Comprehencive Van TOWAMENCINTOWNSHIP

Montgomery County

PUBLIC MEETING #1 January 18, 2024



Meeting Agenda

- Introduction
- Project Team & Experience
- Intro to Comprehensive Plan
- Project Schedule and Scope
- Public Participation
- Planning Approach
- Demographics
- Land Use and Zoning Map
- Questions for Consideration
- Discussion
- Next Steps



Steering Committee (Towamencin Planning Commission)

- Brett H. MacKay, Chairman
- Patricia Younce, Vice Chair
- Douglas Leach
- Joseph Vavra
- Matt Chartrand
- Dr. Edward Buonocore
- Nancy Becker
- Dennis McGeehan
- Michael Main



Project Team

Professional Team

- Peter Simone, RLA, FASLA, Principal psimone@simonecollins.com
- Pankaj (PJ) Jobanputra, AICP, Project Manager/Planner pjobanputra@simonecollins.com
- Todd Poole, President, 4Ward Planning tpoole@landuseimpacts.com
- Tim Adams, Planner tadams@simonecollins.com

Additional staff also available

- Geoff Creary
 - Towamencin Sidewalk Connectivity Study
- Sarah Leeper
 - Towamencin Park Analysis





Simone Collins Philosophy

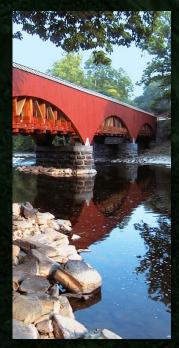
Simone Collins Landscape Architecture is a planning and design firm committed to creating an ecologically enduring society.



<u>Conduct</u> careful research.



Respect
ecological context
and limits of each
site.



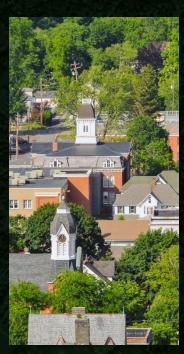
Build on sustainable practices of the past.



Employ new methods prudently.



<u>Conserve</u> materials and energy.



Support local economies.



<u>Design</u> biologically & culturally diverse communities.

Simone Collins' Experience

- 47 Design Awards local, state, national
- 33 years in service, Simone Collins founded July 1990
- Principals offer 45 years experience each
- Experience with communities across PA

Milford Borough Comprehensive Plan

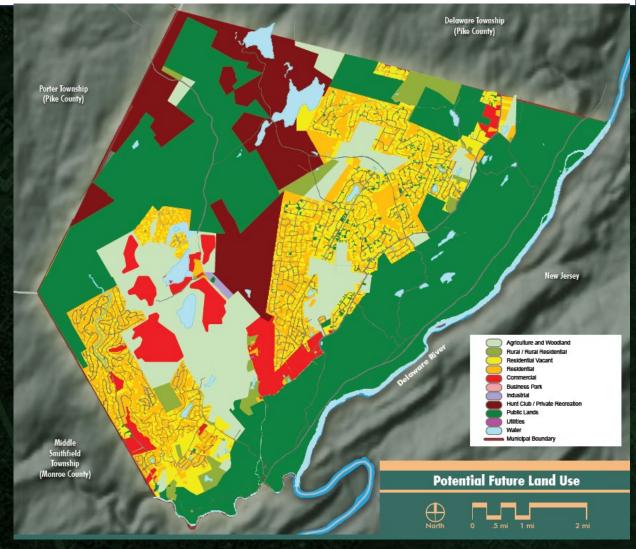


Pedestrian & Bicycle

Lehman Township Comprehensive Plan

Lehman Township, Pike County





West Conshohocken Vision Plan



Components of a Comprehensive Plan

Planning Context

- Goals and Objectives
- Demographics
- Existing Conditions & Analysis
- Compatibility with Surrounding Municipal Plans
- Implementation Strategy
 - Implementation Priorities
 - Action Strategy (short / long term)
 - Potential Funding Sources

Recommendations

- Future Land Use
- Housing Plan
- Transportation Plan
- Community Facilities Plan
- Economic Development
 Plan
- Open Space & Recreation
 Plan
- Protection of Natural and Historic Resources
- Energy and Resource Conservation Plan

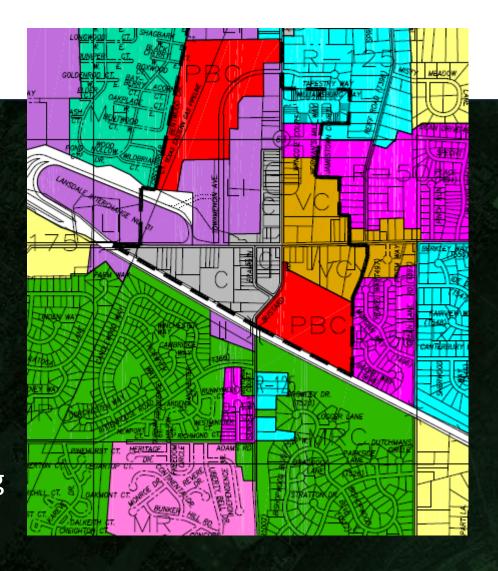


Why Prepare a Comprehensive Plan?

- It's a guide that presents the long-term vision for a community
- Legal/planning basis for changes to Zoning
- Provides a template for future growth and development
- Allows a community be proactive, rather than reactive, to internal changes
- Identifies elements that can shape a community and how these influences can be balanced
- Identifies opportunities for local, regional and statewide partnerships and funding
- Unifies the ideas and commitments of residents, businesses and elected officials as a guide for decision-making
- PA Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) states comprehensive plans shall be reviewed at least every 10 years

What is Zoning?

- Zoning Ordinance
 - Uses of land
 - Each municipality MUST provide for all uses
 - Size, height & bulk of structures
 - Intensity of uses
 - Protection of natural resources
 - Provide for: Flexibility, Economy and Ingenuity
 - Changes to Zoning via:
 - Text amendments
 - New ordinances
 - Special exceptions or variances (Zoning Hearing Board)
 - Conditional uses must meet certain conditions (Board of Supervisors)



What is SALDO?

- Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO)
 - Subdivision Dividing or combining parcels
 - Land Development Improvement of lots, with 2 or more buildings, and the division of land for streets, common areas, etc. / Subdivision of land / Expansion of a commercial or industrial facility by more than 20%
 - Procedures for development process
 - How to submit land development plans
 - Timing of review, approval or denial
 - Provisions for changes (waivers)
 - Design Standards
 - Width of roads / Landscaping / What must have lighting
 - Architectural design standards (conditional use)



- - As permitted by the PA Municipal Planning Code, the Official Map is a combined map and ordinance designed to implement the goals and community vision set forth in the **Comprehensive Plan.**
 - The Official Map shows the locations of planned future public lands and facilities such as transportation, recreational parks and trails, and open space.
 - The Official Map expresses a municipality's interest in acquiring these lands for public purposes at some future time.

PENNSYLVANIA. BUILT TO ADVANCE

Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code

Act of 1968, P.L.805, No.247 as reenacted and amended





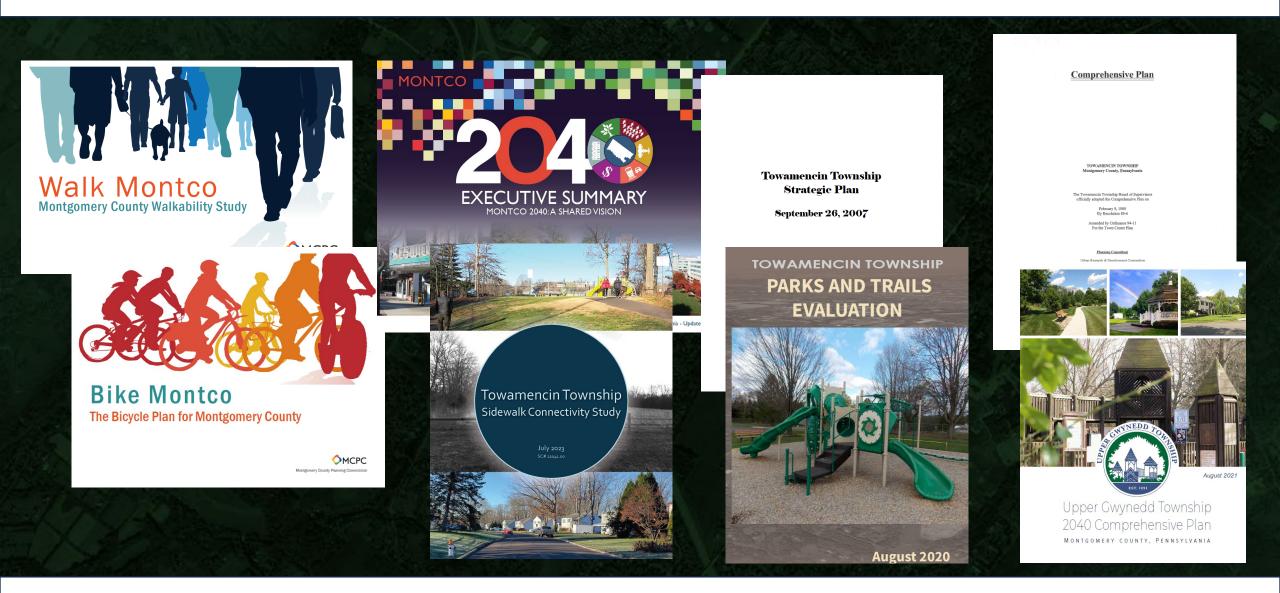


Official Map - Benefits

- Helps to focus limited financial resources on projects that meet and advance community goals.
- Helps to make improvements such as the street network improvements, intersection improvements, protecting natural areas, providing more green space, recreation facilities, trails, and sidewalks.
- Saves time and money by informing property owners and developers of municipal goals and intentions in advance of land development plans.
- Effective negotiation tool for municipalities, helping to ensure development is compatible with and supportive of public goals.
- Gives municipalities advantage in securing grants.



Building on Existing Plans



Project Schedule

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2023	Board of Supervisors Meeting #1 - Plan Goals and Issues	Wednesday, October 25	7PM-9PM	
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	Public Meeting #3 - Final Plan	Thursday, February 27	7PM-9PM	
	Board of Supervisors Meeting #4 - Final Plan Adoption	Wednesday, March 26	7PM-9PM	
	Township Staff Meetings	As needed		
	Key Person Interviews (6)	TBD	TBD	
	Web Based Survey - write and administer	January 2024 - September 2024	Online	

Project Scope

- Data Collection and Review
 - Review existing plans and ordinances
 - Site reconnaissance
- Trends Analysis
 - Demographics and growth trends
 - Housing analysis
 - Land use trends, areas available for development and desired for preservation
- Investigation of areas that could be catalysts for change
 - Towamencin Village core
 - Educational and institutional facilities
 - Large scale institutional and residential communities
 - Shopping centers
 - Sumneytown Pike corridor
 - Wambold Road industrial corridor
 - Public pools and parks
 - Remote "panhandle"
 - Land use effects of Route 309 connector and other transportation improvements

- Reports, Writing, Data Assembly, Mapping, Graphics
 - Status reports
 - Narrative for Comprehensive Plan
 - Presentations for meetings
 - Mapping and graphics
 - Executive summary
 - Draft Plan and 2-month review period
 - Final Plan



Public Participation

- Four (4) Board of Supervisors Meetings
- Six (6) Planning Commission Meetings
- Three (3) Public Meetings
- Four (4) Meetings with Township Committees
- Four (4) Focus Groups
- Staff Meetings
- Six (6) Key Person Interviews
- Online Public Opinion Survey
- Meeting with County Planning Commission

The public opinion survey is a tool to take the pulse of the community. It is not a vote.

Please take the survey and share the information with your family and friends. Remember, this is your plan for your community!



SCAN ME

https://qrco.de/TowamencinCompPlan

 The survey is now live and will be available until August 15, 2024



Towamencin Township Comprehensive Plan Update

This survey will inform the development of the Comprehensive Plan Update for Towamencin Township, in Montgomery County.

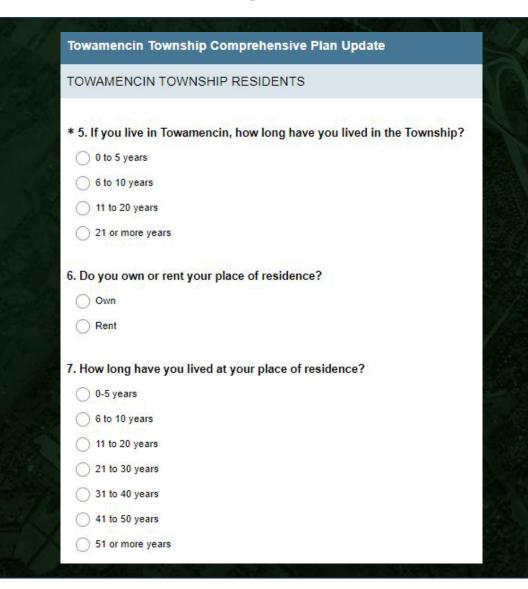
The Comprehensive Plan is a proactive tool used to inform and guide municipal zoning and policy decisions consistent with community-wide values and goals.

Obtaining feedback from the community about the current conditions and future aspirations in the Township is vital to the planning process. We would appreciate you taking the time to complete this survey, and it should take only 15 to 20 minutes of your time.

Your responses will be confidential. Responses will not be identified by name. All responses will be compiled together and analyzed as a group. The survey will be available until August 15, 2024. Results of the survey will be posted on the Towamencin Township website.

This survey is conducted by Towamencin Township and Simone Collins Landscape Architecture, consultants to the Township. If you have any questions, please contact Pankaj Jobanputra at pjobanputra@simonecollins.com.

Next



	you are a resident of Towamencin <mark>T</mark> ownship, which of these influenced your decision to move here? (Please chec nat apply.)
	Schools
	Employment opportunity
	Location
	Environment
	Rural feel/Open space
	Balance of taxes/services
	Friends/Family
	Other (please specify)
1	
* 9.	If you are a resident of Towamencin Township, what are your long-term plans?
0	Live here for the next 5-10 years
0	Live here for 10-20 years
0	Live here for 20+ years
0	Retire in Towamencin Township
0	Retire outside of Township
0	Move after children graduate
0	Move if cost of living becomes burdensome
0	Unsure

	Towamencin Township	Comprehensive Plai	n Update		
	HOUSING				
Towamencin Township Comprehensive Plan Update					
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	13. How important is it that	t the following types of	housing are available in	ı Towamencin Town	<mark>ship?</mark>
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		Very Important	Important	Neutral	Not Important
	Housing that is affordable	0	0	0	0
10. What types of new businesses should Towamencin Township seek to attract? (please check all that apply)	Luxury housing	0	0	0	0
Apparel and fashion stores	Market rate housing	0	0	0	0
Specialty food stores / supermarkets Home furnishing stores	Housing for first-time home buyers	0	0	0	0
Other retail stores	Owner-occupied housing	0	0	0	0
Restaurants & bars	Rental housing / apartments	0	0	0	0
Small businesses and offices	Senior housing	0	0	0	0
Personal service (hairdressers, dry cleaners, etc.)	7207 AL 10 10 10 22 AL				
Medical service (doctors, dentists, urgent care, etc.)	14. Which of the following	specific types of hous	ing would you like to see	in Towamencin Tov	wnship?
Industrial / manufacturing		Like	Dislil	ke	No Opinion
Entertainment (movie theater, bowling, etc.)	Two-family duplexes	0	0	į.	0
I don't want any new businesses	New housing for persons over 55 years of age	0	0)	0
Other (please specify)	Condominiums	0	0)	0
	Townhouses	0	0)	0
	Single-family homes	0	0)	0
	Small apartments	0	0)	0
	Large anadosado				

						Towamencin Township Comprehensive Plan Update
						ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
Towamencin Townsl	hip Comprehensive P	lan Update				32. What do you like the most about Township? ♀ 0
COMMUNITY / SOCIA						33. What do you like the least about Towamencin Township? ♀ 0
18. How adequate do y	you find the following se	ervices in the Towns	ship? Q 0	Not Adequate	No Opinion	
Police	O O	Aucquate	O	O	O	34. What would you like Towamencin Township to do in order to make it a better place to live and improve the quality of life?
Fire	0	0	0	Ö	0	♥ 0
EMS	0	0	0	0	0	
Medical services	0	0	0	0	0	
Road maintenance	0	0	0	0	0	35. If you have any additional comments or ideas, please provide them below. ♀ 0
Snow removal	0	0	0	0	0	
						36. If you would like to receive information on future meetings and updates for this project, please provide your name and email address below. Name Email Address

Key Person Interviews

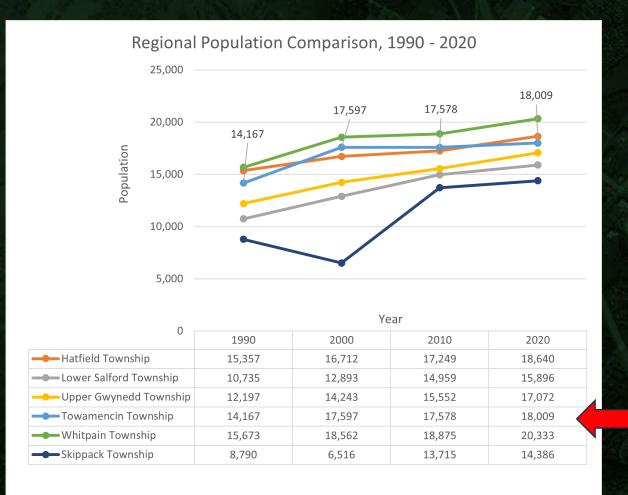
- The SC team will conduct Key Person Interviews over the spring and summer months.
- These interviews are with stakeholders with specific knowledge or concerns about the planning process and conditions in the community.
- Key Person Interviews include will be determined between the project team and the committee, but generally include the Board of Supervisors, Police/Fire/EMS, School District, Local Businesses/Organizations

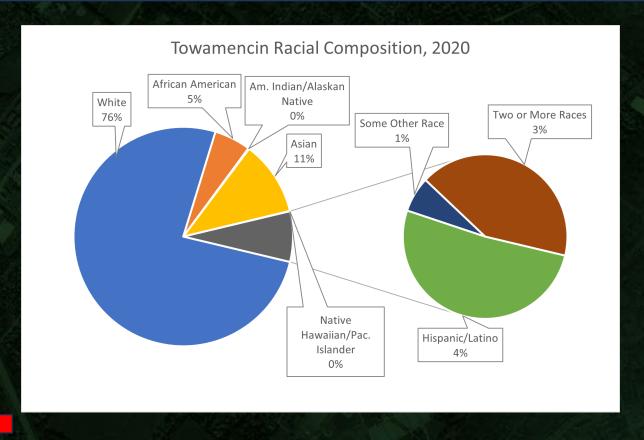
Planning Approach

Anticipate for On-going Changes:

- Retail trends
- Increasing work from home patterns
- Office to residential conversions
- Peak hour traffic pattern changes
- Aging in place accommodations
- Planning for changing demographics
- Climate / flooding effects
- Possible uses on undeveloped / underdeveloped parcels
- Modifications to zoning ordinance related to updated uses, size requirements, pervious/impervious coverage and parking standards

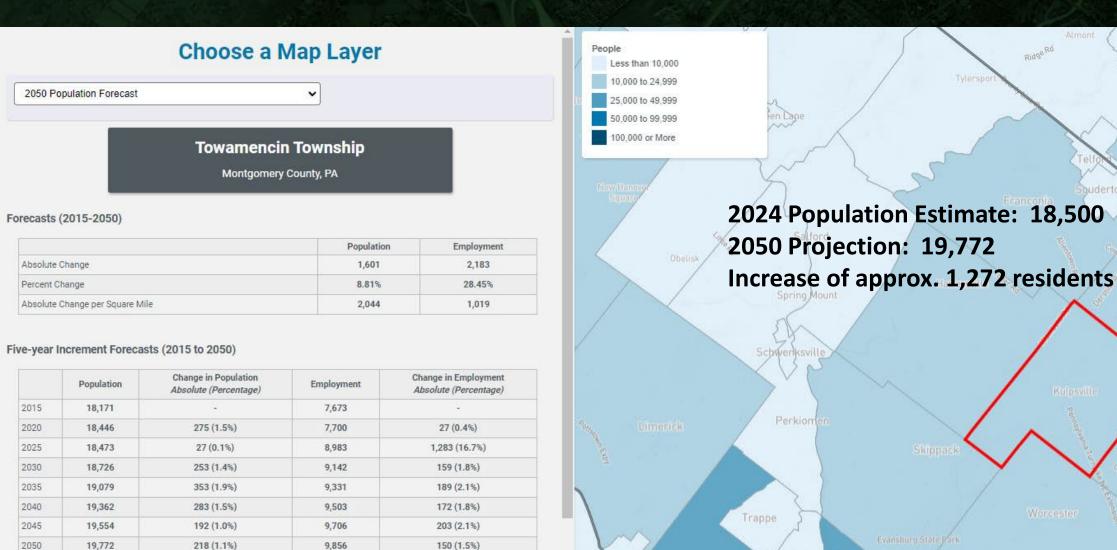


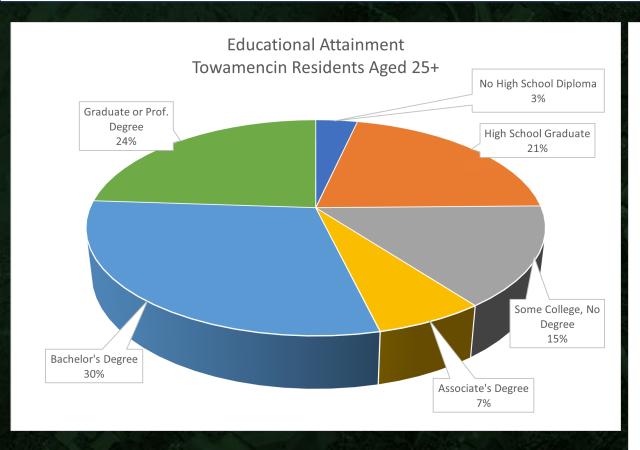




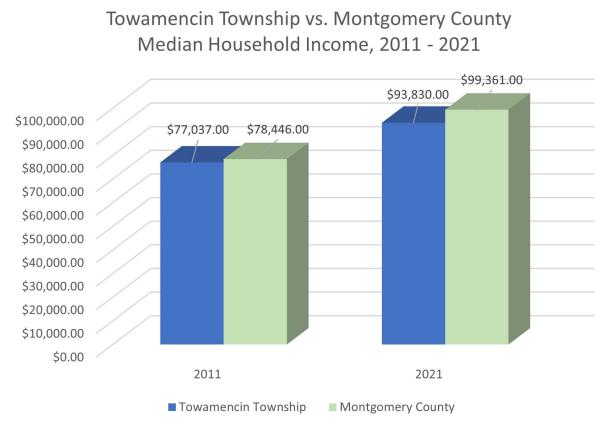
2024 Population Estimate – 18,500

In 2015, DVRPC projected Towamencin Township population to increase by approximately 8.8% by 2050.





Nearly a quarter of Towamencin residents have received a graduate or professional degree, while 36% do not have a college degree.

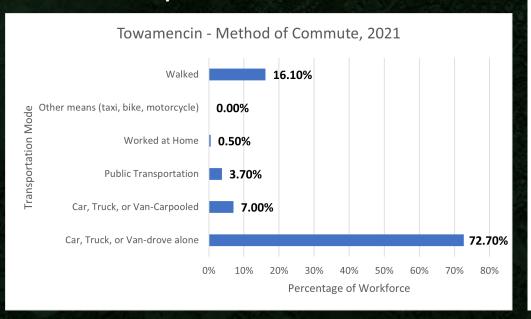


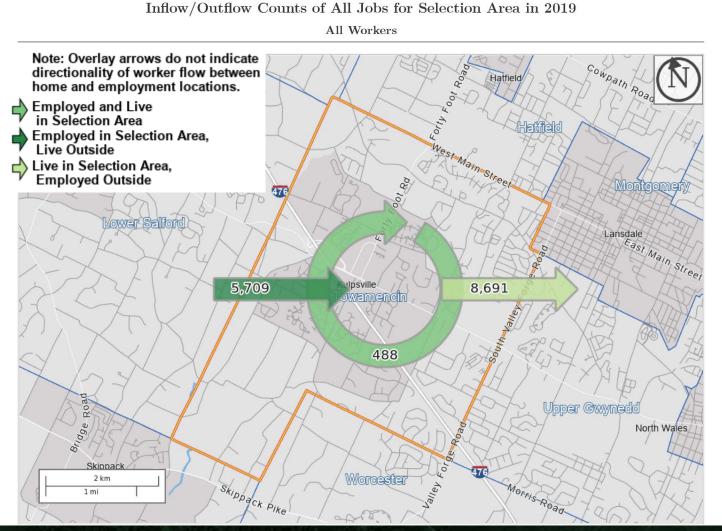
Median household incomes have grown at a similar rate to the County.

While most residents drive alone to work, 16.1% walk to work.

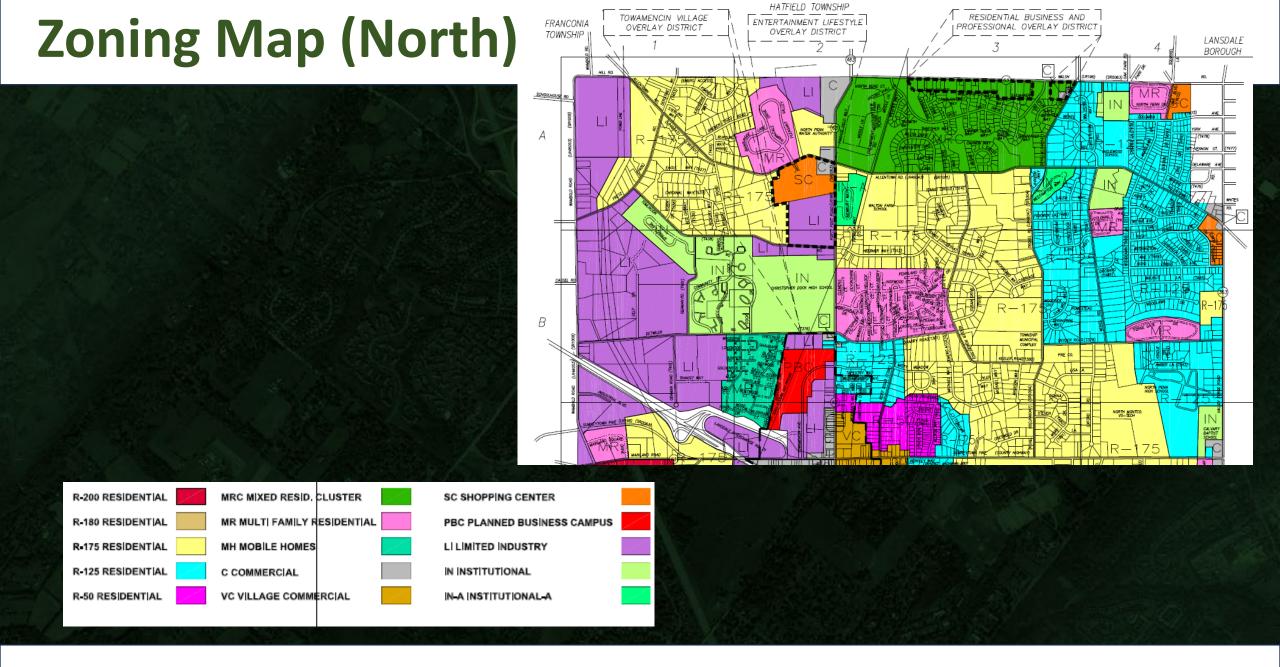
5,709 people commute in to Towamencin, and 488 live and work in the Township.

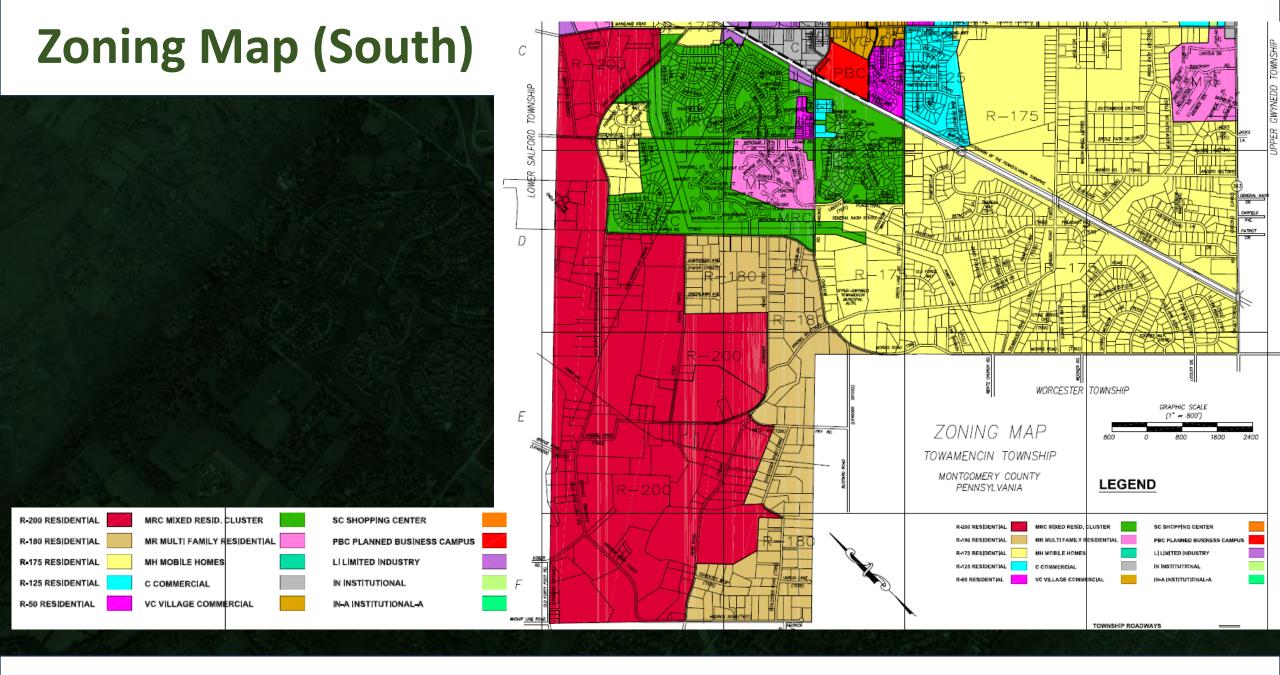
8,691 Towamencin residents work outside the Township.





Township Land Use Towamencin Township Land Use Categories Comprehensive Plan Update - January 18, 2024 - DRAFT Agriculture Recreation Utility Commercial Residential Water Industrial Transportation Wooded Institutional Undeveloped Source: DVRPC UPPER GWYNEDD 0.5





Questions for Consideration

Transportation

- What does the overall Township road system need?
- How will the 309 Connector project affect traffic and circulation around Towamencin Village?
- How can improvements recommended in the Connectivity Study move forward?
- Sumneytown Pike widening?

Housing

- Does the Township seek a variety of residential housing types?
- Is there demand for more age-restricted or age-targeted housing?



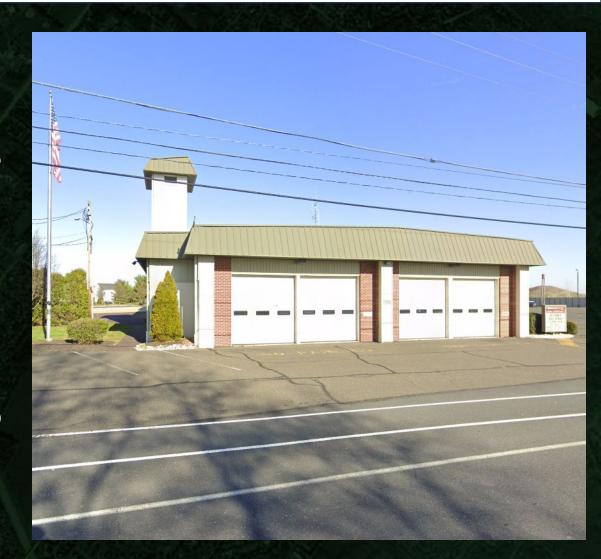
Questions for Consideration

Land Use

- What modifications to current zoning would be appropriate?
- Where are the buildable lots or lots suitable for infill?

Community Facilities

- Do the Police and Fire Departments need facility or equipment upgrades?
- What are the expansion plans for the North Penn School District, understanding that there was a "no" vote on the referendum to expand the high school?
- What are some ways to engage new volunteers for the Fire Company?



Questions for Consideration

Economic Development

- What can improvements to businesses in the commercial areas look like?
- Where are the sites where new businesses can be located?
- What are the future plans for the Village Shopping Center?

Open Space and Recreation

- What improvements should happen in existing parks?
- What parcels can we explore for open space preservation?
- What recreational arrangements are in place with the School District and organized sports groups?



Brainstorming Session



Goals for the project — Initially broad, then specific

Facts - Approx. 18,000 residents, Lansdale interchange of PA Tpk located here

FACTS



Ideas for attaining project goals – Opportunities for improvement

Partners - Groups, Businesses, Institutions to create a partnership with



Brainstorming Session

<u>GOALS</u>	<u>FACTS</u>	CONCEPTS	<u>PARTNERS</u>
MANAGE FUTURE GROWTH	LANSDALE TURNPIKE INTERCHANGE	CREATE A 'TOWN SQUARE'	MONTGOMERY COUNTY
PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	EVANSBURG STATE PARK	BIKE SHARE KIOSKS	NORTH PENN SCHOOL DISTRICT
MAINTAIN QUALITY OF LIFE	REGIONAL HIGHWAY ACCESS	RANGE OF HOUSING OPTIONS	LOCAL BUSINESSES

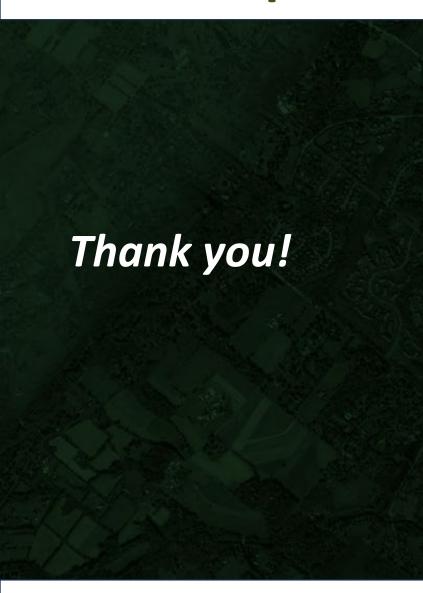
Next Steps

- Begin to schedule key person interviews and focus groups
- Meet with various Township committees
- Continue data gathering and analysis
- Continue project mapping
- Public Meeting #2 September 26, 2024

Your concerns, suggestions and goals for the Comprehensive Plan?



Next Steps



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