INTRODUCTION –
CAMBRIA COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:
TOWARD A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE – 2030

This document represents the culmination of planning efforts spearheaded by the Cambria County Planning Commission. The Cambria County Comprehensive Plan: Toward a Sustainable Future – 2030 builds on the existing County Comprehensive Plan and the Cambia County Master Plan, completed and on-going sub-County municipal and regional plans and on-going transportation planning by Cambria County Planning Commission, just to name a few. The planning approach reflects the Keystone Principles and Criteria for Growth, Investment and Resource Conservation and the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) which provides a philosophical underpinning for planning and the Plan Update. The plan reflects to the concept of Sustainable Future Development, which essentially is a balanced approach that adapts human activities to the constraints and opportunities of the natural and social systems necessary to support development and everyday life. This involved arranging information and recommendations by the sustainability triad – environment, economy and community. This was a joint effort between the Cambria County Planning Commission Staff and The EADS Group, which comprises the planning team.

Planning activities began in early July 2010 and continued through the Public Hearing in late 2011, and comprised the following:

- The use of secondary data from various sources including but not limited to the US Census, the Cambria County Planning Commission, Cambia County Master Plan, Cambria County Comprehensive Plan (2004), Central Cambria Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan (2008), the Forest Hills Regional Alliance Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan (2010), information from State and Federal agencies and other sources;

- Local engagement with ten (10) key person interviews, nine community workshops and a community survey where input from planning and developmental officials as well as the general public was received; and

- Extensive field investigations, especially in the aggregation of information on housing conditions.

The Plan consists of two documents, the Background Conditions and the Goals, Objectives, Recommendations and Strategies. The technique employed by the Consultant included the development of the plan in a progression (i.e. background information; issues, opportunities, goals and objectives; and recommendations) generating drafts that were reviewed and refined by the Cambria County Planning Commission on a regular basis. This Plan, including narratives, tables and graphics, was funded in part by a grant from the Land Use Planning and Technical Assistance Program (LUPTAP) sponsored by the
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and a grant under PennDOT’s Unified Planning Work Program via the Cambria County Planning Commission.

Many of the recommendations were non-structural in nature, while others are structural, reflecting consensus over the need to encourage economic development and revitalization by better promoting existing assets, focusing on defined “growth areas” and capitalizing on the surrounding natural environment and heritage assets that are abundant in the County. The interface of the planning recommendations balancing the natural environment with new developmental opportunities reflects the priorities of local residents and officials alike.