

Blair County Planning Commission

2016 Annual Report

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Letter from the BCPC Secretary



Herbert F. Shelow, Sr.

Dear Blair County Residents,

On behalf of the Blair County Planning Commission, we are pleased to present the 2016 Blair County Planning Commission Annual Report.

During the past year, the Commission has started work on two major planning efforts for Blair County. The first is a new and innovative regional planning initiative that incorporates the Southern Alleghenies counties into a Six-County Joint Regional Comprehensive Plan. The initiative aims to reduce duplication of effort, strengthen partnerships, and better coordinate local planning efforts. The regional plan approach has been adopted as a more effective action-orientated comprehensive planning approach that began in 2016 and is expected to be complete in the fall of 2018. The second is the preparation of the 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan. The goal is for the two planning efforts to work together towards implementation of a new set of goals and recommendations. The plans will remain separate, but will be designed to function smoothly together.

In 2016 with a focus toward healthy communities and the recommendation of the BCPC Director, the BCPC Board of Directors adopted a resolution for Health in All Policies with the goal to adopt policies that promote healthy living.

Other activities undertaken in the past year include an update on BCPC policies and procedures as well as an effort to develop a greater social media presence and communication strategy.

As we move further into 2017, we look forward to working with the local communities to improve the quality of life in Blair County with our planning efforts and to ensure that all of the residents of Blair County have the opportunity to live, work and play in this great county we call home.

Looking Forward,

Herbert F. Shelow, Sr.
Secretary

Blair County Planning Commission Staff

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We're on the Web!
www.blairplanning.org

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:

2017 Blair County Planning Commission Meeting Dates and Times

Date*	Time	Location
March 30, 2017	8:30 AM	Altoona City Water Authority
April 27, 2017	8:30 AM	Altoona City Water Authority
May 25, 2017	8:30 AM	Altoona City Water Authority
June 29, 2017	8:30 AM	Altoona City Water Authority
July 27, 2017	8:30 AM	Altoona City Water Authority
August 31, 2017	8:30 AM	Altoona City Water Authority
September 28, 2017	8:30 AM	Altoona City Water Authority
October 26, 2017	8:30 AM	Altoona City Water Authority



2016 Board of Directors

Name	Term	Other Public Office
Bill Hall, Chairman	2016	Tyrone Borough Authority, Chairman
Herb Shelow, Secretary	2018	Bellwood Borough Council President
Jim Dixon, Treasurer	2016	Altoona City Planning Commission Member
Patrick Baechle	2017	Past Hollidaysburg Planning Commission Member
Vincent DiLeo	2017	Altoona Drug & Crime Commission
Dennis Hammel	2016	Williamsburg Borough Council
Randy Isenberg	2018	Altoona City Planning Commission Member
Ben Postles	2017	Williamsburg Community SD Board Member
Linda Smith	2018	Blair County Board of Assessment Appeals

Blair County Planning Commission 2016 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, 2016. The major sources of income for the 2015 fiscal year were local support (municipal and county), transportation funding, and community development funding. We had a strong year for development reviews as well. Our major expense is employee compensation, accounting for 85% of expenses. 2016 was a good year overall.



2016 Financial Statement

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

Transportation	229,534.00
Community Development	29,810.51
Planning	130,250.00
Miscellaneous	1,723.13

Total Income	391,317.61
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Expense

Personnel	290,508.00
Operating	24,434.85
Contract	38,118.00
Uncollectable Funds	0.00

Total Expense	363,060.82
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Net Result	28,256.79
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Staff Changes at the Blair County Planning Commission

New Staff Member

Jordan Futrick of Tipton joined our staff as an intern in January. Jordan is a communications major at Penn State Altoona and will be graduating in the Summer of 2017. Jordan is focusing on developing a new website presence for BCPC as well as , marketing, and promotion of BCPC on the web and through video production, and social media. Jordan will also be assisting with outreach and education for the Healthiest Cities & Communities Challenge grant. We welcome her aboard.

Staff Job Descriptions and Titles

In the fall of 2016, the BCPC Employee Handbook was revised and updated to be relevant to the planning field. The revision included job descriptions and title updates for several staff members including Jamie Klink, Sheryl Durbin, and Tina Enderlein.

Jamie Klink's job title has changed from Assistant Planner to Community Planner. Jamie's remains the point of contact for development proposal and reviews in addition to assisting in plan implementation as well as undertaking research and analysis for long-range planning efforts. Jamie's new job description and duties will allow him to continue to work with municipal governments concerning ordinance and plan development and to provide advice and recommendations to constituent municipalities. In the coming year Jamie will be significantly involved with development of the Comprehensive Plan as well as the Hazardous Mitigation Plan.

Sheryl Durbin's job title has changed from Clerical Associate to Planning Aide. Sheryl's job description includes procurement support for the Planning Commission as well as clerical support to the entire Planning Commission staff. Additional duties

include coordination, maintenance, and archive of both the electronic and physical files, continued scheduling support of Board and Committee meetings, processing accounts receivable, and monitoring contracts and licenses for professional services, equipment, and computers.

Tina Enderlein's job title has changed from Strategic Planner to Regional Planner. Tina's new job description includes development and coordination of the County Comprehensive Plan, coordination with other planning agencies to ensure synchronized planning efforts, preparation of plans and studies focused on specific locations and topics, and research and development on issues of regional or long-term concern, in addition to providing planning support to Blair County municipalities.

If you have any questions on these changes, please contact the BCPC at 814-693-2080.

Marketing and Outreach

In this wired age, people are constantly connected everywhere and to everyone. To catch up with the times and to reach out and connect with our community, the Blair County Planning Commission has joined social media!

With the Planning Commission's Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter Accounts, we now have the ability to connect with thousands of people.

Our Marketing and Outreach goals here at BCPC is not only to connect with our community, but to get them engaged and involved with upcoming projects and events.

But how can we spark this engagement through social media? It's actually really quite simple. Studies have shown that people respond better to pictures, short videos, hashtags, and 'short-sweet and to the point status updates. Keeping all of this in mind, the BCPC plans to follow these guidelines so that everyone can easily follow what is happening with BCPC's

New Website

Not only did the BCPC join the movement, but we also revamped our website.

social media movement, but we also revamped our website. Our new website is organized, simple, and easy to use. With the new site, you no longer have to scroll through pages of information to find what you are looking for.

So check out our new website and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter!

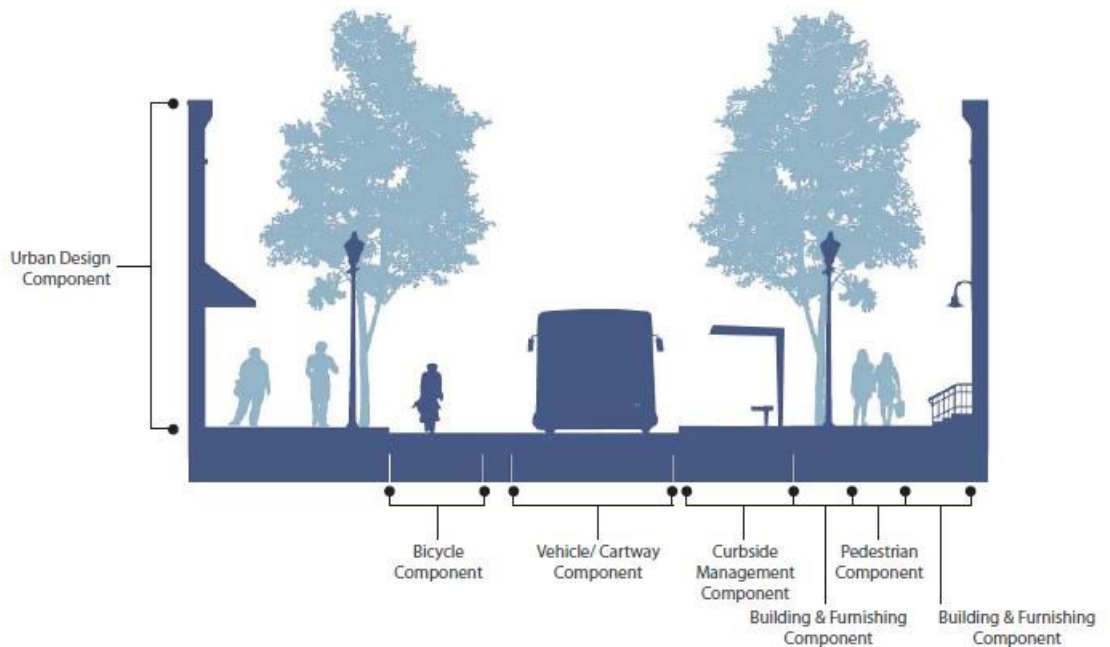


Complete Streets and Vision Zero

The term *complete street* means designing, building and operating the streets to routinely accommodate safe travel by all modes and all people. A complete street serves everyone who travels, be it by driving, walking, bicycling, riding transit or other means while connecting to a larger transportation network. People of all ages and abilities are able to safely move along and across streets, regardless of how they are traveling. Complete streets are essential for access by people who cannot drive. Streets without safe access for non-motorized transportation represent a barrier for people who use wheelchairs, and for older adults and children. A complete street may look quite different on different sides of the same city, but are designed to balance safety, access and mobility for everyone using the street.

Vision Zero complements the complete streets concept. It is a goal of zero deaths on the transportation system through design and implementation of system elements that allow the safe passage of all types of transport modes. It also incorporates best practices in system construction and maintenance as well as a robust research and development component.

The Blair County Planning Commission recognizes the need for complete streets and will accommodate elements that create a complete street where possible. Some of the elements under consideration for inclusion on a complete street can be sidewalks, shared use paths, bike lanes, fewer travel lanes, narrower lane widths, improved street crossings, bump outs, pedestrian signals, signs, street furniture, street trees, and transit shelters, access and facilities. All designs should be context-sensitive to meet the needs of the community and surrounding area while emphasizing safe and accessible travel for all people.

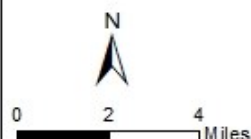
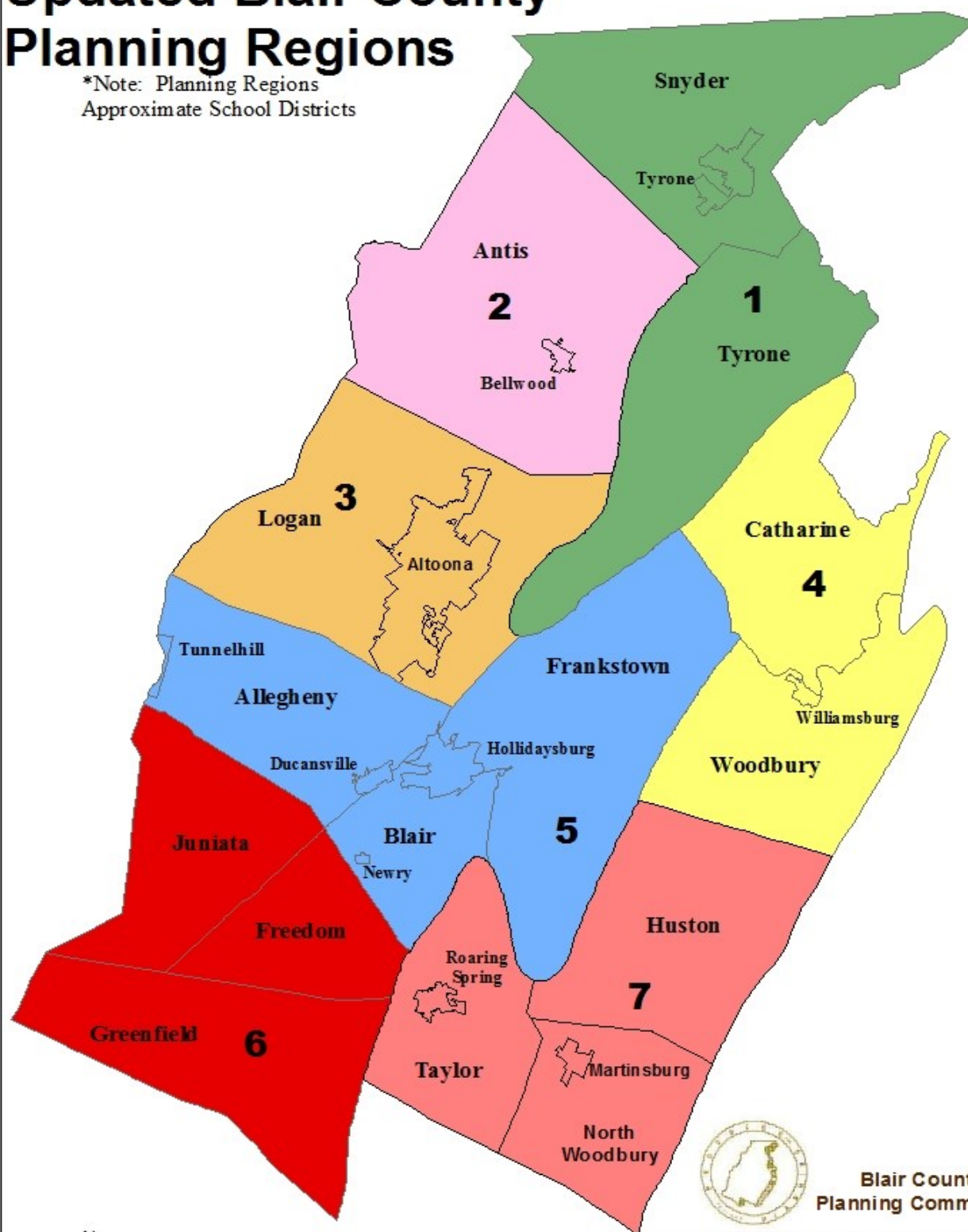


Every city, state and federally funded transportation improvement and project phase should be approached as an opportunity to create safer, more accessible streets for all users. Project phases include planning, programming, design, right-of-way acquisition, construction, construction engineering, reconstruction, and operations as well as any change to transportation facilities within street right-of-ways such as capital improvements, re-channelization projects, and major maintenance.

The integration of land use and transportation is critical to the livability of a community and region. In a highly competitive global economy, regions and communities must learn to address each in a balanced manner to maintain a high quality of life for existing and future residents, business and visitors. New and existing residents and employees have an expectation for a high quality of life, which often includes a walkable, bikeable and vibrant community. Incorporating complete streets into a community can assist in achieving this high quality of life.

Updated Blair County Planning Regions

*Note: Planning Regions
Approximate School Districts



Blair County
Planning Commission

Planning Regions and
Municipal Boundaries

Prepared Date: February 2017
Prepared By: Blair County Planning Commission
Data Source: Blair County Planning Commission

Alleghenies Ahead: Shared Strategies for a Stronger Region

The Blair County Planning Commission, in cooperation with Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission and the five other planning commissions in the region, has initiated an update of the county comprehensive plan. The county last completed a full update of its comprehensive plan in 2007. In discussing the needs, the six county planning directors felt it would be cost effective to combine the efforts of the six counties into one aligned effort. Each of the counties is providing a \$30,000 match to a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. The plan will be known as Alleghenies Ahead: Shared Strategies for a Stronger Region. We invite your input into the planning process as well as any contribution you can make to implementing the plan over the next decade.



Alleghenies Ahead will be different from previous comprehensive planning efforts in Blair County. Our 1967 plan was nearly twenty volumes in length and covered nearly every aspect of life in Blair County. In 2007, the county adopted the current comprehensive plan, which was much more manageable in size, but continued with the practice of providing direction in many areas of the community. While these plans certainly met the needs and expectations of the times, the primary issue became one of implementation. With so many goals, objectives, and action items as well as the expectation that the planning office was responsible to carry all of it out, the plan quickly faded into the background once adopted. Alleghenies Ahead is being developed through DCED's implementable plan process, which focuses on a few large priorities in the area and proposes manageable action steps to achieve the goals of the plan within the decade. It is not a shelf document, but carries the expectation that the community will rally and carry it out.

Early on (we are just beginning) it appears that major areas of focus in Blair County include:

- ◆ Recognizing the large asset we have in our outdoor opportunities, including recreation, active lifestyles, health, job opportunities, environmental stewardship, and agriculture
- ◆ The need to provide community amenities that have been historically overlooked in the county such as connected pedestrian systems, bicycle transportation, more robust transit and intercity connections, active parks, and increased recognition of the arts community.
- ◆ Diversifying the housing market to include mid-range housing options and options other than detached single family houses, including townhouses, condominiums, duplexes, triplexes, garden apartments, studios, lofts, and apartment options.
- ◆ Support the independent entrepreneurial heritage of the area through marketing, job training, small business owner education, and community spirit.



We hope to have the plan developed and adopted early in 2018 and begin implementing immediately thereafter. Anyone interested in participating in plan development or, more importantly, plan implementation should feel free to contact the planning office.

Upcoming Planning Meeting Dates

Mark your calendars for upcoming meeting dates for 2017-18. Below are the meetings dates, times, and locations for the Joint Comprehensive Plan Committee Meetings and the Hazard Mitigation Plan meetings .

2017 Joint Comprehensive Plan Committee Meetings Meeting Dates and Times

Date	Time	Location
March 1, 2017	2:00 PM	Logan Township Municipal Building
April 12, 2017	2:00 PM	Martinsburg Borough Building
May 24, 2017	2:00 PM	Tyrone-Snyder Library
June 28, 2017	2:00 PM	Smokey Run Rod and Gun Club Claysburg
August 9, 2017	2:00 PM	Williamsburg Ladies Auxiliary
September 20, 2017	2:00 PM	Bellwood-Antis Community Park Pavilion
November 1, 2017	2:00 PM	ABCD Corporation



2017 –18 Hazard Mitigation Plan Meeting Dates and Times

Date	Time	Location
March 22, 2017	10:00 AM	Logan Township Municipal Building
May 31 2017	10:00 AM	Logan Township Municipal Building
August 9, 2017	10:00 AM	Logan Township Municipal Building
October 18, 2017	10:00 AM	Logan Township Municipal Building
January 10, 2018	10:00 AM	Logan Township Municipal Building
March 14, 2018	10:00 AM	Logan Township Municipal Building



Purpose of the Metropolitan Planning Organization

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Blair County (Altoona MSA) was formed in 1965 to carry out the federally required transportation planning process. The MPO is composed of an eleven member board of local elected officials and representatives from the Blair County Airport, AMTRAN and PennDOT. The board works with the municipalities, the public, non-profit and private sector organizations, and state and federal legislators to plan for and program improvements to the region's transportation network. Financial support for MPO planning activities is from federal transportation funding through PennDOT, the state and the County and its member municipalities.

The BCPC serves the MPO by preparing meeting notices, agendas, minutes, maintaining the MPO's Web site, convening MPO and Technical Committee meetings and performing other transportation planning work as described below.



PennDOT's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

TAP 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.



The most recent TAP projects awarded funding were Penn State's Juniata Gap Road Pathway that has been constructed in 2016 for \$550,000, and the 12th Street Pedestrian Bridge that was awarded \$460,000 for repairs. The two other TAP applications recommended for funding by the MPO to the Department were the Logan Avenue Streetscape and the Reservoir Park Walking Path projects in the Borough of Tyrone. The next TAP application period is expected to occur in the fall of 2017.



Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/12 Yr. Program

In 2016, the MPO approved two federal requirements: a 2015-2040 Regional Long Range Transportation Plan and the 2017-2020 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.

The 2017-2020 TIP contained \$22.4 million for public transit and \$53.4 million for highways and bridges that included two local bridges: the County's #10 Bridge and Greenfield Township's Sheetzway Bridge. Many state bridges have also been added to the updated program as well as state road resurfacing projects on Plank Road, Pleasant Valley Blvd., California and 10th Avenues, Reservoir Road, Juniata Valley Road, Valley Forge Road, William Penn Road, and Municipal Drive.



Highway Performance Monitoring System Activities

The BCPC collected data for PennDOT on 96 state and municipal owned liquid fuel roadway segments and attended annual training. The data is used to help determine federal funding distributions and assessment of roadway condition.

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.



PennDOT Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP)

Register for 2017 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 the BCPC 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 program provides a professional certification to municipal employees and officials who attend 10 (ten) LTAP workshops 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..



2017 Schedule of Blair County LTAP Courses

Upcoming Courses	Course Date	Course Location
Stormwater Facility Operation and Maintenance	March 10, 2017	Hollidaysburg Borough Building, Hollidaysburg
Asphalt Roads Common Maintenance Problems	April 26, 2017	Tyrone-Snyder Public Library, Tyrone
Drainage: The Key to Roads that Last	May 3, 2017	Tyrone-Snyder Public Library, Tyrone
Traffic Calming	June 15, 2017	South Hills School of Business Altoona
Work Zone (Temporary Traffic Control)	July 11, 2017	South Hills School of Business Altoona
Roadside Vegetation Control	August 10, 2017	South Hills School of Business Altoona
Unpaved & Gravel Roads Maintenance Practices	September 8, 2017	Roaring Spring Library
Salt & Snow Management	October 6, 2017	Hoss's Steak and Sea House Duncansville

PennDOT Connects

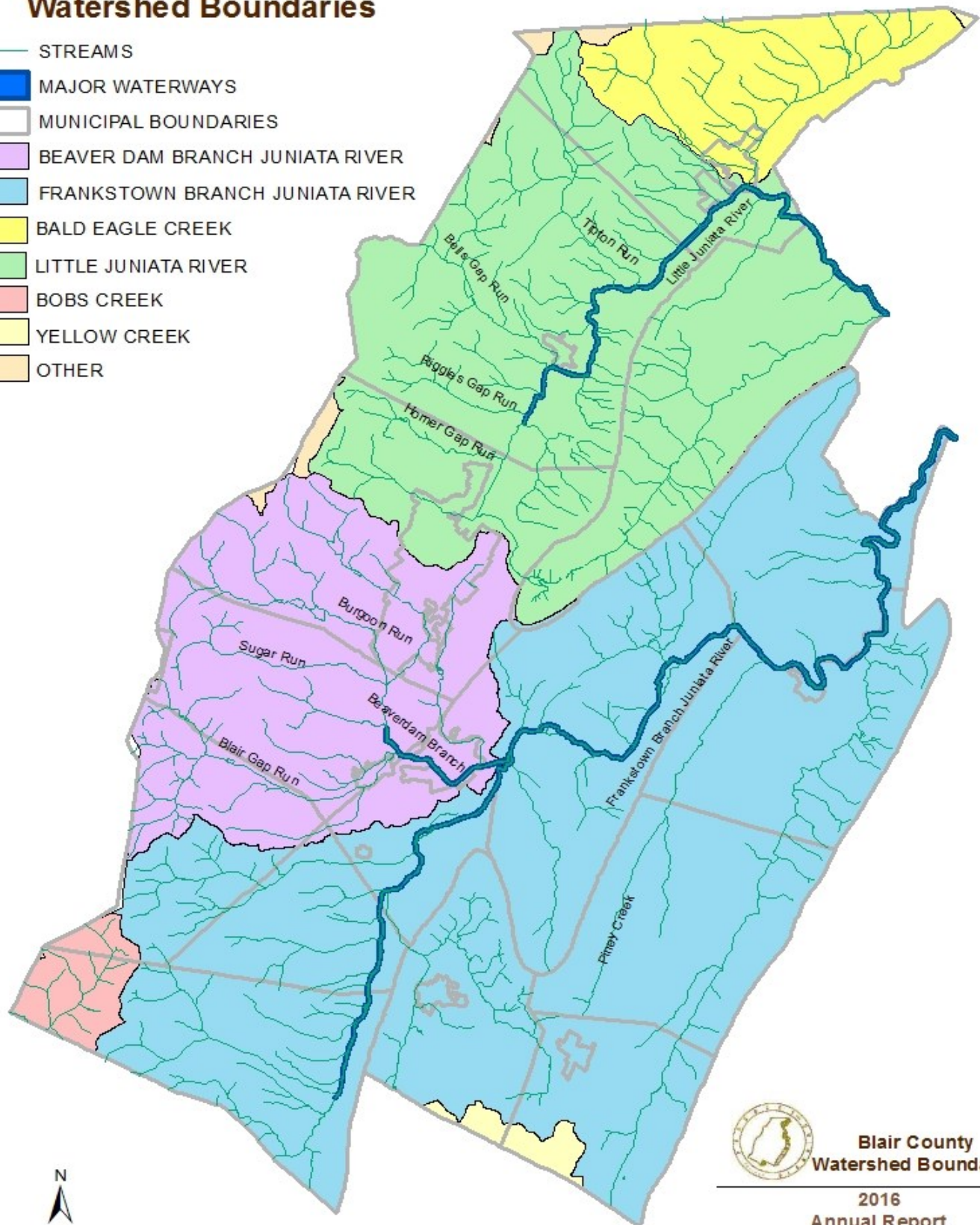
On December 19, the Pennsylvania Secretary of Transportation announced the PennDOT Connects Process, which is designed to expand mobility and make the transportation planning process more efficient and cost effective. The process includes PennDOT District Offices meeting with municipalities and planning commission staff to discuss a list of possible issues with projects before design. Three meetings for this initiative were held in December. Additional transportation activities undertaken by the BCPC have been as follows:

- attended Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act webinar;
- attended LTAP courses in Traffic Signs, Roadside Vegetation Removal, Traffic and Engineering Studies and Salt and Snow Management;
- reviewed applications for an engineering firm to inspect County bridges;
- produced maps of municipal owned non-liquid fuel roads from the local inventory;
- notified the municipalities that PennDOT was accepting Green Light-Go Program applications for the maintenance and upgrade of existing traffic signals;
- reviewed the City of Altoona's proposed subdivision and land development ordinance for issues related to parking, pedestrians and public transit;
- attended two meetings regarding the impacts of a major development in the City;
- attended summer and fall PennDOT Central Office Planning Partners Meetings;
- provided a letter of support for Degol Industrial Park Rail Freight Assistance Grant Application;
- notified the municipalities, school districts and others of PennDOT's Multimodal Transportation Fund application opening and provided the City of Altoona with a letter of support for the Beale Avenue Traffic Calming/Urban Sustainability Project;
- polled the MPO to amend the TIP to include \$577,500 Appalachian Regional Commission funds for the Tyrone Industrial Park Access Road Improvement Project;
- provided the local bridge and roadway inventory map data to the County GIS department for use in the County's 911;
- convened a public meeting for the long range transportation plan;
- worked with DCNR regarding the Logan Valley Trolley Trail application;
- submitted a letter to PennDOT conveying the MPO's request to include PA Rt. 453 and PA Route 36 from Old US 220 to Smith Transport in the National Highway System;
- amended the TIP for Blair Senior Services, Inc. to include accessible transit buses;
- updated Title VI Complaint Procedures form and addresses on the BCPC web site;
- attended PennDOT Central Office's Planning and Engineering Executive 360 training;
- amended the TIP to include Act 13 funds for County Bridge #66;
- updated BCPC website to include the BCPC's version of the 2017 TIP;
- reviewed PennDOT's TAC's Bicycle and Pedestrian Policy Study;
- reviewed PennDOT's proposed 2016 Strategic Highway Safety Plan.



Blair County Watershed Boundaries

-  STREAMS
-  MAJOR WATERWAYS
-  MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES
-  BEAVER DAM BRANCH JUNIATA RIVER
-  FRANKSTOWN BRANCH JUNIATA RIVER
-  BALD EAGLE CREEK
-  LITTLE JUNIATA RIVER
-  BOBS CREEK
-  YELLOW CREEK
-  OTHER



**Blair County
Watershed Boundaries**

**2016
Annual Report**

Prepared Date: February 16, 2017
 Prepared By: Blair County Planning Commission
 Data Source: Blair County Planning Commission

Hazard Mitigation Plan

The current Hazard Mitigation Plan for Blair County was adopted in 2013 and includes the county government as well as each of the municipalities within the county (with the exception of Tunnelhill Borough, which is included in the Cambria County plan).. An updated plan is due by September 30, 2018. In December, the BCPC, in conjunction with the Blair County Emergency Management Agency, the update process by requesting each municipality to appoint a representative to the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee and by applying for a Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant from FEMA.



A meeting was held in January to bring the participants up to date on the status of the 2013 plan. A synopsis was given in the November 2016 edition of Progress Through Planning. Additionally, the meeting began to look ahead for the 2018 plan update. The following needs remain outstanding for the 2013 plan:

- ♦ **Improvement of the Special Needs Database:** The Blair County Emergency Management Agency is continuing to improve the database and are opening it up to all Blair County households for participation. This will allow people to register items and people that may not have been included in the initial focus which was limited to those with special needs requiring immediate attention in an emergency situation.
- ♦ **Development and Support of Municipal Participation in the Community Rating System:** The Blair County Planning Commission held a meeting hosted at the Logan Township building to go over the requirements local municipalities have relative to the National Flood Insurance Program. As a result of that meeting, the consensus was that we were not ready to move ahead with CRS at that time. Establishment of a countywide floodplain administrator needed to be done first; the administrator could then lead the way into CRS certification.
- ♦ **Establishment of a countywide Certified Floodplain Administrator:** Focus on the education aspects of the hazard mitigation plan delayed the presentation of this concept to the municipalities. We expect to do so during 2017, starting with the March GAC meeting. The preliminary concept would be to house the position in the Blair County Planning Commission and fund it with an increase in local shares as well as application fees, on-site reviews, certifications, and enforcement.
- ♦ **Continued work on hazardous materials transportation, including Burns Avenue and PA-764:** The PA 764 and Burns Avenue project has been included in the transportation planning process. Additional work is ongoing to identify any additional critical areas of concern relative to hazardous material accidents.



Other Activities of the Blair County Planning Commission

- ◆ The planning commission has subscribed to the American Planning Association's Planning Advisory Service, which puts the resources of a nationwide research team at our fingertips. We are able to request research on nearly any topic facing a community as part of this service. If you have an issue that you would like additional information on to come to a decision, please let us know. Included in this subscription is a new publication each month on a specific topic. Recent reports include *Subdivision Design in Flood Hazard Areas*, *Emerging Trends in Regional Planning*, *Planning Aging-Supportive Communities*, and *Planning for Shared Mobility*. General topics in the past three years include agriculture, transportation, small town economics, housing, food systems, community design, and health.

- ◆ 2016 was a year of policy updates and administrative redevelopments for the Blair County Planning Commission. Every policy on the books was given a critical review and updated to reflect current needs and practices. This took a significant portion of the Director's time. Policy updates included the by-laws, employee handbook, member handbook, procurement policy, records retention policy, financial policy, a public participation plan, a restructuring of the financial recordkeeping system and budget process, a resolution to consider health in all our policies, and the start of a complete streets policy including a vision zero resolution (see separate article).



- ◆ In July, the Director attended a statewide meeting for public sector planning directors regarding Pennsylvania's new medical marijuana law. This law provides a 'program of access' for medical purposes and provides basic criteria

for the production and sale of the drug. Information on local requirements and restrictions is available to municipalities through the planning office.

- ◆ The Director once again attended the Federal policy conference in September. This is an annual conference provided by the American Planning Association that provided access to the actual decision makers and policy developers in the administration. It generally provides an accurate insight into the upcoming changes in Federal policy and programs for the subsequent two years. Given 2016 was an election year, the approach was somewhat different, but basic insight into infrastructure, housing, energy, and environmental issues was still provided by secretaries and deputy secretaries of the relevant agencies.
- ◆ We continued active participation in the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association, the County Planning Directors Association of Pennsylvania, PAMAGIC, the Census Liaison Program, and began considering participation the US Department of Energy's SunSpot program promoting solar energy.
- ◆ Locally, we continued to provide research and technical assistance to the local municipalities, Explore Altoona, the Altoona Blair County Development Corporation, the Altoona Blair County Airport, and numerous private entities and individuals.

PA WalkWorks Grant from the PA Department of Health

In 2016, the Blair County Planning Commission received second-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 BCPC 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 2016, BCPC established two WalkWorks routes for Hollidaysburg Borough. Both routes are approximately two miles in length and are located in notable areas of the Borough. The **Historic Hollidaysburg Route** (located along residential and commercial areas around the Blair County Courthouse and the Diamond), and the **Gaysport**

Route (located in a residential / commercial area near Canal Basin Park).

In the past year, BCPC 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 is ending in June 2017, BCPC

Health.

For the spring of 2017, BCPC 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 is being planned for the Spring of 2017. We are looking forward to a successful event along with a walk along the new routes. Look for More information on the Williamsburg routes kick-off event coming soon!

In the near future, we hope to continue developing walking routes within as many Blair County communities as possible. With the help of PennDOT's Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP), we are able to coordinate Walkability Assessments at no cost to the municipality. If your community is interested in creating a more walkable community, please contact the BCPC at 814-693-2080.



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 WalkWorks routes and Hollidaysburg Borough routes, BCPC was able to secure a supplemental funding for route sustainability through June 2017 from the PA Department of



For more information on WalkWorks, please see the following:

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

Or on Facebook at Blair WalkWorks

Healthiest Cities and Counties Challenge (HCCC)

During the spring of 2016, BCPC 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, BCPC was awarded \$10,000 seed funding from the AETNA Foundation as part

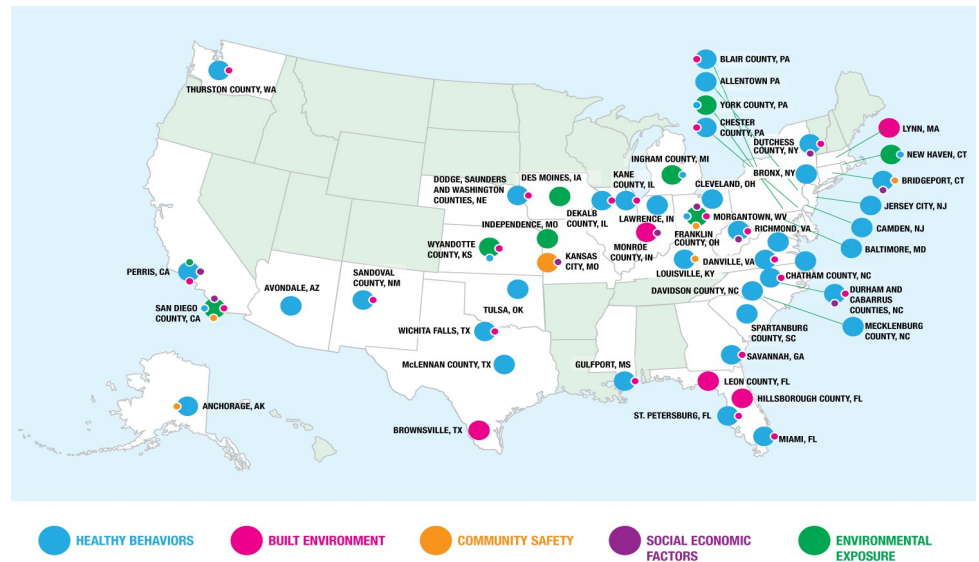


of the Healthiest Cities and Counties Challenge or "The Challenge". The seed funding will be utilized for active transportation expansion in Blair County with the intent of improving health and the quality of life for Blair county residents through opportunities in the built environment to engage in physical activity.

The Challenge award runs from October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2018 and puts BCPC 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 BCPC 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 2016, the Planning Commission reviewed 165 subdivision and land developments, higher from the previous years 2012-2015. Review fees collected for subdivision and land development were higher from the previous years 2012, 2014-2015. However, during 2012, 2014-2015, Intergovernmental requests increased during this same period. The table below provides information on 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
2012	111	\$20,106.00	74	8
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



Subdivision/Development Reviews

In 2016, municipalities with the highest levels of subdivision and land development activity were the City of Altoona, Allegheny Township, Logan Township and Greenfield Township. See table below for the annual Subdivision and Land Development Review Totals by Municipality from 2012—2016.

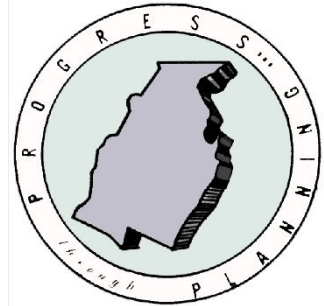
Annual Subdivision and Land Development Review Totals by Municipality

Annual Subdivision and Land Development Review Totals by Municipality					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
City of Altoona	17	15	10	13	24
Bellwood Borough*	0	0	0	0	0
Duncansville Borough	0	1	0	0	0
Hollidaysburg Borough	1	9	7	3	4
Martinsburg Borough*	0	0	0	0	0
Newry Borough*	0	0	0	0	0
Roaring Spring Borough	0	0	1	0	1
Tunnelhill Borough*	0	0	0	0	0
Tyrone Borough	1	6	2	0	1
Williamsburg Borough*	0	0	0	0	0
Allegheny Township	12	14	13	14	16
Antis Township	6	10	7	18	6
Blair Township	7	6	5	10	4
Catharine Township	2	3	7	2	2
Frankstown Township	2	2	0	1	13
Freedom Township	7	4	4	7	9
Greenfield Township	2	8	9	4	15
Huston Township	1	6	3	1	9
Juniata Township*	0	0	0	0	1
Logan Township	25	17	20	13	16
North Woodbury Township	5	5	7	4	13
Snyder Township	9	1	6	5	6
Taylor Township	6	9	3	1	10
Tyrone Township	3	2	3	2	4
Woodbury Township	5	7	4	9	11
Total	111	125	111	107	165
* Municipalities without Subdivision and Land Development Ordinances - BCPC Review is not required by law					

Our New Identity



Beginning in March 2017, you will be seeing our new logo (at left), and our 'business' name, Blair Planning. After a half century, it seemed time to update the face of the organization. The new logo represents the interaction of the built and natural environments and a bright future. The shortening of the name is something that has been done informally over the last number of years, and it seemed time to formalize it. The official name remains the same. We will continue to use the old seal (right) occasionally, and the 'Progress through Planning' byline will also continue into the future. A change such as this has been thought of for a while, but the hiring of Jordan Futrick, our communications intern, has made the final push possible.



Blair County Planning Commission 2016 Annual Report



Blair County Planning Commission
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