

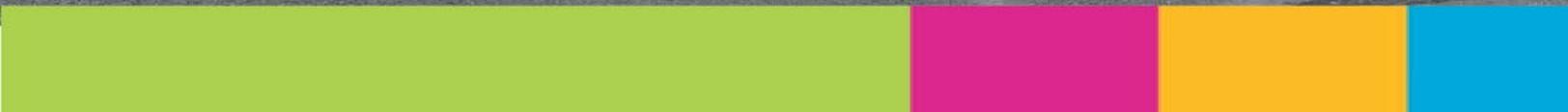
Executive Summary

July 11, 2022

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CHAMBERSBURG VISION 2035 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



Chambersburg Vision 2035 Comprehensive Plan

The Chambersburg Vision 2035 Comprehensive Plan serves as the official policy guide for short-term and long-term decision making relative to priority investments in the Borough of Chambersburg over the next 10+ years. At its core purpose, a comprehensive plan is intended to answer the question, “What is the Borough’s plan and vision moving forward for the next decade?”. Through the planning process, comprehensive plans allow elected officials, staff, and residents to take a step back and look at the big picture to form a strategic and targeted plan for local initiatives and investments.

The plan was developed over the course of 2021 with extensive public outreach and engagement, facilitated in a hybrid virtual and in-person format. Based on public input, a vision statement and five prominent areas of focus, or “issues,” were identified as community priorities for 2035. The issues are stated as goals with recommendations for each and are not listed in any priority order.

VISION 2035

Chambersburg is a thriving, cohesive community we are proud to call home. Our town has a high quality of life, a vibrant downtown, safe and healthy neighborhoods, excellent municipal services, many employment opportunities, and plentiful natural and cultural resources that extend throughout Franklin County. Our Borough works to collaborate with public and private partners to strengthen our quality of life as it continues to make both urban and social investments.



CORE VALUES

Chambersburg is committed to foster three Core Values - Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion (DEI); Communication; Partnerships - through implementation of the comprehensive plan. The Core Values are consistent, overarching themes identified throughout the planning process that serve as the foundation for the Vision and Goals and will guide the plan's implementation. Each of the plan's goals and associated recommendations will be measured in part on how the Core Values are addressed.

COMMUNICATION



Chambersburg is committed to develop new and enhance existing ways to communicate with all residents, businesses, and visitors to promote Borough services, volunteer opportunities, and community events. Strong communication between the Borough, citizens, and businesses ensures those willing and wanting to participate in all the Borough has to offer can do so. Using both traditional print media and enhanced online tools in multiple language formats, the Borough can effectively communicate opportunities to all.

DIVERSITY, EQUALITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI)



Chambersburg is committed to prioritizing DEI programs and policies to ensure the Borough not only celebrates its diversity, but also provides equal and inclusive access in its decision-making. *Diversity* recognizes the differences between the Borough's citizens. *Equality* ensures that programs, policies, and actions are fair and impartial for every citizen. *Inclusion* makes certain that citizens feel a sense of belonging.

PARTNERSHIPS



The success of Vision 2035 will be achieved through the vast network of important public and non-profit agencies offering services to Borough residents. The Borough is committed to engaging and partnering with its network of agencies throughout Plan implementation. As the programs and services the Borough administers are limited by fiscal and legal constraints, existing and new partnerships are needed to implement the comprehensive plan's goals and recommendations.

GOALS

REINVESTMENT



Through public-private partnerships, the Borough of Chambersburg will support reinvestment in underutilized properties and public streetscapes to support the Borough's vibrancy.

HOUSING



The Borough will work collaboratively with property owners to encourage and incentivize reinvestment in its residential housing stock, adopt land use policies to allow for new housing to meet population growth, and support opportunities for homeownership.

SENSE OF PLACE



The Borough will position itself as a destination for residents and visitors.

BOROUGH SERVICES



The Borough will continue to invest in providing high quality municipal services.

TRANSPORTATION



Chambersburg will improve bicycle and pedestrian connections, invest in roadway improvements to improve safety and traffic flow, and explore restoring public transportation in the Borough.

Reinvestment

Goal Statement: Through public-private partnerships, the Borough of Chambersburg will support reinvestment in underutilized properties and public streetscapes to support the Borough's vibrancy.

Goal Recommendations:

- Increase Economic Opportunity: Retain existing and grow new Chambersburg businesses
- Reinvestment Locations: Identify and prioritize Chambersburg reinvestment locations
- Use public space investment to spur private investment
- Incentivize redevelopment along the Grant Street corridor
- Continue to pursue the redevelopment of the Southgate Shopping Center as a vibrant, mixed-use neighborhood

Housing

Goal Statement: The Borough will work collaboratively with property owners to encourage and incentivize reinvestment in its residential housing stock, adopt land use policies to allow for new housing to meet population growth, and support opportunities for homeownership.

Goal Recommendations:

- Promote first-time homeowner technical and financial assistance programs.
- Enhance the Borough's code enforcement to maintain the health, safety, sanitation, and quality of all neighborhoods
- Preserve existing housing by offering a rehabilitation program
- Incentivize new housing through zoning code updates

Sense of Place

Goal Statement: The Borough will position itself as a destination for residents and visitors.

Goal Recommendations:

- Enhance pedestrian spaces and places in Downtown
- Prioritize pedestrian and bicycle connections to and around Downtown
- Promote connections with side and rear frontages onto pedestrian spaces
- Enhance and expand waterside connections along the Conococheague Creek and Falling Spring Branch
- Consider Zoning Code amendments to prohibit incompatible uses in the Downtown area

Borough Services

Goal Statement: The Borough will continue to invest in providing high quality municipal services.

Goal Recommendations:

- Enhance the Borough's communication outlets
- Increase staff capacity under the Department of Community Planning
- Establish a new internal referral routing process and related training for Borough employees to ensure resident questions are addressed
- Achieve Platinum Level Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification



Transportation

Goal Statement: The Borough will coordinate with local stakeholders and prioritize investment for expanding transportation options to Chambersburg residents and ensure that infrastructure is safe and efficient.

Goal Recommendations:

- Work with the newly-formed Susquehanna Regional Transportation Authority (SRTA) to investigate the feasibility of instituting fixed-route service to connect area workers with employment destinations
- Support the evaluation of US 11 and US 30 for potential inclusion into the U.S. Bicycle Route System (USBRS)
- Address the Borough’s parking conditions
- Address the Borough’s aging bridge inventory
- Coordinate with the Franklin County MPO and PennDOT in implementing the recommendations of the I-81 Improvement Strategy
- Protect the Viability of the Franklin County Regional Airport
- Update Planning Tools to Preserve Future Mobility and Community Character
- Consider transportation improvements for autonomous vehicles, drones, and unmanned aerial vehicle deliveries

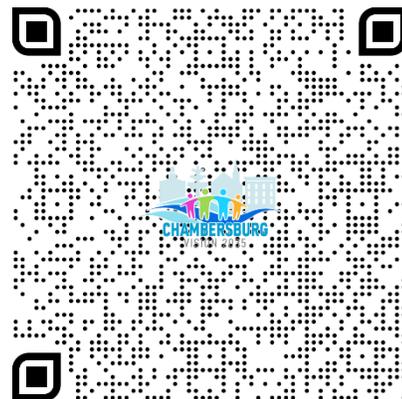
Implementation Action Plan

To support the implementation of the comprehensive plan goals, the Implementation Action Plan provides a complete list of implementation strategies and corresponding action items. These strategies outline a tactical approach for advancing Chambersburg’s 2035 vision by specifying tangible action steps that can be taken to ensure progress over the next 10 years. In addition to implementation strategies, this chapter also identifies key partners that the Borough may collaborate with to support implementation, as well as timeframe, estimated cost, and potential funding opportunities.

Contact:

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