

Immediate News Release

Commissioners Adopt Amendments

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Signed, Sealed and Now it is Time to Deliver
Commissioners Adopt *Envision Lancaster County* Amendments

Three amendments to the County's Comprehensive Plan entitled *Envision Lancaster County* were adopted by a unanimous vote of the Board of Commissioners today at their Wednesday morning public meeting.

Commissioners Dick Shellenberger, Molly Henderson and Pete Shaub signed a scroll with a statement in symbolic support of the amendments. "With our signatures, *Envision Lancaster County* is signed, sealed and now it is time to deliver," said Dick Shellenberger," chairman of the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners.

The amendments include: the Growth Management Element Update (**Balance**); the Housing Element Update (**Choices**); and the new Cultural Heritage Element (**Heritage**). **Balance** and **Choices** underwent major updates as part of the amendment process. **Heritage** is a new element of the County's Comprehensive Plan.

The amendments are based upon input from thousands of Lancastrians residents who attended public meetings throughout the county and two years of work by more than 150 members of three community-led task forces. Today's adoption by the Commissioners follows the 45-day public comment period, February 8, 2006 through March 29, 2006.

"*Envision Lancaster County* was developed to enhance and sustain Lancaster County as the most desirable place to live, learn, work and play for the next 25 years and beyond," said Shellenberger. "We applaud the tremendous work of the task forces and the involvement and support of our residents. Their desire to set the stage for enhancing and sustaining quality of life, improving business possibilities, and preserving natural and cultural heritage is reflected in *Envision Lancaster County*."

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Focusing on implementation, Charlie Douts, chairman of the Lancaster County Planning Commission (LCPC), said, “Residents and officials from all 60 municipalities in our county had numerous opportunities to take part in the development of the three amendments and to comment on the drafts. As we move toward implementation, we will need them even more. For that reason, representation from the city of Lancaster, townships and boroughs will be a high priority on the Envision Lancaster County Advisory Committee, which LCPC will establish to lead implementation of ***Envision Lancaster County***.”

“Funding mechanisms in support of all policies and goals in these amendments to ***Envision Lancaster County*** will be a crucial success factor in the months and years ahead,” said Douts. “We look to the County Commissioners to support the funding strategies contained in the plan and its amendments to ensure local and countywide success with implementation.”

The joint purpose of these amendments is to help support balanced growth in the county to the year 2030 and beyond by strengthening and sustaining Lancaster’s urban and rural communities, its diverse economy, its choice of housing types and affordability levels, and its natural and cultural heritage.

Neil Kinsey, chairman of the steering committee for ***Growing Together***, which is the name of the Lancaster Inter-Municipal Committee’s (LIMC) Comprehensive Plan, said, “Our county is very fortunate in that many multi-municipal plans have been developed or are underway, which gives us the opportunity for local collaboration and streamlining as we implement plans for the future.” ***Growing Together*** contains many of the same goals and strategies in ***Envision Lancaster County*** as amended; LIMC was one of 25 organizations that sent letters to LCPC in support of the amendments.

“We support the new rural strategy contained in ***Balance*** that will preserve and protect our farmland and agricultural economy for future generations,” said Gene Garber, chairman of the Agricultural Preserve Board. “The rural strategy is designed to maintain the traditional ties to the land that defines Lancaster County’s rural character. We also support the urban strategy as it will help strengthen communities as attractive places to live, which helps to protect farmland even more.”

“***Balance*** contains an urban growth strategy that will help boroughs and other urbanized areas of the county. These areas need strategies for revitalization, expansion of housing choices and styles, public transit, urban parks and recreation areas, and mixed-use centers, which bring retail, jobs, and services to the community,” said Peter Whipple, Borough Manager for Elizabethtown.

All three amendments are available on the Lancaster County Planning Commission’s website at www.co.lancaster.pa.us/planning by linking to “Comprehensive Plan Amendments” under the “In the Spotlight” on the right side of the page.

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