

Comprehensive Plan Update

**Planning
Commission
Workshop
VII**

SWT Planning Commission




















July 12, 2022

swtcompplan.org

swt

July 12, 2022

Proposed Timeline: Michael Baker International

Tasks	2022							
	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Project Coordination & Management								
Comprehensive Plan Planning Commission Workshops								
Public Engagement								
Comprehensive Plan Update Drafting								
Final Plan Adoption*								
Project Completion								
<p><i>*Assume initiation of required 45-day public comment period on or before October 10, 2022 with final adoption hearing in December 2022. If public comment period is initiated later than October 10, 2022, final Plan Adoption schedule will have to be adjusted to correspond with MPC adoption requirements.</i></p>								
LEGEND:								
SOW Deliverables Timelines								
Represent Adoption Schedule Pursuant to MPC Requirements								
Public Workshop								
Planning Commission Workshop								
Project Completion								

PC Workshops

July 12, 2022

swt

february	march	april/may	june	july	august	september	september/ october
overall goal review	overall goal draft						Final draft
	resource protection review	resource protection draft					
		utilities review	utilites draft				
			housing review	housing draft			
			facilities review	facilities draft			
				transportation review	transportation draft		
					land use review	land use draft	
					modelling discussion	modelling review	
						implementation review	

July 12, 2022

swt

AGENDA / PROCESS

statement of goals and objectives				implementation strategies
resource protection plan	agriculture resources	historic resources	natural resources	
community utilities plan	water	wastewater	stormwater	
housing plan				
community facilities plan	parks recreation	education	emergency response	
transportation plan	bike pedestrian	transit	traffic	

July 12, 2022

swt

AGENDA / PROCESS

mapping + land use plan

modeling: transportation + economic

draft comprehensive plan

July 12, 2022

swt

INDIVIDUAL MEETING FLOW

public comment review

review of “synthesized goals/objectives/implementation”

open comment period. “approval” to post

July 12, 2022

swt

public comment review

- D. Spiegel: A Vision for the Future of the 309 Corridor (Transportation)
- R. Bronstein: Comprehensive Plan – Lands of Jeras – Comments and Next Steps (land use)
- Comment form live (4/29).
 - 5/2. Luther Crest
- Marie North: 2022 Resource Protection Comments (5/23)

July 12, 2022

swt

INDIVIDUAL MEETING FLOW

review of “synthesized goals/strategies/implementation”

July 12, 2022

swt

Housing

2022 OVERALL GOAL

Maintain and strengthen the identity of SWT neighborhoods.

Provide a variety of housing and neighborhood choices that meet the needs of all generations with consideration of family sizes, abilities, and income levels.

July 12, 2022

swt

Housing

STRATEGIES

- Replicate successes of established SWT neighborhoods in terms of design, character and connectivity.
- Encourage densities and scale where capacity and impacts can be absorbed to the greatest extent.
- New development should provide housing types that build upon housing choice and affordability of swt.
- New development should maintain scale and character of surrounding neighborhoods.
- Incentivize innovative housing strategies that respond to market demands.
- Allow density credits to be applied to adaptive reuse.

July 12, 2022

swt

Housing “Call-Outs”? (2022)

???

July 12, 2022

swt

Housing Implementation (2022)

Allow density credits to be applied to adaptive reuse of non-residential buildings within existing planning areas or corridors

Strengthen Cluster Incentives (WG)

Affordable Housing Incentives (WG)

Review and amend zoning ordinance to ensure all types of housing are provided to meet the needs of current and future residents (WG)

Transfer of Development Rights (WG)

Planning for walkable/bikeable communities with a focus on origins and destinations (WG)

Develop planning area-based design guidelines

July 12, 2022

swt

Community Facilities

2022 OVERALL GOAL

Community Facilities. Promote an effective continuation of opportunities, facilities, and services for parks, recreation, education, public safety, and wellness.

July 12, 2022

swt

Community Facilities

Public Safety

Public Facilities (parks, schools...)

July 12, 2022

swt

Community Facilities

STRATEGIES

- Evaluate opportunities to acquire land for community facilities.
- Continually evaluate future needs community facilities.

July 12, 2022

swt

Community Facilities

STRATEGIES

CFWG6. PROACTIVELY ASSESS FIRE/EMS/POLICE SERVICE NEEDS AND SERVICE AREAS.

CFWG1. MAINTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT RELATIONSHIP FOR SHARED FACILITIES AND SERVICES

CFWG4. CONSIDER OPPORTUNITIES TO ACQUIRE LAND OR STRUCTURES FOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES USE.

CFWG3. CONSIDER CONNECTIONS TO FACILITIES (OPEN SPACE, PARKS, SERVICES) WHEN REVIEWING DEVELOPMENTS

CFWG7. INCREASE COMMUNITY OUTREACH TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IS WORKING AND ENCOURAGE MORE VOLUNTEERISM.

CFWG2. ENSURE CONSISTENCY WITH THE PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE

CFWG5. UTILIZE OFFICIAL MAP TO IDENTIFY AND PRIORITIZE COMMUNITY FACILITIES OPPORTUNITIES.

CFWG8. INCREASE TOWNSHIP EFFORTS TOWARDS COORDINATION ON THE COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN.

CFWG9. SHORTEN REVIEW PERIODS FOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND HAZARD MITIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS

July 12, 2022

swt

Community Facilities “Call-Outs” (2022)

???

July 12, 2022

swt

Community Facilities Implementation (2022)

Develop mechanism to periodically evaluate current and future public safety needs of South Whitehall Township

Incorporate community facilities into Township-wide capital improvements plan

Utilize independent third party to evaluate fire and EMS service areas

Increase volunteerism throughout the Township

Re-evaluate partnerships with BOE “Field of Dreams”

Work with BOE to ensure efficient operations and maintenance of community facilities

Evaluate staffing levels to coordinate with levels of service expectations

July 12, 2022

swt

INDIVIDUAL MEETING FLOW

new element: Transportation

staff review of goals and objectives

board of commissioner comment

public comment

planning commission comment

planning commission prioritization

working groups

2009 comp plan

lvpc

July 12, 2022

swt

INDIVIDUAL MEETING FLOW

planning commission prioritization

open comment on prioritization

additional goals and objectives

implementable actions

new element

repeat above until adjournment

July 12, 2022

swt

Transportation

WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

- TWG1. Create a transportation plan for the township (roads and trails)
- TWG2. Amend Zoning Map so traffic-related intensity of permitted uses is appropriate to existing and planned transportation network
- TWG3. Identify safety areas and high crash areas to address.
- TWG4. Discuss multi-municipal planning and benefit to Township
- TWG5. Traffic Impact Fees- serious consideration of an Act 209 Study
- TWG6. Prepare and get our projects on the TIP
- TWG7. More frequent updates to the comp plan
- TWG8. Encourage more transportation connections/connectivity enhancements
- TWG9. Official map update to leverage funding and create a vision
- TWG10. Create and implements a Capital Improvements plan
- TWG11. PennDOT Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP)
- TWG12. Increase citizen education around transportation.

July 12, 2022

swt

Transportation

What are your top 3 to 5 priorities?

What is missing?

What could be removed and why?

July 12, 2022

swt

Transportation

Multi-modal

Traffic

July 12, 2022

swt

Transportation: Multi-modal

2009 COMP PLAN GOALS – MULTI-MODAL

- TCPG1. Promote multimodal circulation, particularly walkability, throughout the Township.
- TCPG2. Promote opportunities for alternative transportation means, such as walking, biking and increased bus service.
- TCPG3. Promote opportunities for alternative transportation means, such as walking, biking and increased bus service.
- TCPG4. Provide opportunities for Park & Ride sites near I-78/Rt. 22/Rt. 309 and other areas to encourage carpooling.
- TCPG5. Consider mass transit in site planning for more efficient access to this type of transportation.
- TCPG6. Define the role, scope, and feasibility of uses for the existing rail line.

July 12, 2022

swt

Transportation: Multi-modal

2009 COMP PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS – MULTI-MODAL

- TCPR1. Plan higher density housing, shopping, and employment facilities along existing or planned transit routes.
- TCPR2. Encourage communication between shopping/commercial centers, business/industrial park (etc.) owners and LANTA to determine appropriate locations for bus shelters.
- TCPR3. Plan for an Enhanced Pedestrian Network
- TCPR4. Safe Routes to Schools: Focus on sidewalks accessing neighborhood schools; Work with Parkland School District.
- TCPR5. Crosswalks: Improve standards per PENNDOT criteria in the SALDO and Zoning Ordinance (ZO) for crosswalk design; and require improvements with new and redevelopment.

July 12, 2022

swt

Transportation: Multi-modal

2009 COMP PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS (CONT.) – MULTI-MODAL

- TCPR6. Seek grants for alternative transportation mode improvements.
- TCPR7. Consider input from agencies specializing in alternative transportation modes.
- TCPR8. Consider applicable standard roadway signage installations where deemed appropriate associated with bicycling and pedestrian activities.
- TCPR9. Paths and Trails: Continue progressing with the development of the pathway system recommended as part of the latest approved Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.
- TCPR10. Greenways Network and Regional Trails: Continue involvement in the Jordan Creek Greenway/Trail Project.

July 12, 2022

swt

Transportation: Multi-modal

FUTURELV GOALS – MULTI-MODAL

- TFLV1. Promote safe routes to schools and playgrounds.
- TFLV2. Improve connections between bus stops and pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.
- TFLV3. Promote revitalization of walkable historic centers.
- TFLV4. Improve walkability of post-war centers.
- TFLV5. Promote street trees and pedestrian-scale lighting.
- TFLV6. Strengthen sidewalk, bike route and trail infrastructure.
- TFLV7. Ensure transportation accessibility for all persons.

July 12, 2022

swt

Transportation

What are your top 3 to 5 priorities?

What is missing?

What could be removed and why?

July 12, 2022

swt

Transportation: Traffic

2009 COMP PLAN GOALS - TRAFFIC

- TCPG1. Facilitate the safe and efficient movement of people and goods now and as the Township grows.
- TCPG2. Identify transportation improvements needed to alleviate existing problems and avoid future conflicts resulting from growth and development
- TCPG3. Use the Official Map to lay out potential/probable sites for new roadways in advance of submitted plans for land use
- TCPG4. Provide the opportunity for neighborhood shopping (for convenience items) and Live-Work units (a form of “zero-commute housing”) to reduce the number of vehicle trips and congestion on local roadways.
- TCPG5. Amend the Township zoning map so that the traffic-related intensity of permitted uses is appropriate to the capabilities of the existing and planned road network.

July 12, 2022

swt

Transportation: Traffic

2009 COMP PLAN GOALS (CONT.) - TRAFFIC

- TCPG6. Reevaluate the viability and design of cul-de-sacs due to their potential to cumulatively create traffic congestion on the collector roads.
- TCPG7. Increase the number of secondary north/south and east/west routes in the Township.
- TCPG8. Consider establishing official transportation districts as part of an Act 209 Plan in order to provide an opportunity for future impact fees.
- TCPG9. Develop a Capital Improvements Plan and program that will properly prioritize transportation improvement projects by evaluating the urgency of an improvement with the cost of that improvement.
- TCPG10. Work closely with LVPC and adjacent municipalities on regional transportation issues.
- TCPG11. Establish a citizen advisory group that focuses on traffic problems.
- TCPG12. Integrate mixed transportation into public space design.

July 12, 2022

swt

Transportation: Traffic

2009 COMP PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS - TRAFFIC

- TCPR1. Update of Functional Classification of Township Roads in accordance with Map 7-2.
- TCPR2. Consider an Act 209 Plan. Pennsylvania Act 209 was signed into the law in 1990 and amends the Municipalities Planning Code to permit a Township to assess transportation impact fees on new development provided it has adopted a municipal transportation impact fee ordinance in accordance with the Act. While currently not deemed appropriate for the Township, an Act 209 Plan may possibly be considered in the future for a portion or portions of the Township.
- TCPR3. Incorporate planned and future transportation projects as part of a Capital Improvements Plan. Transportation infrastructure comprises a large portion of any municipal budget. With proper planning and foresight these costs can be managed and distributed over time. It is in the Township's interest to consider creating a long-term capital improvements plan that informs and is informed by annual budgets and reviewed on a regular basis.

July 12, 2022

swt

Transportation: Traffic

2009 COMP PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS (CONT.) - TRAFFIC

- TCPR4. Coordinate closely with PENNDOT, LVPC and adjacent municipalities and participate in regional transportation initiatives.
- TCPR5. Enhance access management and traffic calming requirements in the SALDO.
- TCPR6. Identify roads with scenic and/or historic value and evaluate interest in Scenic Byway designation and protections.

July 12, 2022

swt

Transportation: Traffic

FUTURELV GOALS - TRAFFIC

- TFLV1. Improve efficiency of existing infrastructure.
- TFLV2. Right-size transportation infrastructure projects.
- TFLV3. Encourage an interconnected street network.
- TFLV4. Facilitate transportation education programs.
- TFLV5. Enhance incident management strategies.
- TFLV6. Reduce transportation-related emissions.
- TFLV7. Protect existing and future Lehigh Valley International Airport runway approaches.
- TFLV8. Support interregional transportation services.
- TFLV9. Educate and collaborate across public, private and governmental entities on the effects of land use decision-making on mobility, resiliency and quality of life.

July 12, 2022

swt

Transportation

What are your top 3 to 5 priorities?

What is missing?

What could be removed and why?

July 12, 2022

swt

transportation

MPC

Transportation. Facilitate the safe and efficient movement of people and goods. Encourage and promote multi-modal transportation choices.

July 12, 2022

swt

Public Engagement Strategy