward to continued support in these efforts.

Blair County Planning Commission 2017 Annual Report



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