

Regional Relationships

Concord Township Comprehensive Plan Update

CONCORD TOWNSHIP COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

REGIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Overview

This chapter discusses the relationships of the policies set forth in this Comprehensive Plan to those of Delaware County, neighboring municipalities, and the region. The discussion relates to Section 301.(a)(5) of the Municipalities Planning Code which states that the Comprehensive shall include:

“A statement indicating the relationship of the existing and proposed development of the municipality to the existing and proposed development and plans in contiguous municipalities, to the objectives and plans for development in the county of which it is a part, and to regional trends.”

Relationship to Delaware County, Neighboring Municipalities and the Region

Over the past 20 years, Concord Township has coordinated many of its planning activities related to roads, utilities, agricultural security areas, and land use with neighboring municipalities and County and regional agencies. The Township supports continued regional communication and cooperation on future planning initiatives in order to produce positive impacts for Concord Township, neighboring municipalities, Delaware County, and the region as a whole.

Land Use

This Plan seeks to minimize the Township's sprawling pattern of development through a smart growth initiative. In doing so, it promotes the preservation of natural resources such as streams, wetlands, riparian buffers, and open space corridors that extend beyond the Township's borders and that are essential to the ecological health of the entire region. Effective growth management and land use also entails the preservation of the farmland and historic resources that are so important to this region's cultural heritage. Recommendations to develop a Village Center in the Concordville area and to permit mixed-use development in the commercial districts are not only viewed as growth management tools, but are also intended to support the economic development of the Township and the region. Indeed, a stable local economy contributes to a stable and competitive regional economy.

Circulation

Concord Township receives a large volume of both local and regional vehicular traffic. The Proposed Physical Improvements will provide greater safety and efficient travel for the benefit all persons that utilize the Township's roadways. Enhanced traffic flow within the Township will also prevent traffic congestion from backing-up into neighboring municipalities. This is the case especially with those municipalities that border Concord Township along Route 202.

Recommendations to provide more public transportation, pedestrian accessways, and bikeways would also benefit residents of neighboring townships and the region by offering transportation alternatives and reducing the number of vehicles on the roadways.

Community Facilities

The Township's institutional and recreational resources are not solely utilized by Concord residents, but rather experience use by residents of other municipalities as well. For example, the Rachel Kohl Community Library has an extensive membership base that includes residents of surrounding townships. The Concordville Fire & Protective Association provides assistance to adjoining municipalities in fire protection and ambulance services. Clayton Park provides recreational use for much of western Delaware County. The Kid's Dream Playground provides a source of recreation for children from Concord and surrounding municipalities. The Newlin Foundation and Grist Mill Park also provide recreational and educational activities for County and regional residents. Recommendations to maintain these facilities and to expand the Township's open space and recreational resources will benefit Concord Township, the County, and the region.