



www.dvrpc.org/Connections2045/MIT

HOW CAN WE...

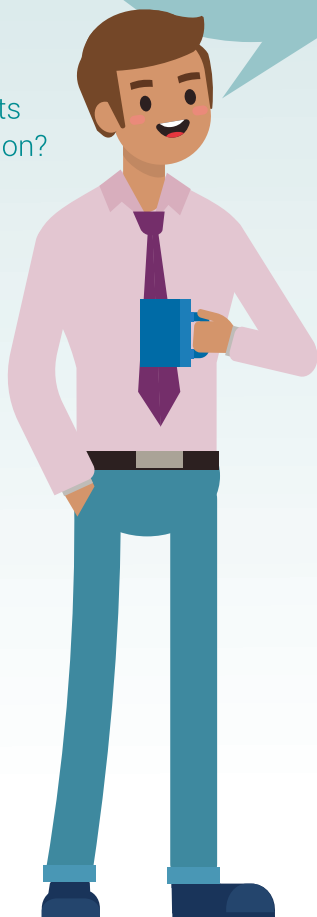
Prevent flooding in our town?

Maintain the character of our historic buildings?

Encourage entrepreneurs and start-up opportunities?

Protect our long-time residents from the effects of gentrification?

Improve community health?





In southern New Jersey and southeastern Pennsylvania, municipalities are responsible for many of the day-to-day services and forward-thinking planning that residents rely on. **Among municipalities' responsibilities are developing livable communities, supporting economic growth, providing multiple modes of transportation, addressing climate change, and protecting the region's natural resources.**

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) is responsible for long-range planning at the regional scale, and provides different forms of technical assistance to help local governments tackle challenges today to improve or retain the region's competitive advantages for tomorrow.

We invite you to visit the "toolbox" of various measures municipalities can take to better prepare for next year, as well as for the years to come.

Topics included in the online Toolbox range from economic development to road safety, and many things in between. **Here are samples of what municipalities around the nine-county region are doing, organized by DVRPC's five Long-Range Plan principles.**



ENVIRONMENT

Stormwater Fee

West Chester Borough, Chester County, PA

Many municipalities are responsible for managing, collecting, or treating stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces—but may have a difficult time funding increased responsibilities and services. **In 2017, West Chester Borough implemented a *Stream Protection Fee Program* as a way of raising sustainable revenue for the borough's services and mitigation activities.**

A fee is charged to all property owners, including nonprofits and government agencies, in a tiered amount that is directly proportional to the total impervious surface area of the parcel. The dedicated revenue can only be used to fund activities that directly support requirements mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and/or the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for stormwater-related expenses, such as repairs to existing stormwater drainage infrastructure, creek/channel maintenance and restoration, and major stormwater capital expenditures like rain gardens and tree plantings. The borough named the fee and program based on anticipated improvements (protecting or improving surface water) rather than the problem (stormwater) in a conscientious effort to educate property owners and the general public.



Rain gardens and tree plantings in West Chester.

Source: Malcolm Johnstone



LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

Historic Districts and Overlay Zones

Bordentown City, Burlington County, NJ

Even though it is a prestigious designation, a building that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places is not protected from being renovated or demolished. It is important for local governments to protect historic resources through zoning ordinances.

Bordentown City sits along the Delaware River, approximately six miles southeast of Trenton. It contains a mix of architectural styles, including Federal, Victorian, Arts & Craft Bungalows, and American Foursquares. **In the 1980s, Bordentown City created its local historic district in conjunction with a Main Street program for the purpose of protecting the buildings and revitalizing the streetscape;** it later adopted an Historic District Ordinance in 2010. Bordentown City used a model ordinance that was developed by the State of New Jersey to create its historic district, and adopted the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historical Properties.



*Christ Episcopal Church
and First Baptist Church
on Prince St.*

Source: Rick Arter



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development Task Force

Cheltenham Township, Montgomery County, PA

A local economic development task force can strategically plan for the municipality, gather local information, and promote the local economy, among other activities. Often comprising business, community, and governmental stakeholders, a task force investigates the current economic climate, sets goals, and makes recommendations. **Cheltenham Township first established its Economic Development Task Force in 1977.** The Task Force—made up of 15 voting members from various business and administrative backgrounds—developed several business retention and recruitment plans for each of its five commercial districts. **An example of a marketing effort is a restaurant week that first launched in 2018: “Eat. Drink. Cheltenham.”**



Downtown Glenside commercial district in Cheltenham Township, served by the Economic Development Task Force.

*Source:
Cheltenham
Township*



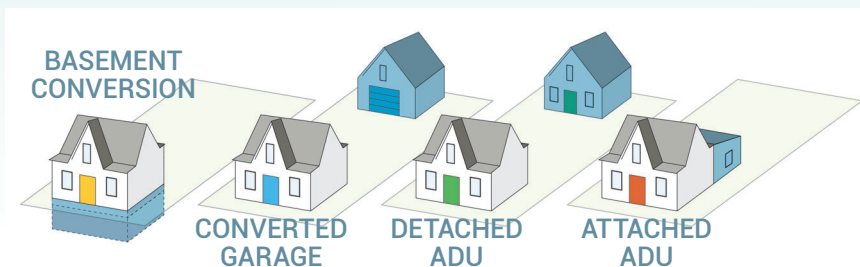
EQUITY

Accessory Dwelling Units

Plumstead Township, Bucks County, PA

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) are small secondary units usually located on single-family lots, either as separate, unattached structures, or as apartments within the envelope of a property's primary structure. Because of their size and placement on existing lots, **they provide affordable homes for fixed-income households, such as seniors, that are close to family, friends, or other potential caregivers.**

Plumstead Township last updated its ordinance for ADUs in 2017 to allow for related family members, caretakers, farm workers, or other on-site employees to reside on the premises of a single-family detached dwelling. At the same time, it prohibits for-profit apartments in single-family residential districts.



Source: Adapted from City of Boise, ID

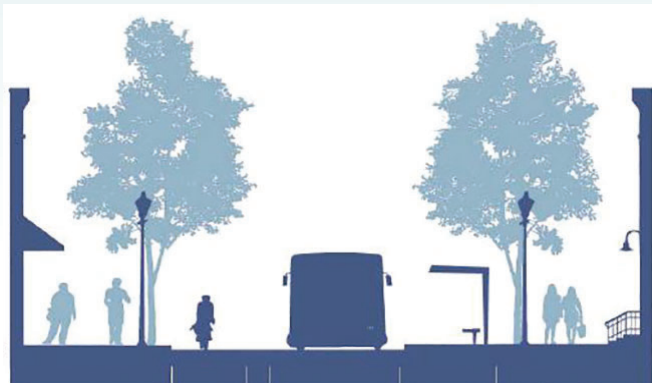


TRANSPORTATION

Complete Streets Policy

Hopewell Township, Mercer County, NJ

Complete Streets is a transportation policy that promotes design standards that provide safe access for all users of the transportation network. The policy can be implemented by strategically and opportunistically building and maintaining a comprehensive, integrated, connected, multimodal transportation network. "Complete" refers to all the different transportation modes—pedestrians, bicyclists, public transit, and motorized vehicles—accommodated in the public right-of-way. Mercer County has a county-wide policy, and every municipality in Mercer County has a Complete Streets policy. In 2014, Hopewell became the 103rd municipality in the state of New Jersey to adopt a Complete Streets policy, and the first municipality to do so via a Complete Streets ordinance. The ordinance provides that "all public street projects in the Township of Hopewell, both new construction and reconstruction, excluding maintenance, shall be planned, designed and constructed as Complete Streets," and "shall accommodate users of all ages and abilities." This, and other efforts by the township, earned Hopewell bronze certification from Sustainable Jersey in 2017.



*Source: Adapted
from City of
Philadelphia*

The *Connections 2045* Long-Range Plan outlines a vision for the region's future based on data analysis, forecasted population growth, projected transportation funds, and feedback from public engagement. But implementation of the plan—and much of our collective future—is based on how the region's 352 municipalities use their home-rule authority to influence land use, provide public services, protect natural and historic resources, and, ultimately, create the places we call home.

DVRPC's Municipal Implementation Toolbox highlights more than 60 tools municipalities can use to shape their individual jurisdictions, while helping the region maintain, improve, or create important amenities; natural systems; a multimodal transportation system; and a dynamic regional economy, while improving equity for its residents.

Visit www.dvrpc.org/Connections2045/MIT to learn more about what tools are available to you, and see who's already using them in and around our region, along with sample ordinances and other resources.

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for a diverse nine-county region in two states: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia in Pennsylvania; and Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Mercer in New Jersey.

DVRPC's vision for the Greater Philadelphia Region is a prosperous, innovative, equitable, resilient, and sustainable region that increases mobility choices by investing in a safe and modern transportation system; that protects and preserves our natural resources while creating healthy communities; and that fosters greater opportunities for all.

DVRPC's mission is to achieve this vision by convening the widest array of partners to inform and facilitate data-driven decision-making. We are engaged across the region, and strive to be leaders and innovators, exploring new ideas and creating best practices.

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related nondiscrimination mandates in all activities. For more information about DVRPC's Title VI Program or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, visit www.dvrpc.org/GetInvolved/TitleVI, call (215) 592-1800, or email public_affairs@dvrpc.org.

The authors are solely responsible for the findings and conclusions herein, which may not represent the official views or policies of the funding agencies.

For more information about the Municipal Implementation Toolbox contact: Jaclyn Davis | jdavis@dvrpc.org | 215.238.2818



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