



Cambria County Comprehensive Plan/Alleghenies Ahead Two-Year Implementation Update

The Plan was adopted unanimously by the Cambria County Commissioners in July 2018. Since that time, County employees and local stakeholders have accomplished many of the action items set forth in the plan. Below is a listing of each plan priority with an update of each individual action item.

Broadband & Cell Service

- **Establish a regional broadband task force:**
 - The task force was established in 2019 through SAP&DC as a facilitator. Cambria County, along with Blair, Bedford, Huntingdon, Fulton and Somerset County also joined the task force.
- **Infrastructure Inventory, Customer Survey, and Identification of Anchor Customers:**
 - Study complete.
- **Hire a telecommunications project manager at SAPDC:**
 - Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission now has an existing employee assigned half time to broadband and cell service work.

Business & Workforce Development

- **Coordinated branding & marketing initiative:**
 - Initiative started by Cambria County Convention and Visitors Bureau in 2019. Initiative currently on hold due to COVID.
- **Streamline regulatory process:**
 - Meetings held with Cambria Co. Commissioners to discuss countywide land development ordinance that would uniform & streamline development process in municipalities without a land development ordinance.
- **Identify workforce development opportunities:**
 - 55 total job placements facilitated by JARI for both displaced workers & graduates of the DCED-funded Welding Program.
 - 36 training workshops hosted and 1,064 participants trained.

Recreational Assets & Natural Amenities

- **Promote recreational assets to local users:**
 - Johnstown Connectivity Study completed to advance connections and expansions of recreational amenities throughout City of Johnstown.
 - Recreation Economy Committee (REC) established under Cambria Regional Chamber to promote recreation to the business community, and expose business community to the region's recreational offerings.
- **Targeted expansion of recreational opportunities in N. Cambria Co.:**
 - Completion of Duman Lake Trail that connects to the C&I and Ghost Town Trails.
 - Final trail corridor identified for Carrolltown to Patton Trail- grant funds being sought for project engineering.



Housing & Blight

- **Stepped up demolition pace (80-100 properties per year):**
 - City of Johnstown issued 194 demolition permits in 2019-20, with additional demolitions have taken place throughout Cambria County using Act 152 funds.
- **Develop a Financial Model to Incentivize Market-Rate Apartments, Townhouses and ADA Accessible Single-Family Homes:**
 - *Elevate Johnstown* study developed for the construction of market-rate apartments in downtown Johnstown. Funding commitments in place to move forward with pilot project in 2021.

Transportation

- **Recreation-Based transportation projects:**
 - Several trail projects completed and underway through the Cambria County Conservation and Rec Authority. Jim Mayer expansion, C&I expansion, GTT expansion.
- **Enhanced and Expanded Transit Connectivity:**
 - CamTran is nearing completion of a service development plan. Upon completion, CamTran will implement service updates/upgrades.

Collaboration & Coordination

- **Legal and financial guidance for collaboration:**
 - The Cambria County Planning Commission facilitated a shared services study around public works to find ways for participating municipalities to work more efficiently and save residents money. Participating municipalities are Westmont, Brownstown, Upper Yoder and Lower Yoder Townships.
 - Kick-off meeting scheduled for February 2021.