

ANNOUNCEMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

City of Shamokin Volunteer Park Master Plan and Foot/Bike Bridge Feasibility Study Project

The City of Shamokin is accepting proposals for a one-time contract to perform certain professional services work for the City of Shamokin Volunteer Park Master Plan and Foot/Bike Bridge Plan Project. Information is attached outlining requirements for proposal submission, evaluation criteria, and the proposed contract.

Five (5) sealed proposals must be submitted no later than August 9th, 2024 (either mail or dropped off):

Shamokin City Hall
47 East Lincoln Street
Shamokin, PA 17872
c/o Justin Bainbridge, Downtown Manager

If additional information is needed, please contact Justin Bainbridge jbainbridge@shamokincity.org or 570-898-2236.

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City of Shamokin

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SECTION 1. BACKGROUND

Project Overview:

The City of Shamokin is seeking proposals from qualified firms to develop a Master Plan for Volunteer Park and conduct a feasibility study for a foot/bike bridge connecting Volunteer Park to Claude Kehler Park. This project aims to inspire community pride, enhance volunteerism, improve safety and accessibility, and support economic and social development.

This project encompasses two key objectives: firstly, to develop a Master Plan that honors the contributions of past and future volunteers in the recently renamed Volunteer Park (formerly known as Claude Kehler 2); and secondly, to enhance safety and accessibility by conducting a Feasibility Study for a pedestrian and bicycle bridge connecting two highly frequented parks, namely Claude Kehler and Volunteer Park. Additionally, this initiative aims to establish convenient access points to parking and restroom facilities, further supporting the proposed Northumberland County Rail-Trail, which has the potential to position the city as a prominent hub for this regional trail network.

Project Objectives:

1. Volunteer Park Master Plan:

- Create a comprehensive Master Plan for Volunteer Park to honor past, present, and future volunteers.
- Foster community pride and momentum through volunteerism.
- Develop design elements that promote good health, build interpersonal skills, and establish new contacts.
- Achieve community consensus through public engagement.

2. Foot/Bike Bridge Feasibility Study:

- Assess the feasibility of constructing a bridge to connect Volunteer Park and Claude Kehler Park across Shamokin Creek.
- Enhance safety and accessibility by providing a legal and safe crossing alternative to the active rail bridge.
- Integrate the bridge into the proposed Northumberland County Rail Trail.
- Design the bridge to be ecologically sensitive and resilient to changing water levels and stormwater flows.

Background:

The City of Shamokin, a 3rd class city in Northumberland County, PA, has faced significant challenges due to long-term lack of investment, resulting in unhealthy and stigmatized neighborhoods with racial disparities in wealth. Recent revitalization efforts have brought substantial funding and improvements to the city, including the GoShamokin! Revitalization Plan and the EPA Rebuilding Action Plan.

This project is partially funded by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Bureau of Recreation and Conservation (Bureau). The Bureau has certain requirements and standards that must be met by the City of Shamokin and its contracted consultant. This Request for Proposal (RFP) has been prepared in accordance with Bureau requirements and standards. The Bureau will monitor the project and certain documents will be subject to Bureau review and approval.

The DCNR Grant Agreement number is: **BRC-TAG-29-80**

SECTION 2. GENERAL TERMS

- The City of Shamokin reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to select the proposal that it determines to be in the best interest of the City of Shamokin.
- The contract is subject to the approval of Shamokin City Council and is effective only upon their approval.
- Proposers are bound by the deadline and location requirements for submittals in response to this RFP as stated above.
- Proposals will remain effective for the City of Shamokin's review and approval for 60 days from the deadline for submitting proposals.
- If only one proposal is received by the City of Shamokin, it may negotiate with the proposer or seek additional proposals on an informal or formal basis during the 60-day period that proposals are effective.
- The proposer is encouraged to add to, modify, or clarify any scope of work items it deems appropriate to develop a high-quality plan at the lowest possible cost. All changes should be identified with an explanation. However, the scope of work proposed must accomplish the goals and work stated below.

SECTION 3. SCOPE OF WORK

City of Shamokin Volunteer Park Master Plan and Foot/Bike Bridge Feasibility Study **Scope of Work (SOW)**

A. PURPOSE, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES

Purpose: This project consists of developing a Master Plan for Volunteer Park and conducting a feasibility study for a foot/bike bridge connecting Volunteer Park to Claude Kehler Park across Shamokin Creek.

Goals: This project aims to inspire community pride, enhance volunteerism, improve safety and accessibility, and support economic and social development.

Objective: To create a comprehensive Master Plan for Volunteer Park and to determine the feasibility of constructing a foot/bike bridge, ensuring community consensus, ecological sensitivity, and alignment with broader revitalization efforts.

Creating Pride was identified as an essential need for the community through both the GoShamokin! Strategic Planning process and EPA Rebuilding Action Plan.

- The need to inspire Public Pride in the community was identified in both plans.
- Honoring and inspiring volunteerism was identified as an Action Item, and as a direct call to this initiative, in late 2022 Shamokin City Council moved to rename the once named under-utilized Claude Kehler 2 park Volunteer Park, honoring past, present and future volunteers.
- While the City was identified as quite walkable, there is an imperative need to upgrade the city streets and parks with a focus on improving connectivity, ADA accessibility, integrating new technologies, addressing safety, and enhancing bike/ped elements. These initiatives will have a major impact to support the influx of tourists, attract new business and create safer livability for the 6,941 citizens of Shamokin – 52.14% of which are LMI.

Volunteer Park and its sister park located on the other side of Shamokin creek, Claude Kehler, are centrally located in the City of Shamokin and open and available to all city residents and neighboring communities.

Claude Kehler (which is currently not readily accessible from Volunteer Park because of a lack of a footbridge) offers:

- Parking
- Concession stands
- Modern restroom facilities
- Community garden; and
- Bandshell with events such as a summer concert series and other public events throughout the year.

Volunteer Park which is the sister park to Claude Kehler park offers:

- A park located directly adjacent to a \$2,000,000 (RACP-funded) future hotel development project
- Fully locally funded components for a water feature/fountain

- Well-attended events throughout the year, including annual Easter egg hunt, in which more than 10,000 plastic eggs are stuffed with candy and hidden by youth involved in the FIOS Future Innovators of Shamokin group and children from the entire region converge.

B. PUBLIC PARTICIPATON

Public participation is required throughout the planning process to help determine and prioritize the types of facilities and activities at the site. Public participation techniques are outlined in the Bureau's *Public Participation Guide* and below. Community involvement and engagement must prioritize diversity, equity, and inclusion to ensure feedback and recommendations that are comprehensive, appropriate, and accountable. The narrative must include a detailed summary of the public participation methods, results, and conclusions (i.e. areas of consensus and/or contention); raw data should be included in the appendix.

1. Public participation must include:
 - a. Study Committee (5-9 people) – A representative and diverse study committee must be formed and meet with the planning consultant on a regular basis to provide guidance and review of the work. Consider appointing 5-9 people to the committee.
 - b. Public Meetings (2 meetings) – At least two public meetings must be held and at least one must be with elected officials. The appropriate number and type of meetings will vary depending on the project scope and community needs.
 - c. Key Person Interviews (10-20 interviews) – A key person interview is a one-on-one discussion about a specific topic with an individual recognized or designated as a community leader. The Study Committee should help to determine potential interviewees. Consider conducting 10-20 interviews.
2. Additional recommended public participation:
 - a. Citizen Survey – A random sample citizen survey is a type of opinion poll that asks residents for their perspectives on specific topics. Describe the survey method to be used (i.e. written, telephone, internet, etc.) and the anticipated number of survey questionnaires.
 - b. Focus Group – A focus group provides community input from individuals with common interests. Consider focus groups comprised of neighborhood residents, elected officials, organized sports organizations, etc.
 - c. Planning Document Review – Review previous planning documents and consider the results of recent public participation efforts regarding parks, recreation, and open space.

C. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The background information provides an overview of the community, park system, and project site(s) and establishes a foundation for project implementation. Use of the most recent U.S. Census data is required. Provide the following community information:

1. Physical characteristics including location, size, and regional context.
2. Demographics including population, age, gender, race & ethnicity, households, income, education, and visitors.
3. Economic, housing, transportation, and historic/cultural assets.

4. Natural resources such as forests, wetlands, waters, farmland, critical habitats, etc.
5. Park, open space, and recreation facility(s) including number, size, and type.
6. Project site(s) relationship to the community and/or regional park system.
7. Provisions of existing planning documents (i.e. Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan, Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Watershed or Rivers Conservation Plan, 2020-2024 Pennsylvania Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, etc.) that are applicable to the project site(s).

D. SITE(S) INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

The site(s) inventory and analysis establish parameters for the proposed facilities and activities at the site. Describe the physical, natural, and historic/cultural resources and legal restrictions related to the project site(s) and any potential impacts on potential development and use. Provide analysis of the opportunities and constraints. Examples include:

- Location
- Acreage
- Zoning
- Surrounding Land Use
- Deed Restrictions
- Easements & Rights-of-Way
- Utilities
- Circulation & Access
- Historic/Cultural Features
- Playground Safety Audit (if available)
- Environmental Issues (i.e. Brownfield)
- Topography
- Hydrology (water, wetlands, stormwater)
- Vegetation
- Soil Types
- PNDI Potential Impacts

E. ACTIVITY(S) AND FACILITY(S) ANALYSIS

The activity(s) and facility(s) analysis determine the proposed facilities and activities at the site including type, size, and standards. Describe the community needs, uses, and priorities for the site as identified by the public participation process, previous planning work, and needs assessment. Describe the recreation and conservation facilities proposed to be developed, rehabilitated, or enhanced on the site. The proposed facilities and uses should also be clearly represented on the site development drawing(s). For proposed recreation and conservation facilities and uses, provide the following information:

1. Determine local access to outdoor recreation using the following resources:
 - a. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Park Metrics is a comprehensive source of data benchmarks and insights for the effective management and planning of operating resources and capital facilities.

- b. The Trust for Public Land (TPL) [ParkServe](#) interactive platform tracks park access in urban areas. The web-based tool identifies local parks and open space, determines the percentage of residents who live within a 10-minute walk, and identifies the neighborhoods most in need of new parks.
 - c. DCNR Partnered with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and WeConservePA to use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to understand access to outdoor recreation in Pennsylvania. TPL's Research and Innovation Team used the data analysis methods to assist DCNR in identifying areas with the greatest need and opportunity. This [interactive map of outdoor recreation access in Pennsylvania](#) shows the results of the analysis. Data is available for a 10-Minute Walk by Municipality & County and a 10-Minute Drive for Trails and Water.
2. For active recreation facilities, describe the participant skill level, competition level, and spectator use for each facility.
 3. For passive recreation facilities, describe the proposed use of the project site(s) such as wildlife viewing, nature trails, community gardens, habitat protection, environmental education, etc.
 4. Describe the proposed preservation of open space, natural areas, and riparian buffers.
 5. Describe the projected participation rates. To help define facility requirements, estimates of daily, weekly, monthly, and seasonal use may be required.
 6. List the accepted published national, state, or local standards (reference the standard by name) used to determine the size, dimensions, orientation, slope, buffer areas and setback requirements, open or undisturbed space requirements, etc. for each proposed facility and use.
 7. Support facilities may be required for the proposed recreation and conservation facilities and uses. Depending on the site and proposed uses, support facilities may include roads, stormwater management, maintenance facilities, utilities, parking, comfort facilities, etc. Provide a brief description of each support facility and the requirements for connectivity and accessibility.

F. DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

All park, open space, and recreational facilities have the potential to protect and/or enhance natural resources and habitats. Green and sustainable elements promote environmental, health, and economic benefits and enhance the visitor experience. From a management perspective, maintenance costs may be lower for a naturalized site. Because the DCNR mission is to both conserve and sustain the Commonwealth's natural resources and promote local recreation, it is important to combine sound planning and sustainability. This includes incorporation of native plantings, stormwater best management practices, and habitat protection/enhancement. Consider the following items when developing the plan:

1. Site opportunities, constraints, and generally accepted design standards related to the proposed recreation facilities and uses including applicable local recreation and park agency standards.

2. Topography of the site. Free statewide topographic information is available from Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access ([PASDA](#))
3. Compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and guidelines including land subdivision, zoning, 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design, Uniform Construction Code, American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) standards, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) guidelines pertaining to playground areas and equipment.
4. Protection/enhancement of significant historic structures and areas.
5. Protection/enhancement of environmentally sensitive areas including forests, streams, wetlands, and natural areas that provide habitat and protect water quality. Information about stormwater best management practices is available from the [PA Department of Environmental Protection \(DEP\)](#) and [StormwaterPA](#).
6. Sustainable site design and green infrastructure/materials may reduce environmental impact and lower maintenance and operation costs.
7. Establishment and maintenance of sustainable riparian native grass and/or forest buffers. If the project site is in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the plan should support the goals of the Chesapeake Executive Council's Adoption Statement on Riparian Forest Buffers dated October 10, 1996.

G. DESIGN PROCESS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Develop preliminary alternative concept drawings and present at a study committee meeting for discussion. Relationships between facilities and circulation patterns should be shown; however, the exact shape and placement of facilities is not critical.
2. Evaluate the preliminary alternative concept drawings. Prepare a written evaluation for each alternative concept drawing highlighting both the positive and negative points. Through the public participation process, determine which alternative (or combination) best meets community needs, design standards, and regulations.
3. Prepare a draft of the final Narrative Report and Site Development Drawings(s). Present the draft final Narrative Report and Site Development Drawings(s) at a public meeting for final comment. All existing and proposed facilities and areas must be shown on this final Site Development Drawing in proper shape, size, and orientation.
4. Upon approval of the final Narrative Report and Site Development Drawings(s) by the appropriate agencies (local governing body, local & county planning agencies, the Bureau, etc.), the consultant prepares the final deliverables.

H. COST ESTIMATE AND PHASED CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

1. Development (Construction) Costs – Provide a current detailed cost estimate for the development of the proposed recreation areas and facilities. The cost estimate should include: engineering and other professional services cost; construction and materials cost; project administration cost; and a contingency of at least 10% of the construction cost estimate.
2. Phased Capital Development Program – If the proposed development cannot realistically be carried out in one to three years as one project, develop a phased and prioritized multi-year capital development program. This should explain the strategy for the phasing, identify which areas and facilities are to be developed in which years, and provide the costs associated with each phase. Implementation strategies to finance the program should also be addressed (bonds, grants, fund-raising, etc.).

I. MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION COSTS; REVENUE

Provide a cost estimate for annual maintenance and operation of the recreation areas and facilities as proposed on the MSDP. An annual cost estimate must be calculated for each of the items identified below; analysis should also be included in the narrative report.

1. Personnel – Describe and analyze the current level of operation and maintenance personnel including paid staff and volunteers.
2. Maintenance and Operation Costs
 - a. Determine if the life cycle costs can be lowered by using sustainable design practices and alternative materials.
 - b. List and discuss various materials that could be used to lower long-term maintenance cost.
 - c. Administration (i.e. insurance, office supplies, phone, internet, public relations, rentals, training, etc.)
 - d. Personnel (Include a list employment positions, number of employees in each position, estimated salaries or wages by position, fringe benefits, estimated overtime cost, temporary employment, etc.)
 - e. Maintenance equipment needed to maintain recreation areas and facilities.
 - f. Supplies and materials (i.e. concession/sale items; custodial, vehicle fuel, mechanical supplies, tools, utilities, equipment rental, etc.)
 - g. Programming (Include a general description and anticipated number of programs, participants by program, and costs by program)
 - h. Contracted services cost for operation and maintenance.
 - i. Annual capital outlay for major equipment.
 - j. Debt Service (To the extent that long term financing is anticipated to fund the proposed site improvements and any major equipment purchased.)
3. Revenue

Project anticipated revenues for a one-year period by area, facility, and source. Include all items of revenue that may be applicable to the proposed site use and development such as:

 - a. Daily admission or entrance fees; seasonal permits
 - b. Facility rental
 - c. Concessions

- d. General municipal tax support
- e. Other sources (i.e. endowments, donations, fund raising events, etc.)

J. SECURITY ANALYSIS (optional)

The purpose of this work element is to evaluate the safety, security, and risk management of the recreation area(s) and facility(s) and propose recommendations to address any deficiencies.

1. Interview local government officials, public safety officials, and recreation providers regarding site safety and security.
2. Discuss risk management and safety issues related to the site with applicable insurance providers.
3. Analyze and evaluate site security issues from the following perspectives:
 - a. Safety and security of visitors
 - b. Protection of property, facility(s), natural resources, critical habitat and species
 - c. Risk management options
4. Provide recommendations that include:
 - a. Design and construction alternatives
 - b. Policing and patrolling methods
 - c. Maintenance issues
 - d. Safety signage
 - e. Insurance coverage
5. Develop a multi-faceted safety and security program that includes:
 - a. A safety policy
 - b. A process for routine inspections and hazard abatement
 - c. A program to assist employees and visitors in reporting hazards
 - d. Emergency procedures
 - e. An accident reporting system
 - f. An information management system for site safety and security

K. STRUCTURAL ASSESSMENT (optional)

The purpose of this work element is to evaluate the condition of existing structures and their potential use, continued use, or renovation/expansion for additional recreation purposes. If there are structures on the property under consideration for recreational use, this element must be addressed in the MSDP study process. Please seek advice from the Bureau staff to determine the required work tasks specific to your needs. *A structural assessment may not be sufficient, and a Feasibility Study may be required.*

Master Site Development Plan (MSDP) **Final Products**

NARRATIVE REPORT

A draft final MSDP must be reviewed and approved by the Grantee and Bureau before it is officially adopted by the agency. Typically, the review process consists of reviewing a complete draft plan, providing comments, and reviewing a revised draft plan to ensure comments are adequately addressed.

The final MSDP must be a narrative, bound report beginning with an executive summary and followed by clearly labeled sections for each of the plan's components in logical order. All supporting documents and information should be included in the appendix and not in the body of the report.

Executive Summary – Briefly describe the process, priorities, and final recommendations.

- A. Purpose, Goals, and Objectives
 - B. Public Participation
 - C. Background Information
 - D. Site(s) Inventory and Analysis
 - E. Activity(s) and Facility(s) Analysis
 - F. Design Considerations
 - G. Design Process and Recommendations – Describe the alternative plans presented, summary of the public discussion of the alternative plans, and a description of the final plan proposal including rationale for the proposed facility(s) and use(s).
 - H. Cost Estimate and Phased Capital Development Program – Describe the rationale for costs, phasing, and financing strategy.
 - I. Maintenance and Operations Costs; Revenue
 - J.-N. As Appropriate
- Appendix

SITE DEVELOPMENT DRAWING(S) WITH BASE MAP(S)

The site development drawing(s) must show the final proposed full development of the site(s). The base map must show existing conditions at the recreation area(s) and facility(s). All data identified on the Bureau's *Park Site Development Drawing (SDD) Checklist* must be represented on the drawing(s), as applicable. Specifically, the metes and bounds, existing conditions, proposed improvements, ADA compliance, and phasing must be clearly identified.

REQUIRED DOCUMENT SUBMISSION

The Grantee should determine the exact number of printed and electronic copies of the MSDP and state the requirement in the RFP.

The following documents must be submitted to DCNR:

- One (1) electronic PDF of the final Narrative Report (as a single document) with the cover signed, sealed, and dated by the design consultant.
- One (1) electronic PDF of the final Site Development Drawing(s) that are signed, sealed, and dated by the design consultant.
- One (1) electronic PDF of other deliverables, as applicable.

Master Site Development Plan (MSDP)
DCNR Grant Application Cost Estimate Checklist

Provide this checklist to a qualified design consultant to develop a detailed cost estimate to be submitted with the DCNR Grant Application. The cost estimate must be detailed for the project to be considered Ready-to-Go during the application review process.

Cost Estimate	Item
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Executive Summary
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> (A) Purpose, Goals, and Objectives
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> (B) Public Participation
	<input type="checkbox"/> Study Committee Meetings (required; 5-9 people): # _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Meetings (2 required; 1 with elected officials): # _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Key Person Interviews (required; 10-20 interviews): # _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Citizen Survey (optional): # _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Focus Group (optional): # _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (optional): _____
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> (C) Background Information
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> (D) Site(s) Inventory and Analysis
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> (E) Activity(s) and Facility(s) Analysis
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> (F) Design Considerations
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> (G) Design Process and Recommendations
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> (H) Cost Estimate and Phased Capital Development Program
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> (I) Maintenance and Operations Costs; Revenue
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> (J) Additional SOW
Item: _____	
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> (K) Additional SOW
Item: _____	
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> (L) Additional SOW
Item: _____	

_____ Draft Narrative Report, Site Development Drawing(s), and Other Deliverables, as applicable

_____ Final Products
 Narrative Report signed, sealed, and dated: # _____
 Site Development Drawing(s) signed, sealed, and dated: # _____
 Other, as applicable: # _____

_____ **TOTAL**

SECTION 4. CONSULTANT QUALIFICATIONS

General Consultant Qualifications:

- A. Leadership and successful completion of planning studies of the project type funded by the grant.
- B. Development and implementation of public participation processes such as public meetings with elected officials and stakeholders, study committee meetings, focus group meetings, key person interviews, public surveys, etc.
- C. Development of planning documents and design for public park and recreation facilities/areas.
- D. Development of policies and procedures for the management, operation, and maintenance of public park and recreation facilities/areas.
- E. Effective communication of recommendations and implementation strategies to elected officials, non-profit organizations, and stakeholders.

Master Site Development Plan (MSDP):

The lead consultant or consulting team must have documented expertise to study the type of facility under consideration. Although not required, it is recommended to include a park and recreation practitioner, preferably holding a Certified Park & Recreation Professional (CPRP) certification, on the consultant team. The Bureau requires that the Master Site Development Plan be under the seal of a licensed professional who is authorized by Pennsylvania law to seal such documents. Depending on the project, the professional could be a landscape architect, architect, or engineer. If any jurisdictional agency/agencies reviewing the PNDI Receipt require a field survey to be completed, the Bureau requires a biologist to survey the project site. If a boundary survey is to be completed as part of the scope of work, it must be under the seal of a registered land surveyor who is authorized by Pennsylvania law to seal such documents.

SECTION 5. REQUIRED SUBMITTALS

- A. Letter of Transmittal

This letter must include the following:

- A statement demonstrating your understanding of the work to be performed.
- A statement confirming that the firm meets the Consultant Qualifications (see Section 4 above).
- The firm's contact person and telephone number.

B. Profile of Firm

This consists of the following:

- A statement of the firm's experience in conducting work of the nature sought by this RFP; advertising brochures may be included in support of this statement.
- The location of the firm's office that will perform the work.
- Resumes of individuals (consultants, employees) proposed to conduct the work and the specific duties of each in relation to the work. DCNR requires that the project consulting team have the minimum qualifications outlined in Section 4 Consultant Qualifications.
- A reference list of other municipal clients of the firm with contact information.
- Any other information relating to the capabilities and expertise of the firm in doing comparable work.

C. Methods and Procedures

The proposal must include a detailed description of the methods and procedures the firm will use to perform the work. Inclusion of examples of similar work is encouraged.

D. Work Schedule

The schedule must include time frames for each major work element, target dates for public meetings, and dates for completion of draft and final documents.

E. Cost

For each major work element, the costs must be itemized showing:

- For each person assigned to the work, the title/rank (organizational level) of the person in the organization, the hourly rate, and the number of hours to be worked
- The reimbursable expenses to be claimed

The itemized costs must be totaled to produce a contract price. If awarded a contract, a proposer is bound by this price in performing the work. The contract price may not be exceeded unless the contract is amended to allow for additional costs.

If awarded a contract, the firm may not change the staffing assigned to the project without approval by the City of Shamokin. However, approval will not be denied if the staff

replacement is determined by the City of Shamokin to be of equal ability or experience to the predecessor.

The method of billing must be stated. The preferred practice of the City of Shamokin is to pay upon completion of the work and receipt of the required report. However, the City of Shamokin will consider paying on a periodic basis as substantial portions of the work are completed. Regardless of the billing method used, a minimum of 10% of the DCNR Grant Award will be withheld until the final product is approved by DCNR and all project costs are paid in full.

F. Contract

The contract form and DCNR “Nondiscrimination/Sexual Harassment Clause” is provided in Section 7. DCNR requires that the “Nondiscrimination/Sexual Harassment Clause” be incorporated and/or attached to the contract in its entirety.

SECTION 6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

A. Technical Expertise and Experience

The following factors will be considered:

- The firm’s experience in performing similar work
- The expertise and professional level of the individuals assigned to conduct the work
- The clarity and completeness of the proposal and the firm’s demonstrated understanding of the work to be performed

B. Procedures and Methods

The following factors will be considered:

- The techniques for collecting and analyzing data
- The sequence and relationships of major steps
- The methods for managing the work to ensure timely and orderly completion

C. Cost

The following factors will be considered:

- The number of hours of work to be performed
- The level of expertise of the individuals proposed to do the work.

D. Oral presentation

Any or all firms submitting proposals may be invited to give an oral presentation of their proposal.

SECTION 7. CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

A proposed contract is included for review. If it is satisfactory to the firm, it should be completed, executed, and submitted with the proposal. If the firm prefers an alternative contract, the firm may submit it as a part of the proposal submission. However, the City of Shamokin reserves the right to enter into the enclosed contract with the successful firm or to negotiate the terms of a professional services contract.

CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

This Contract is made and entered into this _____ day of _____, 20[], by and between the City of Shamokin, Pennsylvania ("Shamokin"), and _____ ("Consulting Firm").

WHEREAS, Shamokin desires to have certain one-time professional consulting work performed involving the Volunteer Park Master Plan and Foot/Bike Bridge Feasibility Study Project;

WHEREAS, Shamokin desires to enter into a contract for this work pursuant to a Request for Proposals ("RFP") issued by the City of Shamokin;

WHEREAS, the Consulting Firm desires to perform the work in accordance with the proposal it submitted in response to the RFP;

WHEREAS, the Consulting Firm is equipped and staffed to perform the work;

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties, intending to be legally bound, agree as follows:

THE CONSULTING FIRM WILL:

1. Provide professional consulting services in accordance with the RFP, its proposal in response to the RFP, and the Nondiscrimination/Sexual Harassment Clause, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein as Appendix A.
2. Obtain approval from Shamokin of any changes to the staffing stated in its proposal. However, approval will not be denied if the staff replacement is determined by the City of Shamokin to be of equal ability or experience to the predecessor.

THE CITY OF SHAMOKIN WILL:

1. Compensate the Consulting Firm based on the actual hours worked and actual reimbursable expenses for a total amount not to exceed \$45,800.
2. Provide the Consulting Firm with reasonable access to the City of Shamokin personnel, facilities, and information necessary to properly perform the work required under this Contract.
3. Except as provided in item 4 below, make payment to the Consulting Firm within 30

days after receipt of a properly prepared invoice for work satisfactorily performed.

4. Make final payment of 10% of the funds available to the Consulting Firm under this Contract within 30 days after final product approval by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED THAT:

1. All copyright interests in work created under this Contract are solely and exclusively the property of Shamokin. The work shall be considered work made for hire under copyright law; alternatively, if the work cannot be considered work made for hire, the Consulting Firm agrees to assign and, upon the creation of the work, expressly and automatically assigns, all copyright interests in the work to Shamokin.
2. In the performance of services under this Contract, there shall be no violation of the right of privacy or infringement upon the copyright or any other proprietary right of any person or entity.
3. The Consulting Firm may terminate this Contract at any time upon giving the City of Shamokin written notice of not less than 60 calendar days. Shamokin may terminate this Contract at any time if the Consulting Firm violates the terms of this Contract or fails to produce a result that meets the specifications of this Contract. In the event of termination of this Contract by either party, the City of Shamokin shall within 60 calendar days of termination pay the Consulting Firm for all services rendered by the Consulting Firm up to the date of termination, in accordance with the payment provisions of this Contract.

In witness thereof, the parties hereto have executed this Contract on the day and date set forth above.

WITNESS:

WITNESS:

FOR THE CITY OF SHAMOKIN:

TITLE: _____

FOR THE CONSULTING FIRM:

TITLE: _____

APPENDIX A
NONDISCRIMINATION/SEXUAL HARASSMENT CLAUSE

The Grantee agrees:

1. In the hiring of any employee(s) for the manufacture of supplies, performance of work, or any other activity required under the grant agreement or any subgrant agreement, contract, or subcontract, the Grantee, a subgrantee, a contractor, a subcontractor, or any person acting on behalf of the Grantee shall not discriminate by reason of race, gender, creed, color, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or in violation of the *Pennsylvania Human Relations Act* (PHRA) and applicable federal laws, against any citizen of this commonwealth who is qualified and available to perform the work to which the employment relates.
2. The Grantee, any subgrantee, contractor or any subcontractor or any person on their behalf shall not in any manner discriminate by reason of race, gender, creed, color, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or in violation of the PHRA and applicable federal laws, against or intimidate any of its employees.
3. Neither the Grantee nor any subgrantee nor any contractor nor any subcontractor nor any person on their behalf shall in any manner discriminate by reason of race, gender, creed, color, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or in violation of the PHRA and applicable federal laws, in the provision of services under the grant agreement, subgrant agreement, contract or subcontract.
4. Neither the Grantee nor any subgrantee nor any contractor nor any subcontractor nor any person on their behalf shall in any manner discriminate against employees by reason of participation in or decision to refrain from participating in labor activities protected under the *Public Employee Relations Act*, *Pennsylvania Labor Relations Act* or *National Labor Relations Act*, as applicable and to the extent determined by entities charged with such Acts' enforcement, and shall comply with any provision of law establishing organizations as employees' exclusive representatives.
5. The Grantee, any subgrantee, contractor or any subcontractor shall establish and maintain a written nondiscrimination and sexual harassment policy and shall inform their employees in writing of the policy. The policy must contain a provision that sexual harassment will not be tolerated and employees who practice it will be disciplined. Posting this Nondiscrimination/Sexual Harassment Clause conspicuously in easily-accessible and well-lighted places customarily frequented by employees and at or near where the grant services are performed shall satisfy this requirement for employees with an established work site.
6. The Grantee, any subgrantee, contractor or any subcontractor shall not discriminate by reason of race, gender, creed, color, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or in violation of the PHRA and applicable federal laws, against any subgrantee,

contractor, subcontractor or supplier who is qualified to perform the work to which the grant relates.

7. The Grantee and each subgrantee, contractor and subcontractor represents that it is presently in compliance with and will maintain compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations relating to nondiscrimination and sexual harassment. The Grantee and each subgrantee, contractor and subcontractor further represents that it has filed a Standard Form 100 Employer Information Report ("EEO-1") with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC") and shall file an annual EEO-1 report with the EEOC as required for employers' subject to *Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964*, as amended, that have 100 or more employees and employers that have federal government contracts or first-tier subcontracts and have 50 or more employees. The Grantee, any subgrantee, any contractor or any subcontractor shall, upon request and within the time periods requested by the Commonwealth, furnish all necessary employment documents and records, including EEO-1 reports, and permit access to their books, records, and accounts by the granting agency and the Bureau of Diversity, Inclusion and Small Business Opportunities for the purpose of ascertaining compliance with the provisions of this Nondiscrimination/Sexual Harassment Clause.
8. The Grantee, any subgrantee, contractor or any subcontractor shall include the provisions of this Nondiscrimination/Sexual Harassment Clause in every subgrant agreement, contract or subcontract so that those provisions applicable to subgrantees, contractors or subcontractors will be binding upon each subgrantee, contractor or subcontractor.
9. The Granter's and each subgrantee's, contractor's and subcontractor's obligations pursuant to these provisions are ongoing from and after the effective date of the grant agreement through the termination date thereof. Accordingly, the Grantee and each subgrantee, contractor and subcontractor shall have an obligation to inform the commonwealth if, at any time during the term of the grant agreement, it becomes aware of any actions or occurrences that would result in violation of these provisions.
10. The commonwealth may cancel or terminate the grant agreement and all money due or to become due under the grant agreement may be forfeited for a violation of the terms and conditions of this Nondiscrimination/Sexual Harassment Clause. In addition, the granting agency may proceed with debarment or suspension and may place the Grantee, subgrantee, contractor, or subcontractor in the Contractor Responsibility File.

Based on Management Directive 215.16 Amended (8/2/18)

Plan GO SHAMOKIN

SHAMOKIN AREA IMPLEMENTATION PLAN A PLAN FOR ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION

October 2020



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SHAMOKIN AREA IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Prepared For: SEDA-COG on Behalf of the City of Shamokin

A project of this scope could not be realized without the support and commitment of many individuals. It is important to acknowledge the vision and leadership of those who assisted in the preparation of this plan and in all of the supporting technical work. All of the participants who played a role in the project, including business, community, institutional, and government leaders, are too numerous to list.

The input of the community was integral to the formation of the plan's recommendations, especially through the overwhelming participation of residents and business owners in partnership with government, non-profit, and religious leaders, agency representatives and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that lead the Shamokin Community Rebuilding Workshop.

PROJECT CONSULTANT TEAM

Prime Consultant/Planning & Urban Design



In Association With:

Market Analysis Specialist

URBAN PARTNERS

Funding Strategy & Advocacy Specialist



SHAMOKIN AREA IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

A PLAN FOR ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION

ES

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- Physical Planning Considerations

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

What is this plan?

This plan responds to a special Shamokin community driven desire to proactively reinvent itself. The fact is, this is an easy statement to say, and a very hard one to achieve. The only way such reinvention can occur is step-by-step, one success at a time. This plan determines where there are opportunities and what may be the best next steps to take.

Shamokin is a post-industrial city located in Northumberland County. In the late nineteenth century the City boomed but has struggled to maintain economic vitality since the decline of the mining and textile industries; a common condition in towns throughout the Coal Region and much of Pennsylvania. The community of Shamokin craves to revitalize itself with fresh initiatives that enable community members to restore the lively nature by harnessing new opportunities, not just harkening to those of the past. Shamokin has recently seen an influx in tourism through the introduction of the Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area Authority (AOAA) which leased approximately 7,500 acres of former coal lands in the Shamokin area for the purposes of actively managing a family-friendly motorized and non-motorized recreation facility. Additionally, the nearby Knoebels Grove Amusement Park, the PSSA Valley Gun & Country Club, and the abundant Weiser State Forest lands, all within 15 minutes of the heart of Shamokin, establishes the City as a legitimate and unique destination for regional recreation that attracts well over 1.3 million visitors per year to the combined destinations. Shamokin has the geographic opportunity to capture travelers from the Philadelphia metro market that is 100 miles/two hours travel distance as well as the NY/NJ metro market that is 150 miles/3 hours travel distance. Utilizing the renewed resources provides an advantageous opportunity for Shamokin as it embarks on economic and community revitalization efforts.

Economic development strategies and thoughtful design initiatives are necessary steps to accomplish meaningful transformation. After conducting

extensive community research, the core of downtown, the blocks of Independence Street between Market and Shamokin Streets, have been identified as the place to focus, although some recommendations consider a larger context. Shamokin is an inherently pedestrian friendly environment, and recommendations build upon the idea of getting people out of cars and walking around to patronize businesses, public spaces, and socialize with others. The plan focuses on a combination of public/civic realm investments in infrastructure and public spaces combined with programs and resources that can be tapped to partner with the private sector to stimulate building rehabilitation and business expansion. This layered approach to economic development emphasizing “placemaking” fosters the greatest potential for creating jobs, reducing crime, enhancing community pride, and elevating the overall quality-of-life for all of Shamokin’s residents. The creation of successful places is a function of a thoughtfully considered mix of uses, location, design and supporting infrastructure systems; working together to form economically vibrant and sustainable building blocks of an overall town, in many respects it is tapping into the original processes that founded the town, just harnessing the best available aspects of the past and the present for a better future.



What are the Key Recommendations?

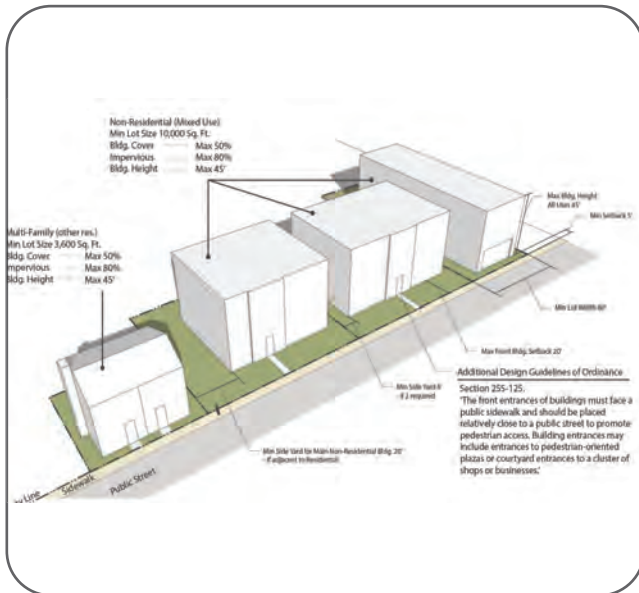
Due to the complex nature of all of the inter-related factors and considerations needed to develop an economically viable and physically constructable list of initiatives and recommendations, an extensive analysis of varied topics was required. The outcome of this analysis led to a specific list of high priority actions that creates a roadmap of what to do and how.



1. Foster Public Private Partnerships to Make Bricks and Mortar Redevelopment and Business Expansion Happen

- **Help Move Pending Development Projects Over the Finish Line** - Support developers in completing several pending projects, especially focused on introducing hotels to the downtown which will significantly broaden the City's tourism potential.
- **Partner with Existing Property Owners to Explore Redevelopment Potential** - Facilitate outreach with owners of buildings downtown to perform feasibility studies, undertake pre-funding activities, and partner on project financing and marketing to create new mixed-use and market-rate housing projects.
- **Promote the development of second home residential product for the recreational tourism market, including the "Lock it and Leave it" market segment.**
- **Support Existing Businesses and Strategically Recruit New Complimentary Businesses** - Work with existing business owners to expand and reach-out to potential business operators and start-ups based on the findings of the market analysis performed as a part of this planning effort, to link businesses with occupiable spaces and funding resources.
- **Package Funding Resources and Provide Technical Support to Navigate Securing Financial Resources** - Organize and promote local, regional, state, and federal programs and provide required technical support to shepherd businesses, developments, and improvements to fruition. Many programs exist and it is important that Shamokin utilize its fair share but this requires a dedicated and knowledgeable team.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



2. Make the City “Development Ready” through Sound Policies and Promotion

- **Modernized Development Regulations** – Update Zoning and Land Development Ordinances to meet modern requirements and to reinforce the notion of placemaking and pedestrian-oriented activities as a way to create a vibrant community.
- **Promote the Positives** – Develop and deploy a branding and public promotions campaign focused on linking new improvements and a fresh image. It is as important to get the word out about what is happening as it is making physical improvements; it is all about positive change.
- **Establish a Formal Advocacy Group** – A well-informed project advocacy group is needed to focus on implementing this plan’s funding and financing strategy, meeting with key agency and elected officials to inform and advocate for projects, and to prepare funding applications.
- **Advance Crime Prevention Measures** – Implement crime prevention programs and projects starting with camera systems, speedy response to vandalism, and proactive education efforts.



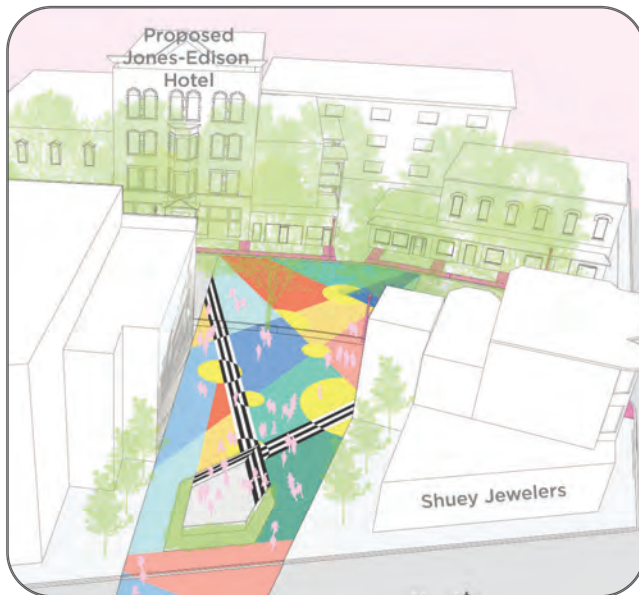
3. Perform a Makeover of Independence Street Focused on Complete Street Improvements that Greatly Enhance the Pedestrian-Oriented and Aesthetic Appeal of the City’s “Main Street.”

- **Pursue Funding and Prepare a Complete Streetscape Plan** – Relatively simple upgrades to Independence Street with a focus on ADA/safety and aesthetic improvements such as architectural lighting, planters, banners, etc. can have a major impact. Funding sources should focus first on the development of uniform standards and plans and then implementation.
- **Program Improvements** – Implement in phases, based on resources starting in 100 E. Independence Street block and work out from there. Ideally projects include all improvements by block or specific elements, such as lighting, along the entire corridor in phases.



4. Explore Interim and Pop-Up Solutions to Address Blight and Vacancy Downtown

- **Activate Vacant Spaces** – In addition to the City policy to address property maintenance issues, activating the ground floor storefronts of buildings with installations that ideally vary regularly to foster visual interest, will mitigate some of the impact of vacant storefronts and could be tied to branding and promotion activities. Spaces could promote local and regional businesses, non-profits, and events, by highlighting them and/or products, in vacant storefronts.
- **Explore Temporary Uses** – Pop-up retail during events or seasonally could create additional activity, get people into buildings or on vacant lots, and test the marketplace for new uses and businesses without a need for major capital.



5. Create Multi-purpose Public Spaces Downtown as Civic Amenities and Economic Development Venues

- **Create an Iconic Public Space Downtown** – The downtown needs a central public space that functions both as a day-to-day green space for residents as well as venue for programming for events that increase foot traffic. Building simple but effective green spaces such as this plan's proposed pocket park in the E. 100 block of Independence Street could create this type of space and also address empty voids created by the removal of blighted buildings along the City's main commercial street. Many of the plan's recommendations focus on this area as the center of the downtown, as an area most in need of improvement and with a lot of current interest in investment.
- **Create Flexible Spaces for Events of All Sizes** – The plan proposes ways to redesign streets and parking lots to make them function for their primary utilitarian purpose as well as serve as venues for festivals and events with an emphasis on the 300 E. Independence Street block and the large off-street parking lot in the same block.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



6. Advance Critical Infrastructure Improvements

- **Engage PennDOT in Economic Development Initiatives** – Work with PennDOT and partnering agencies to study key intersection and Sunbury Street/Route 61 corridor improvements to improve traffic flow and also make the City more bicycle and pedestrian friendly. It is important for the agency to understand economic development plans and priorities to help ensure that improvements support the complete multi-modal vision.
- **Advance the Regional Trail Initiative** – Support Northumberland County’s effort to develop a regional multi-use trail that would establish Shamokin as a major trail town hub on a rails-to-trail from Mount Carmel to Sunbury. The City’s acquisition of a large portion of the former PRR railroad right-of-way along Commerce Street created the basis for a major linear trail route through the core of downtown.
- **Reduce the Flooding Potential and Related Impacts** – Integrate green stormwater infrastructure into projects, especially a greenway (including the aforementioned trail) via Commerce Street while also undertaking an H&H study to hopefully reduce the regulated FEMA designated flood zones in the downtown.

What to do next?

This plan is also a strategy for how to obtain resources to advance its recommendations.

Organize the City’s “People” Resources: The City and its citizenry have made great strides to organize formal and informal boards and groups to problem solve and undertake initiatives. This plan provides guidance for how to work within these established frameworks and tap them as resources to pursue funding and undertake projects.

Identify the Right Funding Opportunities: The plan provides a list of potential resources that represent the best options for funding its community revitalization and economic development initiatives. The cost of projects, the costs of its components, and the cost of the next immediate phases will drive the City’s consideration of which sources of funding will be most important to pursue at any particular point.

Organize Stakeholder Support: Having community, business, non-profit, political, regional, and citizen support for your key projects will not only provide momentum on those projects and make them stronger, this stakeholder support is critical to winning federal and state resources.

Coordinate with State and Federal Agency Officials: For the City’s highest priority projects, it is very important for the City of Shamokin to continue to cultivate and expand its relationships with federal and state agencies, at both the management and program levels and in Washington, DC and in regional offices. Federal funding is routed through federal agencies (although congressional influence on those agencies is still critical) so coordinating with them early provides the best opportunity to build support for the City’s projects and in most cases this funding can serve as a match resource for state and local dollars.

Shamokin Revitalization Roundtable: One effective approach to build support and partnerships is to organize a forum in the community that will bring top federal and state leaders, congressional officials and the community together to boost coordination on your projects and resources for their implementation. A “Revitalization Roundtable” can involve community presentations, site tours, discussion sessions with funders about the best approaches, and coordination on next steps for action on the City’s projects. This effort would build upon the momentum of this and other efforts underway or recently completed, including the U.S. EPA led Community Rebuilding Action Plan.

Pursue Grant Funding Following the Prepared Strategy: When the time to draft and submit a grant funding application arrives, Shamokin will be ready and competitive by following the steps outlined above.

Seek Non-Funding Agency Support Too: Non-funding support from state and federal officials, which could include requests for consideration on regulatory issues, legislative issues, program funding levels, technical assistance, grant implementation challenges, coordination with key partners, and other strategic implementation issues is also important and can help to queue up larger funding resources.

Celebrate Success! It has been said that “nothing succeeds like success,” and that is certainly true when it comes to obtaining funding and economic development initiatives. The community should always be looking for opportunities to celebrate success, thank your agency and political supporters, hold groundbreaking and ribbon cuttings, cultivate media coverage, send newsletters, and spread the word in other ways.





01

Project Introduction & Background

- Introduction and Historical Context
- Summary of Key Market Findings
- Physical Planning Considerations

Community Engagement & Planning Framework

Planning & Frameworks

Implementation Action Plan

PROJECT INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

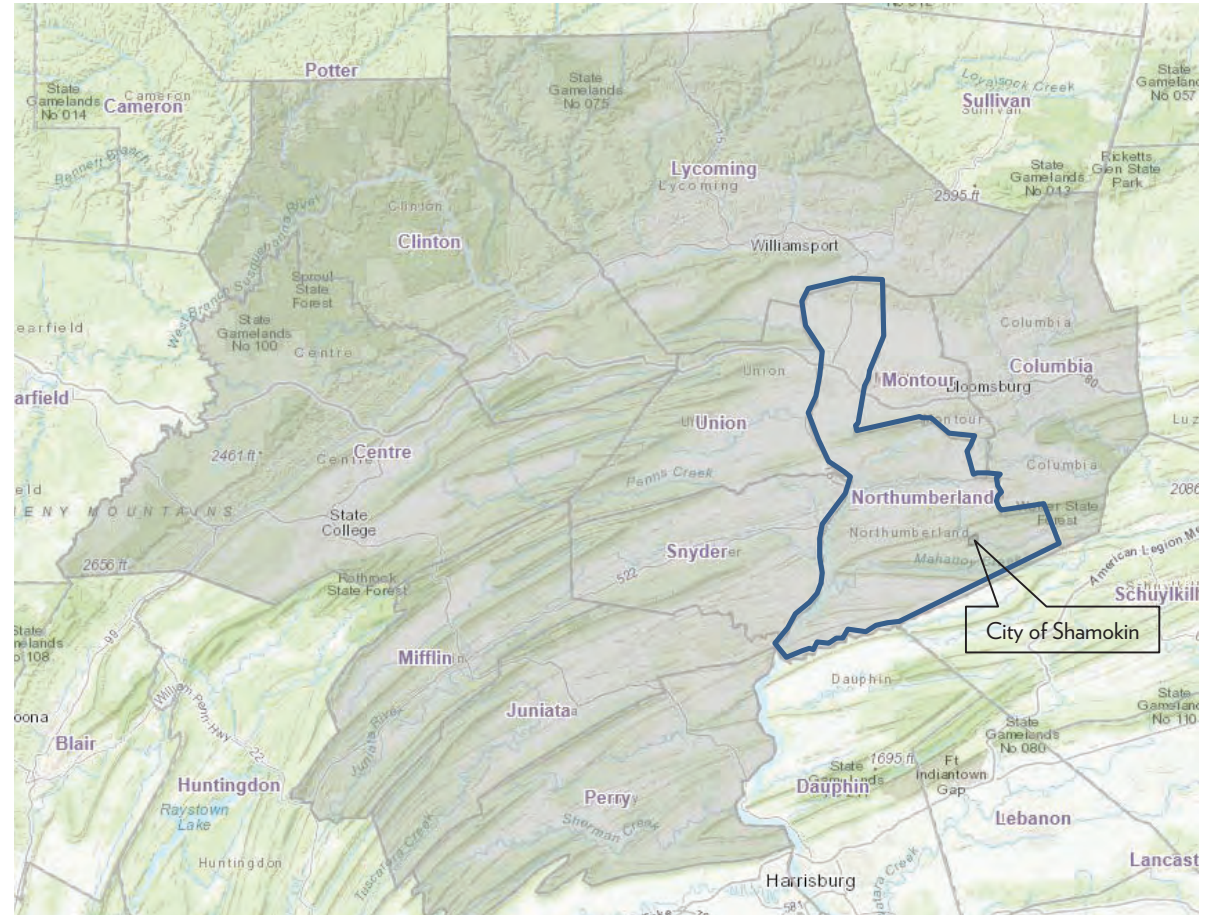
Introduction and Historical Context

Background

The following is an overview of strategic contextual physical planning topics, issues, and conditions that directly relate to the intent of the planning effort. The emphasis of the analysis is not to be exhaustive but to identify key factors which directly influence the development of targeted recommendations. Although certain topic areas, such as the market analysis, require more extensive contextual evaluation and are provided as a separate appendix to this plan, the emphasis is placed on performing the strategic analysis that may aid in determining various infrastructure and inter-related physical factors that support specific economic development recommendations.

The following analysis is organized around a big-picture as well as a ground-up approach. It looks first at broadest factors such as geographic context and hydrology and then considers elements formed by the existing built environment, including transportation, public space, and utility infrastructure.

This information will also be used to inform how to make recommendations viable and sustainable. In this case sustainable not only means that they have environmental impact but that they also have economic longevity. In essence, each recommendation, informed by the analysis, should solve both site specific issues and serve as model for how new development and investment can serve a larger role in improving the quality-of-life for all residents of a neighborhood and ultimately the City as a whole.



The City of Shamokin and Northumberland County within the SED-Region. Source: U.S. Census Bureau

PROJECT INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Introduction and Historical Context

Study Area

The primary focus of the project is the downtown and the area bounded by Sunbury Street/Route 61 to the north, Shamokin Creek to the south, Shamokin Street to the east, and 4th Street to the west. Independence Street is the City's primary "main street" in terms of functioning as the primary commercial street, with the most of the City's largest buildings located along the blocks from Market to Shamokin Streets. Consideration was given to a larger area in some instances since some aspects, such as transportation, utilities, and gateways are not solely influenced by the limits of downtown or even the city boundary.

The heart of Shamokin is formed by its valley location at the south edge of Big Mountain and is bisected by Carbon Run, which flows into the more prominent Shamokin Creek at approximately 4th and Water Streets. Shamokin Creek roughly parallels Independence Street through the center of the City. The City is surrounded by huge culm banks dating back to the early 1900s that form large mountains ringing the town. The Cameron/Glen Burn Colliery Culm Bank is purported to be the world's largest man-made mountain.

KEY FINDINGS/CONSIDERATIONS

- In order to maximize positive community economic impact, the emphasis of this plan is on the heart of downtown. Specifically, the core blocks of Independence Street between Market and Shamokin Streets receive the primary emphasis.
- Areas near and further afield are considered for networks and contextual aspects that have a direct relationship to downtown, such as the key circulation routes including Sunbury Street/Route 61 which is critical to connecting the City and the downtown to the region and beyond.



Focus Area

PROJECT INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Introduction and Historical Context

Historic Context

The City of Shamokin is located in Northumberland County in a region known for its once abundant and prosperous anthracite coal fields. The City is named for an important Native American town of the same name which stood west of the current city, near where Sunbury now exists. In the 1830's, as a result of the increase in the growing potential of coal as an energy resource, the town was laid out as a speculative venture to support the demand created by the growing mining industry. With the arrival of the railroads, the City experienced significant growth from the 1870s to 1900. Other industries followed the growth and in the early 20th century silk and knitting mills became important economic drivers as well. The Shamokin/Eagle Silk Mill was at one point the largest textile manufacturing building under a single roof in the United States. The town was incorporated as a City in 1949. Much of the City's current form in terms of a gridded street pattern and its location and concentration of it downtown are a function of the location of Big Mountain and Shamokin Creek, combined with the historic placement of the Philadelphia & Reading and Pennsylvania Railroad rail lines through town. In fact, the current configuration of Independence Street in the block between Rock and Washington Streets exists as an exceptionally wide street due to the fact that the former Reading Railroad passenger station was located on the area that is now part of the street. Commerce Street was the location of a former Pennsylvania Railroad (PRR) branch line and the former PRR passenger and freight stations still exist at Commerce and Liberty Street as a part of Bader's Furniture. Over time, several commercial nodes/corridors evolved to capture the demand created by the growth of surrounding residential neighborhoods, hence the additional commercial clusters along Market, Sunbury, and Shamokin (possibly the earliest) Streets, as well as what became the primary downtown shopping district along Independence Street.



Independence Street was once the beating heart of the City of Shamokin. Although some building have been lost, many of the key structures remain providing the basis for a vibrant, walk-able downtown mixed-use district that continues to provide important commercial/retail services to the population.



The Philadelphia & Reading Railroad's architecturally eclectic passenger station once stood in the East 300 block of Independence Street and was the main hub of travel between the Cities of Shamokin, Reading, and Philadelphia. The building was razed and today the site is a wide paved area of the street and a parking lot.

PROJECT INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Introduction and Historical Context

The population of Shamokin peaked in 1920 at 21,204 and has experienced a drop in population ever since. By 2010 the population dropped to 7,374 and the latest data estimates (as of 2017) projected the population at 7,165. With so much of the historical peak population hinged on a few industries, anthracite coal mining and textiles, as these industries declined so has the population. A more detailed discussion of the population and household characteristics are presented in the Appendix A – Market Assessment Technical Memorandum prepared by Urban Partners.

More recently the economy of Shamokin has evolved to respond to different but equally abundant natural resources, specifically the abundance of surrounding open land for recreational purposes. The Anthracite Outdoor

Adventure Area Authority (AOAA) leased approximately 7,500 acres of former coal lands in the Shamokin Area for the purposes of actively managing a family-friendly motorized and non-motorized recreation facility, it along with the nearby Knoebels Grove Amusement Park, the PSSA Valley Gun & Country Club and the abundant Weiser State Forest lands, all within 15 minutes of the heart of Shamokin, establishes the City as a legitimate hub of a unique regional recreational destination that attracts well over 1.3 million visitors per year to the combined destinations.

KEY FINDINGS/CONSIDERATIONS

- Shamokin’s physical form as a gridded city dates back to the 1830s with the original plat of the town focused on the areas between Pearl and Orange Streets, making the portions of Independence Street east of Orange Street the area that has functioned as a part of its traditional core downtown for the longest period of time. Projects that reinstate this traditional function, such as the construction of the pending medical center in this block, are important to improving the overall functionality and vibrancy of the traditional downtown core.
- The City has several commercial nodes/corridors which formed in response to growth that occurred in the first half of the 20th century. Today, there are more properties originally constructed for commercial purposes, than are required to support current

and likely demand. Although viable commercial activities can certainly continue in these areas, the emphasis should be on one primary, compact and vibrant downtown district in order to achieve the greatest economic vitality and impact. Economic development recommendations should reinforce this idea of concentration for maximum viability and impact.

- With the growing potential of outside visitors traveling to Shamokin for their recreational interests, the City and its businesses need to consider how it presents itself as a visitor ready destination, including ease of navigation, how inviting the public realm feels, how inviting are local businesses for new and unfamiliar customers, and what overall image does a visitor take away with them after visiting?

PROJECT INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Summary of Key Market Findings

Market Analysis Introduction

A key part of developing viable revitalization recommendations is having a fundamental understanding of current and projected market dynamics. As a part of this planning effort, Urban Partners conducted a real estate market assessment evaluating retail, residential, and commercial opportunities for Shamokin. This analysis identified a range of feasible uses that could potentially support a more active mixed-use environment in the downtown area while strengthening the City's overall economy.

Data for this market assessment was acquired and analyzed immediately prior to the economic shutdown in mid-March 2020 resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. The near- and long-term impacts of the pandemic on the real estate market are not yet fully known, particularly on a micro-level. It should be noted, however, that not all impacts will be equally far-reaching or permanent, and some real estate sectors will recover more quickly than others. Given the changing nature of this situation, as the stabilization of new Covid-19 cases is achieved and communities begin to implement reopening plans, the effects of this crisis on the local real estate market will continue to evolve as well. Community leaders should monitor these influences as Shamokin continues its revitalization efforts while adjusting to new economic norms. A more extensive analysis of the Market Assessment is provided in Appendix A of this report.



Independence Street Retail



Former Rennas Hotel Building

Market-Rate Rental Housing Market

The rental housing market research performed as a part of this effort revealed that available apartments in Shamokin are limited. Most common are apartments in older twins or small buildings, mostly located outside of the downtown in adjacent neighborhoods. Larger buildings appear to have no vacancy. Furthermore, there are no comparable properties in Shamokin to any prospective new or rehabbed downtown rental housing product.

At the same time, the health care industry has grown in the City in terms of numbers of jobs. These numbers will increase when Geisinger Health System completes its new medical facility in downtown Shamokin. It is likely that a segment of those employees would desire housing close to work that is also close to downtown entertainment and recreational amenities. In addition, almost 20% of the City's population is over 65 years old. There is potential for a segment of that older population to be seeking smaller, maintenance-free housing in a walkable area. Because

of the current lack of new or rehabbed downtown rental housing in Shamokin—that would likely appeal to young professionals and empty-nesters—it would therefore be reasonable to conclude that some of this potential demand could be accommodated by newer rental housing in the downtown commercial area. Local developers agree that the rental residential market in downtown Shamokin could be ripe for introducing a new or renovated rental housing product that appeals to these demographics. One such developer just completed a higher-end renovation of a four-bedroom unit in a downtown mixed-use building, which rented quickly.

KEY FINDINGS / CONSIDERATIONS

- As a result of these market conditions, it appears that new rental housing is potentially a viable development opportunity for an evolving downtown Shamokin. New units could potentially exist in vacant or underutilized space above ground-floor retail on various downtown blocks in one or more of the key vacant downtown buildings, particularly along Independence Street. To test the market for this product, an initial residential project should be modest in scale, perhaps involving 8 to 10 units in a single building.

- Assuming a 25% premium for new construction over rents for existing, modest rental units in Shamokin, new rehabbed apartments of this type in downtown Shamokin could likely command the following rents:
 - \$600 to \$750 per month for 800 SF to 1,000 SF one-bedroom, one bath units
 - \$850 to \$1,000 per month for 1,000 SF to 1,200 SF two-bedroom, two bath units

PROJECT INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Summary of Key Market Findings

Affordable Rental Housing Market

According to HUD, there are just 366 affordable rental units in Shamokin. Despite this low supply, the cost burden analysis above indicates that 44.9% of renter households are paying more than 30% of their incomes on housing.

KEY FINDINGS / CONSIDERATIONS

- There appears to be a significant opportunity for additional affordable rental units in Shamokin. Some of this need could be accommodated through various lower-priced market-rate units that exist in the City. However, demand exists for additional low income housing tax credit (LIHTC) housing with income restrictions or housing with a mixed-income element.

Sales Housing Market

Research performed to evaluate current sales housing trends in Shamokin has revealed a relatively weak market. The total number of homes sold in the City has decreased since 2017 to just 32. While median sales prices have increased year-over-year since 2016, the median sales price during the yearlong period of early 2019 to 2020 was only \$54,500. New housing in this market would therefore require significant subsidies to offset the cost of construction. Furthermore, downtown for-sale condominiums—either new or part of a rehabbed conversion—currently do not exist and are therefore an untested housing market in Shamokin.

KEY FINDINGS / CONSIDERATIONS

- It appears that new sales housing is not a viable opportunity for downtown Shamokin.
- This data suggest that any near-term new or rehabbed housing occur in the form of rental housing at a modest scale.

Retail Market

A comparison of retail supply and demand for the trade areas reveals the retail surplus or gap/potential for additional retail stores in each category. The demand of retailing in Shamokin (included in the 3-Mile Trade Area) exceeds supply by more than \$26 million, indicating that the supply is limited for the area's population, and the customer base must go beyond this three-mile ring for many retail goods and services. However, the supply of supermarkets and

pharmacies are drawing customers into the trade area from outside. Having a downtown supermarket is often one of the missing and most desired retail categories for communities that are focusing on downtown revitalization. The fact that Shamokin has a successful full-service grocery store at the western end of its downtown core should be promoted as an important validation of the market potential, as well as a convenience amenity when attracting new residential development.

The 6-Mile Radius Trade Area contains several other modest population and commercial centers, including most of Coal Township. Six miles is approximately halfway to the larger population centers of Sunbury, Danville, and Bloomsburg. Residents of those communities are not likely to travel to Shamokin for most of their retail needs since they can likely find them within their respective trade areas. However, within this 6-mile radius, total demand still exceeds supply—by a \$106 million gap. Several retail categories experience a significant opportunity gap also not being filled at the 9-Mile Radius.

In general, these would be smaller store types that could be tenants in downtown commercial buildings along Independence Street. In the case of the eating and drinking establishments focus should be placed on diversifying options in order to complement existing establishments. Also, concentrating food establishments within close proximity to each other support the concept of creating a food and dining district which tends to leverage the economic impact and viability of each establishment. Currently there are several vacant commercial spaces along the Independence Street corridor especially, that could house a portion of these retail opportunities and reinforce the concept of a vibrant and walkable retail/dining district.

KEY FINDINGS / CONSIDERATIONS

- Several retail categories experience a significant opportunity gap also not being filled at the 9-Mile Radius. While it would be logical to assume that Specialty Sporting Goods, which include hunting, fishing, and bicycling gear, would have significant demand among Shamokin residents and visitors, the retail opportunity data indicates that this is one of the few over-supplied retail categories, even at the 9-Mile Radius. This would suggest a lack of additional demand. However, for those categories with a gap at the 6-Mile Radius that continues at the 9-Mile Radius, **there appears to be sufficient demand for many other new store opportunities appropriate for downtown Shamokin:**
 - **Art Dealers/Galleries.** The data indicates that \$530,000 in expenditures on art are leaving the 6-Mile Trade Area annually. This leakage can support 2,400 SF of gallery space. Art dealers could appeal to visitors as well as area residents.
 - **Home furnishing stores.** Within the 6-Mile Trade Area, a significant opportunity exists for home furnishing stores. The \$3.4 million gap translates to approximately 14,000 SF in store space
 - **Health and personal care store.** An opportunity exists in the 6-Mile Trade Area for a health and personal care store, such as a medical supply store. The \$888,000 in leakage would support a store of approximately 2,000 SF.
 - Family clothing stores. Significant opportunities exist in the clothing category, particularly family clothing. The retail data suggests a gap of \$7.8 million within the 6-Mile Trade Area, which could support about 28,000 SF of store space. These stores could outfit the family with clothing geared toward the outdoors and recreation.
 - **Women’s clothing stores.** Opportunities exist for women’s clothing stores as well. The gap of \$2.6 million within the 6-Mile Trade Area could support more than 9,000 SF of store space. These stores could be specialty boutique stores that would appeal to visitors.
 - **Shoe stores.** A \$1.8 million gap in retail supply exists for shoe stores in the 6-Mile Trade Area. This leakage can support a store of approximately 6,000 SF. Shoe stores could include footwear more geared toward athletics, such as running and hiking, which would lend itself well to the recreational nature of the region.
 - **Gift store.** The retail data suggests that \$899,000 in gift, novelty, and souvenir stores expenditures are leaking from the 6-Mile Trade Area annually.
 - **Auto parts stores.** A \$1.3 million gap in retail supply exists for automotive parts and accessories stores in the 6-Mile Trade Area. This leakage can support store space of approximately 5,000 SF. A portion of this opportunity could be attributed to recreational vehicle parts and accessories as well, serving residents and visitors who frequent the Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area.
 - **Pet Store.** A \$1.2 million gap in retail supply exists for pet stores in the 6-Mile Trade Area. This leakage can support approximately 4,000 SF of store space.
 - **Full-Service Restaurants.** Significant opportunity exists for full-service restaurants. Up to 29,000 SF of such space could be supported by the \$7.9 million gap in the 6-Mile Trade Area.
 - **Limited-Service Restaurants.** There is a similar opportunity for limited-service restaurants. A surplus of \$10.3 million could support 30,000 SF of restaurant space in the 6-Mile Trade Area.
 - **Coffee Shops.** There are also opportunities for coffee shops. A gap of \$1.1 million in the 6-Mile Trade Area could support a 3,000 SF coffee shop.
- Together, these retail opportunities within the 6-Mile Trade Area would total approximately 145,000 SF in store space—a significant amount of retailing. **Therefore it appears that there is demand for 40,000 to 50,000 SF** that is compatible with the physical characteristics and scale of downtown Shamokinas as well as the region’s evolving recreational character, to test the market. These opportunities, which could serve both residents and visitors, include:
 - 4 to 5 eating and drinking establishments (16,000 SF) including full- and limited-service restaurants and coffee shops that will help diversify but not cannibalize the existing restaurant supply and serve both residents and visitors;
 - 4 to 5 family & women’s apparel and shoe stores (6,000 SF) with a recreational emphasis or appeal to visitors;
 - 1 or 2 vehicle parts and accessories stores that could also supply ATVs (5,000 SF);
 - 2 to 3 home furnishing stores (12,000 SF); and
 - 3 to 4 miscellaneous stores such as an art dealer, gift shop, medical equipment, and pet stores (8,000 SF), which could also appeal to visitors and residents.

PROJECT INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Physical Planning Considerations

The following is an overview of several key planning topics that include physical elements as well as policies, such as zoning, that regulates and shapes the physical realm. The approach to presenting the information is focused on highlighting key findings and considerations that may influence ideas and decision-making.

Cultural/Historic Resources

The determination of a nationally eligible Shamokin Historic District was originally determined in 1987. It included a large portion of the eastern half of downtown and neighborhoods of the original City plat, located to the north. As a result of a significant loss of contributing structures in the following decade, the City requested that the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (PASHPO - PHMC) review the district designation and boundaries in 1999. As a result of the review, it was recommended that the eligible district boundary be revised to a slightly smaller boundary. In preparation of a HUD funded demolition project for two building within the eligible historic district in 2017, further review was performed by PASHPO – PHMC, which determined that although there was an additional loss of several contributing resources, it was overall intact and maintain significant resources to continue to be National Register eligible, with a reduction of the boundary along Sunbury Street. The recommendation was made in 2017 to also rename the district the, “Shamokin Commercial Historic District.”

In addition, a determination of a nationally eligible historic district was determined for the Shamokin WPA Waterway Control System, which incorporates engineered structures and systems used for flood control and constructed by the federal Works Progress Administration (WPA) between 1933 and 1941. It follows portions of Shamokin Creek, Coal and Carbon Runs through the downtown.



Historic view of F&S brewery building



2020 view of F&S Brewery building

KEY FINDINGS/CONSIDERATIONS

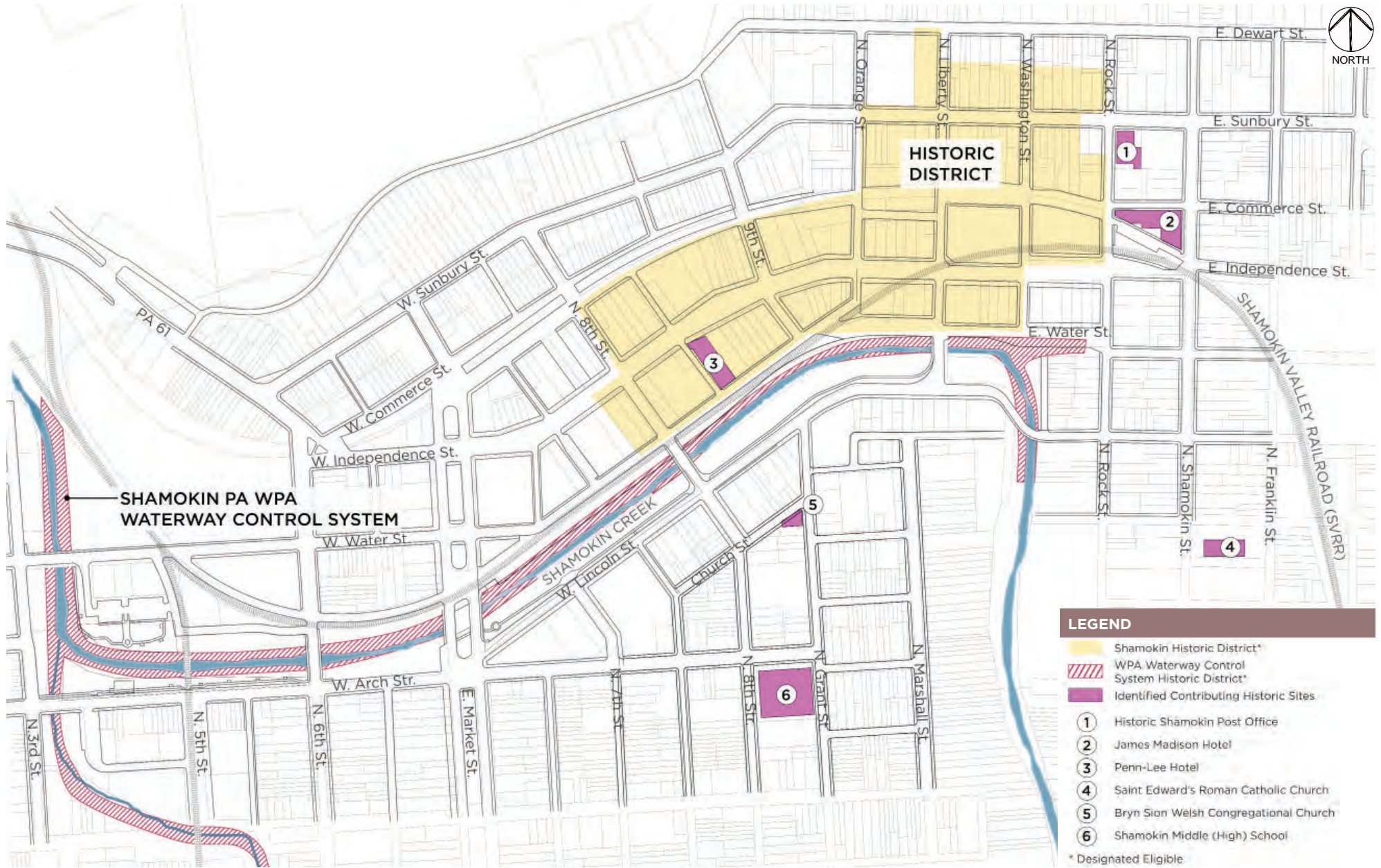
- The Shamokin Historic District was determined to be a nationally eligible historic district by the PASHPO as far back as 1987. The district has not been formally nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. The determination of eligibility (versus a true listing on the National Register) provides some level of protection for contributing properties to the district but those are limited primarily to review of impacts if federal or state funding is used for activities within the defined eligible historic district. The current status, however, does not offer up the potential for property owners to participate in the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit program which could provide a 20% federal tax credit for eligible projects or the Pennsylvania Preservation Incentive Tax Credit Program which can provide up to an additional 25% of the qualified expenditures as determined by the application in connection with the completed project. Tax credit awards can potentially be increased to 30% of the qualified expenditures in connection with a workforce housing completed project. These tax credit programs have helped many private property owners and developers foster economic revitalization in their downtowns across Pennsylvania.
- There are several structures identified by the PASHPO as potentially being individually eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. If property owners are willing to undertake or

partner on individual nominations, this would also open them up to tax credit funds to support comprehensive rehabilitation. In addition to considering the formal nomination of the district, the City should work with property owners to individually nominate eligible structures and to undertake projects with utilize the federal and state tax credits.

- The City played an important role in the history of the societal utilization of electricity. The connection to Thomas Edison and the Edison Illuminating Company in the downtown could be the basis of historic interpretation and branding.
- Cultural and historical tourism is a growing niche aspect of the overall tourism industry, especially in terms of day or weekend-tripping that is easily accessible by car. There are other thematically related destinations within the region, such as the Mining Museum at Knoebel's Amusement Park (which has excellent public reviews posted on tourism websites) that could be packaged together to be a viable weekend experience, especially if tied to other multi-generational destinations like the AOAA and Knoebel's.

PROJECT INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Existing Cultural Resources/Historic Districts Map



Potential Brownfields/Key Vacant Properties

The City of Shamokin received direct technical support from the PADEP through a local assistance grant provided by the U.S. EPA. The objectives of the technical assistance included preparing an inventory of potential brownfields sites in the City. The inventory was completed in June 2020 and identified 39 potential brownfields sites (for more information reference the June 26, 2020 Shamokin Brownfields Inventory Grant Final End-of-Project Report prepared by AECOM). Several potential brownfield sites located within the targeted study area of this planning effort were identified, including, 301-303 Commerce Street (former F&S Bottling House), 115 E. Independence Street (former Jones Hardware) two sites specifically targeted for reinvestment and adaptive reuse.

KEY FINDINGS/CONSIDERATIONS

- In addition to the potential brownfield sites identified, there are likely others not yet known, that could surface as economic development activities advance, illustrating the need for the City to pursue potential grant resources from the U.S. EPA and the State to assist the City, partnering agencies, and potentially private property owners in assessing the status of their properties and preparing remediation (i.e. clean-up) strategies. The presence of asbestos and lead containing building material constitutes potential brownfields funding eligibility for commercial properties, which based on the age of much of the downtown building stock, has broad applicability.
- The PADEP led brownfields inventory effort recommended pursuing U.S. EPA brownfields assessment grant funding as a key next step. In addition to using these funds, if secured, for environmental assessment and remediation plans, it can also be used to support site-specific reuse planning which could advance recommendations from this planning effort and other concurrent efforts.

PROJECT INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Physical Planning Considerations

Public Parks & Open Spaces

In the context of the downtown core, the presence of the public spaces along Shamokin Creek, most notably Claude Kehler Community Park, create an attractive greenway, a block or two from Independence Street. The downtown, however, does not have a signature public space that can be used for programming and events, i.e. a literal and physical central town square.

KEY FINDINGS/CONSIDERATIONS

- Public spaces for special events, fairs, and pop-up uses such as food truck corrals and festivals, can serve as major drivers for economic development. Many communities are using these types of events to test and establish market viability for various types of economic activities. They can also be used to support bricks and mortar retail establishments by generating greater foot traffic and expanding the draw of their facilities.
- Quality public spaces are important to attracting dwellers to new multi-family housing units in downtowns and should include multi-generational appeal. Public spaces should be designed to be safe and flexible for day-to-day utilization as well as for special events, with an emphasis on being family-friendly.
- Demolition of blighted properties are creating “gaps” in the street walls in downtown commercial/retail blocks. If new buildings cannot be constructed to infill these void spaces (preferred) these vacant lots should be considered for new public spaces that are programmed to link to commercial/retail activities within the specific block and/or the overall opportunities in the downtown. Former blank party walls between structures should be evaluated to open up views into the public spaces and/or be treated with murals and other visually interesting treatments.



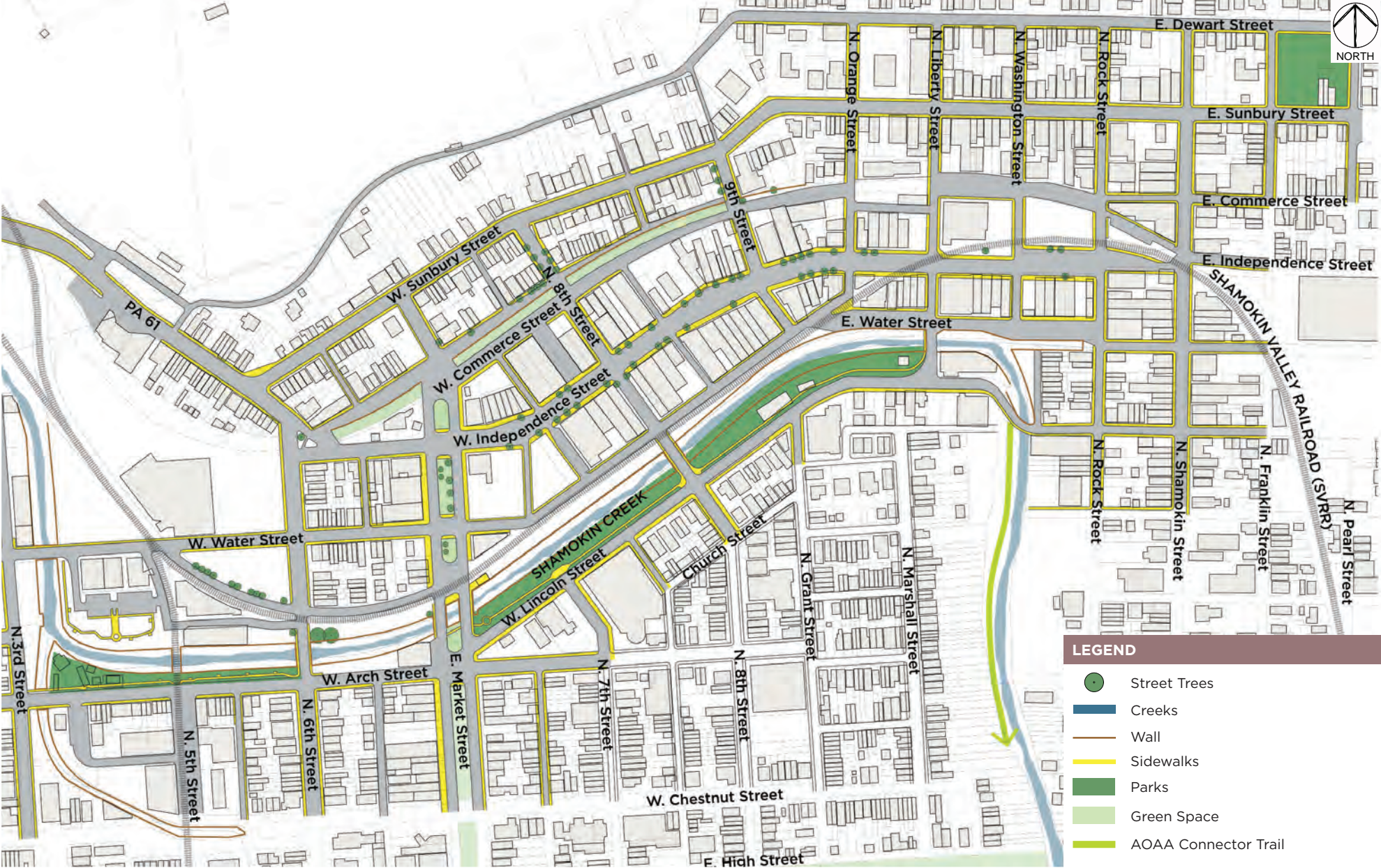
Shamokin Creek adjacent to downtown building



Bandshell at Claude Kehler Community Park

PROJECT INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Existing Parks & Pedestrian/Bicycle Circulation



PROJECT INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Physical Planning Considerations

Bicycle/Pedestrian Circulation

Downtown Shamokin's street grid generally creates a pedestrian-friendly environment. Nearly all of the streets include sidewalks. The City has been upgrading intersections with ADA compliant facilities, but many of the intersections along Independence Street do not meet current ADA standards for accessibility. Fortunately, Independence Street is not a through-put oriented arterial roadway like Sunbury Street, making it much more pedestrian-friendly than many "main streets" in towns of similar size in Pennsylvania.

The creation of the connector trail to the AOAA that follows the Terrace Avenue right-of-way along the west side of Shamokin Creek, terminates

at N. Washington/Spurzheim Streets at the edge of downtown. There are no clearly designated bicycle-friendly routes to connect bicyclists to the core of downtown and also to "trailblaze" along Shamokin Creek.

In 2011, Northumberland County Planning Department undertook the preparation of the Northumberland County Greenways and Open Space Plan which serves as a guide for the preservation of key lands and to begin to develop a system of linear pathways to connect key sites and communities. A major recommendation of the plan is the creation of a recreation trail which utilized portions of the abandoned PRR railroad right-of-way from Sunbury, through Shamokin to Mount Carmel.

KEY FINDINGS/CONSIDERATIONS

- Streetscape improvements that include ensuring that sidewalk facilities and intersection crossings are ADA compliant are important and should serve as a part of the justification for funding applications for downtown streetscape improvements.
- The biggest barrier to pedestrian mobility in the downtown are intersection crossings. The City has been upgrading intersection with new ADA compliant ramps and installing bar-type pedestrian crosswalks, such as at Independence and Market Streets. For major intersections the City might want to upgrade to PennDOT Continental style "piano key" crosswalks at heavily trafficked intersections to provide an increased level of pedestrian safety and to convey a stronger message that the City is focused on pedestrian activity as a part of its economic development strategy.
- The City has recently acquired a significant portion of the former PRR railroad right-of-way along Commerce Street, through

downtown. This could serve as the basis of a multi-use path/bicycle route through downtown and could be part of a larger regional trail system.

- Northumberland County obtained PADCNR funding to undertake a trail feasibility study for a multi-use recreational trail from Sunbury through Shamokin to Mount Carmel. The potential for a major regional recreational trail that could traverse downtown, could be significant, especially when tied to the growing recreational visitation created by the other major tourism destinations in the area. The routing of this trail through downtown, ideally as linear park with a trail, could form a signature civic and economic development amenity. Also, this trail should connect to the AOAA link trail to establish Shamokin as a trail town hub and destination.
- Consider adding painted street markings on key bicycle routes as "sharrows" to denote that the streets are intended for both bicyclist and motorists.

Vehicular Circulation & Transit Services

The major routing of vehicular traffic to and from Shamokin occurs via Sunbury Street/Route 61 which connects U.S. 11 at Shamokin Dam/Sunbury to the northwest and to Frackville/I-81 to the southeast. Route 61 traverses the City via Sunbury Street, which forms the northern edge of the downtown core. For many visitors, they do not realize that Sunbury Street is not the City's "main street" through its downtown and therefore believe they have seen the center of the town. Connecting vehicular traffic between Sunbury Street and Independence Street is important.

Independence Street is the town's main commercial corridor. It is located two blocks south of Sunbury Street/Route 61. Although there are many intersecting streets that connect the two corridors, the primary intersecting streets are Sixth, Market, Liberty, and Shamokin Streets. The challenge is that these streets do not provide optimal turning movements onto Independence Street. For example, left turns are prohibited from southbound Market Street onto Independence Street. The intersection of Shamokin Street is at an at-grade railroad crossing and includes an unusual southbound "free right" onto Independence Street and a no left turn for northbound traffic. Local residents have learned how to navigate these quirky conditions, but for a first-time visitor they are especially challenging and disorienting.

PennDOT has listed improvements to Sunbury Street/Route 61 on the Long-Range Transportation Plan (TIP) for the region, but the project is currently not funded for design.

The City is served with limited transit service by the Lower Anthracite Transit System (LATS) as a loop system. The route travels down Independence Street and connects the City to Coal Township, the Geisenger Complex, and the big box shopping centers.

KEY FINDINGS/CONSIDERATIONS

- Independence Street benefits from not being a heavily trafficked through-put arterial roadway, making it more pedestrian-oriented and suitable for main street-type development. Traffic circulation improvements that enhance the direct connection of traffic desiring to go downtown from Sunbury Street/Route 61) would improve the economic development potential of the downtown.
- The City and the economic development leadership of the City should advocate for the funding for the Sunbury Street/Route 61 corridor and participate in the planning and design process to ensure that multi-modal and streetscape enhancements are integrated into any traffic design improvements. The calming of traffic should also be a consideration, understanding that the accommodation of volume capacity should be balanced with not promoting speeding traffic through the downtown.
- There is a desire to create a more substantial transit system but due to the distances between destinations, this has proven to be a challenge. The current routing of the transit system has its main downtown stop at Independence and 9th Streets. With the pending construction of the new health center in the 300 East block of Independence Street, it might be advantageous to create a more substantial transit stop with shelter facilities at the intersection of Independence and Washington Streets, especially if enhanced transit service is provided.

PROJECT INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Physical Planning Considerations

Flooding & Stormwater Management

A vast majority of the upper reaches of Shamokin Creek are or were lined with commercial and industrial uses. All of Shamokin Creek is designated as impaired as a result of impacts from Acid Mine Drainage into the creek. This condition creates very high levels of metals which also dramatically lowers the pH of the water creating highly acidic conditions in which few living organisms can survive. There is an ongoing effort between the Northumberland County Conservation District and the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance to improve the environmental quality of the watershed through passive treatment and restorative approaches. Projects have been funded by the U.S. EPA and the PADEP to advance these efforts.

In addition, the watershed is impaired by high volumes of sewage that flows into the creek during storm events. Much of the existing urban sewer systems in the watershed, including in Shamokin, are combined systems which means that raw sewage and stormwater flow into a single piped system. When there are large storm events, the sewage treatment plant cannot handle the immense volume and therefore the system bypasses the plant and flows directly into waterways. This condition is referred to as Combined System Overflows (CSOs). These problems are not new. In 1917, a Water Resources Inventory Report referred to Shamokin Creek as the most impaired stream in the Coal Region and coal deposits were so highly concentrated it was actually commercially viable to recover coal from the streambed. There are conditions within the overall combined sewer system referred to as “wildcats” (completely disconnected and untreated sewer lines). A small portion of the overall sewer system was separated in Springfield and Bunker Hill neighborhoods at a cost of approximately \$26M. In the downtown, the separated systems recombine in the area of Commerce Street.

Based on discussions with representatives of the Joint Sewer Authority (JSA) for Shamokin/Coal Township, the JSA was previously under consent order from the U.S. EPA due to CSO issues, but based on the town’s distressed

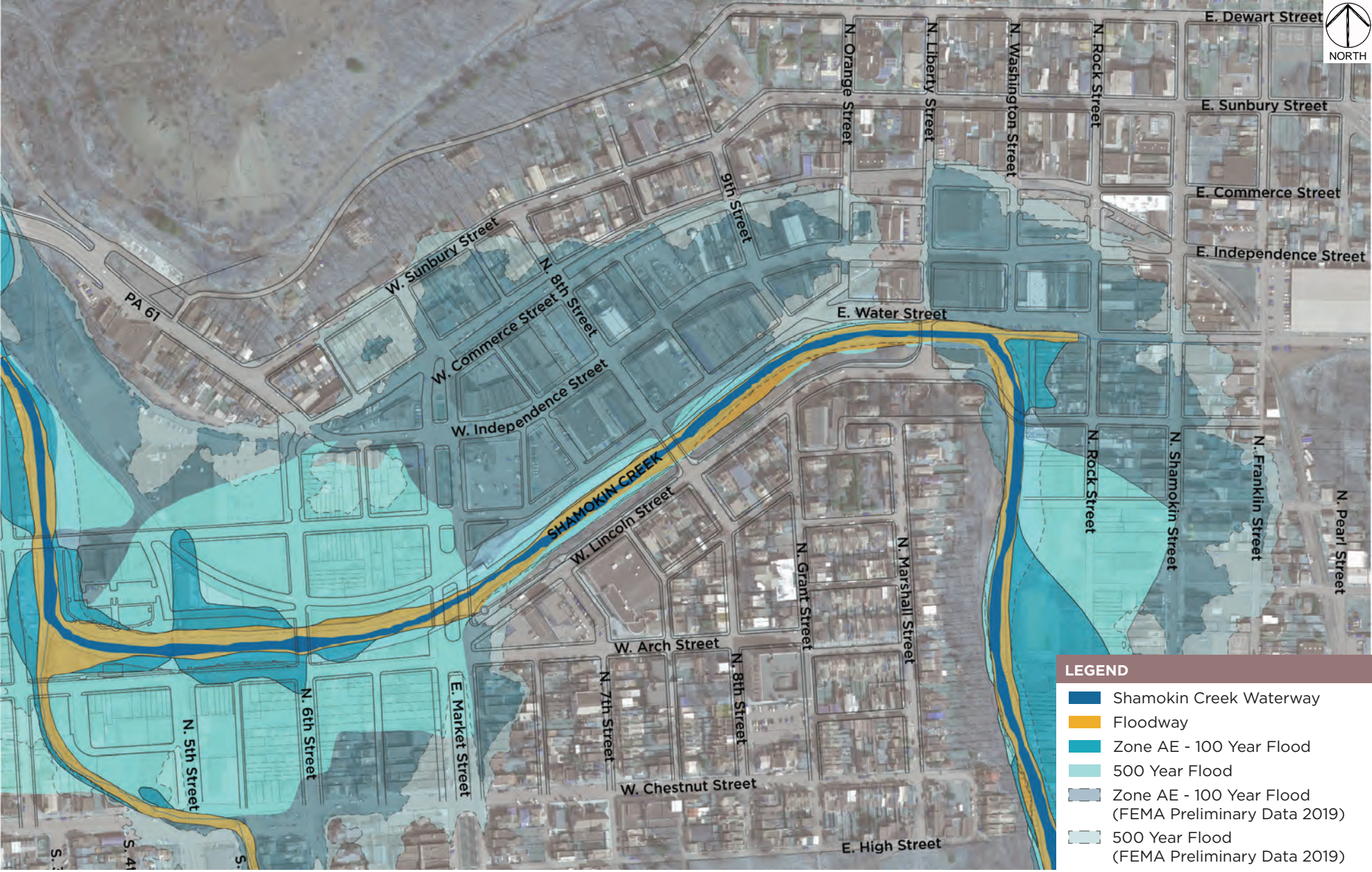
condition an estimated cost of \$200M to separate the sanitary and stormwater sewer systems, the consent order was lifted in 2016.

With the prominent location at the confluence of three waterways, especially the routing of Shamokin Creek through the downtown core, flooding and stormwater management have been a concern and influencer on the development of the City since its beginning. Initially, the proximity of the waterways was a benefit as a water source, but over time the need to address and control its boundaries became necessary in order to allow for expansion of denser downtown development. As early as 1872, portions of the waterway were channelized with a low stone wall. Over time, additional stone walls were constructed to allow for growth and a major flood control project was undertaken in the 1930s through the Works Progress Administration which resulted in most of the stone wall structures visible today. The physical structures have been designated as contributing structures of an eligible national historic district. This determination was made as part of a structural repair and improvement project undertaken starting in 2013.

Although flood events have raised the water level beyond its banks, flooding has not historically been a major problem in the core of downtown, with a few exceptions in the western end near the confluence of Coal Run. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) periodically updates its flood mapping, producing what is referred to as a FIRM Map, for communities across the United States. In 2019, FEMA produced an updated FIRM map for Shamokin which significantly increased the area in the downtown that is located in what is known as the AE Zone (formerly referred to as the 100-year floodplain). This designation is slated to go into official regulatory effect in 2021 and will impact a significant number of properties in the downtown, especially east of Market Street up gradient, to at least Commerce Street.

PROJECT INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Flood Zones - Existing and Pending



Source: FEMA GIS Data

PROJECT INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Physical Planning Considerations

KEY FINDINGS/CONSIDERATIONS

- Although flooding in the downtown has not been nearly as significant as other communities in the Coal Region, the pending remapping of the 2021 FEMA FIRM mapping will impact redevelopment efforts of the City and property owners in the downtown. Since the deadline to request a more detailed evaluation by FEMA has passed, the only way to modify the pending increase in the designated flood zones in Shamokin is to undertake a formal Hydrologic and Hydraulic (H&H) Study. H&H studies evaluate the potential volume and flow rate dynamics within a watershed that influence the determination of flood risks and boundaries, considering not only local factors, but conditions below and upstream. Shamokin should pursue undertaking a H&H Study and coordinate with FEMA if the study determines that reducing designated flood zones is justifiable.
- The JSA is currently working on a long-term control plan to reduce their CSO conditions and undertaking an engineering study to develop a plan. Exact mapping of sewer lines, as well

as other underground utilities, is very limited due to many incremental projects and repairs over decades and limited accurate documentation. Efforts to determine the exact existing conditions of underground utilities is important to ensure that as new development occurs there is adequate and reliable service to meet increased demand.

- Green infrastructure projects should be pursued and promoted within both public and private developments, to retain stormwater runoff to reduce CSO impacts, reduce the potential for flooding, and to improve the quality of runoff that enters the Shamokin Creek watershed. Although these projects have costs, they are dramatically less expensive than undertaking separated sewer/stormwater conveyance systems. They can also be integrated into public space, streetscape, and parking lot improvement projects to create visual amenities and potentially increasing grant funding opportunities to undertake civic improvement projects.

Utility infrastructure

Public water is provided in the City by AquaPA, a private company. The company is incrementally upgrading water lines based on their own determination of needs. Similarly, natural gas is provided by UGI, also a private company and they have been upgrading the most aged lines following the company's determination of need and capital investment plans.

PPL Electric Utilities provides electrical service to the City of Shamokin. The downtown is fortunate in that Independence Street does not have overhead electric and telecommunication lines. The buildings fronting on Independence Street are served from their rears, either from Water or Commerce Streets.

Internet service is provided by Service Electric. There is an effort by the City to deploy free wireless internet in the downtown.

Zoning & Ordinances

The City has its own adopted zoning ordinance that dates to 1964. The downtown area targeted by this planning effort includes two zoning districts. The majority of the area is governed by the Commercial District – Central Commercial zoning district. Most of the surrounding areas, including the blocks north of Commerce Street, are zoned as the Residential – Multi-Family Town zoning district. A cursory review of the zoning ordinance was performed, and the following is a list of the key findings and considerations. The review was not comprehensive but instead focused on how requirements may support or hinder the desire to foster greater economic development activity and an overall improved quality-of-life for the City's residents.

KEY FINDINGS/CONSIDERATIONS

- Coordination on private utility upgrades is important, especially as any new development projects are proposed to determine the status of capacity as well as condition, to ensure sufficient supply and reliability.
- All private utility work should be mapped by a central clearing house, either by the City or County to assist in capital programming for public utility upgrades. Also, private investments could serve as local funding matches for public grant applications, so knowing well in advance where and when upgrades are occurring is critically important.

PROJECT INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

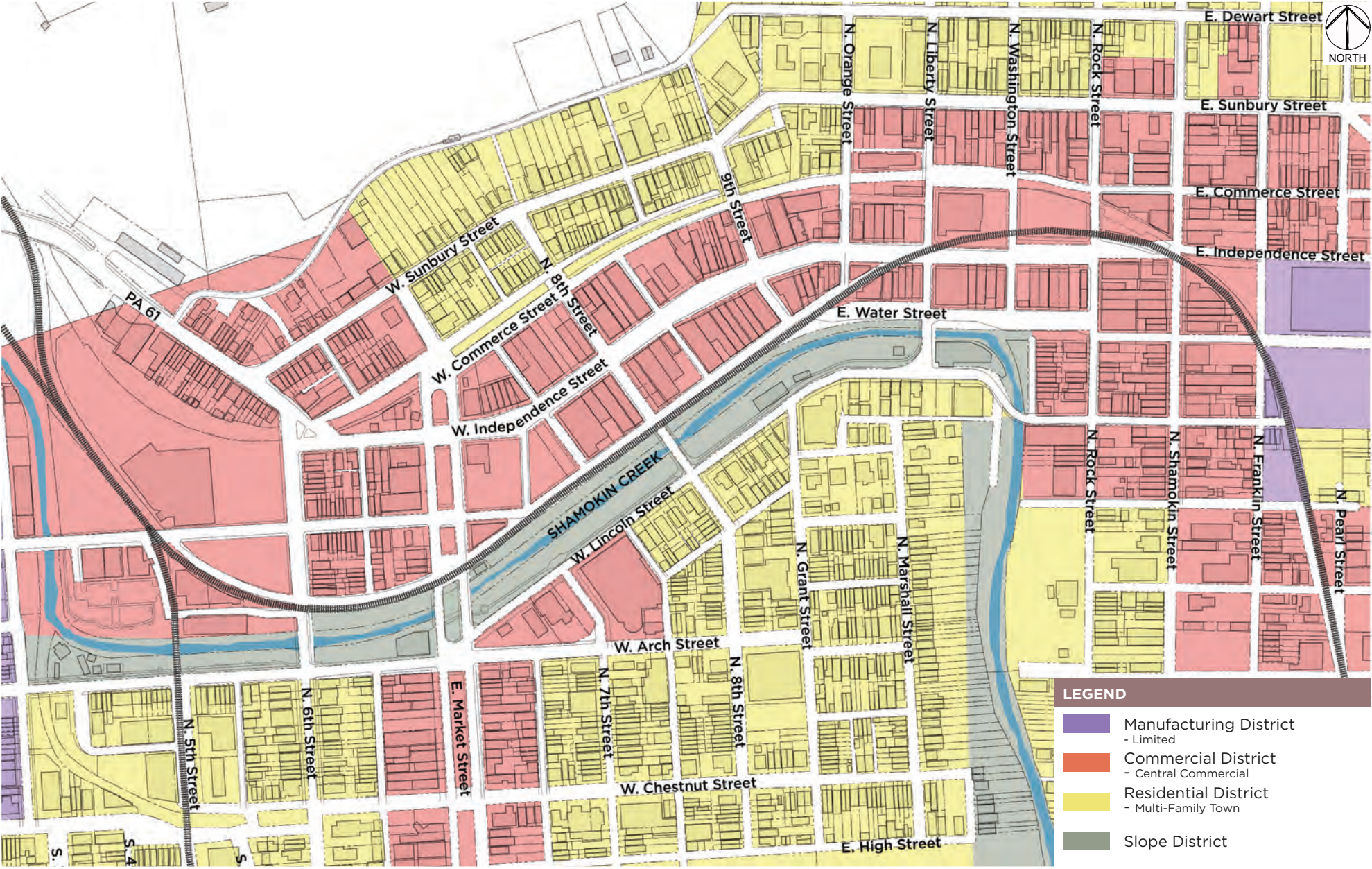
Physical Planning Considerations

KEY FINDINGS/CONSIDERATIONS

- Although it appears that there have been periodic updates to the ordinance, its fundamental approach to guiding land use and shaping development character is very outdated. Reviewing the basic approach to retail/commercial uses, it represents a 1960's mindset that the method to foster downtown activity is to create suburban style development. This is not an uncommon finding in older urban areas that were beginning to face dramatic land use changes in the 1960s and 1970s with the introduction of strip shopping centers and an overall car-centric mindset. In fact, the current zoning hinders the ability to redevelop existing buildings or infill with new development in a fashion that is consistent with the downtown's historical development pattern.
 - In general, the entire ordinance should be audited for conformance and consistency with the requirements of the current version of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code and this and other current community and economic development planning studies.
 - The types of uses described does not appear to comprehensively reflect current/modern use types and does not respond to the implications of formats such as drive-up windows, which should be treated as conditional uses, in order to mitigate their potential impacts on the pedestrian-oriented downtown.
 - Setback and bulk requirements should be updated based on a form-based approach that focuses on creating new developments that are pedestrian-oriented and focused on creating vibrant streetscapes. For example, in the Commercial District the ordinance should require a maximum setback versus a minimum setback and eliminate the ability to place parking in front yards.
- Parking requirements are outdated and should be revised. For example, the current off-street parking requirement for a new development retail store is 10 spaces per 1,000 sf of floor area. This requirement is extremely excessive and is actually consuming development area for parking and creating excessive impervious surface adding to potential CSO and flooding issues. On-street parking fronting on the property should be considered as counting towards the parking requirement of the development to reduce the amount of off-street parking lots. A shared parking component should be considered to support greater multi-family and service versus entertainment uses downtown. The size of parking spaces should be reduced to 9 feet wide and 18 feet long.
 - As mixed-use development occurs in the downtown, a comprehensive parking strategy will be needed to support this investment. This may include creating a downtown resident parking permit program.
 - The City should consider discouraging the dividing-up of single-family homes into numerous apartments. Promoting greater single-family homeownership may increase neighborhood stability and reduce block-by-block densities in historically single-family home neighborhoods and reduce the removal of yards for the creation of parking lots. This action may be linked to programs that encourage new property owners that intend to live in their homes, to convert multi-family homes back to single family dwellings.
 - Integrate physical design parameters into the zoning ordinance that reinforce the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles advocated by the National Crime Prevention Council and supported by the U.S. Department of Justice. See the Public Safety section for more detail on this topic.

PROJECT INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Existing Zoning



PROJECT INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Physical Planning Considerations

Public Safety

Another aspect of attracting investors, residents, and visitors is ensuring that the downtown is both safe and perceived as being safe. This is a function of actually deterring crime as well as creating a place that appears to be active, vital, and cared for, i.e. a place people want to be. There are endless examples of downtowns of all types and contexts that have struggled with the issues of real and perceived crime. In most cases, the primary actions that have improved conditions is a combination of public and private investment into a place that ultimately leads to more positive 24-hour activity, providing more eyes and ears on the street, and feeling that downtown is place where crime is not welcome.

Shamokin has experienced an up-tick in crimes in the last few years, with a more than 500% increase in reported crimes since 2013. From the perspective of the aspects of crime prevention within the purview of possible strategies that can be made through this planning effort, the primary aspects focus on the physical realm and how design can improve public safety. With limitations on the Police Department as a result of the City's Act 47 status, other approaches beyond purely relying on the Department become especially important.

KEY FINDINGS/CONSIDERATIONS

- Consistent lighting on Independence Street, as well as Sunbury Street/Route 61, and the intersecting streets will support the sense of safety. Lighting levels should not be excessive but should be consistent throughout the downtown. Lighting fixtures should be viewed as an aesthetic part of a streetscape as well.
- As much as possible, graffiti and other visual forms of vandalisms should be addressed. This may require ordinances that allow the City (or partnering organizations) the ability to address visual conditions on private property in order to quickly address conditions.
- Addressing the visual character of buildings at the ground level through short and long-term techniques such as dynamic installations in vacant storefronts and promoting as much clear glass on rehabbed storefronts as possible, can have a major impact. These types of strategies can also extend to the public spaces following the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

(CPTED) principles advocated by the National Crime Prevention Council and supported by the U.S. Department of Justice. Some of these principles can be deployed through ordinances, including zoning and land development. See the Council's website for more information: www.ncpc.org

- The City has received funding to install a Police Department monitored security camera system in the downtown. This pilot system should be installed and if deemed successful, should be expanded as needed and determined feasible. The implementation of such systems can be in conflict with other physical improvements to streetscape in order to maintain camera views, so careful coordination should be done to ensure that both desired outcomes are achievable.
- Consider including aspects of the emphasis of community safety into branding and public promotion campaigns for the City and downtown.





02

Project Introduction & Background

Community Engagement & Planning Framework

- What We Heard - Community Rebuilding Goals
- Community Rebuilding Goals / Potential Strategies

Planning & Frameworks

Implementation Action Plan

Establishing Community Goals

The process employed to engage the community into this planning effort was closely linked to a larger concurrent effort called the Shamokin Community Rebuilding Action Plan, directly led by staff from the U.S. EPA. A signature aspect of the community engagement process was a multi-day workshop held February 11-13, 2020. The SGA consultant team for this plan worked closely with U.S. EPA and SEDA-COG staff on the development of content for community engagement activities. Each project had its own Steering Committee due to the slightly differing natures of the planning efforts, although many members served on both committees.

SGA led a series of topic specific meetings that included an invitee list of key stakeholders from the community as well as key agency leaders, etc. in order to have detailed and informed discussions around key issues and opportunities.

The U.S. EPA led engagement effort focused on an interfaith and multi-stakeholder collaborative partnership formed to create the Faith Alliance for Revitalization (FAR). In addition to a large interactive public workshop, a field tour was undertaken, along with a youth session with students from the Shamokin Area High School. The broad community input received during the multi-day workshop, which was attended by approximately 165 people, formed the basis of a set of goals and strategies that reinforced the desire for how to achieve Shamokin's vision of substantial rebirth. They also form the framework for specific recommendations for implementation.

The following goals are defined in the U.S. EPA led Community Rebuilding Action Plan. For each of the goals, a corresponding Implementation Strategy was developed for this planning effort. These six strategies are the over-arching framework that is linked to a key recommendation in Chapter 3 of this report.

Community Engagement & Planning Framework

Community Rebuilding Goals / Potential Strategies



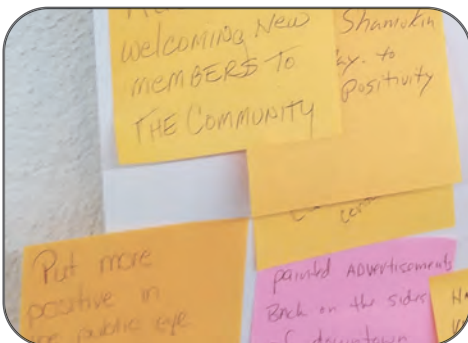
GOAL 1 - Attract and support the development of new businesses and support job creation activities/ programs.

STRATEGY 1 - Expand Downtown as “the Hub” - Attract additional and diversified retail, food, dining, and entertainment venues in close proximity to other activity generators to maximize vitality and create a vibe for the place as the center of the community. This aspect should focus on creating both local and destination-oriented venues that attract local patrons as well as from the region and beyond.



GOAL 2 - Bring citizens together to work towards a common goal of increasing pride and ownership in our community.

STRATEGY 2 - Create Resident-Oriented Places and Uses Downtown – The downtown should foster social and economic activity for local residents and be integral to their needs. This includes attracting more people living in the downtown in order to make the downtown a 24-hour place that is vibrant and vital to the residents of the City and by doing so reinforcing that feeling to visitors.



GOAL 3 - Foster and nurture productive partnerships.

STRATEGY 3 - Cultivate Strategic Partnerships to Expand the Capacity to Make Change – This includes a wide variety of partnerships from federal, state, and regional agencies, corporations, philanthropies, non-profits and to local residents to undertake major projects and to organizing local events. Tapping into trends, especially to organize, operate, and perpetuate local events which may not be capital intensive but require a lot of community organizing can create greater activity in the downtown and they will require involvement from many partners and sponsors. Nurturing partnerships through the combined vision created by all of the current planning efforts can form the basis of engaging people for implementation and action.

Community Engagement & Planning Framework

Community Rebuilding Goals / Potential Strategies



GOAL 4 - Redevelop/demolish/rehabilitate/cleanup blighted commercial and residential properties throughout the City.

STRATEGY 4 - Focus Initiative-led Investment and Building Rehabilitation – This means working at the block-by-block level as much as possible to maximize impact versus scattering efforts which could have much less overall impact. The City should be critical in how it views itself, especially from the perspective of how places look and feel for residents and visitors. Part of this approach still includes removing the worst safety and blight conditions but at the same time trying to concentrate resources in terms of blight removal and public and private investment for the greatest leveraged effects.



GOAL 5 - Enhance positive relationship, building inclusive communities, fostering human dignity, and respect.

STRATEGY 5 – Continue Momentum through Project-by-Project Processes to Engage the Community – The significant public engagement that has occurred to date in the various planning processes and discussions illustrates that there is strong community interest in participating in revitalization efforts. This idea of “greenhousing” locally-driven opportunities from within will likely result in projects that are most in-tune with untapped economic potential as well as garner the most local support.



Credit: City of Shamokin Facebook

GOAL 6 - Making Shamokin healthy, green, and clean now and tomorrow.

STRATEGY 6 - Integrate Quality Design into a Variety of Civic and Public-Private Partnership Projects. There are opportunities to integrate quality design improvements that range from branding campaigns, active and passive public spaces, green infrastructure, and landscape improvements to make the City and the downtown more inviting for visitors and partnering economic investors.





03

Product Introduction & Background

Community Engagement & Planning Framework


Planning Frameworks

- The Independence Street Corridor
- The 100 East Independence Block
- Focus on Fundamental Streetscape
- Make Tactical Public Space Improvements
- Address Critical Circulation Challenges
- Commerce Street Blue/Greenway
- Undertake Civic Branding Campaign
- Building Signage

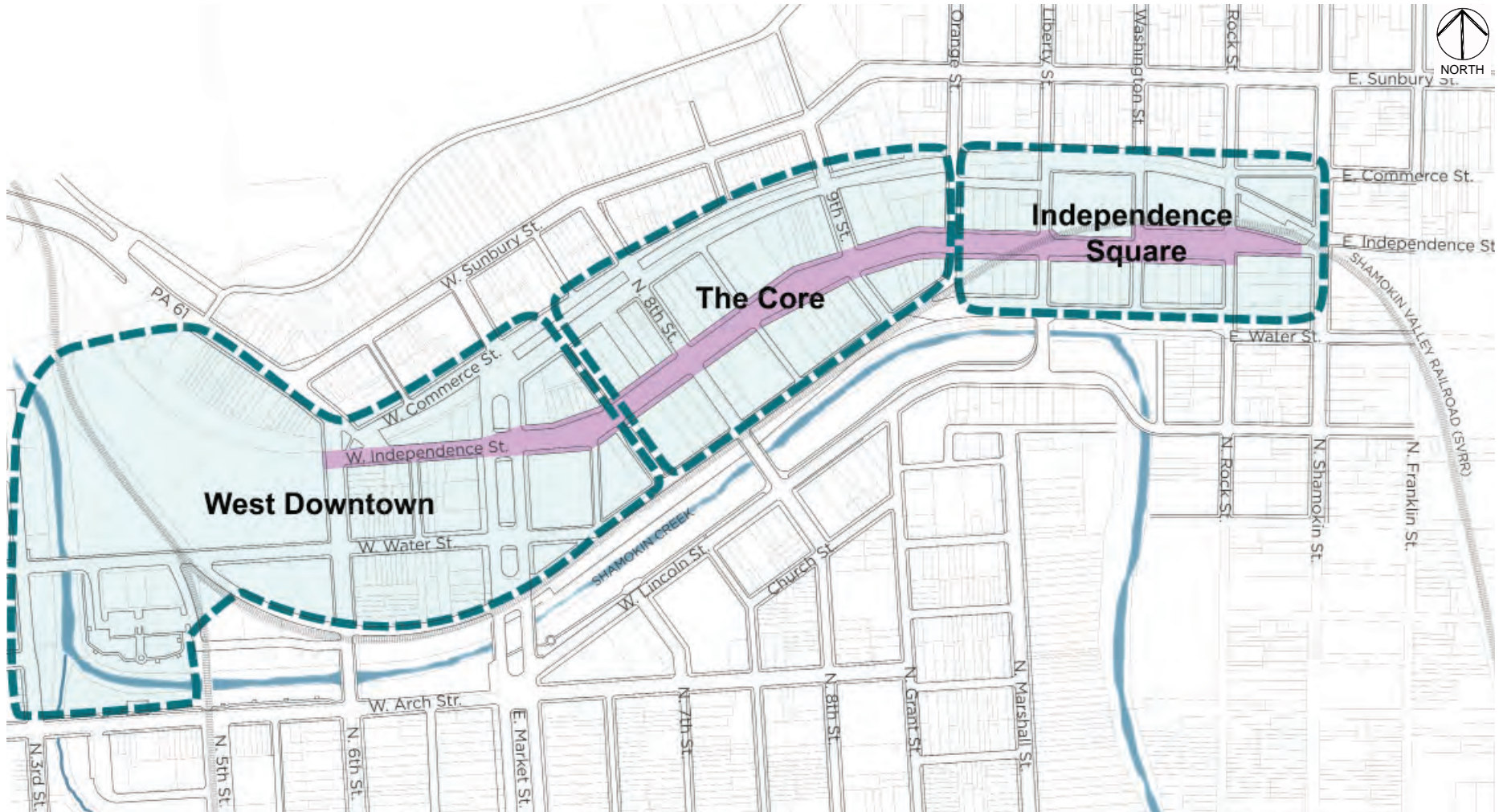
Implementation Action Plan

PLANNING FRAMEWORKS - DEFINING THE DOWNTOWN CHARACTER

The Independence Street Corridor



The planning frameworks focuses on the physical and capital project improvements recommended to reinforce the economic development opportunities and initiatives of the planning project. The project recommendations primarily focus on the types of activities that are typically the purview of the public sector, with an emphasis on transportation, civic realm, parks and public spaces, and supporting infrastructure including stormwater management. The recommendations presented in this section of the report are broken down into individual projects and major components in Chapter 4 – Implementation Action Plan.

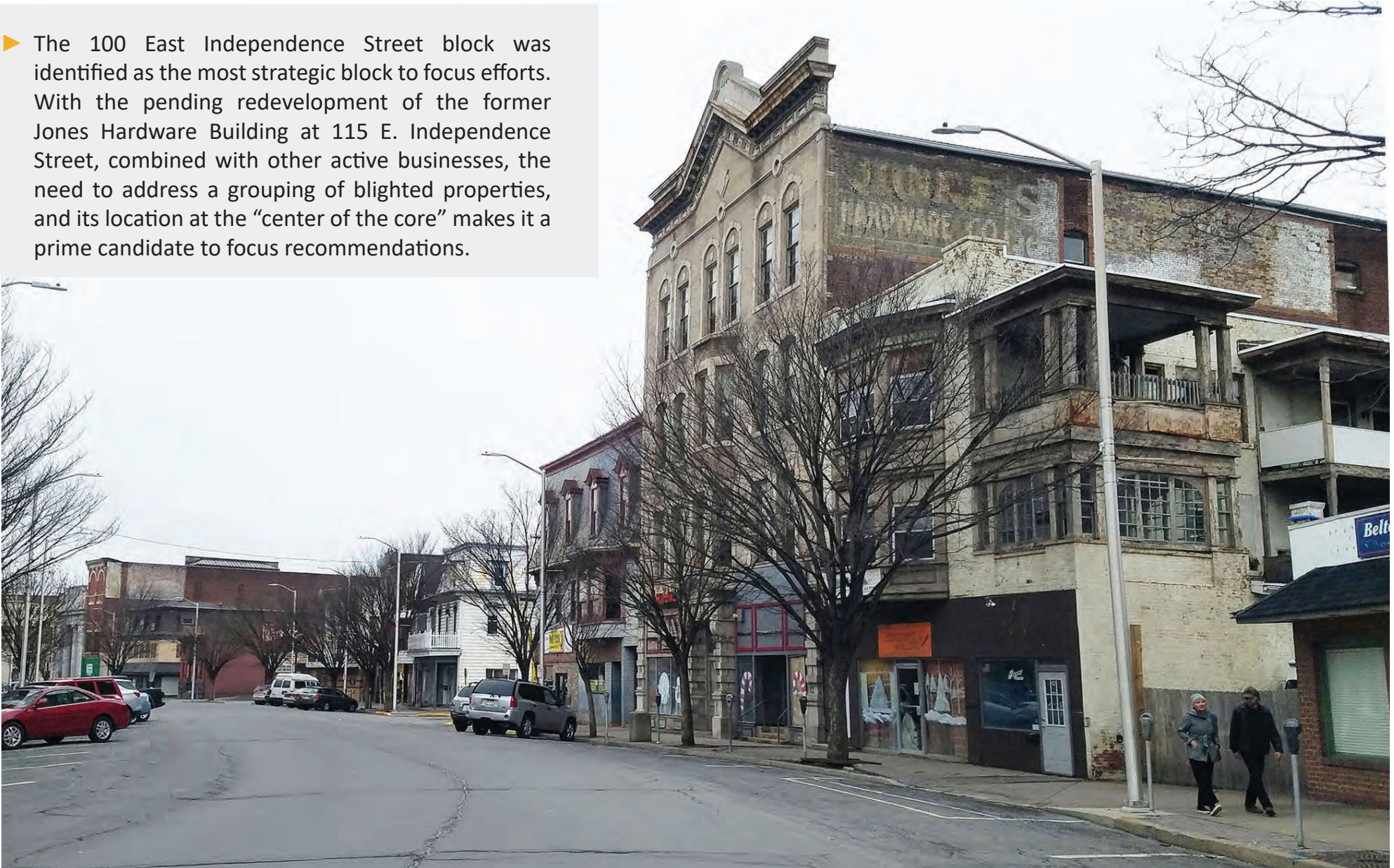


- ▶ The overall Independence Street Corridor is quite large for the size of the City but can be organized into three distinct zones. Since commercial/retail uses especially are spread across the entire length of the downtown, breaking it down into a few distinct zones will aid in how to approach the planning and design aspects as well as the prioritization of projects. This plan proposes the naming of the zones, which may or may not have application beyond purely planning, such as the creation of branding names for wayfinding and promotional purposes.

PLANNING FRAMEWORKS - FOCUS EFFORTS FOR MAXIMUM IMPACT

The 100 East Independence Block

- ▶ The 100 East Independence Street block was identified as the most strategic block to focus efforts. With the pending redevelopment of the former Jones Hardware Building at 115 E. Independence Street, combined with other active businesses, the need to address a grouping of blighted properties, and its location at the “center of the core” makes it a prime candidate to focus recommendations.





PLANNING FRAMEWORKS - KEY STRATEGIES

Focus on Fundamental Streetscape Aesthetics



- ▶ Perform a makeover of Independence Street focused on complete street improvements that greatly enhance the pedestrian-oriented and aesthetic appeal of the city's "Main Street."
- ▶ Relatively simple upgrades to Independence Street with a focus on ADA/safety and aesthetic improvements such as architectural lighting, planters, banners, etc. can have a major impact. Funding sources should focus first on development uniform standards, and plans and then implementation.

PLANNING FRAMEWORKS - KEY STRATEGIES

Focus on Fundamental Streetscape Aesthetics



- ▶ Complete Streets focus on a complete assembly of multi-modal aspects of sidewalk and street, not solely vehicular facilities. Architectural lighting and street trees make inviting pedestrian environments. Tall canopy trees that are “limbed-up” so branches do not block storefronts and create a shade canopy create the most pleasant main streets for walking and shopping.

PLANNING FRAMEWORKS - KEY STRATEGIES

Focus on Fundamental Streetscape Aesthetics



Graphic from 'Living Melbourne, Our Metropolitan Forest' publication / image: City of Melbourne

References:

Buckman, D. (2018, July 15). Can trees help stop crime? Retrieved June 25, 2020, from <https://www.americanforests.org/blog/urban-trees-crime-reduction/>
Wolf, K.L. 2010. Crime and Fear - A Literature Review. In: Green Cities: Good Health (www.greenhealth.washington.edu). College of the

The Community Benefits of Street Trees

Street trees play a major role within the U.S. Department of Justice Crime and the National Institute of Crime – Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) initiative by incorporating the presence of a natural structure that acts as a crime deterrent and as a communal symbol. Incorporation of street trees deters crime by providing the community with a sense of ownership, generates visibility, and offers permeability. Trees provide opportunity for public space which then encourages folks to participate with these places. The attraction of people to these spaces increases discernability amongst individuals. Studies of crimes and their context indicates that presences of vegetation and trees in urban environments may influence public safety and activity. Studies by the University of Washington in 2010 found:

- ▶ Among minor crimes, there is less graffiti, vandalism, and littering in outdoor spaces with natural landscapes than in comparable plant-less spaces.
- ▶ Studies of residential neighborhoods found that property crimes were less frequent when there were trees in the right-of-way, and more abundant vegetation around a house.
- ▶ In a study of community policing innovations, there was a 20% overall decrease in calls to police from the parts of town that received location-specific treatments. Cleaning up vacant lots was one of the most effective treatment strategies.
- ▶ Vegetation can be managed to create a reassuring environment, reduce fear, and increase citizen surveillance and defensible space. Principles of CPTED suggest how to achieve safer places.



- ▶ The overall streetscape in downtown is in reasonably good condition, it just needs refreshing.
- ▶ Utility companies such as PPL have municipal partnering programs that include architectural lighting. The highway style cobra head lighting along Independence Street, although newer, should be fitted out with new architectural style fixtures that reinforce the character of the downtown.
- ▶ The existing accent paver areas should be replaced with new pavers and all intersections should be upgraded to meet current ADA requirements.



Acorn



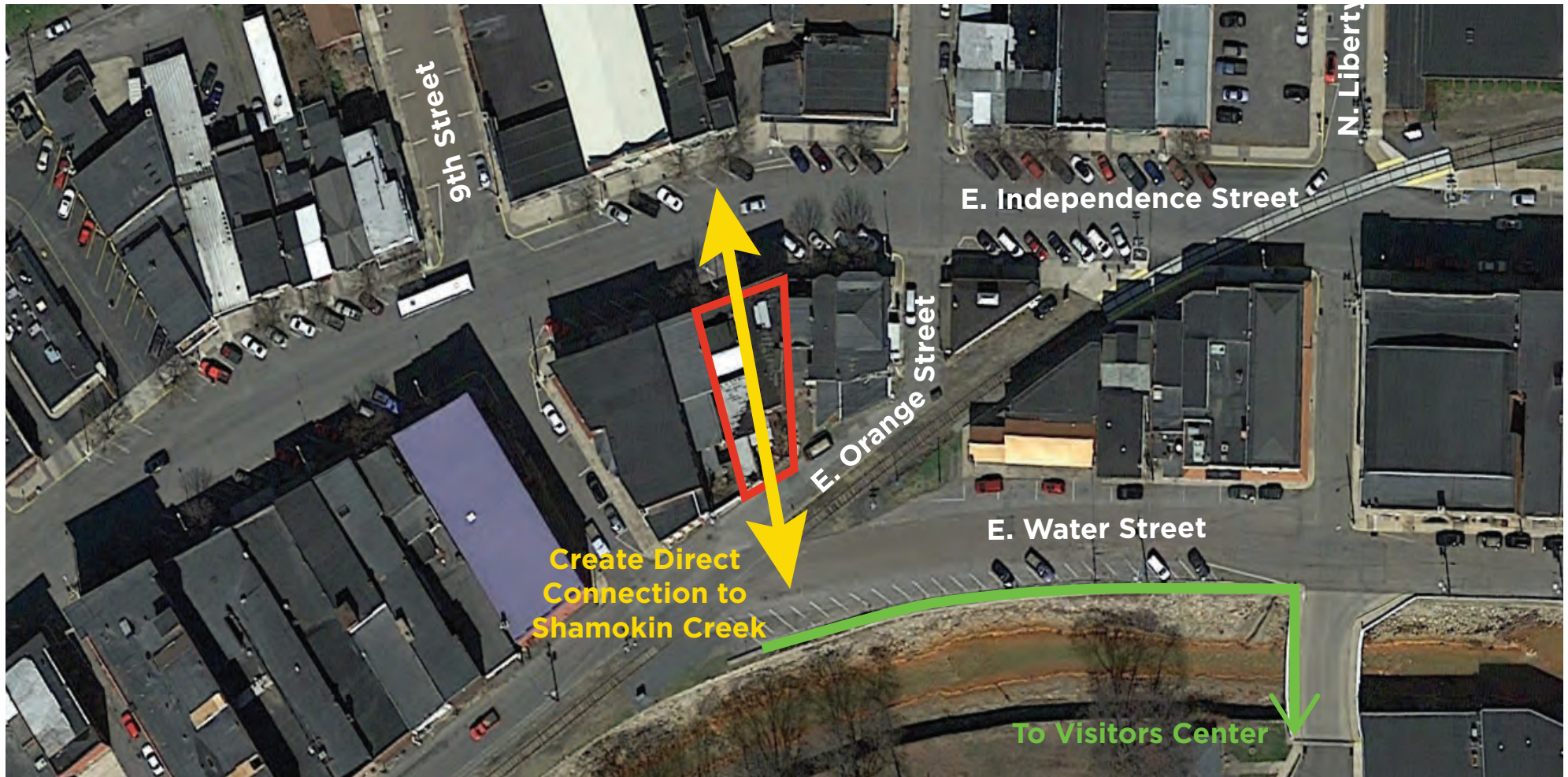
LUMINAIRE:	Acorn, black or green
FIXTURE SIZE:	2,600 lumen (36 watt) or 3,800 lumen (53 watt)
FIXTURE TYPE:	Light-Emitting Diode (LED)
POLE:	11 or 13 foot black or green fiberglass, boulevard style, mounted on concrete foundation
ALTERNATE POLE:	14 foot round black steel or spun aluminum
ELECTRIC SUPPLY:	Underground
RATE:	Low-mount underground, Rate Schedule SLE Light-Emitting Diode (LED)

Want to know more about the PPL Electric Utilities Outdoor Lighting Program?

Call your PPL Electric Utilities representative or PPL Electric Utilities Customer Service Business Accounts 1-888-220-9991, option 4 on IVR during business hours 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

PLANNING FRAMEWORKS

Make Tactical Public Space Improvements



- ▶ Through likely blight control actions, demolition of existing buildings too deteriorated to rehabilitate may be necessary. In some cases, the void created by demolition should be evaluated for new buildings or public spaces versus parking lots.
- ▶ An opportunity to create a signature public space may arise in the E. 100 block of Independence Street.
- ▶ Connections to Shamokin Creek are very important. It is less than a block from Independence Street yet all of the buildings' backs face the creek. Every effort should be made to improve the human connection to the creek, with more generous overlooks and ways to get closer to the water.

PLANNING FRAMEWORKS - KEY STRATEGIES

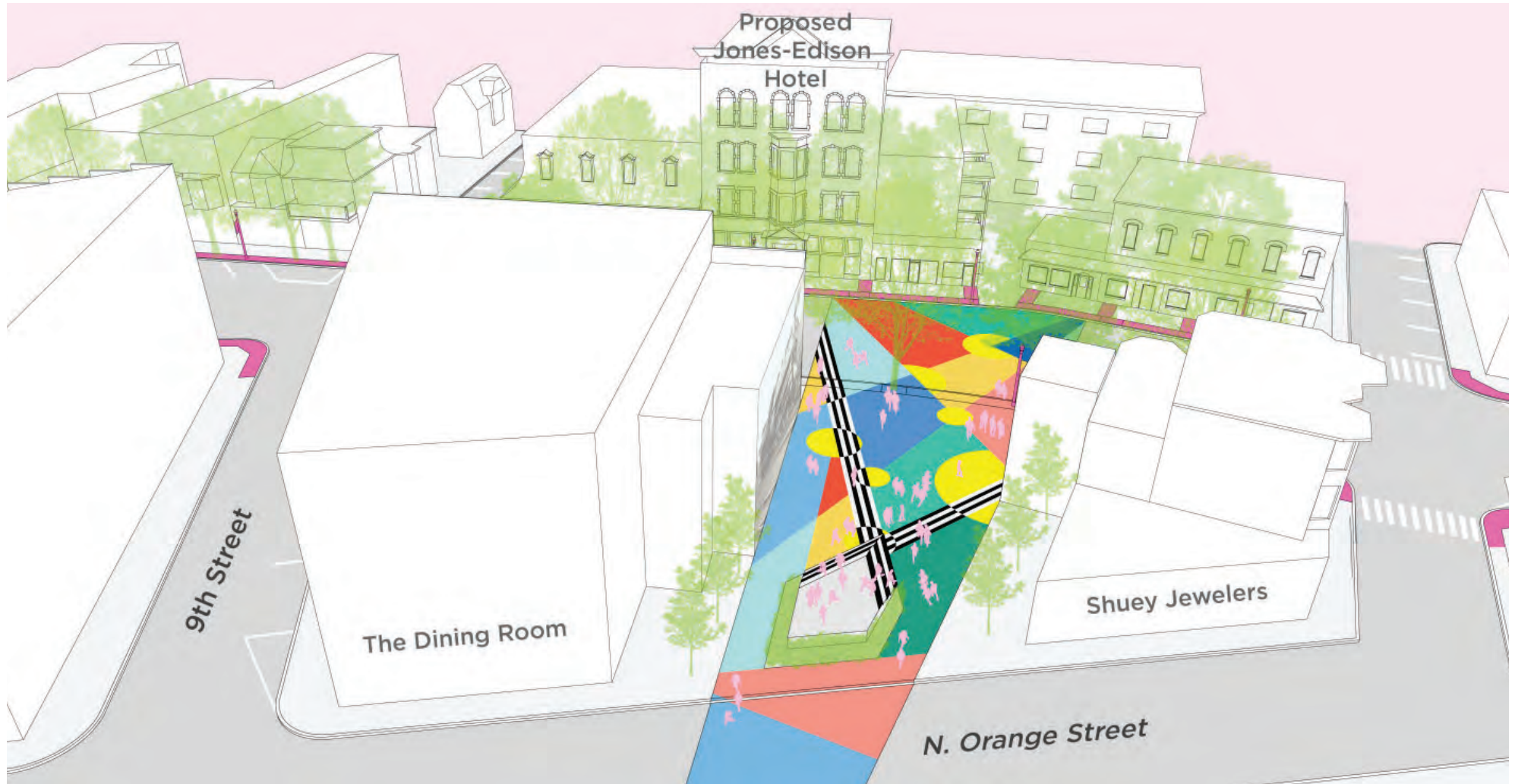
Make Tactical Public Space Improvements

- ▶ Creating effective public spaces does not need to be complicated. For example, there is a foundation that funds public art installations on streets and public spaces that create dramatic and inviting public spaces that begin to redefine the use of urban spaces.
- ▶ Creative uses for parking lots, vacant lots, and other ancillary spaces as passive and small-scaled active uses such as bocce and cornhole courts, etc. can enliven activity downtown, especially when linked to adjacent restaurants and entertainment venues.



PLANNING FRAMEWORKS

Make Tactical Public Space Improvements



- ▶ The opportunity existing to create an iconic public space in the downtown that could serve as a public space for new residents in mixed-use developments as well as for special events and festivals. The emphasis should be on quality design materials yet a simple and dramatic design that illustrates vibrancy and investment to visitors. This sketch shows how dramatic paving or painted surfaces could extend the park space into Independence Street like a carpet.



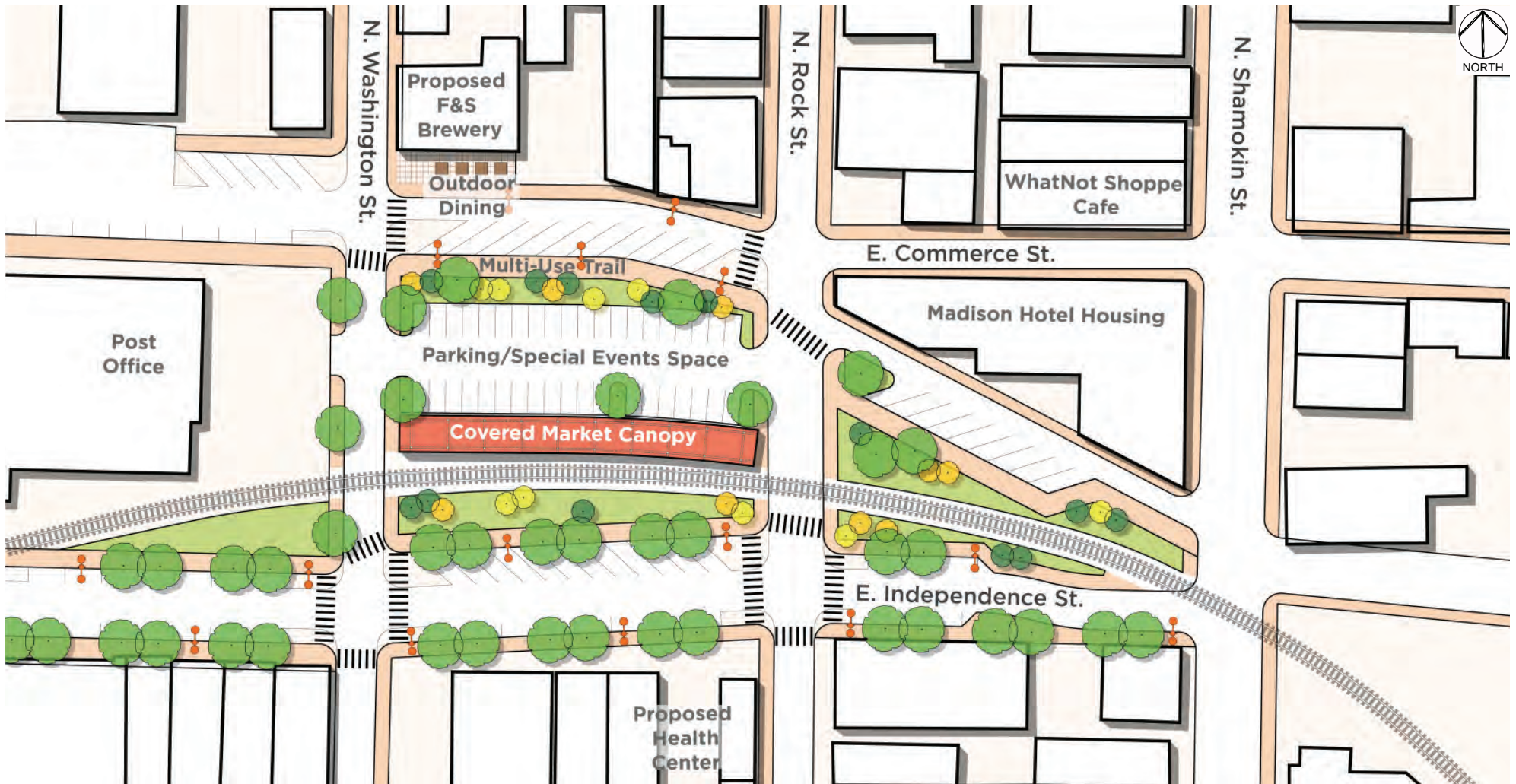
- ▶ Demolition of mid-block buildings will create blank walls. These wall will need to be insulated and covered with architectural materials to finish them. Opportunities to create side interaction between interior and the public spaces should be explored. The walls can also be used for murals and other branding elements. This view also shows how public space treatments can be extended into the street to create event streets.

PLANNING FRAMEWORKS

Make Tactical Public Space Improvements



- ▶ The E. 300 block of Independence Street, including the large parking lot up to Commerce Street represents another opportunity to inject more economic development opportunity.



- ▶ The opportunity exists to rethink large expanses of asphalt to make them more efficient for day-to-day parking and also allow them to serve as venues for special events, farmers markets, food fairs, etc. If a regional trail along Commerce Street can be created, this would also serve as a downtown trail head. The covered canopy is proposed on the parking lot side so vendor's can park in spaces by backing up to the canopy. The parking lot could be closed during special events held on weekends and used for additional tents canopies and vendors.

PLANNING FRAMEWORKS

Make Tactical Public Space Improvements



- ▶ New covered canopies in a linear public space next to the parking lot could be designed to evoke the former Reading Railroad covered platforms. These type of amenities could support farmers markets, food festivals, and events.

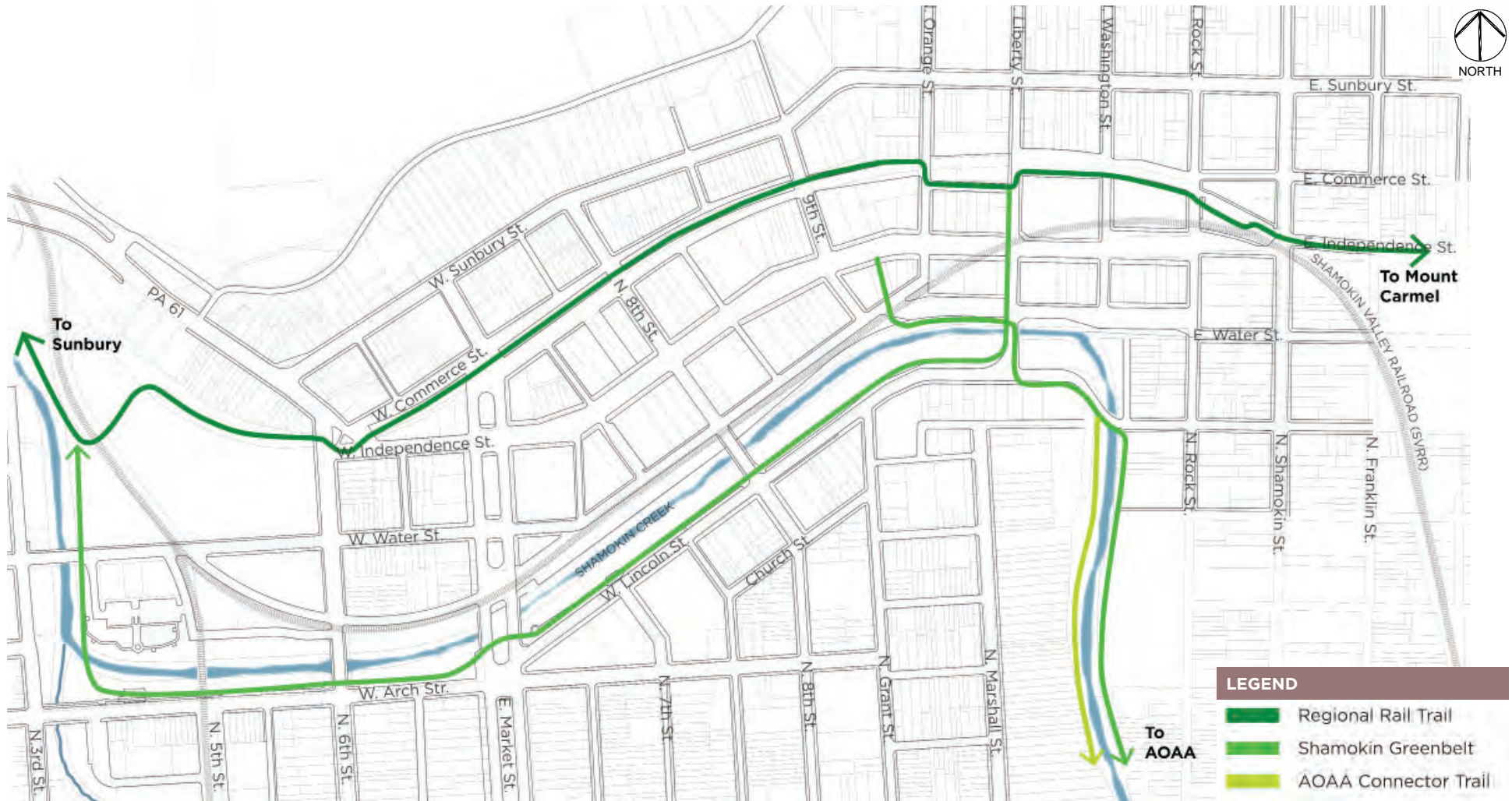
- ▶ Vendors can back into the parking spaces of the covered canopy to create an attractive and convenient shopping experience.



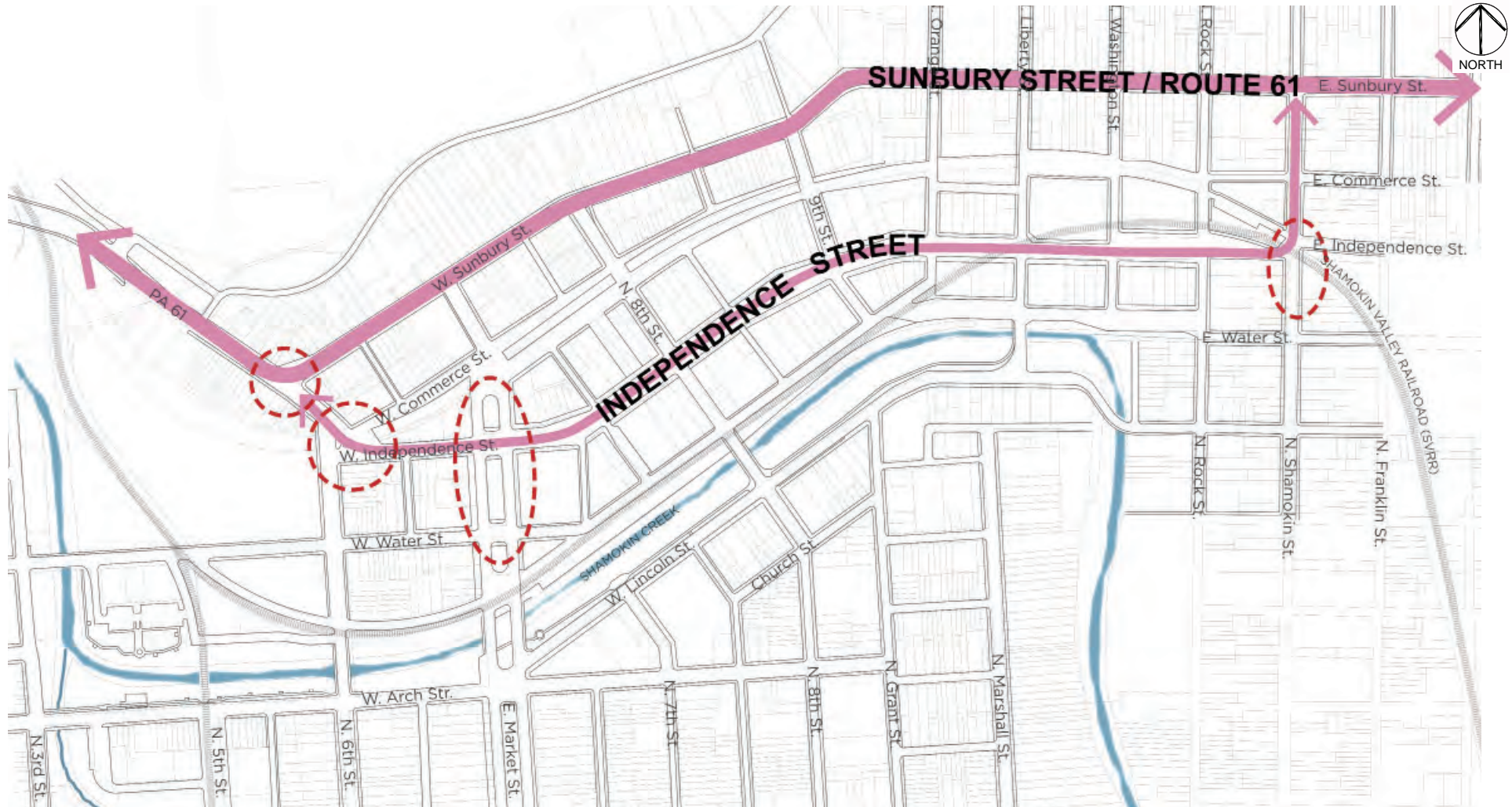
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PLANNING FRAMEWORKS

Create a Regional Trail Network



- ▶ Opportunities exist to connect Shamokin to the region via a rails-to-trails initiative from Mount Carmel to Sunbury. With the other connection options, including to the AOAA, this would make Shamokin a major trail town hub, especially once lodging is added to the downtown.



- ▶ The City benefits from the fact that the primary state route through town is not its traditional “main street.” However, for visitors it is not even apparent that there is a downtown two blocks away. In addition several intersections with Independence Street do not allow direct turns onto the street. The City should work with PennDOT, especially as a part of the proposed PA Route 61 upgrade study, to address intersection circulation issues, including ways to potentially direct motorists down 6th Street to Independence Street.

PLANNING FRAMEWORKS

Address Critical Circulation Challenges



A comprehensive multi-modal traffic study should be considered which evaluates:

- ▶ Complete street improvements to Sunbury Street/Route 61 to include improved cross walks and architectural lighting.
- ▶ Improve circulation flow to Independence Street including issues at 6th Street, Market Street, and Shamokin Streets.
- ▶ How the introduction of a new regional trail along Commerce Street could be achieved along with Commerce Street with safe street crossings.



- ▶ Realigning the intersection of N. 6th Street, Independence Street, and Commerce Street could improve safety, allow for the crossing of a regional trail, and potentially create a direction connection between Route 61 and Independence Street.

PLANNING FRAMEWORKS

Commerce Street Blue/Greenway



- ▶ The City recently acquired much of the former PRR railroad right-of-way via Commerce Street in the downtown. This corridor has the potential be an important linear greenway and regional trail route through the downtown. In addition, it is strategically located near the terminus of several separated sewer lines, allowing it to potentially serve as linear stormwater facilities to reduce Combined Sewer Overflows into Shamokin Creek.



- ▶ The opportunity exists to create a linear park that includes a multi-use bike path and landscape amenities along Commerce Street.
- ▶ The critical element is the connectivity of a well defined off-road or designated “sharrow” through downtown. Some blocks are more supportive to additional park amenities as well as underground and linear bio-retention stormwater planters.

PLANNING FRAMEWORKS

Commerce Street Blue/Greenway



- ▶ In addition to the public space and recreational opportunities above ground rain gardens and below ground stormwater storage facilities could be build next to, and under, the trail.

PLANNING FRAMEWORKS

Commerce Street Blue/Greenway



- ▶ Diagonal parking along Commerce Street could be better delineated to provide convenient parking through the downtown, while also accommodating additional landscaping and stormwater management.

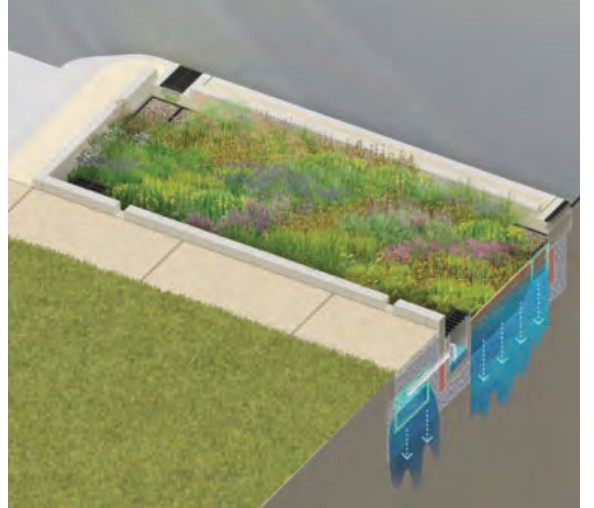
© InfraSGA, Inc. Patent Pending.

Large Storm Event Overflow Storage



© InfraSGA, Inc. Patent Pending.

Infiltration & Groundwater Recharge



PLANNING FRAMEWORKS

Undertake Civic Branding Campaign



The City should focus on a comprehensive branding campaign that including mutli-media from digital, print, and environmental installations. Branding should include:

- ▶ Catchy tag lines that change perceptions like, “The City of Energy!” as an example.
- ▶ Consistent logos, typeface, colors, etc. that are specifically designed to work in many different contexts including as gateway signs, wayfinding, district arrivals, and banners.
- ▶ Historic/Interpretive and trail signing should also be considered.



Example Gateway Branding Sign
Credit: Merje



Example Wayfinding Sign
Credit: Cloud Gehshan

PLANNING FRAMEWORKS

Undertake Civic Branding Campaign



- ▶ Gateway signs should be dramatic and have impact. Projects like these may require regional participation and should be located in logical gateway points, not based on a literally jurisdictional boundary that is meaningless to out of town visitors.

Independence Street, Shamokin, Pa.



- ▶ In addition to branding signing, the City should consider an incentivized building signing program that plays off of the 1920s to the 1950s era signing.

PLANNING FRAMEWORKS

Building Signage

- ▶ Building signs that build upon the “heyday” of downtown retail signs, the first half of the 20th century would be very appropriate for Shamokin’s downtown and create rich visual interest as well as serve an important advertising role. In addition, temporary installations in vacant storefronts could create visual interest and market local business, events, and heritage.









04

Product Introduction & Background

Community Engagement & Planning Framework

Planning Frameworks

Implementation Action Plan

- Initiate Funding Strategies
- Multi-modal Transportation Projects
- Parks and Public Space Projects
- Branding Projects
- Policy and Programs Projects

Implementation Action Plan

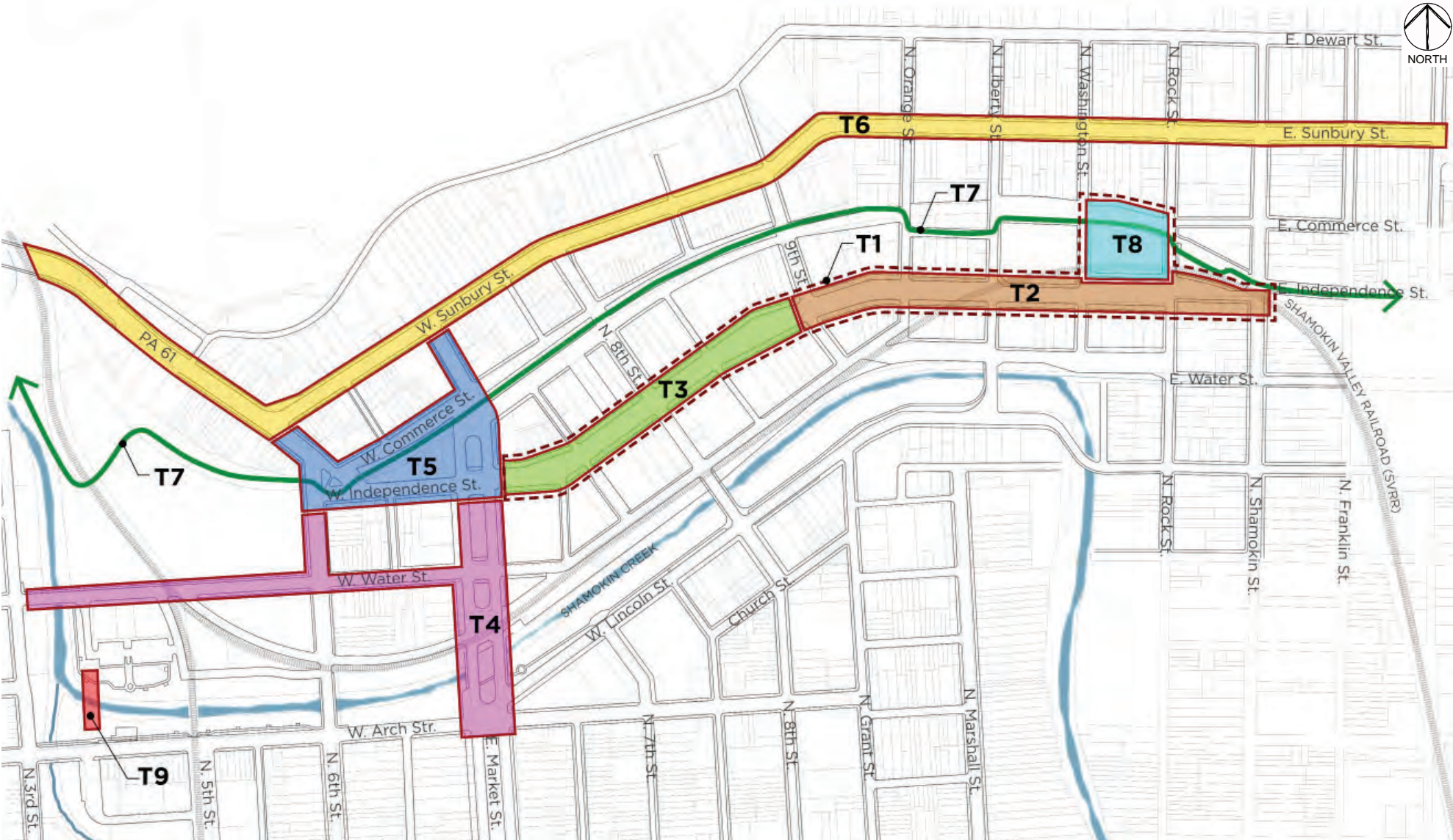
The following tables breakdown this plan's recommendations into four primary categories:

- Multi-Modal Transportation
- Parks and Public Spaces
- Branding and Signing
- Policy and Programs

For each of the categories the projects are defined in terms of next step studies or design development, and the key components of the project. Larger projects are divided into potential phases and each recommended project is ranked in terms of timeline priority. In general, near term projects can be pursued immediately, while the mid and long-term projects will require near term actions and/or the pursuit of funding and partnership, property acquisition, etc. that will require more time to execute.

Level-of-magnitude costs are provided to assist in funding pursuits, including grant applications and identifying matching sources, as required.

Implementation Action Plan Multi-modal Transportation Projects



Implementation Action Plan

Multi-modal Transportation Projects

PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS - MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Map Key #	Priority	Project	Estimate of Probable Costs *	Description
T1	NEAR TERM	Independence Street/ Downtown Streetscape Plan and Design Standards	\$85K Schematic Design & Palette of Elements	A schematic plan for the Independence Street Corridor should be developed that includes ADA intersection improvements, needed sidewalk repairs, accent paving replacement, architectural lighting, refinements to pending camera system, street tree locations and standards, landscape planters, seating, banners, bicycle racks, trash receptacles, etc. Resulting plan should establish a block by block and E. 300 block parking lot schematic plan along with corresponding costs for construction, phasing priorities and a manual of standard elements to be adopted for the entire downtown to promote consistency.
T2	NEAR TERM	Independence Street Streetscape Upgrade - Phase I	\$125K Design & Permitting \$1.2M Construction (More accurate costs determine at conclusion of Project T1)	Includes realignment of edge of curb to narrow the north side of the E. 300 block of Independence Street and associated improvements described under project T1. Assumes roadway and drainage improvements are included and a PennDOT HOP is not required based on project limits. Assumes architectural lighting upgrades can be done through PPL program.
T3	MID TERM	Independence Street Streetscape Upgrade - Phase 2	\$75K Design & Permitting \$500K Construction (More accurate costs determine at conclusion of Project T1)	Extension of Phase I streetscape improvements including ADA intersection upgrades as needed. Limits of project end at Market Street PA Route 125 R.O.W. Assumes architectural lighting upgrades can be done through PPL program.
T4	MID TERM	Market & Water Streets Improvements	\$90K Design & Permitting \$900K Construction	These improvements could employ a simplified set of streetscape and intersection improvements described in projects T1-T3. With the construction of a hotel at the former Coal Hole site, a general enhancement of sidewalks, needed ADA upgrades, and strategic architectural lighting, banners, etc. will help connect the development to the core of downtown and also help distinguish a few of the more commercial blocks of the Market Street corridor that overlap with the edge of downtown. Assumes architectural lighting upgrades can be done through PPL program although additional underground utility work may be required to provide for proper pole placement. Market Street work would require a PennDOT HOP which requires additional permitting work.
T5	LONG TERM	6th Street - Market Street - Commerce Street - Independence Street Traffic Improvement Project	\$90K Traffic Study or Integration into PennDOT PA Route 61 Study \$TBD Construction - Dependent upon study findings	The City should work with PennDOT and/or undertake a traffic study to improve the overall multi-modal circulation and flow of traffic from Sunbury Street to Independence Street via 6th Street and Market Street. Concept plan considers the ability to realign 6th Street at a "T" intersection created by extending Independence Street into alignment with the northernmost block of 6th Street and create a direct connection to Sunbury Street/ Route 61. Conflicts with no southbound left turns from Market Street onto Independence Street should be evaluated including potential utilization of Commerce Street between Market and 6th Streets and drive-up queuing conflicts from Dunkin Donuts. Project could be an independent downtown traffic flow study or incorporated into PA Route 61 Corridor improvement study current un-funded. Project should also include the feasibility of a multi-use trail along Commerce Street.

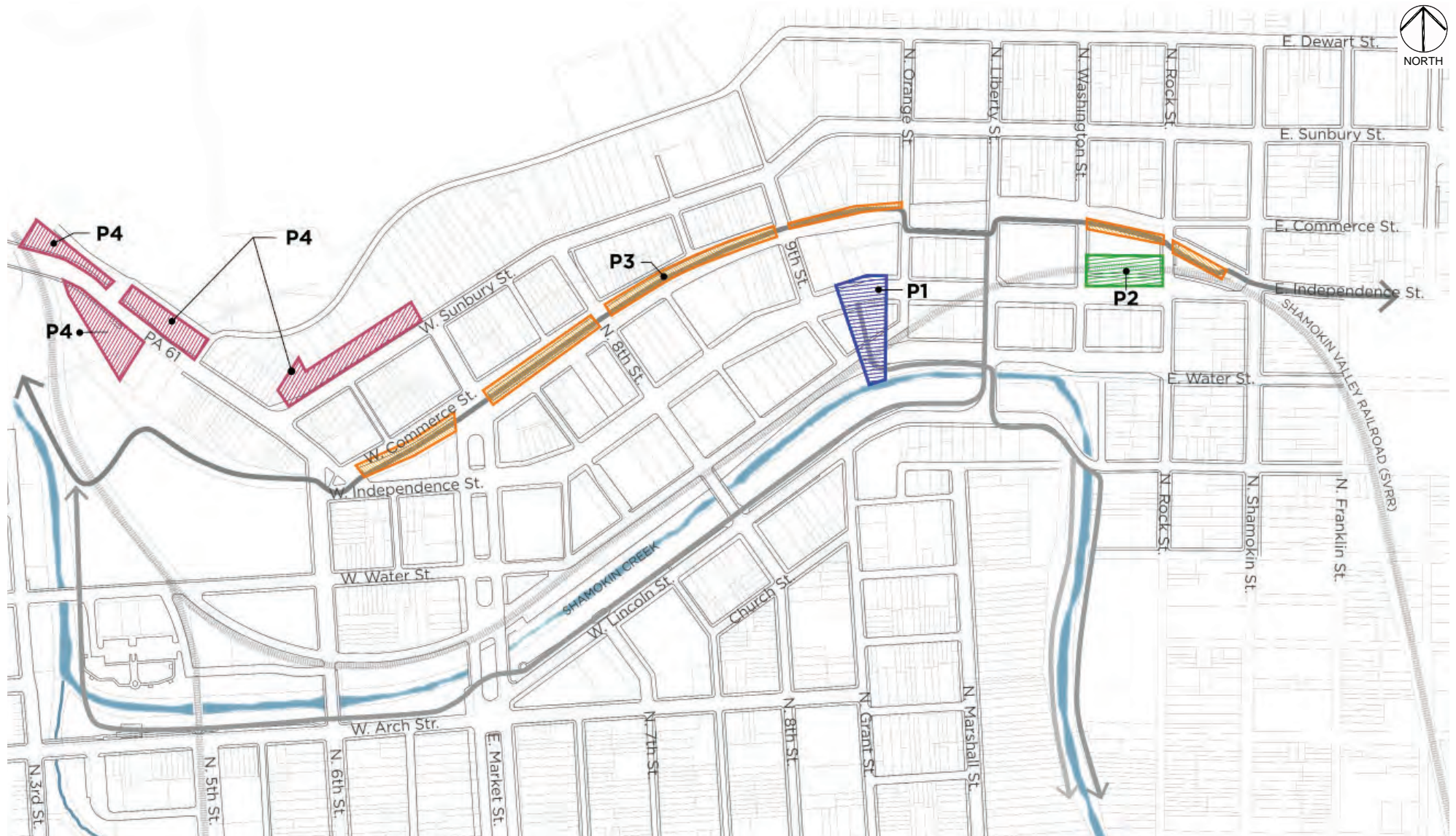
Implementation Action Plan

Multi-modal Transportation Projects

PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS - MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Map Key #	Priority	Project	Estimate of Probable Costs *	Description
T6	LONG TERM	Sunbury Street/Route 61 Corridor Improvements	PennDOT Led Project	PennDOT lists this corridor as an unfunded project on the Long Range Transportation Improvement Plan. The recommendation of this plan is to ensure that the City is actively engaged in any analysis and contemplated improvements to ensure they compliment the economic development and livability of the downtown and the corridor. It is critically important that improvements do not focus on “through-put” capacity improvements that result in speeding traffic and less safe pedestrian and bicycle conditions. Any improvement alternatives should include extensive pedestrian safety crossing enhancements and ideally architectural lighting which would improve safety for both motorists and pedestrians as well as improve the aesthetic aspects of the primary vehicular route through the City. The traffic analysis and routing concepts discussed under project T5 should be considered for incorporation with this project to create the most comprehensive of transportation solutions possible for the downtown.
T7	NEAR TERM	Regional Trail Feasibility Study	Feasibility Study Funded by DCNR and Led by Northumberland County Planning Dept.	The County is leading this effort as an implementation item of the Northumberland County Greenways and Open Space Plan (2011) funded by DCNR and DCED. The City should play an important role on the Steering Committee for this project to inform planning decisions and guide the selection of the preferred route through the downtown. This project should be leveraged by referencing it in other economic development and brownfields grant applications, since the for PRR Corridor would qualify as a brownfields. Project should also consider opportunities to address stormwater through the inclusion of the greenway through downtown.
T8	MID TERM	E. 300 Block Parking Lot and Commerce Street Improvements	\$175K Design & Permitting \$1.5M Construction (More accurate costs determine at conclusion of Project T1)	The final extent and elements of this project will be determined through Project T1. In general should include parking lot improvements including curbing, paving (possible unit/permeable), promenade with covered canopy, E 300 Block of Commerce Street diagonal parking, curb and gutter and streetscape improvements.
T9	LONG TERM	Shamokin Creek Greenway/Kehler Park Connector	\$90K Design & Permitting \$650K Construction	With the proposed redevelopment of the former Coal Hole site adjacent to Shamokin Creek, a connection to the south side of the creek and Kehler Park would fill in an important gap in the sidewalk and bicycle network from the south side of the creek and neighborhoods. This would eliminate the unsafe pedestrians usage of the active railroad trestle over the creek at 5th Street. This assumes a pre-engineered multi-use path bridge (10’ minimum width) would be possible in this location. Depending on funding will require historic district review by PASHPO, especially related to new abutment design and impacts to historic stone masonry. .

Implementation Action Plan Parks and Public Space Projects



Implementation Action Plan

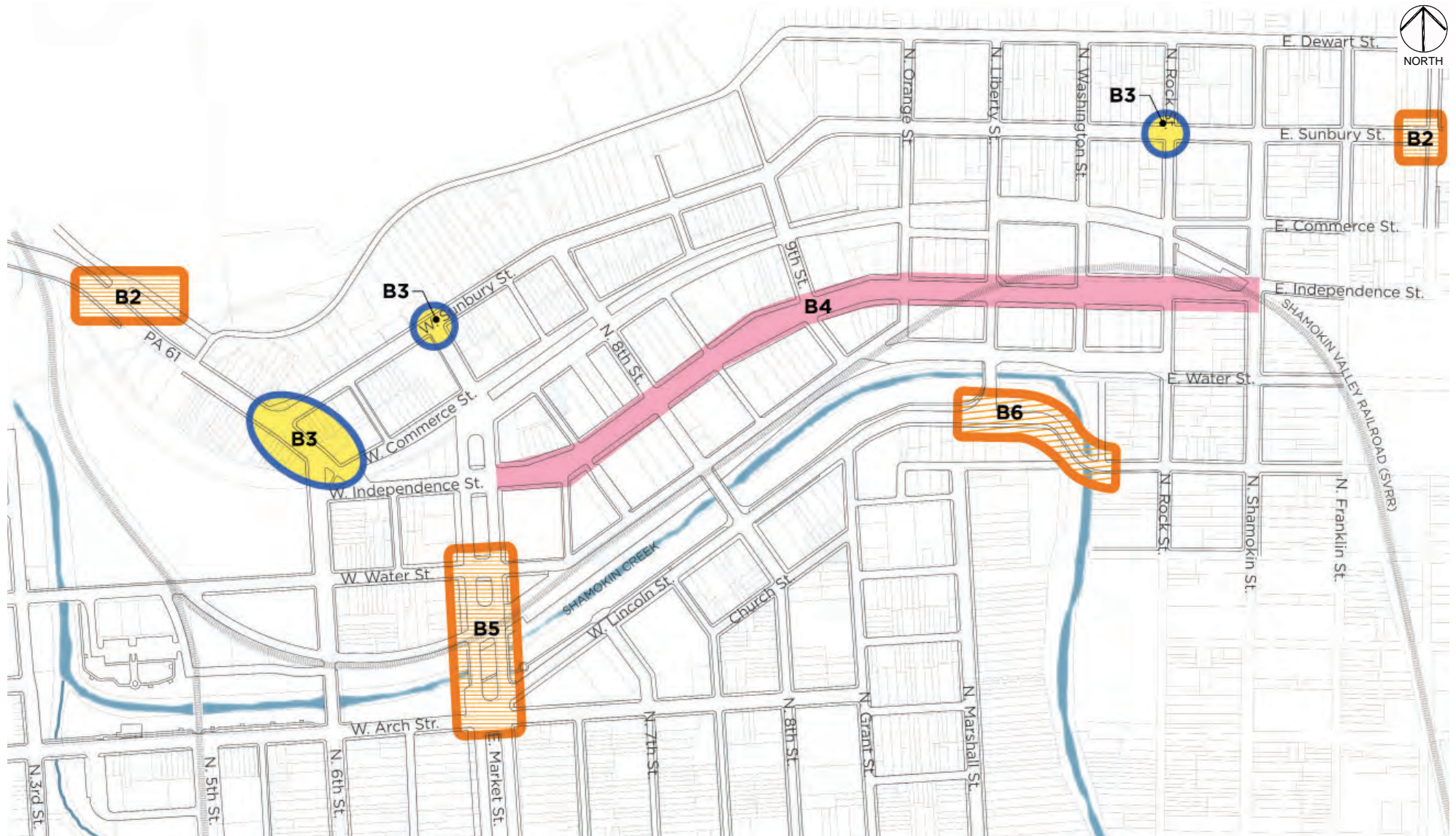
Parks and Public Space Projects

PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS - PARKS AND PUBLIC SPACE

Map Key #	Priority	Project	Estimate of Probable Costs *	Description
P1	NEAR TERM	Overall Downtown Parks Master Planning and Independence Street Pocket Park	Downtown Park Master Plan \$100K (for projects P1-3) Design & Construction for P1 Project \$750K to \$900K	Downtown Public Parks and Public Space master planning project that includes development schematic master plans (following DCNR park master planning process) for projects P1, P2, and P4 as a combined process. Independence Street Pocket Park should be a flexible public space designed to accommodate the daily needs of local residents and downtown works, while also providing flexibility for special events programming such as live performances, market/food festivals, movies in the park, etc. Design should be constructed of high quality durable materials for longevity and how should include signature design elements to have a visual impact downtown. Could be linked to Asphalt Art program to have design reach into the street for larger events.
P2	MID TERM	Independence Square Promenade and Market House	Master Planning part of P1 Design & Construction for P1 Project \$850K to \$950K	This project would be linked to adjacent streetscape improvements described in Transportation Project T2 and T8. Focus of the design is the creation of an events space for markets and festivals as well as creating a well designed and landscaped parking lot that can also serve as an events venue during weekends and special events. The timing of these improvements would be linked to other economic development projects including medical center completion and redevelopment of the former F&S Brewery building.
P3	LONG TERM	Commerce Street Blue/Greenway	TBD based on findings of Master Plan under Project P1 and County Regional Trail Feasibility Study.	The creation of a linear park along the former PRR right-of-way following Commerce Street would ideally be part of the regional trail network to be studied by Northumberland County to extend from Mount Carmel to Sunbury. In addition to the multi-use trail, additional public space amenities, including significant stormwater management facilities could be proposed. Master planning is proposed as a part of project P1. Due to number of blocks, the project could be implemented in phases, based on the findings of the County led feasibility study and the Downtown Parks and Public Space Master Plan described under P1.
P4	MID TERM	West Gateway Landscape and Parking Improvement	TBD based on site acquisition costs, easement agreements, and branding signing recommendations.	This plan recommends a series of gateway improvements along this stretch of Sunbury Street/Route 61 at the western gateway into the City. The project would consider the ability to acquire and demolish a series of blight residential properties along the W 200 block of Sunbury Street. Project could include pocket park amenities as well as off street parking to serve the neighborhood and adjacent commercial buildings. Significant landscape plantings should be considered as part of gateway signs to improve the overall appearance of the gateway. Project should be linked at the planning and design stages with Transportation project T6.

Implementation Action Plan

Branding and Signing Projects



Implementation Action Plan

Branding and Signing Projects

PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS - BRANDING AND SIGNING

Map Key #	Priority	Project	Estimate of Probable Costs *	Description
B1	NEAR TERM	Comprehensive Branding, Promotion and Wayfinding Signing Strategy	\$50K to \$70K for including branding design and standards manual	Comprehensive Strategy including branding design and standards manual. Branding strategy should include tag lines, graphics, and wayfinding signing palette. Project would include considering all forms of promotion, including digital/social media, print, and environmental graphics (i.e. signing). Project should be comprehensive and used to establish and reinforce a brand image tied to economic development and tourism goals and marketing. Initiative should be developed in partnership with Susquehanna River Valley Visitors Bureau.
B2	MID TERM	Major Gateway Signing	\$35K Design & Permitting \$175K Construction (Could be incorporated into Public Space Project P4)	Western Gateway is the prominent entry point into the City. This project is linked with Public Space Project P4. Project could potentially include lighting, signing, variable messaging for event promotion, etc. Project will include the need to work with key property owners to acquire easements or properties. Improvements will be outside of PennDOT ROW but will still require coordination with PennDOT District.
B3	LONG TERM	Secondary Gateway/ Nodes & Overall Vehicular Wayfinding Signing	\$35K Design & Permitting \$125K Construction	Directional signing tied to branding to provide wayfinding to destination and Independence Street and could include signing and landscaping. Should include approximately 10 to 15 vehicular and trail wayfinding signs.
B4	NEAR TERM	Independence Street Banner Branding	\$2K Design & Permitting \$10K Construction	Specialized branding for Independence Street. Could include seasonal changes for light pole banners and other branding installations. Should be designed graphically to work with overall City brand campaign as a special district.
B5	MID TERM	Market Street Banner Branding	\$2K Design & Permitting \$10K Construction	Same as Project B4 with a different district brand.
B6	MID TERM	Visitor Center/Trail Gateway	\$2K Design & Permitting \$5K Construction	Same as Project B4 with a different district brand emphasizing AOAA trail gateway connection to downtown and Visitor Center arrival.

Implementation Action Plan

Policy and Programs

PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

Map Key #	Priority	Project	Estimate of Probable Costs *	Description
PP1	NEAR TERM	Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Update	\$45K to \$50K	Comprehensive zoning re-write to update 1960's based zoning ordinance to be consistent with PA MPC, modern use standards, and current economic development vision.
PP2	MID TERM	Targeted Building Reuse and Historic Designation Feasibility Studies	\$35K to \$40K	Identify up to five potential buildings and obtain property owner support to participate. Plans would include historic research to determine historic eligibility for tax credits, adaptive reuse/rehabilitation potential, and potential financial modeling.
PP3	NEAR TERM	Façade Grant Program	\$50K	Reapply for DCED funding to expand on first round program.
PP4	NEAR TERM	Redevelopment Gap Financing Program	Based on Available Resources/ Ideally \$1M to \$5M Fund	A program/fund of non-traditional sources of funding for private development should be established especially for pioneer developments in the downtown. New market-rate/mixed-use projects will be challenged by the lack of valuation "comparables" within the marketplace needed to support traditional lending strategies. In addition, until a new market is established and market rents/values increase, there will be financing gaps between the construction costs and revenue generation, resulting in the need to fill "gaps" required to make projects economically feasible. Such a program or fund could also include special low or no interest loans that form the basis of a revolving loan fund to support future projects as the fund is paid back.

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Shamokin, Pennsylvania Community Rebuilding Action Plan

May 13, 2020 (Working Draft)



City of Shamokin



SEDA – Council of Governments



SABER
SHAMOKIN AREA BUSINESSES
FOR ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION

IIC Interagency Interfaith Collaboration
for Vulnerable Communities

**SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA
COMMUNITY REBUILDING ACTION PLAN**

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INTRODUCTION

An interfaith and multi-stakeholder collaborative partnership formed to create the Faith Alliance for Revitalization ([FAR](#)), through the leadership of faith leaders, which is helping the City and community establish a set of goals and implement activities to achieve Shamokin’s vision of a substantial rebirth. FAR (See **Appendix H**) has sought the active involvement of local, county, state and federal governments in the collaborative partnership, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). FAR, the City, and other key community stakeholders accepted EPA’s offer to facilitate a technical assistance community workshop to advance the rebuilding of the City. EPA’s offices of Environmental Justice (OEJ) and Community Revitalization (OCR) partnered to support the *Shamokin Community Rebuilding Workshop* to help the community reach their priority goals and create positive impacts on air, water, public health, economic vitality, and other quality of life needs of residents, particularly the vulnerable and underserved residents. EPA’s mission is to protect human health and the environment.

The OEJ’s Community Support Services (See **Appendix M**) and OCR’s [technical assistance](#) are designed to move a community through a process of assessment, convening, action planning, and implementation—helping them learn about their topics of interest and create a plan to move forward on implementation. The program helps a community identify priority issues, existing and potential partners, challenges, as well as realize opportunities that already exist to make progress. It includes a series of pre-and post-workshop conference calls, a self-assessment, and an on-site convening of stakeholders to discuss issues, next steps, and actions related to advancing the community’s specific goals. These efforts help a given community gain a deeper understanding of their priority issues, identify specific steps necessary to address these priorities, and begin implementing the steps to achieve the desired outcomes. This Action Plan includes an overview of the community, the technical assistance provided, the priority goals of the community, activities identified by the community to address their priorities, actions taken to date to rebuild the City, and future plans for the revitalization of the community. The basic elements of the technical assistance workshop and follow-up support is depicted in a diagram at the top of Page 8.



Community’s partners visit “99 Steps” during cultural/historic sites tour - June 2019

COMMUNITY CONTEXT

The name Shamokin is a word in the language of the indigenous Delaware nation meaning “Eel Creek”. Five indigenous nations occupied a village at the confluence of the two branches of the Susquehanna River, which is approximately 20 miles west of the town of Shamokin, near Shamokin Dam. Anthracite coal was first discovered in the late 1700s, and by the late 19th century became the driver for the economy of the area. In addition to coal-mining, Shamokin’s economy grew with silk and knitting

mills, bakeries, ice-cream and dairy factories, shirt factories, wagon shops, ironworks, brickyards, etc. The town became a “Melting Pot” with English, Welsh, Irish, Italian, Polish, Lithuanian, and German immigrants, resulting in the building of places of worship for the Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, Lutheran, and Jewish populations.¹ In the 1920s, the population was approximately 22,000, and has steadily declined each decade ever since to 7,374 residents, as of 2010. By the 1960s, coal was “no longer king” in the Anthracite Region and economic opportunities declined over the last several decades, due to the loss of mining and textile industries. Primary employers are now service industry, government and educational institutions. By the early 21st century, Shamokin was part of an economically depressed area. In June 2014, Shamokin was approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for Act 47 Distressed City status after banks refused loans for outstanding bills. A city of Shamokin Recovery Plan was developed in February 2015, to help the City take steps to stabilize its finances and seek methods to revitalize its economy. However, since 2015, the City has been experiencing a rebirth, most notably over these past couple of years. This has been spurred on through faith-based, community-based, non-profit, business, local and state government leadership, with assistance from federal agencies, primarily through the Interagency Interfaith Collaboraiton for Vulnerable Communities (See **Appendix L**).

COMMUNITY CONVENING

On February 11-13, 2020 the Shamokin Community Rebuilding Workshop was held after several months of planning, led by a Steering Committee comprised of a wide range of community stakeholders and partners (See **Appendix A**). The Workshop demonstrated that there is a wide-range of interest and hopeful expectation in the revitalization of the community, which is poised to rebuild after many decades of economic, cultural and social decline. Approximately 165 people participated in the three day Workshop (Agenda – **Appendix B**).



Shamokin Community Rebuilding Workshop - Opening Session, Basement of Mother Cabrini Parish, Shamokin, PA, February 11, 2020

The energy level and engagement was high throughout the Workshop, which included a number of youth

¹ Information obtained from the City of Shamokin's website, April 2020, <http://www.shamokincity.org/history.htm>.

participants. The community refined their six goals (text box on left), developed a set of draft activities (listed on pages 13 – 16) to help the community achieve their goals, and created six teams. Each team is focusing on one of the goals and is coordinating the further development of activities for their goal, planning activities, and leading the implementation of the activities. The teams are eager to have other community members join them in their efforts to revitalize the community.

Goal 1 - Attract and support the development of new businesses, and support job creation activities/programs and current businesses.

Goal 2 - Bring citizens together to work towards a common goal of increasing pride and ownership in our community.

Goal 3 - Foster and nurture productive partnerships.

Goal 4 - Redevelop/demolish/rehabilitate/cleanup blighted commercial and residential properties throughout the city.

Goal 5 - Enhance positive relationship building inclusive communities fostering human dignity and respect.

Goal 6 - Making Shamokin healthy, green, and clean now and tomorrow.

A separate youth session was held at the Shamokin Area High School, which included student leaders representing each grade level and students who are participating in the future business leaders of Shamokin program. The students developed a range of ideas to further the community goals and used maps to identify areas of social, cultural or historical significance to them (See **Appendix E**) . Some of their ideas included the following:

- Start hanging out at places that don't get a lot of business & advertise local businesses throughout school
- Have good events in town to attract attention
- Have community nights @ restaurants
- Create jobs and provide something for youth to do



Youth session at Shamokin Middle High School involving class leaders and entrepreneur club, as Principal Hockenbroch looks on, February 11, 2020.

The students also committed to identify a community rebuilding activity for them to lead and implement in the City. Some of their ideas included: hosting a movie showing downtown, leading a community clean-up and/or community tree plantings.



Youth Session for Shamokin Community Rebuilding Workshop, Shamokin Area High School, February 11, 2020

SITE TOUR

Preceding the workshop, on the early afternoon of February 11, was a tour of some of the City’s key areas of interest for rebuilding, redeveloping and/or refurbishing. Members of the Steering Committee and community partners toured various areas of the City that relate to the community’s rebuilding goals. The sites included:

- **Stop 1 - Site of Korbich Lumber** - The business closed in 1987, after having been in operation for 40 years. Efforts are underway to determine what, if any contaminants exist at the facility, what clean-up would be necessary to put the property back into commercial use, and what viable business operation could use the facility. The City is looking for support from EPA’s Brownfields Program.
- **Stop 2 – Site of Eagle Silk Mill** – built in 1917, the building was used for many businesses, including Arrow Shirts until 1972, and demolished in 1997. Efforts underway to consider reuse options of site.
- **Stop 3 – Cleared one-block area on Bunker Hill** – considering options for redevelopment.



Representative [Kurt Masser](#) discussing interest in the redevelopment of an area in Bunker Hill, Shamokin, PA, February 11, 2020.

- **Stop 4 - Geisinger health facility in Shamokin** – a three-story complex to be built on the 300 block of Independence Street (314-316), with a Fresh Food Farmacy, pharmacy, and care works (urgent care) on first floor, Primary Health Network Primary Care and Behavioral Health on the second floor, and the Geisinger Health System Women's Care and Pediatrics, plus other rotating specialties, on the third floor, with construction to begin in 2020.



SHAMOKIN — Primary Health Network and Geisinger will partner to build an \$8 million complex offering primary care, a pharmacy, behavioral health services, women's care and pediatric care in a three-story complex in downtown Shamokin.

State Sen. John Gordner made the announcement Thursday afternoon standing next to Shamokin Mayor John Brown and the driving force of the project, Northumberland County Commissioner Sam Schiccatano,

[The Daily Item, from article on August 2, 2019](#)

- **Stop 5 – A new Brew Pub** – being considered for the “blue” building across the street and parking lot of the planned Geisinger Health Facility in downtown Shamokin.
- **Stop 6 – Sites of Two Future Hotels (Independence Street & W Walnut Street)** – the old Knight of Columbus Hall on Independence Street and the old hotel near Claude Kehler Park.



Future site of a hotel on Independence Street



Future site of hotel on W Walnut Street

- **Stop 7 – Shamokin Creek** – interest in remediating the acid mine drainage which severely impairs the creek, is an eyesoar for the City, and removes the Creek from being a positive asset to the City.



Shamokin Creek showing the impacts of acid mine drainage. Photo taken at the bridge on South Shamokin Street, as seen on June 9, 2018,

- **Stop 8 – Claude Kehler Park** – interest in building a pedestrian bridge over Shamokin Creek to connect both sections of the park, and location of future tree plantings and other greening efforts of the park.
- **Stop 9 - Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area (AOAA)** – example of a successful new business and tourist destination in the area which can be leveraged for more business and job growth efforts in and around the City. Includes the “whaleback” geologic formation of great interest to scientists and naturalists.



Tour of the Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area with the PA Department of Environmental Protection and US Environmental Protection Agency, October 29, 2020.

Basic elements of the technical assistance workshop and follow-up support.



Community Meeting – Workshop Kickoff

More than 135 people attended the community meeting held on February 11, which served as the official kick-off of the Workshop. Although all three days were open to the public for their meaningful involvement, a big push was made by the Workshop Steering Committee, and community partners, to promote the opening session to maximize attendance (Flyer - **Appendix C**). The intent was to obtain early community input on the goals and ideas for possible activities to accomplish the goals. The session included an overview of all that has



Opening session of the Shamokin Community Rebuilding Workshop, evening of February 11, 2020

been and is being done since the Act 47 designation in 2014 and the development of the [Recovery Plan](#) in 2015. The many positive developments, shared by Representative Kurt Masser, helped raise awareness that the City is making progress, and the Workshop is building on the accomplishments and helping expand the rebuilding of the community in many more ways.

Recent Positive Developments

- Establishment of a community-wide collaborative effort to rebuild the City of Shamokin – coordinated by the Faith Alliance for Revitalization (FAR) – June 2018.
- Creation of the Shamokin Area Businesses for Economic Revitalization (SABER) – October 2018
- Holding of the Shamokin Economic Revitalization Symposium – coordinated by Bucknell University and the area Chamber of Commerce - May 2019.
- Awarded a Small Area-Wide Community Brownfields Grant - PA State of Department partnered with Shamokin for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant - October 2019.
- Awarded a \$300,000 PA Keystone Community Grant to support a 3-year full-time revitalization coordinator and involvement of various PA departments, such as Economic Development, Business Finance, Housing, Transportation, etc. - coordinated by Representative Masser and managed by SEDA-COG - August 2019.
- Awarded a \$2 million grant for the reconstruction of two hotels in Shamokin – August 2019 - coordinated by Northumberland County Commissioner Sam Schiccatano, Mayor Brown and Senator Gordner, and also investor and developer Andy Twigger.
- Awarded a \$1 million grant through the PA Redevelopment Assistance Capital Project for to support an \$8 million Geisinger health facility in downtown Shamokin – August 2019, demolition of blighted properties at the site completed in October 2019 - coordinated by Northumberland County Commissioner Sam Schiccatano, Mayor Brown and Senator Gordner.
- Community-led cleanup of Ward 5 resulted in 2,200 pounds of waste collected by over 20 community volunteers/residents – October 2019 – coordinated by community grassroots leader Cameron Murray



First planning meeting of the Shamokin Community Rebuilding Workshop Steering Committee - November 2019, hosted by FAR, Franciscan Center

The opening session also included a discussion on Appreciative Inquiry, a philosophy for engaging all stakeholders in the process of determining what works, by building on what has worked (See **Attachment I**). The evening session continued with an overview of the draft community goals, provided by Judy Surak, Faith Alliance for Revitalization, and small group



Small group discussion on possible activities to advance one of the community's goals, February 11, 2020.

discussions on the goals. The session ended with a discussion on assets in the community and ideas for how the goals can be implemented through various activities, with participants posting their ideas on flip charts for each goal and using “dot voting” to identify the goals of most interest to them.

Technical Workshop

The second and third days of the Workshop, February 12 – 13, consisted of various working sessions to further review and refine the community’s goals and identify specific actionable activities to achieve the goals for the rebuilding of the City.

Day 2 began with a welcome from Mayor John Brown and an overview of the outcomes of Day 1. The first session consisted of a presentation on the results of a community survey (See **Appendix D**), conducted by Cameron Murray, a Shamokin community grassroots leader. In addition to helping identify some of the community’s key interests and concerns, the survey showed that many residents are willing to volunteer, with 84% of the respondents expressing an interest in volunteering to help rebuild the City. Those surveyed noted that addressing the following issues would help improve the City:

- Clean community
- Strict code/ordinance enforcement
- Pride in community
- Jobs
- Drug free community
- Law enforcement
- Local government engagement



A slide used by Cameron Murray, of Fifth Ward Dumpsters, to share outcomes of the community survey conducted by the organization, February 12, 2020.

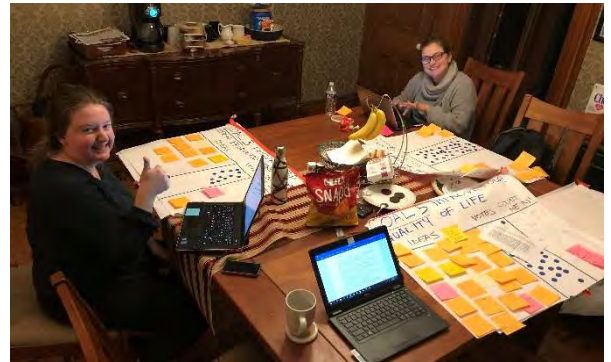
Day 2 continued with a presentation by EPA on the experiences of other communities working to revitalize, which included: 1) creation of a “pop-up market” in Tionesta, PA through the reuse of a previous business area destroyed by fire; 2) bringing in “anchor institutions” in Walterboro, SC, including a cultural museum, farmers market, artisan center, etc. to help revitalize the community’s downtown; and 3) promotion of “economic and healthy living opportunities” in Montgomery and Smithers, WV, utilizing the facilities of a closed community college, in partnership with the YMCA. The second day ended with a session on local, regional, state and federal government resources available to communities. Presentations were made by Betsy Kramer and Kristen Moyer of SEDA-COG, John Brakeall and Randy Farmerie of PA Department of Environmental Protection, Beverly Hutsel of PA Department of Community and Economic Development, Joanna Stancil, USDA Forest Service, and others (See **Appendix G**)

Day 3 of the Workshop began with a welcome from City Council Representative Jen Seidel and an overview of Day 1 and Day 2. Participants were then asked to organize by each of the six goals by going to the table that corresponded to the goal of most interest to each participant. The “goal teams” were then asked to participate in an “assets and opportunities” exercise to identify the places and assets, in and around the City, which were important to each of the goals. The teams used flip chart paper to list the locations and used preprinted large maps of Shamokin to place small stickers on the places. Next, the teams were asked to discuss the “community vision and goals” for the rebuilding of the City. They participated in small group discussions to refine each goal/goal statement and presented the new goal statements to the full body of Workshop participants. Afterwards, the goal teams began the “community assessment and planning/action plan development” by first reviewing the list of potential activities and actions identified by participants on the first day of the Workshop (See **Appendix E**), further exploring these ideas, as well as developing their own ideas, to identify up to five key activities to pursue to work toward accomplishing their goals. The teams reported their progress to the larger group and received feedback and input on other ideas.

In the afternoon, a video which documents local youth efforts to bring entertainment to the City was shown during lunch. The documentary, *The Capitol of Nowhere*, by John Ward, shows how the youth in Shamokin were successful in renovating a building and were able to bring popular and well-known bands to Shamokin to perform, approximately ten years ago. It served to show what is possible when youth, and others, come together to work toward a common goal, with hard work and determination. The video was inspirational and helped set a positive tone for the remainder of the Workshop. The goal teams spent the rest of the afternoon further developing their top five activities to pursue as an outcome of the Workshop.



Workshop participants working in “goal teams” to identify community assets pertaining to each goal - Day 3 of Workshop



EPA representatives inputting Workshop data to prepare for Day 3 Workshop exercises, at Shamokin B & B, February 12, 2020.

KEY COMMUNITY ISSUES/GOALS

A Steering Committee, comprised of local residents, community, business and government representatives, identified six priorities of the community which served as the focus of the Workshop discussions:

- Attract and support the development of new businesses, and support job creation activities/programs and current businesses.
- Bring citizens together to work towards a common goal of increasing pride and ownership in our community.
- Foster and nurture productive partnerships.
- Redevelop/demolish/rehabilitate/cleanup blighted commercial and residential properties throughout the city.
- Enhance positive relationship building inclusive communities fostering human dignity and respect.
- Making Shamokin healthy, green, and clean now and tomorrow.



Workshop participants working to mark community assets on maps of Shamokin – Day 3 of Workshop

ASSETS/STRENGTHS

Shamokin residents and partner organizations identified a significant number of community assets and strengths. The assets and strengths were captured during the “assets and mapping” session of the Workshop, and were noted for each of the six community goals. Some of the key assets identified include the following:



Goal 5 Team discussing activities, timeframes, partners, and leads to advance community goal.

- Claude Kehler Community Park
- Businesses on Market and Independenc Streets
- Northumberland County Career and Technology Center
- Walking Paths by Middle/High School
- Whaleback
- Lincoln Street Monuments
- Patsy's Steps
- Military tank area (Across from Indie's Parking Lot)
- (Future) Geisinger Health Center
- Library
- Luzerne County Community College

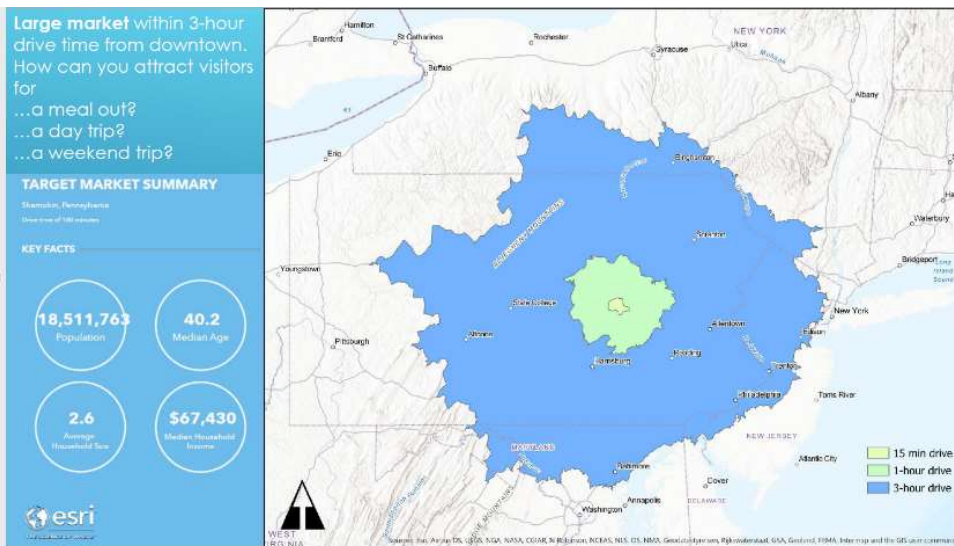
- City Pool
- Multifamily Housing
- Demolition Resources at City Hall
- EPA Region 3
- Franciscan Center & Faith Alliance for Revitalization
- PA DEP Brownfields - Targeted Funding for Assessment
- Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development
- SEDA-COG & Homes Grant
- Anthracite Area Outdoor Area (AAOA)
- Central Susquehanna Opportunities, Inc (CSO)
- Churches (multiple) & Faith-Based Organizations
- SHECP, Bucknell Univeristy & Penn State University
- Fifth Ward Clean Up Group
- SCI Coal Township



State & federal agency representatives meeting with SEDA-COG and community representative- November 2019

One of the key steps for communities to take is to take stock of what they already have, the positive aspects of their community. This is necessary not only to help the community identify the assets that can be used to further advance the rebuilding of their community or city, but to also enhance the positive outlook of the community. EPA also shared a range of assets and strenghts in and around Shamokin through the sharing of

data on: walkability, opportunity to economic development, location to populations within 3 hours drive of Shamokin, etc. This data was shared visually through various maps and charts (See **Appendix F**). These assets and strengths can be used to help promote Shamokin as a good place to establish a business, to come and live, to visit and take in the culture and rich history of the community, etc.



A map showing travel distances to Shamokin for tourism considerations, used at Workshop

NEXT STEPS & CURRENT WORK

Toward the end of the Workshop, an important discussion on next steps took place. Participants expressed a strong interest in turning all of the positive energy and demonstrated interest in rebuilding the City, at the Workshop, into practical action and observable outcomes after the Workshop. It was decided that six community-led teams would be formed to conduct follow-up and further develop activities to to achieve the community's goals. It was also decided that the work of the teams would be coordinated through the Faith Alliance for Revitalization (FAR), in collaboration with [SEDA-COG](#) and the Shamokin Area Businesses for Economic Revitalization ([SABER](#)). EPA committed to working with FAR, the goal teams, and others to develop a Shamokin Community Rebuilding Action Plan, and help with the coordination of the teams' work in collaboration with FAR. The EPA's Community Assessment Planning Tool (CAPT) (See **Appendix K**) was initially used by the community to initiate the planning process, which led to the planning for the Workshop. Several follow-up meetings have occurred by each of the six goal teams, as well report-outs on the progress of each goal team during the monthly FAR meetings. Information on the work of the goal teams is beginning to be posted on the goshamokin webpage (<http://goshamokin.com/>). All interested community residents, organizations, and interested parties are welcome to volunteer and be part of one or more goal teams.

COMMUNITY GOALS & ACTIVITIES

- **Goal 1** – Attract and support the development of new businesses and support job creation activities/programs and existing businesses (e.g. enhance support and ancillary services for outdoor recreation economy, develop job corps programs, utilize prison re-entry job training programs, etc.)
Goal 1 Co-Leads: Betsy Kramer, SEDA-COG and Chris Berleth, Chamber of Commerce
 - Enliven the downtown area & enhance local and regional promotion/branding.
 - Provide transportation for workforce purposes
 - Workforce development
 - Attract new businesses
 - Support current businesses
 - Further attract outdoor recreation
- **Goal 2** – Increase citizen participation (long-time and new residents, youth, etc.) in community rebuilding efforts, sense of belonging and pride in the community, and involvement in city governance.
Goal 2 Co-Leads: Jen Seidel, Shamokin Council Rep and Judy Allen, Community Resident



Community members awaiting the beginning of the Workshop – February 11, 2020

- Expand community education opportunities (i.e. life skills)
- Host more events, parades, activities
- Open lines of communication among neighborhood organizations
- Enhance city transparency, communication and accountability
- Designate parks and recreation spaces for community use (first come first serve basis)

- **Goal 3** – Foster and nurture productive partnerships with organizations, government agencies, academic institutions, faiths, and other potential and existing partners to advance community priorities and revitalization.

Goal 3 Co-Leads: Christine Jacoby, Rep Masser’s Office and Gale Zalar, CSO Inc.

- Survey potential partnerships – what is available in skill sets, resources, etc.
- Matching/connecting partners with volunteers
- Developing the leaders for programs and volunteers
- Develop data base of project needs to volunteer skill sets



A homeowner’s sign showing the enhanced pride occurring in Shamokin



Goal 3 Team discussing possible activities to advance community goal.

- **Goal 4** – Redevelop/demolish/cleanup blighted *commercial and residential* properties throughout the city.

Goal Co-Leads: Tony Rosini, Community Resident and Kathy Vetovich, SABER

- Should include strategic plan as to what to tackle first – process is in place for residential via CEDA-COG and will be approved at January 6 Council meeting
- CDBG staff from City of Shamokin and Housing Authority should be invited to support this
- PA DEP Brownfields may also have a role with commercial properties that could have environmental issues, e.g. gas station, dry cleaner, industrial uses
- Paint old/out of shape buildings (power wash, clean, to show vision, progress)
- New/more receptacles for cigarettes business
- Adopt a block campaign, community cleanup, adopt a home
- Redevelop land and small spaces for local micro businesses

- Beautification of community – more unique murals, flowers, nice lights, cleaner storefronts, trim and replace diseased/dead trees, planters.

- **Goal 5 – Improve Quality of Life**

Goal Co-Leads: Susan Ward, Area on Aging and Danielle Hinkle, Shamokin Area HS Student

- Reduce crime (enhance community education, establish neighborhood watch programs, reduce accessibility and current areas used by criminals, support expanding policing, etc.) – Cameron noted that was top priority issues noted in outreach conducted earlier in December
- Improve disaster preparedness, by working with FEMA, EPA and other federal agencies to understand emergency response preparation needs.
- Address opioid use concerns
- Develop your basic life skills through experience
- Develop mentorships skills
- Plan collaborative projects in Shamokin with youth
- Develop youth community enhancements



A positive message at the Lost Mine Brewing Company & Restaurant, Shamokin, February 13, 2020.

- **Goal 6 – Making Shamokin healthy, green and clean now and tomorrow.**

Goal Co-Leads: Cameron Murray, Community Organizer and Major Tammy Hench, Salvation Army

- Implement energy efficiency, waste reduction, use of solar energy in the city, and promote use in planned new development (e.g. Geisinger facility) and rebuilding plans (e.g. two hotels), and in city facilities.
- Remediate the acid mine drainage/pollution of Shamokin Creek.
- Enhance attractiveness/beautification of the city by developing more accessible green spaces/pocket parks, caring for and planting trees, shrubs, flowers, and developing community gardens/farmers market, etc.
 - Tree planting training is being planned.
- Address public health concerns.
- Shamokin Green Space Team (or Shade Tree Work Group) – provide



Acid mine drainage in Shamokin Creek, at Claude Kehler Park, as seen during tour before the Workshop, February 11, 2020.

management guidance and assistance for caring for City trees, green space, coordinate community green space improvement events, etc.

- Creek cleanup – pick up trash
- Support and expand community garden initiative, development of Pocket Parks and planters downtown
- Dog park – making poo work for you – stretch goal (dog poo biogas)
- Trash cans/recycling needle receptacles.



Workshop participants discussing possible community activities to accomplish community's goals

LIST OF APPENDICES

- A – List of Steering Committee Members (Pages 19)
- B – Agenda for the Workshop (Pages 20-22)
- C – Flyer for the Workshop (Page 23)
- D – Community Survey Results (Page 24)
- E - Additional Ideas Identified by Public for Community Goals Developed During Workshops (Pages 25-34)
- F – Maps of Assets in and Around the Community (Page 35)
- G – Resources Available from Federal, State, and Local Partners (Pages)
- H – Creation of the Faith Alliance for Revitalization - Historical development of the interfaith, interagency and multi-stakeholder collaborative partnership in Shamokin, PA (Pages)
- I – Appreciative Inquiry and its 5 - Ds and assumptions (Page)
- J – EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Model & 7 CPS elements shown graphically (Page)
- K – Shamokin Community Assessment Planning Tool, as drafted February 2, 2019 (Pages)
- L – Interagency Interfaith Collaboration for Vulnerable Communities (Page 58)
- M – Community Support Services, Office of Environmental Justice, USEPA (Page 59)

Appendix A

Shamokin Community Rebuilding Workshop
Steering Committee Members & Partners
Draft (2/5/20)

Steering Committee:

- Judy Surak, Interim Coordinator, Franciscan Center & Faith Alliance for Revitalization (*FAR) Religious Education Coordinator, Mother Cabrini Parish
- Kathy Vetovich, President, Shamokin Area Businesses for Economic Revitalization (SABER) & FAR participant
- Kurt Masser, State Representative & FAR participant
- Christine Jacoby, Constituent Outreach Specialist to State Representative Kurt Masser & FAR
- Todd Hockenbroch, Shamokin Area School District
- Gale Zalar, CEO, Central Susquehanna Opportunities, Inc. & FAR participant
- Cameron Murray, Interested Resident & FAR participant
- Denise Brown, Shamokin School Para-Teacher & FAR participant
- Father Marty Kobos, Pastor, Mother Cabrini Parish & FAR participant
- Mike Duganitz, President, Shamokin Youth Basketball League
- Jen Seidel, City Council Member, Finance Manager for Mother Cabrini Parish & FAR
- Kathy Jeremiah, Grants Writer, Central Susquehanna Opportunities, Inc.
- John Brown, Mayor & FAR participant

Partners:

- Susan Ward, Quality Assurance, Northumberland County Area Agency on Aging & FAR participant
- Betsy Kramer, Revitalization Coordinator, SEDA COG & FAR participant
- John Brakeall, EJ Coordinator, PA Department of Environmental Protection & FAR participant
- Chantel Shambach, Watershed Specialist, Northumberland County Conservation District
- Shaunna Barnhart, Center for Sustainability and the Environment, Bucknell University & FAR
- Friar Michael Lasky, Franciscan Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Ministry & FAR
- Joanna Mounce Stancil, USDA/Forest Service, EJ Coordinator
- Jeremy Sorgen, Graduate Student, UVA, Franciscan Action Network Fellow & FAR participant
- Mark Zelden, Director, Faith and Opportunities Initiative, Department of Labor
- Vinnie Cotrone, Penn State Cooperative Extension, Urban Forester
- Troy Withers, Service Forester, Columbia, Montour, & Northumberland Counties

Facilitators:

- Danny Gogal, Office of Environmental Justice, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) & FAR participant
- Alexis Rourk, Office of Community Revitalization, EPA
- Lauryn Coombs, Office of Community Revitalization, EPA

* The Faith Alliance for Revitalization (FAR) is a faith-based coordinated multi-stakeholder partnership to improve the economy, environment, public health and other quality of life interests and needs in an around Shamokin, PA. FAR is led by the [Franciscan Center](#) in Shamokin.

Shamokin Community Workshop “Rebuilding our Community”

**February 11-13, 2020
(Agenda as Implemented at the Workshop)**

**Mother Cabrini Parish Basement
201 N Shamokin Street**

The City of Shamokin, business owners, faith-based groups and other community organizations are partnering to build on Shamokin’s strengths and assets. Join your neighbors and colleagues to hear updates on new projects and share your thoughts about how we can work together on the following goals:

- ✓ Support new businesses and jobs
- ✓ Increase local pride through community-led action and involvement in city governance
- ✓ Foster and nurture productive partnerships to advance community priorities and revitalization
- ✓ Redevelop, demolish, and/or cleanup blighted properties
- ✓ Improve our Quality of Life
- ✓ “Go Green” with greener outdoor spaces, energy efficient buildings and health programming

See agenda below for times and details on workshop sessions. All events welcome drop-ins, so please join us for whatever time you have available and feel free to share with others.

Public Workshop to Gather Insights for Community Rebuilding Tuesday, February 11, 2020 4:00-6:30pm (drop-ins welcome)

Steering Committee members, elected officials, US EPA and others will share draft goals and get public feedback on which are most important to community members, encourage others to get involved, and discuss shared values and hopes for community.

- | | |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4:00 PM | Light refreshments and sign-in |
| 4:15 PM | Welcome & Opening – Mayor Brown and Father Marty Kobos |
| 4:20 PM | Introductions of Attendees – participants introduced themselves at each table. |
| 4:30 PM | Recent Positive Developments in Shamokin – presented by Representative Kurt Masser & Kathy Vetovich, President of Shamokin Area Businesses for Economic Revitalization (SABER). |

- 5:00 PM Brief Presentation on Appreciative Inquiry Processes – Danny Gogal, USEPA, Office of Environmental Justice
- 5:10 PM Interactive Feedback Session on Shared Goals – overview of draft community goals provided by Judy Surak, Faith Alliance for Revitalization (FAR) & small group discussion.
- 5:30 PM Assets & Opportunities – Alexis Rourk, USEPA, Office of Community Revitalization provided a brief presentation on asset maps, followed by small group discussions on the assets in the community and ideas for how the goals can be implemented through various activities.
- 6:00 PM Invitation for the Public to Share their Ideas and Strengths – participants were asked to identify activities or actions they felt would help accomplish the goals, write their ideas on sticky notes, and post them on the flowchart for each goal, as well as use stickers for multi-voting on the goals of most interest to them and identify the goals they’d be interested in helping implement.
- 6:25 PM Brief discussion on the ideas and identified interest shared.
- 6:30 PM End of Day 1

Workshop on Collaborative Approaches for Rejuvenating Communities (*Smaller group format*)
Wednesday, February 12
9:00am – 1:00pm (drop-ins welcome)

- 9:00 AM Welcome & Review Day 1
- 9:15 AM “In 5 years, I would like to see my community...” Visioning Activity – each participant was asked to introduce themselves and share their thoughts of what they’d like to see in Shamokin in 5 years.
- 11:00 AM Community Voices & Input – Cameron Murray, a community grassroots leader, shared the results of her community survey conducted during a community event and which continued through on-line submissions.
- 11:45 AM Case Studies Presentations – EPA shared examples of how small communities around the country have worked in collaborative partnerships to develop plans and implement activities to help revitalize their communities.
- 12:00 PM State and Federal Programs and Resources – representatives from SEDA-Council of Governments, PA Department of Environmental Protection, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, PA Department of Community and Economic Development, US Forest

Service and the US Environmental Protection Agency provided an overview of a range of government programs and services available to communities.

12:45 PM End of Day 2

Action Planning for Community Rebuilding (Smaller Group Format)

Thursday, February 13

9:00am-4:00pm (drop-ins welcome)

9:00 AM Welcome & Review of Days 1 & 2 & Form Teams for each Goal

9:30 AM Assets & Opportunities from a Bird’s Eye View – participants were asked to work in teams, focused on each goal, to identify the places and assets, in and around the City, which were important to each of the goals. The teams used preprinted large maps of Shamokin to place small stickers on the places and used flip chart paper to list the locations.

10:00 AM Discuss Community Vision & Goals – participants organized around the goal of most interest to them and worked on refining the goals and the goal statements. Each team presented their new goal statement to the broader group.

10:30 AM Community Assessment & Planning/Action Plan for Implementation – participants were asked to once again work as “goal teams” to use the list of potential activities and actions identified by participants on the first day of the Workshop to further explore these ideas, as well as others they developed, to begin identifying up to five key activities to first pursue to address the goal of their team. Groups reported back on their progress and received feedback and ideas from other groups.

12:30 PM Lunch – included the viewing of a documentary, The Capitol of Nowhere by John Ward, on the efforts of youth to develop a youth-led gathering place for bands to perform in Shamokin, which resulted in popular bands coming to Shamokin to play. Contact Susan Ward for information on this film.

1:30 PM Community Assessment & Planning/Action Plan for Implementation – the goal teams continued to work on further developing their top five activities to pursue as an outcome of the Workshop.

3:45 PM Next Steps & Action Items – the development of six teams, comprised of the Workshop participants and members of the Workshop Steering Committee, was discussed as the way to effectively implement the activities identified by each team in order to accomplish the goals for the rebuilding of the community/City. Teams agreed to begin meeting within a few weeks of the Workshop.

4:00 PM End of Workshop



REBUILDING OUR COMMUNITY

**PUBLIC WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2020
4:00-6:30PM (DROP-IN ANYTIME)**

**JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS TO HEAR UPDATES ON
NEW PROJECTS & SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS
ABOUT HOW SHAMOKIN CAN:**

- Attract and support new businesses and jobs
- Increase local pride through community-led action and involvement in city governance
- Redevelop, demolish, and/or cleanup blighted properties
- Improve our Quality of Life
- "Go Green" with greener outdoor spaces, energy efficient buildings and health programming

Brought to you by Shamokin groups including: FAR, SEDA-COG, SABER, Mother Cabrini Parish, Shamokin Public Schools, and the City of Shamokin, with support from PA State Representative Kurt A. Masser, PA DEP and the U.S. EPA

**Please join us on
Tuesday, Feb. 11!**

The City of Shamokin, business owners, faith-based groups and other community organizations are partnering to build on Shamokin's strengths and assets.

Come share your own ideas and hopes for the future of your city.

Snap a picture of this code to RSVP:



Or email:
saberevents@goshamokin.com

Questions?
Contact
Betsy Kramer
570-524-4491 x.7203

**MOTHER CABRINI
CHURCH BASEMENT**

201 N Shamokin St.
Shamokin, PA 17872

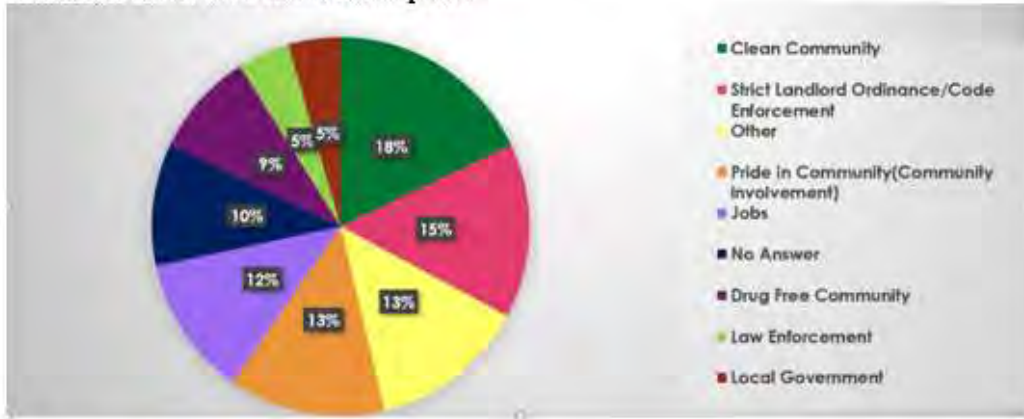
All ages are welcome.
Free snacks and children's activities will be provided.

Appendix D

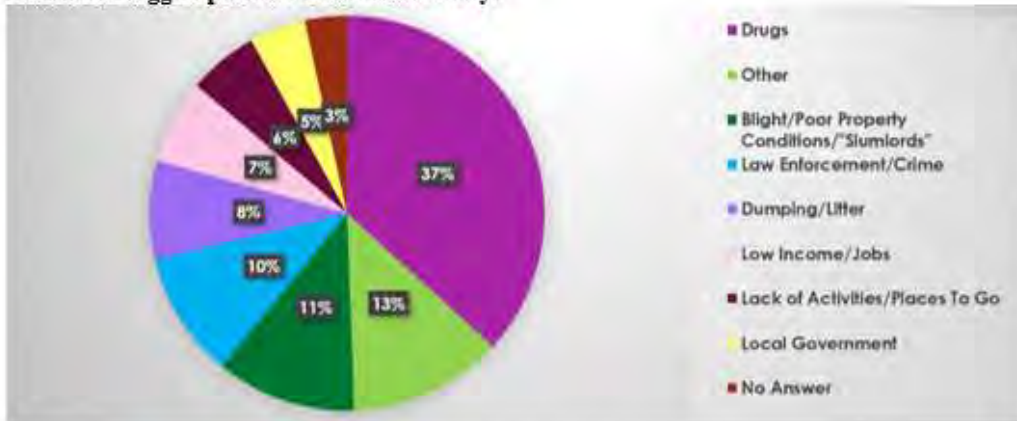
Shamokin Community Survey – Fall 2019 to Winter 2020

- Conducted by Fifth Ward Dumpsters, a local grassroots community organization

What would make Shamokin a better place?



What is the biggest problem in our community?



What are some projects you would volunteer to do to help improve your community?



**Shamokin Community Rebuilding Workshop
Updated Goals & Potential Activities/Actions
Day 1
(2/11/2020)**

1. Revised goals developed by participants of Day 3 of workshop

- Goal 1 – Attract and support the development of new businesses and support job creation activities/programs
- Goal 2 – Bring citizens together to work towards a common goal of increasing pride and ownership in our community.
- Goal 3 – Foster and nurture productive partnerships
- Goal 4 – Redevelop/demolish/rehabilitate/cleanup blighted commercial and residential properties throughout the city.
- Goal 5 – Enhance positive relationship building inclusive communities fostering human dignity and respect
- Goal 6 – Making Shamokin healthy, green, and clean now and tomorrow.

2. Ideas, Voting Results, and Volunteer Names collected during Youth and Public Sessions on Day 1 of workshop

Goal 1 - Attract and support the development of new businesses and support job creation activities/programs

Youth Session Input

- Help get the word out for smaller businesses
- Start hanging out at places that don't get a lot of business
- Advertise local businesses throughout school
- Have good events in town to attract attention
- publication
- Monthly group bonding for town
- Trade school/branch of college in community
- have community nights @ restaurants
- local therapy outlets (physical/mental)
- Spread more information
- Shopping center
- Roller skating rink
- Create jobs and something to do
- Bring in more hotels/motels to increase tourism

of Dot Votes: 15

Public Session Input



A poster hanging in Shamokin Area Middle High School, taken February 11, which speaks to a key message for the collaborative partnership.

- Support new businesses and jobs
- Support smaller businesses
- Grant assistance for locals to start new businesses
- New businesses: Hunt for investors while putting pressure on unwilling store front participants
- Recruit and support small businesses
- Enhance shopping/businesses around town
- Clothing and Apparel shops
- More creative outlets for the overlooked 18-25 year olds
- Look at other industries to area (TV, video, broadcasting)
- Internet related fields
- Family Friendly entertainment (mini golf, keep entertainment revenue here)
- Have some tax incentives for new businesses starting up
- YMCA Facility
- Attract new businesses, by increasing awareness of the need (i.e: start having movies @ the Career Center). Increase awareness of the need
- Find external donors to keep new businesses from folding due to financial trouble
- Jobs that are careers more than retail
- Popular popup: activities like air soft, go karts, paint ball, laser tag, roller skating, ax throwing, etc
- Retro style movie theater or arcade
- Take some of the build and making a play place for children and young people to go
- AOAA Event with local bars/restaurants (bar crawl), closedown independence street
- Comment: Why do the AOAA people get to drive into town on their unlicensed vehicles when they could come in, in their trucks that they pulled their unlicensed vehicles to the AOAA? They did not walk there.
- Encourage growth at AOAA
- Activities for “non-rider” AOAA family members (crafts, classes, shopping)
- More growth at AOAA street signs in city areas
- Have a movie theater that shows one or two movies! It’s a start. Doesn’t need to be a huge theater with 12 movies.
- Improve the appearance of downtown/independence st. – painting project
- Refurbish blighted commercial properties
- Allow/support micro businesses
- Shamakoin Indoor market
- Find \$ to redo downtown bldgs. (Independence st) and bring in merchants at minimal rent for 1 yr until they make a profit
- Inspection of all properties before they are used. Also each time a new tenant moves into a rental.
- Municipal garbage pick-up. Tax every property to pay for it.
- Help clean murals (powerwash)
- Additional cultural/music/heritage events
- Coal mining heritage using bank for a rail ride
- Community workshops using job training program to educate locals
- Drug and alcohol program for men/women exiting prison

- Reach out to the coordinate with neighboring cities to promote an Amtrak pass- rail line from a metropolitan area such as Williamsport, Scranton, etc to connect to Harrisburg through Shamokin (Look @ similar model in Scranton)
- Community liaison for individuals/businesses to help navigate code when doing business remodeling/creation code enforcement/building permit office not always helpful
- Open the Glen Burn again as a mine tour (Daryl Hartman Jr)
- Programs to encourage graduates to return to Shamokin
- Make the downtown beautiful with planters + nice sidewalks, stop the liter all over downtown. Make people clean up their property's porches and yard area's. Area's by homes.
- Major music concerts, big name artists
- Outdoor Rec: Kayaking Shamokin Creek, Bike paths, Toboggan/Sledding @ AOAA, Race Track
- Votech Education
- Prison job Reentry; internship (horticulture, beautification – lower cost for City, PA DCNR Arborist (Julie)
- Diverse retail (not all manufacturing), software/internet, Incentivize low prices, high speed internet, incubatory (insta/games), Leads to new provides

of Dot Votes: 41

Goal 2– Bring citizens together to work towards a common goal of increasing pride and ownership in our community

Youth Session Input

- More notice about town meetings
- Have “tours” of old Shamokin life and buildings
- Increase support for local sports teams
- More community activities
- Start having more community services more often
- More community cleanups/efforts
- More music
- More activities
- Host a parade or color run (purple or white)
- More block parties and community events
- Small business days/discounts for town citizens
- Increase citizen participation in city government

of Dot Votes: 15



Anthracite Heritage Parade, May 2016 (picture from News 16)

Public Session Input

- Nights with the elderly such as bingo nights or even just movie nights with them and get people in the community involved
- Speak to churches
- Have business/shop owners clean the sidewalks every morning. (Sweep, rake, shovel). We did it in the 1980s. Take pride in your property. Wash the windows monthly.
- Welfare check [recipients should get] county jobs to earn this money
- Town Day of Caring work in conjunction (Red Cross/United Way/residents/business/volunteers) as a day for community beautification or improvements, such as smoke detectors in homes
- Community kickball tournaments at Bunker Hill or things that would bring the community together
- Remove cars and campers from the city that are not being used. Some are on railroad lines on South Vine St. & Pearl Street & Rock & Lincoln Street
- Spots around town for artful words of inspiration
- Faith-based Christian Rock concert for our youth
- Create fun activities to draw attention for the kids. Ex. Playgrounds; drive-in; skating rink; movie theater; skate park; etc (kickball tournament)
- Clean up storefronts – wash windows and sweep walks on a regular basis.
- Have more block party to get the community together
- Using vacant areas for community art projects
- More places for kids to hang out, ex. Skating rink, drive-ins
- Have a volunteer requirement day at one location for all organizations to pitch their groups
- Implement more neighborhood cleanups throughout town
- Crafts
- Cooking classes
- Art classes
- Community contest to name a park that was revitalized
- Increasing community pride w/ ward competitions – cleanest, most decorated, most plants, etc
- First Friday community activities incorporation local business w/ a town-wide event (ex. Hazelton)
- Painted advertisements back on the sides of downtown businesses
- Put more positive in the public eye. Downplay the negative. Brag about the positive.
- Address welcoming new members to the community
- Have Shamokin Pride Day to increase positivity
- Pocket gardens
- Cat adoption center
- Continue w/ Mayor and Mrs. Mayor Brown's holiday & season houses
- Submit to City Council any properties with issues
- Plan community clean up days
- Cooking classes for local cultural recipes (pierogies, etc)
- Downtown revitalization like Jim Thorpe – focus on historical assets, walking tours
- Lack of space to collaborate (Cameron FB group) to make action plan
- Adopt a block – paint, take a walk and pick up trash
- Partner with Franciscan Center and Bucknell class project – need 1 community lead

of Dot Votes: 34

Goal 3 - Foster and nurture productive partnerships

Youth Session Input

- More businesses to partner with
- Meet new people, make friends

of Dot Votes: 1

Public Session Input

- Sister/twin city (South Carolina ENJC presenter – contact Danny Gogal)
- Volunteer at local non-profits
- Conduct mentor programs to help teach our young people traders (work with contractors, instill pride in youth!)
- Community groups: Lions, Kiwana, Masons, Knights of Columbus, Rotary
- Block parties with different background at ethnic food
- Connect the business community through growing the local Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber Ambassadors outreach
- Celebrate businesses w/ Chamber (GSVCC) events and recognition (Ribbon cuttings)
- Continue to have Chamber (GSVCC) host the Anthracite Summit
- Library
- Partner with Vo-tech to create classes for community use night classes
- Youth: Storytime- tell the Library, share on newspapers
- Basis to help all other goals success- integrates to achieve success

of Dot Votes: 14



Friar Stephen, Pastor, Our Lady of Hope, talking with Allison Acevedo, Director, PA DEP, Office of Environmental Justice, after the PA DEP EJ Listening Session, October 2018.

Goal 4 - Redevelop/demolish/rehabilitate/cleanup blighted commercial and residential properties throughout the city.

Youth Session Input

- Plant at least 6 new trees a year
- Start a committee to rebuild buildings
- Community workshops using job training program to educate locals (vo-tech)
- City workers to walk Independence St daily (20-30 min) to pick up trash and deposit in cans
- Rebuild
- Have more community cleanups

- Get rid of worn-down buildings and make parks
- Clean up the trash and houses falling
- Have community cleanup days
- Monthly cleanups
- Demolish condemned buildings
- More clean ups
- Community clean ups
- Have more community cleanups for on the street, buildings even with pressure-washing & garbage
- Hold more community cleanups

of Dot Votes: 20

Public Session Input

- Street of shops
- Redeveloped land and small spaces for local micro businesses
- Paint old/out of shape buildings
- Accountable – make the owner of properties responsible for the upkeep of those properties. Rentals - frequency of visits.
- I've been fascinated with that old building on the same block as the old Sunoco on Sunbury St. I think it could be a great community building/concert place. Nearby parking at PO lot. Walking distance to support local business.
- Pride goes hand in hand with ownership. Far too many properties become rentals. How do we get people to own their rental or buy? Financing assistance.
- Trash cleanup is a good place to start.
- Community cleanups every month and planting flowers.
- Redevelop residential properties.
- Make an appeal (advertise) to out of area investors interested in "opportunity zone" tax incentives
- Adopt a block campaign to clean our town w/ window placards to participants
- We may be a depressed area but we can be the cleanest town in Northumberland County with an Adopt a Block campaign
- Community cleanup, ex. Two weekends you have the garbage workers and you have a teen and one other person fill it with a limit of 10 minutes per load of your good you want to give away.
- Main streets need to be brought back to life.
- More murals, flowers, nice lights, cleaner, storefronts, etc.
- Clean up Sunbury St first and then move to Independence St.
- Plant more greenery around town



Ruins of Saint Michael Catholic Church, Shamokin, PA, June 2018

- Get tougher on landlords with their properties
- Make part of Independence St a park closed to traffic with cobblestone – have seats, musicians, artists, food carts, etc.
- New trash cans are a positive need more to eliminate open cans from being filled with bags of household trash (2 per block)
- Children’s storybook garden
- Art garden/children’s garden
- Stop the County from selling blighted properties
- Community-wide cleanups
- Volunteers to help people improve/beautify property
- Adopt a house – abandoned houses – neighbors cut grass, pull weeds, pick up litter on their block
- South Franklin St. vacant building (red) reuse for youth
- Volunteer power wash buildings/homes in town – “make it sparkle”
- Power wash downtown buildings. Owners may get rebate or matching funds.
- In Coal Township, the 5th St playground could be transformed into a great dog park. Already fenced in, away from too many homes, and has a parking lot. It’s currently a shady drug dealing spot.
- Show visual progress – highlight growth downtown, business façade program, painting by volunteers
- Business tax write off for donations
- Fix light pole and communicate progress along the way

of Dot Votes: 36

Goal 5 - Enhance positive relationship building inclusive communities fostering human dignity and respect

Youth Session Input

- Have more activities for kids to keep them off the streets
- More places to hang out for young people

of Dot Votes: 14

Public Session Input

- Is there a cap on Section 8 Housing
- Police provide info to the residents about what they need to pursue drug investigating video of people/car traffic? (License plate #s, Logs of activity times, Citizens can provide useful info about drug dealers, meth houses, etc.)
- People who own back property taxes shouldn’t be allowed to buy property at county sheriff sales.



Public playground in Shamokin being visited by Federal Agencies & State Agencies in need of assistance for rebuilding, June 2019

- Fit initiative for the youth incorporating fun & health awareness
- Begin a “community watch” “CERT” team
- Safe hangouts, coffee shops w/games, music events like the capital in early 2000s & Coal Hole before that.
- Embracing youth – teach them trades voluntarily (ex. sewing, financial literacy, life skills, health eating food prep, ROTC (junior)
- Remediate acide mine drainage – business, student, government partnership to remediate
- Support the law enforcement & child abuse reporting agencies for child welfare
- Community movie nights
- Keep more signs on children in play
- More free meals for people that are homeless & rebuild properties for them to live
- Have a welcome orientation program for students & families who move into the district.
- Improve elderly homes (do they have all the assistance available)
- Clean up garbage when walking by any
- Make some of the buildings into a Pal Place, after school place
- Safe center for positive youth activities – meet, share, friendships
- Improve quality of life by being available and interacting with people encountered in the community, assisting them in recognizing what they can do and are willing to do to contribute
- Prisoners (SCI-CT) assist with housing improvements and fix things up
- Assist with Opioid and drug use concerns
- Group events – clean-ups, walking tours
- Move theater
- Provide more education about the stigma of substance abuse
- Work with landlords to fix up their properties
- Teaching our younger generation how to manage credit so they can be more eligible
- Local recreational activities (YMCA, skate park)
- Start citing people who throw cigarette butts, candy wrappers, and other trash on the ground
- Start citing people who park the wrong way on streets.
- Start citing people who have trash on their porches.

of Dot Votes: 37

Goal 6 - Making Shamokin healthy, green, and clean now and tomorrow.

Youth Session Input

- Find areas with least amount of nature and plant more stuff
- Fix the creek going through Shamokin...please
- More trash cans

- More plants & better kept grass spaces
- Have recycling containers all around

Shamokin

of Dot Votes: 7

Public Session Input

- Dog park
- Please place large plants throughout downtown business'/residents can "sponsor" planter, care of flowers & their responsibility. Contest on best planter.
- Using the creek to develop several small-scale hydroelectric plants.
- Assist in energy efficiency, waste reductions programs.
- Cite owners with trash – give them 2 weeks to clean it up – if not cleaned-up then issue a fine.
- Have businesses keep their weeds pulled & windows clean to make their business more inviting
- Pocket parks
- Remove abandoned vehicles from the streets – fine people who park the wrong way on the street
- Put the names of people with blight in the newspaper along with a picture of their house with trash in its.
- Buy local (ex. Veggies/fruit/meat/everyday supplies that you can find in town.
- Recycle more things
- Planting – lots of planting
- Public transportation – affordable
- Increased monitoring of playgrounds – garbage, destroying equipment, etc.

of Dot Votes: 16



Shamokin Environmental Issues Tour with PA DEP Representatives, October 2018

Notes from Workshop Sessions

Morning Conversation

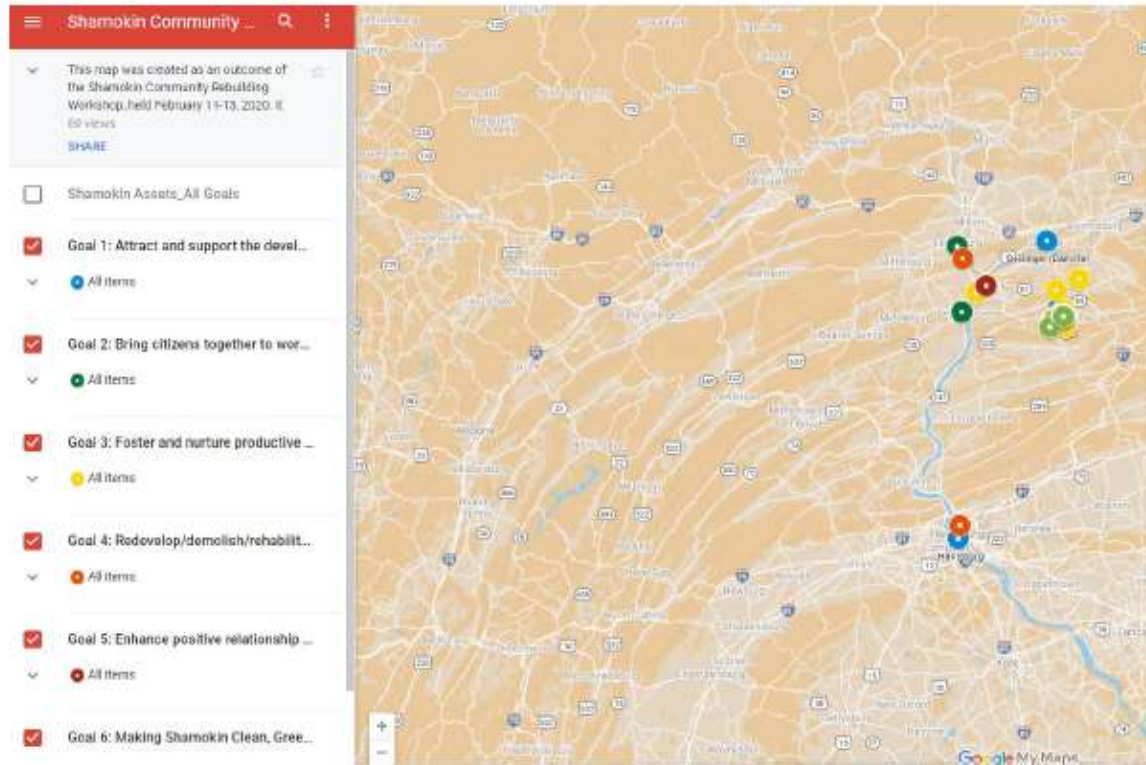
- Create "Hallmark- style" Shamokin
- Small town love & pride: coal celebration, coal region & loving it
- Improve Wayfinding
- Community looking out for one another – neighbors know neighbors Block party
- Bring back Cruising Shamokin (fri/sat)
- Support Du Op Downtown street festival with Sweet Tooth Diner
- Focus on the GOOD things you like about living here
- Provide a homelife for children: Memory: Businesses leaders chocolate bunny for Easter (Local barber business owner wanting to do something similar with providing backpacks)

- Newspaper- highlight the good
- Important to consider Mental health/ opioid care
- Mural art- Jim Thorpe style
- Memory: Parades: Easter, Halloween, Christmas
- Create trade schools/new businesses for youth opportunities to stay here
- Build: Movie Theater, Basketball/Football, Memory: Bikes out front in everyone's yard
- Can't wait to see the face of the neighbors when we do what we set out to do!
- Build Hotel
- Generations stay in area
- We need more greenspace
- Get rid of "Red X" buildings
- Americorps volunteers
- Walkability
- Shopping
- Fishing, Pool/Swimming, Hanging out and playing games @ night
- Daughter-mom events
- Outdoor rec: Cross country ski, biking
- Change reputation for safety, potential entertainer stop-through
- Church involvement- care for one another- FOG new youth group
- Farmers market Sat
- Have kids play outside
- 99 steps refurbished (tap into local grant writing)
- Idea: City create new demo company, employ locals
- Breakfast with Santa
- Clean ups
- Hard-working town: we need to take care of elderly
- Bring back the coal bucket: Football game w/ Mt. Carmel
- VA Interns for 8 wks- student housing- Amy Washington/Lee (Bucknell, other colleges)
- CDBG funds (state) - \$ for demo
- Leverage assets- rolling green mountains

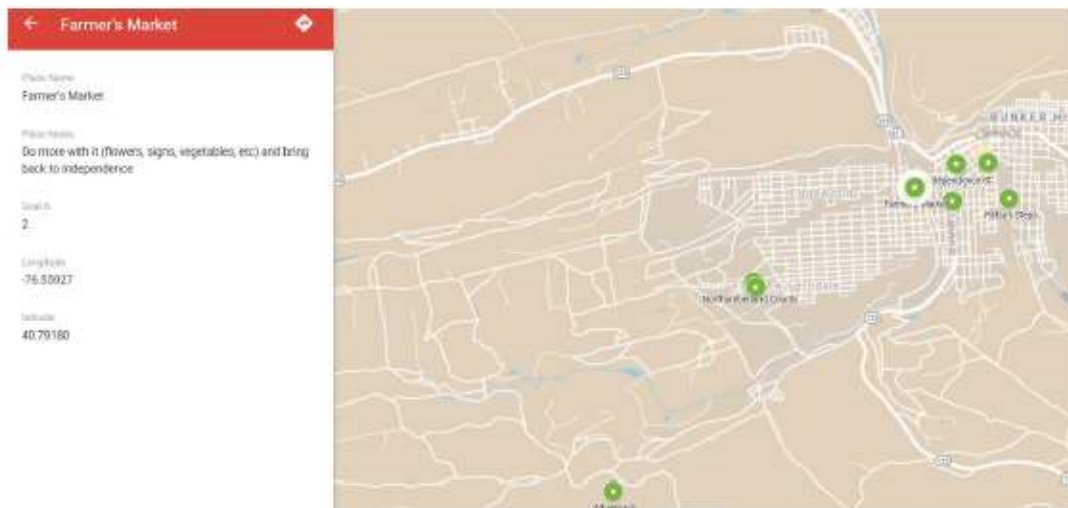
Appendix F

Maps of Shamokin

Map showing the locations of each asset identified for the six community goals. Digitized map is accessible at: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1snSaT5MgiNn5O1nobR_CxVNySEjGwweY&usp=sharing



Example of a Specific Goal Map: Goal 6 – Farmers Market & Enhancing use of Claude Kehler Park



Resources Available to Communities

[Need to add County shared during the Workshop]

Northumberland County

SEDA-Council of Governments

As a community and economic development agency, SEDA-Council of Governments (SEDA-COG) enhances the quality of life and economic advantage for residents and businesses in 11 central Pennsylvania counties through its vital partnerships and initiatives.

Service Area: Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Juniata, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Perry, Snyder, and Union counties.

For Businesses – Business loans, economic development, export assistance, government contracting assistance, natural gas service, and rail service.

For Communities – Community development, flood resiliency, information technology, and transportation planning.

For Residents – Elderly rental housing, home rehabilitation, and weatherization.

Contact Us! 800-332-6701, information@seda-cog.org, www.seda-cog.org

Follow Us! Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn

State of Pennsylvania

PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

DEP has a [webpage listing all grants](#) managed by the DEP Grants Office. Programs accept applications at different times throughout the year. Most applications are submitted online through the Pennsylvania Electronic Single Application (ESA) system. For general questions, call the DEP Grants Office at (717) 705-5400 or send an email to RA-GrantsCenter@pa.gov.

Driving PA Forward Program

- Grant and rebate programs for transformation from older, polluting diesel engines to clean technologies. There are 8 different programs providing funding for new engine technologies like clean diesel, propane, CNG, and electrification in freight and delivery trucks, transit and school buses, cargo handling equipment, forklifts, ocean going vessels, and tugboats.
- Over \$118 million has been made available through the program as a result of the 2018 settlement with Volkswagen.

Food Recovery Infrastructure Grants

- A total of \$4 million available with each applicant eligible to receive up to \$200,000.
- Designed for eligible nonprofit organizations such as food banks, shelters, and soup kitchens to cover the costs of equipment purchases necessary to prepare, transport and store food acquired from retailers, wholesalers, farms, processors and cooperatives. Examples of eligible equipment include refrigerated or non-refrigerated box trucks, industrial-sized refrigerators, pallet jacks and/or dollies. Installation and shipping costs are also eligible for support.

Small Business Ombudsman –

- The Small Business Advantage Grant provides 50% matching grants, up to a maximum of \$7,000 to enable Pennsylvania small businesses to purchase energy efficient or pollution prevention equipment or adopt waste reduction processes. Requires a cash match.
- The Small Business Pollution Prevention Assistance Account (PPAA) provides low-interest, fixed-rate loans to small businesses undertaking projects which reduce waste, pollution or energy use

Growing Greener Plus Grants

- A package of four grant programs that provides around \$25 million annually in funding to help communities restore and protect water quality throughout the commonwealth.

Environmental Education Grants

- Funding available to support a wide range of environmental education projects including creative, hands-on lessons for students, teacher training programs, and outdoor learning resources to conservation education for adults.

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)

TreeVitalize Grants:

DCNR's TreeVitalize grant program provides assistance to local government entities and non-profits seeking to plant trees in urbanized areas, perform community forestry management, or reforest urban riparian buffers.

To learn more about TreeVitalize Grants visit DCNR's website [here](#) or contact TreeVitalize Program Manager, Jason Swartz at c-jlswartz@pa.gov.

Community Conservation Partnerships Program Grants (C2P2):

DCNR's Bureau of Recreation and Conservation (BRC) assists local governments and recreation and conservation organizations with funding for projects related to parks, recreation, and conservation. C2P2 grants fund a variety of projects including conservation of open space, trails, river access, planning, acquisition, and development of public parks, capacity building. Applications are accepted once a year typically during the spring.

To learn more about eligibility, project types, FAQs, and funding sources of C2P2 visit the DCNR website [here](#). Or reach out to [your regional BRC advisor](#) with any questions.

USEPA Environmental Justice (Community Assistance) Resources

EPA EJ Small Grants - The Environmental Justice Small Grants Program supports and empowers communities working on solutions to local environmental and public health issues. The program is designed to help communities understand and address exposure to multiple environmental harms and risks. [Environmental Justice Small Grants](#) fund projects up to \$30,000, depending on the availability of funds in a given year. All projects are associated with at least one qualified environmental statute.

Eligible entities for this opportunity are as follows:

- incorporated non-profit organizations—including, but not limited to, environmental justice networks, faith-based organizations and those affiliated with religious institutions
- federally recognized tribal governments—including Alaska Native Villages; or tribal organizations

EPA EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreements - The [Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving \(CPS\) Cooperative Agreement Program](#) provides financial assistance to eligible organizations working on or planning to work on projects to address local environmental and/or public health issues in their communities, using EPA's "Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Model." The CPS Program assists recipients in building collaborative partnerships to help them understand and address environmental and public health concerns in their communities. The model aims to address local environmental and/or public health issues in a collaborative manner with various stakeholders such as communities, industry, academic institutions, and others.

Other EPA Technical Assistance Resources

EPA's national [Technical Assistance Services for Communities \(TASC\) program](#) provides independent assistance through an EPA contract to help communities better understand the science, regulations and policies of environmental issues and EPA actions. TASC services can include:

- information assistance and expertise
- community education

- information assistance needs evaluation and plan development
- other assistance to help community members work together to participate effectively in environmental decision-making

– Infrastructure Improvement

Infrastructure is important for the economic development and prosperity of a community. Infrastructure improvements help provide more opportunities to communities and helps create a healthier economy.

- [Greening America's Communities Program to help develop green infrastructure and other sustainable design strategies](#)
- [USDA-RD Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans & Loan Guarantees](#)
- [USDA Community facilities direct loan program to help rural communities to make infrastructure improvements](#)
- [US EDA Public Works Program for revitalizing, expanding, and upgrading physical infrastructure](#)

– Local Economy

Local economy is the economic system and range of economic activity in a local area that serves a local population.

- [Attracting Infill Development in Distressed Communities](#)
- [Innovation Index Map to compare innovation capacity in different counties and regions](#)
- [CDFI New Markets Tax Credit Program for community development and economic growth in distressed communities](#)
- [US EDA Economic Adjustment Assistance Program to promote economic development](#)
- [US EDA Local Technical Assistance and University Center Programs to support regional economic development strategies in distressed communities](#)
- [US EDA Planning Program to facilitate regional economic development efforts](#)
- [USDA-RD Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant Program](#)
- Walmart provides the Walmart Community Grant Program for local organizations to support the needs of their communities.

Ecosystem

– Brownfields Development

Brownfields are properties whose the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse maybe affected by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. Redevelopment and reuse of these properties would

have economic and social benefits to a community, while alleviating an ecosystem problem.

- [Council of Development Finance Agencies \(CDFA\) Brownfields technical assistance program toolkit](#)
- [Guide to assist communities in planning effective brownfields stakeholder forums](#)
- [Guide to assist communities with leveraging resources for additional funding](#)
- [US EPA map of Brownfields success stories](#)
- [Workbook for local governments considering the reuse of contaminated properties](#)
- [EPA Region brownfield assessment programs](#)
- [Target Brownfields Assessment \(TBA\) Program](#)
- [Technical Assistance Funding for Brownfields Communities](#)
- [US EPA links to Brownfield grant funding opportunities](#)
- [Brownfields Properties Community Map](#)
- [Search for Brownfields Properties and Grants for Your Community](#)
- [Community Reuse Property Prioritization Tool](#)

– Tree Cover

While not all forests have the same density dependent upon geographical location, tree cover is important to the health of the environment and communities. Tree cover can be affected by deforestation, disease, infestation, and/or natural disasters. Conservation of trees helps to maintain wildlife habitats and increases the community's connection to nature.

- [i-Tree Canopy Tool to Estimate Tree Cover in Your Community](#)

– Water Quality

Safe drinking water for a community is critical to the health of its members. Safe drinking water depends on resources to effectively control human wastes entering water bodies, while ensuring the cleanliness of water entering a community through its drinking water system.

- [A guide to help communities better manage stormwater with green infrastructure](#)
- [International Stormwater Best Management Practices Database](#)
- [Water Quality Scorecard: Incorporating Green Infrastructure Practices at the Municipal, Neighborhood, and Site Scale](#)
- [USDA-RD SEARCH program for very small, financially distressed rural communities to support water and waste disposal projects](#)
- [USDA-RD Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program for clean and reliable drinking water systems and storm water drainage in rural areas](#)

Economic

– Business Development

A healthy local economy is key not only to improving living standards of a community, but the ability of a community to be sustainable for all aspects of human well being. Different government agencies provide unique perspectives on resources necessary to support community business development.

- [SBA contracting guide, contracting assistance programs, counseling and help](#)
- [US FDA Regional Innovation Strategies \(RIS\) Program](#)
- [USDA Business & Industry Loan Guarantees for rural businesses](#)
- [USDA link to rural business development grants](#)
- [USDA-RD Business & Industry Loan Guarantees](#)
- [USDA-RD Rural Business Investment Program](#)
- [USDA-RD Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program](#)
- [US Department of Health and Human Services \(DHHS\) Office of Community Services Community Economic Development \(CED\) Program](#)
- [US Small Business Administration \(SBA\) funding programs](#)
- [Change in Business Vacancy Rate Map](#)
- [Distressed Communities Index by Zip Code](#)

– Employment Rate

Employment rate information is crucial for communities. It is especially key to social aspects of well-being. Workforce investment programs and initiatives provide adult workers with workforce preparation and aid in career development. These programs and initiatives also help employers find skilled workers.

- [US Department of Labor \(USDOL\) Employment and Training Division, Adult Services](#)
- [Calculate whether a county, region, or neighborhood may meet grant thresholds for unemployment and income](#)

COVID-19 Rebirth Using Proven Tools

Weekly COVID-19 Development Finance Briefing #3- April 10, 2020 (Free)

During the April 10, 2020 Weekly COVID-19 Development Finance Briefing, Bruce Katz from Drexel University, Rachel Reilly from the Economic Innovation Group, and Katie Kramer from CDFA examined relief efforts run by local governments, philanthropic organizations, chambers, and other local entities to support main street. https://www.cdfa.net/cdfa/cdfaweb.nsf/ordredirect.html?open&id=COVID-19_Briefing_3.html

Additional Brownfields Assistance

Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB)

EPA's [Technical Assistance to Brownfields Communities \(TAB\)](#) program provides free technical assistance to communities to increase their understanding and involvement in brownfields cleanup, revitalization and reuse. The TAB program is funded by EPA and available to all stakeholders. The [New Jersey Institute of Technology \(NJIT\)](#) offers free technical assistance for region 3 and training program services to EPA Brownfields grantees and to those seeking brownfield grants in Region 3.

- [NJIT WebsiteEXIT](#)
- [New Jersey Institute of Technology \(NJIT\): What is TAB? video](#)

Targeted Brownfields Assessments (TBAs)

EPA provides environmental assessment services free of charge to communities through the Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) program. Services typically include Phase I and II assessments and cleanup planning. To request a TBA, please read how to apply below.

- [Eligibility](#)
- [How to Apply](#)
- [Targeted Brownfields Assessments Map](#)

Appendix H



Faith Alliance for Revitalization
 An Interfaith, Interagency, Multi-Stakeholder Partnership to Rebuild Shamokin
 Serving Shamokin, PA and Surrounding Communities

The Faith Alliance for Revitalization (FAR) grew out of the efforts of the Franciscan Friars Conventual, who have been serving the catholic community in the region for 120 years. In April 2017, Fr. Martin Kobos, OFM Conv and the local community of friars serving at Mother Cabrini and Our Lady of Hope Parishes, partnered with Friar Michael Lasky, OFM Conv, who oversees the Franciscan Justice, Peace, and Care for Creation Ministry in North America. The friars were motivated to build a collaborative partnership in the City of Shamokin, in part, to respond to the call for action by Pope Francis, in his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, issued in 2015, to advance the care for our common home and the poor. The Pope stated, “I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all.”

Having established a good working relationship with the Bucknell University Center for the Environment and Sustainability, in April 2018, the friars hosted an organizing meeting with many of the key state and local government officials, business, community and faith leaders, as well as engaged citizens. Held at a local restaurant, the meeting focused on the revitalization of the community, including the opportunity to collaborate with Bucknell University, a well as other partners. Participants were energized by the opportunity to collaborate with Bucknell, particularly the engagement and support offered by students, and the possibility of working with other organizations and agencies. Several participants committed



List of invitees for the first organizational meeting hosted by the Franciscans, April 15, 2018.

to meet again to further discuss opportunities to enhance coordination and collaboration with organizations, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, to pursue the rejuvenation of the community: socially, culturally, economically, environmentally, physically, spiritually.



First planning meeting to establish a collaborative partnership in Shamokin, June 2018, as a follow-up to the organizing meeting.

Some of the key developments resulting from and/or lending support to the collaborative partnership in Shamokin include the following:

- ▶ April 2018, Shamokin selected as a “pilot” to receive the US Environmental Protection Agency/Office of Environmental Justice’s (OEJ) Community Support Services (CSS), as an interagency interfaith collaboration for addressing the needs of vulnerable communities.
- ▶ May 2018, President Trump issues Executive Order [*Faith and Opportunities Initiative*](#), calling for federal agencies to enhance their engagement with faith leaders/organizations to revitalize communities.
- ▶ June 2018, first working meeting to develop the Shamokin collaborative partnership for community rebuilding/revitalization, led by the Franciscans
- ▶ September 2018, City uses EPA’s Community Assessment Planning Tool (CAPT) and June meeting notes to begin capturing ideas and establishing priorities
- ▶ October 2018, first meeting of the Shamokin Area Businesses for Economic Revitalization (SABER)
- ▶ October 2018 - PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Environmental Justice (E) Tour & Community Roundtable in Shamokin, and PA DEP attends first Shamokin interfaith, interagency collaborative partnership meeting.
- ▶ November 2018, Faith Alliance for Revitalization (FAR) is created in Shamokin to coordinate the interfaith, interagency, and multi-stakeholder collaborative partnership for the rebuilding of Shamokin (formerly ARP/FACTOR)
- ▶ March 2019, a session to discuss the development and current outcomes of the interagency interfaith collaboration in Shamokin is held at the [National Environmental Justice Conference](#) (NEJC)



Mark Zelden, U.S. Department of Labor, presenting at the SABER meeting held at the Ale House Bar & Grill, Shamokin, PA, November 14, 2019

- ▶ May 2019, PA and Shamokin receive a Small Community Area-Wide Planning Brownfields Grant, awarded by EPA
 - ▶ Identifying and documenting Brownfields sites, prioritizing sites, etc.
- ▶ May 2019, Franciscan Center officially opens and serves as the physical location for coordinating the work of FAR, and housing college students working in Shamokin.
- ▶ June 2019 – Interagency Interfaith Collaboration for Vulnerable Communities visits Shamokin, led by EPA, and included representatives from the departments of Justice, Interior, Agriculture and Homeland Security.
- ▶ November 2019, [Energy Star for Congregations](#) Training Workshop in Shamokin, provided by EPA (Rg 3 & OEJ)
- ▶ February 2020 – Shamokin Community Rebuilding Workshop, facilitated by EPA



Panelists at the NEJC discuss interagency interfaith collaboration in Shamokin, PA



“Treasure Map” activity as part of the EPA Energy Star for Congregations Training Workshop, hosted by the First United Methodist Church, Shamokin, PA, November 15 - 16, 2019



Franciscan Center in Coal Township/Shamokin, PA

Appreciative Inquiry Processes

A philosophy for engaging all stakeholder in the process of determining what works. It follows the assumption that what you want more of can be built from what exists. The elements of Appreciative Inquiry are noted below.

5 Ds of Appreciative Inquiry

Define – What is the topic of inquiry? – It is important to define the overall focus of the inquiry (what the system wants more of). Definition is used to clarify the area of work to be considered. In spite of being the starting point of the cycle, it's a recent addition – the 5Ds were originally the 4Ds, including discover, dream, design and destiny. Definition defines the project's purpose, content, and what needs to be achieved. In this phase, the guiding question is, "What generative topic do we want to focus on together?"

Discover – Appreciating the best of 'what is' – Discovery is based on a dialogue, as a way of finding 'what works'. It rediscovers and remembers the organization or community's successes, strengths and periods of excellence.


Dream – Imagining 'what could be' – Imagining uses past achievements and successes identified in the discovery phase to imagine new possibilities and envisage a preferred future. It allows people to identify their dreams for a community or organization; having discovered 'what is best'. They have the chance to project it into their wishes, hopes and aspirations for the future

Design – Determining 'what should be' – Design brings together the stories from discovery with the imagination and creativity from dream. We call it bringing the 'best of what is' together with 'what might be', to create 'what should be – the ideal'.

Deliver/Destiny – Creating 'what will be' – The fifth stage in the 5Ds process identifies how the design is delivered, and how it's embedded into groups, communities and organizations. In early appreciative inquiry development, it was called 'delivery', based on more traditional organizational development practice. The term 'destiny' is more prevalent now.

DREAM
With the Franciscans & Bucknell

D	Desire & Decide on a goal
R	Research idea & identify R esources
E	Eradicate doubt & E xpand vision
A	Attract Attention in the region
M	Manage Multiple relationships



A handout created by Friar Michael Lasky, Franciscan Conventual, for the first Shamokin community organizing meeting, April 15, 2018

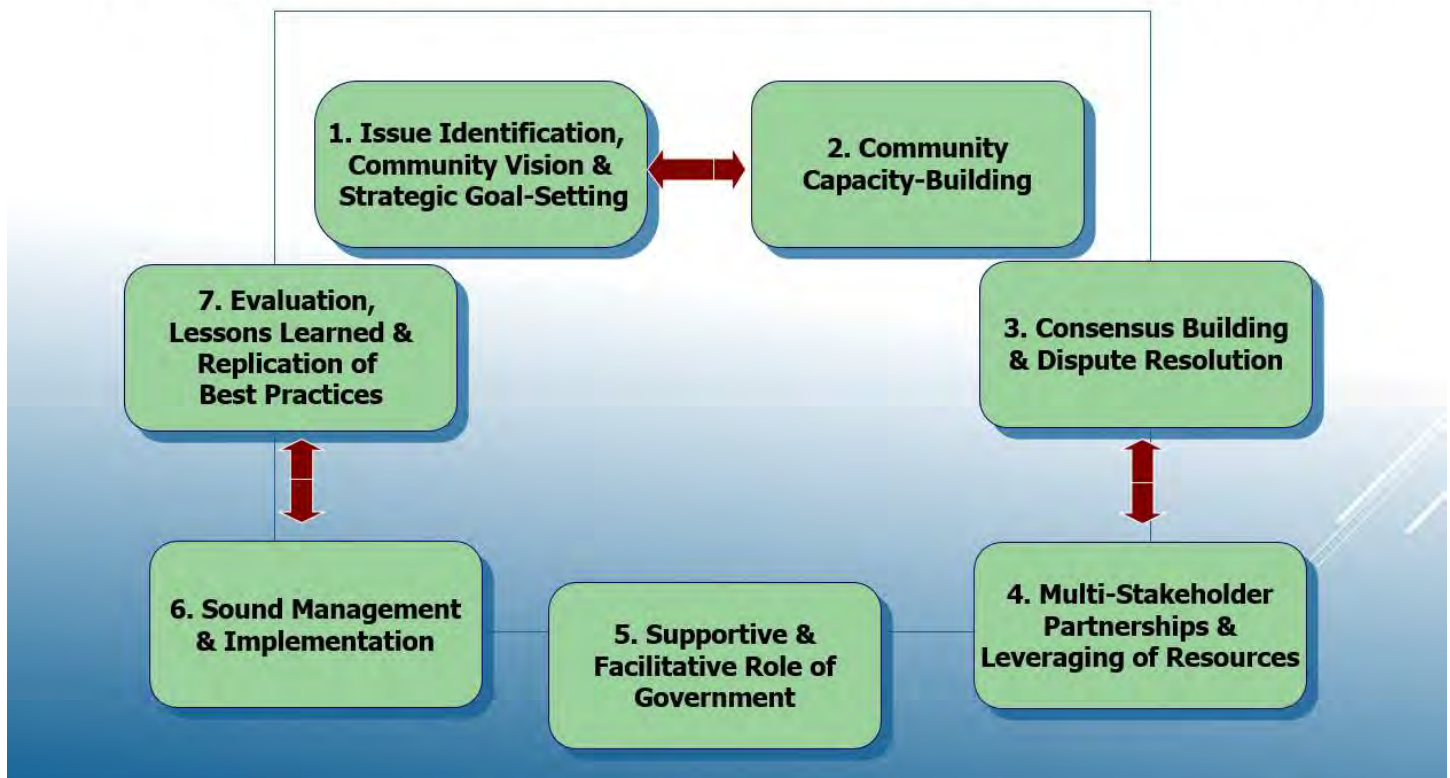
8 Assumptions of Appreciative Inquiry

- In every society, organization, or group, something works.
- What we focus on becomes our reality.
- Reality is created in a moment, and there are multiple realities
- The act of asking questions influences others
- People have more confidence and comfort to journey to the future (the unknown) when they carry forward parts of the past (the known)
- If we carry parts of the past forward, they should be what is best about the past.
- It is important to value differences.
- The language we use creates our reality.

EPA Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Model

EPA created the Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (CPS) Model after years of experience working with various federal agencies and communities for the revitalization of communities. It consists of seven elements, as shown in the graphic below. This model serves as the foundation for EPA's [Office of Environmental Justice](#) work with communities, including the Agency's two EJ grant programs: [EJ Small Grants](#) and the [EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreements](#). A copy of the CPS model can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-06/documents/cps-manual-12-27-06.pdf>

ELEMENTS OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE APPROACH



Shamokin Community Planning and Visioning Tool – Working Draft (revised 02/2/19)

PRIORITIES & COMMUNITY VISION

1. What are the needs your community wants to see addressed (e.g. health disparities, lead exposure awareness, healthcare access, healthy food access, recreation and green space, renewable energy, physical infrastructure, access to safe drinking water, jobs, etc.)?

The City of Shamokin considers the following issues those needing to be addressed to work toward their community vision:

- **Demolition/cleanup of the blighted properties throughout the city**
- **Implementing the use of solar energy to power the city’s buildings**
- **Creating jobs through the building of a city administration center**
- **Remediating the acid mine drainage that pollutes the Shamokin Creek**
- **Creating a city park on the property next to the Shamokin Creek**

- a. Are there any contaminated areas or resources (natural, cultural, built, etc.) that need to be addressed (e.g. illegal dumping site, brownfields site, lead contamination, Superfund site, groundwater contamination, port or facility emissions, etc.)?

The polluted Shamokin Creek needs to be addressed.

The identified brownfield within city limits needs to be addressed.

- b. What are your community’s priorities (e.g. safe drinking water, clean air, elimination of lead, availability of healthy foods/healthy food production, job creation, parks, recreation areas/ballfields, crime reduction, affordable housing, health care, walkability, disaster preparedness, improving infrastructure, etc.)? What order or sequence would you like them to be addressed?

The city of Shamokin has identified the following priorities:

- **Job creation**
- **Recreation areas throughout the community**
- **Crime reduction**
- **Improving infrastructure**
- **Economic revitalization**
- **Increasing citizen participation in governance**
- **Disaster preparedness**

2. Based on your responses above, what is your community's vision? What does your community want to look like in 5, 10, 15 or 20 years?

In five years, Shamokin envisions:

- Centrally-located, city administration center. All the city's offices, services, and resources would be relocated into the complex. The complex would use solar energy to power the facility.
 - Designation by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) as a Keystone Main Street area and Keystone Elm Street.
 - Designation by the PA DCED as a Keystone Community with Main Street and Elm Street emphasis.
 - Completion of the feasibility study to build a hotel in the Shamokin area to accommodate the current increase in tourism
 - Increased businesses in the empty downtown storefronts
 - Increased community engagement in the revitalization of the Shamokin area in ten years (and dependent upon the relocation of the city offices and remediation of the AMD in the creek)
- Shamokin envisions:
- Converting the former site of city hall into a green, recreation area, including a commerce area, offering small culturally or heritage-themed wares and ethnic food.
 - Increasing employment opportunities, in fields such as manufacturing and technology, by attracting investors and employers to the city
 - A more engaged citizenry, actively participating in both community and economic revitalization efforts

BENEFICIARIES

1. Who is expected to benefit from addressing your community's priorities and implementing your community's vision?
- a. Direct (all those who will be helped by, impacted by, or will utilize the project or project outcomes):
- The citizens of the city, residing in close proximity to the blighted properties will benefit immediately from the demolition of the condemned properties. As the vacant properties are sold and repurposed, the entire community will benefit from the creation of green spaces and/or new businesses.**

Business owners in the city will benefit through increased revenues and as the businesses grow, the community will benefit from more job opportunities created by the anticipated increases.

The citizens of Shamokin will see increased employment opportunities in the area. Although the jobs will remain in the service industry, more opportunities will be available.

- b. Indirect (all others living within the 'zone of influence' of the project):

The citizens of the surrounding communities, such as Coal Township, Trevorton, Kulpmont, and Paxinos will benefit indirectly from these changes.

The business owners in surrounding communities are expected to benefit indirectly by increasing business in Shamokin and having Shamokin's businesses working together to promote other local businesses not within city limits.

2. What are the demographic characteristics of the community to benefit from or be impacted by the project or project outcomes?

- a. Races/Ethnicities of Community Population:

White alone 95.2%

Hispanic 2.6%

Two or more races 1.1%

Black alone 0.5%

Asian alone 0.4%

American Indian alone 0.09%

Other race alone 0.04%

- b. Income Levels of Community (e.g. % low, moderate, etc.):

Estimated median household income in 2016: \$33,780

Estimated per capita income in 2016: \$19,592

- c. Geographic Area (rural, urban, agricultural, mountainous, tribal lands, etc.):

100% urban

0% rural

- d. Educational Levels (elementary, high school, college, etc.):
 - High school or higher: 86.1%**
 - Bachelor's degree or higher: 11.2%**
 - Graduate or professional degree: 3.2%**
 - Unemployed: 10.4%**

- e. Languages Spoken & Translation Needs:
 - English spoken**
 - Translation needed for Spanish**

- f. Access to Health Care (List nearby clinics and hospitals):
 - Geisinger Shamokin Area Community Hospital**
 - 4200 Hospital Rd. Coal Township, PA**

- g. Access to Healthy Foods (List nearby grocery stores, corner stores, fresh food stands):
 - Weis Markets, Sixth and Walnut Streets, Shamokin**
 - Shamokin Farmer's Market, Independence St. Shamokin, PA**
 - Geisinger Fresh Food Pharmacy, 4200 Hospital Rd. Coal Township, PA**

- h. Ages (children, school-aged children, elderly, etc.):
 - Median resident age: 44.1 years**

- i. Other:
 - Mean travel time to work (commute): 24.4 minutes**
 - Population in 2014: 7,233. Population change since 2000: -9.7%**
 - Males: 3,415 (47.2%)**
 - Females: 3,818 (52.8%)**
 - Estimated median house or condo value in 2016: \$41,741**
 - Median gross rent in 2016: \$572.**

RESOURCES

1. Who are your partners and what relationships have you/your community cultivated? What contributions are these partners making to help you meet your community's priorities and vision? (Note: It is useful to develop a separate roster of the contact information for each partner.)
 - a. Local Partners

- i. Community-Based Organizations: **Greater Susquehanna Valley United Way, Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce, Susquehanna River Valley Visitors Bureau**
 - ii. Business/Industry: **Shamokin Area Business for Economic Revitalization (SABER)**
 - iii. Faith-Based Organizations: **Anthracite Region for Progress (ARP) [now Faith Alliance for Revitalization (FAR)]**
 - iv. Academic Institutions: **Bucknell University, Shepherd Higher Education Consortium on Poverty (SHECP), Susquehanna University, Bloomsburg University**
 - v. Others: **Central PA United in Recovery**
- b. Government Partners
- i. Municipal Government: **Northumberland County, SEDA-COG**
 - ii. State Agencies: **Representative Kurt Masser, Senator John Gordner, Representative Dan Musser, DCED**
 - iii. Tribal Agencies:
 - iv. Federal Agencies: **EPA**
- c. Regional & National Organizations:
- d. Other Potential Partners:
2. What resources have you already received (e.g. grant funding, training, technical assistance, etc.)? Were you able to leverage these resources to gain additional resources?
- **Grant money to demolish blighted properties. As Shamokin uses the funding to fight blight, it is able to obtain more because of the progress it is making.**

- **Guidance from Pennsylvania Downtown Center in becoming designated for DCED Keystone Main Street Program. This program is facing some obstacles in obtaining funding but the city continues to work to find the money.**

3. What has been a recent community success? What challenges did the community face? What best practices resulted from this success? Are the partners involved in this success still involved in the community?
- **The community has begun the proposed demolitions. Additionally, the city has been selling vacant, downtown properties to real estate developers.**
 - **One property has been sold to a developer to build a national chain store, Dollar General.**
 - **The city of Shamokin has secured the corporate headquarters for the local medical marijuana growing facility. The offices will be located next door to City Hall. There will also be medicinal marijuana dispensary in downtown Shamokin.**
 - **More detailed information is available about another bigger project but due to the sensitivity of the matter and because it has not been publicly announced yet, that specific project will not be included on this form.**
4. What additional resources and support are available? What steps are you planning to take to obtain these additional resources and support?
- The city began participating in the endeavors of the ARP [now FAR]. This partnership has cultivated invaluable relationships and unearthed resources which are being used to achieve their goals.**

ACTIONS

1. What are your planned immediate, short-term, and long-term next steps to accomplish your desired results? Describe specific future output(s) and outcome(s) for each activity/task you have planned. *Outputs are your measurable work products or deliverables (e.g. number of healthy home kits provided to families). Outcomes are the measurable effects and broader results of your work (e.g. reduced percentage of families exposed to lead, asbestos, and other home-based hazards).*
- a. Immediate:
- Task /Activity 1: **Remove blighted properties, both commercial and residential**
- Outputs: **Demolish condemned properties**
 - Outcomes: **Remove the hazards to the community caused by condemned properties, such as structural damages to surrounding**

properties, rodent infestations, and improve the landscape of the affected neighborhoods

Task /Activity 2: **Revitalizing the downtown area through collaboration of local business leaders working together**

- **Outputs: Add more business owners to the collaborative effort to increase participation**
- **Bring businesses back to the empty storefronts and vacant properties in the main areas of town**
- **Outcomes: Jobs created for the citizens of Shamokin, increased revenues for the city, more opportunities for the community to patronize local businesses**

b. Short-Term: Build a City of Shamokin Administration Complex which would house all city offices and services in one common, accessible area. (Ideally, this would occur within five years.)

- **Outputs: Relocated city offices, services, and resources into complex**
- **Outcomes: Increased accessibility of city services for all the residents of the community**

c. Long-Term: Remediate the acid mine drainage pollution for the Shamokin Creek and create a recreation and commerce area along the creek on the land where City Hall is currently situated. (Ideally, this would occur within ten years.)

- **Outputs: Clear water, reduced smell, city offices relocated to new complex**
- **Outcomes: The ability to beautify the creek channel, land available for creating recreational area and cultural commerce opportunities**

2. How are you defining and measuring “success” toward addressing your community’s priorities and accomplishing your community vision? What needs to happen for the community’s priorities to be addressed? What is the expected change or outcome?

The city will define its success using the performance measures listed below, which relate directly to the tasks it will address immediately. Upon achieving those goals, the city will reassess its position and then define its next set of performance measure based on the short-term goal of building an administration center.

3. [List all that apply.]

- c. Performance Measure 1: **A significant reduction in the number of identified blighted properties in the city.**
- b. Performance Measure 2: **An increase in the number of business owners participation in SABER.**
- c. Performance Measure 3: **Gather data concerning the space requirements to move all city offices, services, and resources into one complex in order to determine if the proposed site will be suitable for the vision the city has created.**
- d. Performance measure 4: **Completion of the feasibility study on building a hotel in the city limits**

Appendix L

Interagency Interfaith Collaboration for Vulnerable Communities (IIC) Overview – May 2020

The Federal Interagency Interfaith Collaboration for Vulnerable Communities (IIC), established in 2018, was formed in response to the overwhelming evidence and experiences of staff, who work in addressing the needs of vulnerable and underserved communities (minority, low-income, tribal and other indigenous communities) of the important, and at times critical, role faith leaders and faith-based organizations play in leading efforts to address the needs of the most vulnerable in communities and helping with the revitalization of communities.

Background

Over the past several administrations, federal agencies have been called upon to improve their working relationship with faith leaders and faith-based organization, in various ways to work with these key community stakeholders. The ICC is operating under the authority of two presidential executive orders: Faith and Opportunity Initiative (FOI) – May 2018 & Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations (EO 12898) – February 1994.

The FOI, among other things, recognizes that faith-based and community organizations serve individuals, families, and communities differently than government and are essential to revitalizing communities. The FOI welcomes opportunities for government to partner with faith-based organizations through innovative, measurable, and outcome-driven initiatives; encourages the showcasing of innovative initiatives by faith-based and community organizations that serve and strengthen individuals, families, and communities throughout the United States; and seeks to identify and reduce burdens...and barriers to the full and active engagement of faith-based and community organizations in Government-funded or Government-conducted activities and programs.

EO 12898, among other things, directs federal agencies to identify and address the disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their actions on minority, low-income and tribal/indigenous populations. EO 12898 directs each agency to develop a strategy for implementing environmental justice; promotes nondiscrimination in federal programs that affect human health and the environment; and promotes minority, low-income, tribal/indigenous communities' access to public information and public participation.

Collectively, these two executive orders provide the foundation for the efforts of the IIC federal agencies to work collaboratively to address the environmental, public health, economic, and all other quality of life concerns of vulnerable and underserved communities which fall under the missions and authorities of the participating federal agencies.

Federal agencies participating in the IIC are as follows:

Department of Agriculture
Department of Labor
Department of Interior
Department of Justice
Department of Homeland Security
Environmental Protection Agency
General Services Administration

WHAT IS USEPA'S COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES (CSS)?

In 2018, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) initiated its Community Support Services (CSS) to supplement ongoing efforts to revitalize underserved and vulnerable communities. Revitalizing communities not only helps to protect the environment and public health but provides communities the space to create healthy places in which to live, work, learn, and play. Grassroots voices and community leaders are the drivers of the CSS. The goal of CSS is to support communities' efforts to improve their health, local environment, and quality of life.

To assist our community partners, CSS has six steps, each with the intention of meeting the community where they are and with what they need. The steps (not necessarily in order) are as follows:

Assess Community Needs

We provide the Community Assessment and Planning Tool (CAPT) to help communities identify and assess their specific needs and resources. Assessment allows communities to begin to see where they are, to envision where they'd like to be, and to start planning how to get there.

Identify Options and Priorities

We work with community groups to analyze data from the CAPT to develop action items for improving community conditions. The community then determines which action items to pursue first.

Implement the Plan

To implement a community's plan, we can help convene meetings and networking opportunities for community groups, including residents, leaders, and partners. To aid the community as it implements its plan, we also can provide facilitation, support, and training services to foster understanding and effective implementation.

Evaluate progress

As communities implement their action plans, we can assist with evaluating progress and results. This includes helping to identify what is working well and what needs improvement.

Adapt to Changes

New opportunities, resources, and challenges often come up unexpectedly. We can help communities navigate and adapt their plans to take advantage of the opportunities while overcoming the challenges.

Sustain Revitalization Progress & Maintain Collaborative Partnerships

Community revitalization is not a quick or easy process. It takes ongoing efforts to keep the momentum going. To help sustain these efforts, we work with communities to identify lessons learned and best practices. We also can help communities plan next steps to support their continued progress and maintain their effective collaborative partnerships.



A picture taken after the Shamokin Community Rebuilding Workshop, with lots of smiles...feeding off of the high energy and sense of greater community as a result of the large number of community residents who participated and actively engaged in the Workshop! Some of the members of the Workshop Steering Committee. Pictured: Mayor John Brown, Representative Kurt Masser, Lauryn Coombs – EPA/OCR, Betsy Kramer-SEDA COG, Friar Michael Lasky – Franciscan Conventual, Judy Surak-FAR Interim Coordinator, Danny Gogal – EPA/OEJ/Interagency Interfaith Collaboration for Vulnerable Communities, Alexis Rourk-EPA/OCR, Friar Martin Kobos-Pastor of Mother Cabrini Parish. Basement of Mother Cabrini Church, February 13, 2020.

