

Shenango Valley Multi-municipal Comprehensive Plans

Public Meeting No. 1

April 26, 2006

Tabulation of comments (consolidated and prioritized)

Comments	Total Points
Economic stability for the region requires obtaining a variety of new businesses, including some of the past industries; attract better paying jobs including sectors like the medical field (elderly population) or hi-tech; what is “plan B” if we do not bring back the large employers of years ago?	14
Encourage redevelopment of existing brownfield sites as opposed to greenfield (agricultural) sites	12
PSU Shenango campus - promote the development of a full 4-year degree curriculum with residence halls, cultural entertainment, shopping opportunities for students, a thriving campus might save Sharon; other secondary education facilities are an asset too, like BCCC	10
More public transportation, especially in the outer areas- reconfigure service system - longer hours; it was reported that transit authority is studying issues of hours, locations of need	10
Shenango River - provide better access/greater use - “wild spot” in the region that is special	8
Community image needs work, the region is a great place to live - must find marketing niche, we don’t have beaches or mountains to sell	6
Adult education is important - can take place at libraries- help to better live (for example - computer education for seniors); support for libraries is important – programs for the public	6
There is a need for a supermarket near senior housing in Sharon	5
“Dress for success” concept for the valley is needed – community pride, clean-up the area	5
Signage and attractive portals are needed into Shenango Valley from Rt. 80, routes 60/18, from Ohio border 62/82 into Sharon - people don’t know what they are passing by	4
Another newspaper is needed	4
Deteriorating housing stock needs to be repaired and rehabilitated in all the communities of this study	4
Aging infrastructure needs replaced	4

Housing for seniors/disabled needs to be larger than 1 bedroom	3
There should be a valley-wide economic plan - sharing of results, eliminate competition between individual communities	3
Farrell- abandon Act 47 designation and develop a community plan for economic development	3
Government reactive, not proactive - wait until properties are too far gone to save, strip development – everything so spread out - public transit difficult	3
Close proximity to Pittsburgh/Cleveland is an asset	2
Restaurant in mall is needed	2
Need more park and recreation sites- attractive parks draw employers- Farrell is very deficient in providing parks?	2
Directory for services for seniors is needed	2
Industrial parks in Columbus are attractively done - we need the same high level of quality development here	2
Absentee landlords a problem in Sharon	2
Concern with encouraging businesses to move here by providing business tax cuts for 10 years, then after ten years, the business moves out	2
More, better bike/hike facilities are needed	2
Attitude - one community is better than another – we should be thinking as a region and put less focus on the individual community	1
Great at “surviving”- not sure we can “thrive” – we need to be continually learning, risk tolerant, open processes	1
We need a Community College system run by the County	1
We need to keep people here	1
Rich history- preserve and promote	1
Have lots of low cost housing – an asset - encourage people to move here - market to “new Americans”	1

Pymatuning Lake is a recreational asset	1
With decreasing student population – we can no longer afford 5 school districts	1
More government information online would be helpful - like MCRPC	1
There are old industrial sites that may be causing long term health problems in the community – we cannot ignore these problems	1
Buhl Park - asset, helps bring whole valley together	0
“Small scale” of our valley is an asset - not urban; people know each other – small town character	0
Entertainment for teens- activities and gathering places are needed	0
Better stormwater management needed – heavy rain results in rivers down streets	0
Traditional feeling of safety in our towns is declining as businesses leave and communities become poorer	0
Fixing up buildings for seniors is important – locate in high traffic areas	0
Celebrate ethnic diversity of valley	0
Mix of suburbs and nearby rural areas is an asset	0