



Borough of Coopersburg Comprehensive Planning Committee

Coopersburg Streetscape Plan:

The following are answers to questions directed to the Comprehensive Planning Committee by Borough Council members during the regularly scheduled Borough Council meeting held on June 2, 2015.

- **Question #1:** How valid is the assumption that \$110,000 of additional revenue per year from 44 new homes over the next 5 years will be available in order to support Coopersburg's Capital share of the Streetscape Plan?

Answer: Ken Mohr and Tim Paashaus responded that \$110,000 is a very realistic, if not conservative, projection. The number of expected taxable dwellings being planned for the Pinebrook, Oxford and Cooper Farms development projects already exceeds 30 new homes. This projection does not include commercial and retail development and redevelopment that is expected to significantly contribute to additional revenue for the Borough. The Streetscape Plan (pp. 17-18) illustrates the costs, cost sharing, and local revenue needed to implement the plan.

- **Question #2:** Can the Borough of Coopersburg already support part of Streetscape Plan now, by setting aside money in the budget?

Answer: The Borough may be asked to provide some initial funding to perform engineering studies, plans, etc. The lion's share of the capital cost would require significant state and local funding. This is outlined on pp. 17-18 in the Streetscape Plan. This would be in keeping with capital investment in municipal infrastructure re-development.

- **Question #3:** What assumptions were made regarding the terms of the loan used to cover the Borough's share of capital costs?

Answer: The Streetscape Plan shows a 20 year loan at 3.5% (page 17). This would be subject to changes in future market conditions and actual capital needs at the time the loan is negotiated.

- **Question #4:** Would the state really provide 50% of the funds needed to implement the Streetscape Plan?

Answer: Nothing is certain, however the streets involved in the Streetscape Plan are primarily state roads, and the Commonwealth has provided similar grants and transportation funding to other municipalities in the past. Senator Pat Browne has agreed to include a request for a \$2 million grant (50% of the expected cost) through the Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) in upcoming legislation. If approved, the RACP Grant request would then be subject to actual capital cost allocation and bond approval by the Governor and Legislature.

- **Question #5:** What are the NEXT STEPS?

Answer: Jack Felch indicated that this plan is only the “vision”. The Comprehensive Planning Committee intends to take a measured approach to ensure that all relevant issues are considered. The “NEXT STEPS” (outlined on page 19 of the Streetscape Plan) are as follows:

July 21, 2015 - Coopersburg Borough Council decides on its support of the Streetscape Plan

August 2015- July 2020 – Comprehensive Planning Committee evaluates each element of the Streetscape Plan for feasibility, capital cost, long term operational cost, available funding sources, design details, impact on the community, and forwards analysis and recommendations to the Borough Council and Borough residents.

August 2015-July 2020 – Coopersburg Borough Council reviews and solicits public input for consideration and action for each component part.

- **Question #6:** Is it realistic to remove or reduce the number of utility poles and overhead lines on Main Street as outlined in the Streetscape Plan?

Answer: While this is often cited as important for aesthetic and safety reasons, the Comprehensive Planning Committee's research has found that the cost for this work is significant, partly because of the complicated construction logistics involved. The Comprehensive Planning Committee intends to keep this component as an integral part of the Streetscape Plan, but we realize that it may be a difficult objective to achieve.

- **Question #7:** Does the Streetscape Plan provide safe crosswalks, reduce speeding, provide clear and adequate parking, and enhance the aesthetics of Main Street without increasing taxes?

Answer: Yes. The Comprehensive Planning Committee's collective objective is and has been to develop a plan that provides all these things without raising or implementing new taxes.

- **Question #8:** Has the Borough applied to be included in the PennDOT 12-Year Plan for transportation funding?

Answer: Not yet. The application process to be included in the PennDOT 12-Year Plan is part of the first phase of the Streetscape Plan. This process will begin immediately after Borough Council decides on its support of the Streetscape Plan.

Coopersburg Borough Comprehensive Planning Committee

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Jack Felch
Dave Horn

Colby Kent
Mark McCormick
Ken Mohr

Tim Paashaus
Duane Wetzel
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