



The New Jersey State Planning Commission & The New Jersey Office of State Planning

State Planning NOTES

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Jay G. Cranmer, *Chairman*

Herbert Simmens, *Executive Director*

Governor advances State Plan Implementation

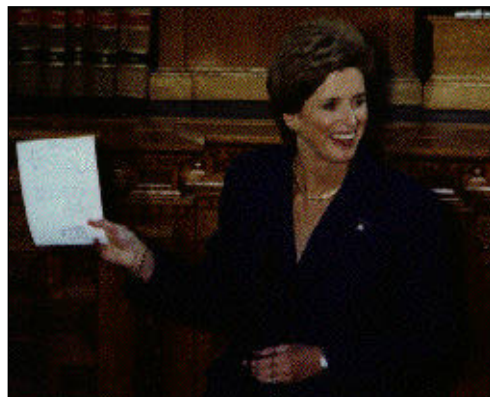
With two major actions, Governor Whitman has underscored her strong support of the State Development and Redevelopment Plan. One involves state agency use of the Plan. The other provides funding to counties to continue the State Planning process.

State Agency Annual Reports

Last November, Governor Whitman wrote to more than 60 state agencies, authorities and commissions that can help carry out the State Plan, asking them to submit within three months a report that addresses several issues related to implementation of the Plan. The Governor's letter began, "As you know, I view the State Development and Redevelopment Plan as both a comprehensive road map and an integral tool for achieving my administration's goals, including the revitalization of our urban centers and areas, the provision of adequate housing for our citizens, the conservation and protection of our natural resources, the furthering of beneficial economic growth, and the provision of public services in the most cost effective ways."

The reports will identify how agencies' functional plans, programs, investments, grants-in-aid, regulations, proposed legislative initiatives and public information activities advance the State Plan's goals, policies and resource planning and management structure. The systematic review of all plans and programs within each agency will strive to determine how the State Plan does or does not inform its decision-making. Agencies were also asked to identify any statutory or regulatory impediments to Plan implementation.

In addition, the reports will list legislative initiatives, planning, programs, public information or funding that agencies propose undertaking during the next year to advance implementation of the State Plan. And each report will highlight ways to use the State Plan to streamline land use decision-



Governor Christine Todd Whitman

making, along with current or potential incentives to neighborhoods, municipalities, counties and regions to prepare and implement comprehensive plans that meet statewide goals and policies.

"Implementation of the State Plan saves money, reduces pollution and improves our economic climate and our overall quality of life," the Governor observed in her letter. "Accordingly, incorporation of the Plan into all state agency programs, policies and decisions, i.e., comprehensive implementation, is the goal I'd like you to work toward."

Cross-Acceptance Grants Promised to County

Governor Whitman announced the second initiative in her State of the State address in January, in which she cited the State Plan as a tool to bolster the quality of life in our state and improve its long-range economic outlook. "We have seen what happens when we don't plan in New Jersey, and it hasn't always been pretty," she said.

The Governor pledged \$40,000 to each county to participate in the next review of the State Plan. This money is included in the Fiscal Year 1998 budget, which was recently introduced and is subject to legislative appropriation. OSP is developing a procedure to distribute these funds to the counties.

Terming the cross-acceptance process "the largest statewide set of town meetings in this country," Governor Whitman recognized the important role that counties play in this endeavor. The program of grants, she added, "allows the counties to participate fully as we forge a New Jersey that preserves its open space, focuses its development and plans for its future."

For more information about these initiatives, call OSP at (609) 292-7156.

Courts Use State Plan to Support Rural Municipality

by Daniel P. Reynolds

Recent court decisions have upheld actions taken by the governing body and the planning board of Springfield Township in Burlington County to encourage farming as a viable industry and to protect the rural character of the township.

These decisions in the case of *Sod Farm Associates v. Springfield Township Planning Board et al.* are noteworthy, in part, because both the township's governing body and its planning board specifically indicated that a principal basis for their actions was a desire to ensure that development in the township would occur in a manner consistent with the goals and objectives of the State Development and Redevelopment Plan. In upholding the township's actions, both the trial court and the appeals court referred extensively to the township's reliance on the State Plan as support for its actions.

The case arose as a result of the desire of an owner of a sod farm in the township to develop the property for residential purposes. The development was consistent with the township's zoning requirements at the time it was proposed, and the zoning ordinance would have allowed a density bonus if public sewer and water lines were present.

But property was not included in the township's wastewater management plan, and therefore, not in line to have infrastructure extended to the site. Accordingly, a request was made to have the property included in the plan.

After considering the request, the planning board recommended against installing sewerage at that property, and at other areas in the township. It did, however, recommend two small areas for inclusion in the wastewater management plan. One was an area approved by the state Council on Affordable Housing for low- and moderate-income housing, and zoned accordingly.

In reaching its recommendation, the planning board relied in significant part on the fact that the State Plan had placed most of the township within PA-4, a Rural Planning Area. The Plan's goal for such areas is to enhance agricultural viability and, accordingly, to channel growth into existing and planned Centers.

The board also noted that the property at issue was not located in any of the Centers that the State Plan had identified in the township. Further, the planning board noted that its recommendation was premised not only upon the State Plan, but also upon the township's stated goals of

preserving farmland and the rural, agricultural character of the community.

After considering the planning board's recommendation, the governing body adopted the amended wastewater management plan and submitted it to the State Department of Environmental Protection for approval.

And recognizing that its actions were inconsistent with existing master plan and zoning requirements, the township re-examined its master plan, and then amended its zoning ordinance to repeal the density bonus for sewered areas and raise the minimum lot size in its R-1 residential zone to three acres. The master plan re-examination report noted that the central goal of the plan was to preserve and promote the viability of the local agricultural community and the rural character of the township, and to ensure that future development would be consistent with goals and objectives of the State Plan. The report further stated that the master plan objectives included encouraging farming, creating an atmosphere conducive to the economic well-being of the agricultural industry, eliminating conflicts between development and agricultural operations, and protecting the equity of farmers.

The property owner filed suit to challenge the actions of the township's governing body and planning board in refusing to include the sod farm property in the wastewater management plan and in amending the zoning ordinance to repeal the density bonus and adopt three-acre zoning for residential development.

The trial court upheld the township's actions. The court noted that a variety of factors, including the township's long rural history, its designation as a Rural Planning Area in the State Plan, and the master plan's emphasis on the preservation of farming strongly supported the actions taken by the municipality in seeking to retain agriculture and its rural character. In reaching its conclusion, the trial court also noted that the township's zoning ordinance and its wastewater management plan had made provisions for the development of affordable housing, so its actions could not be viewed as a pretext for excluding such housing.

The property owner appealed the trial court's decision, but it was upheld by the Appellate Division of Superior Court. The appeals court said the record supported the trial court's determination that the purpose of the township's actions was to preserve "both a rural lifestyle and agriculture as an economically viable business," and that this was a proper zoning purpose. The court also noted that, after the State Plan had identified the township as a rural area, it was appropriate for the township to reconsider its earlier planning decisions.

Mr. Reynolds is the Deputy Attorney General for the State Planning Commission.

Centers Gain State Funding for Transportation Projects

The “Local Aid for Centers” grants for Fiscal Year 1996 have been announced. This New Jersey Department of Transportation (DOT) program offers funding to municipalities for non-traditional transportation improvement projects. Participation is limited to communities which have either been designated as a Center by the State Planning Commission, have a Strategic Revitalization Plan approved by the SPC, or are part of an Urban Complex recognized by the SPC.

The Local Aid for Centers program supports projects that are strategic to a municipality’s growth-management efforts and promote consistency with the State Plan. In practice, the program is also aimed at unconventional projects, like neighborhood traffic calming and public space improvements, which can enhance the local quality of life and spur economic development.

Here are some examples of the types of projects funded under the program:

- pedestrian and bicycle facilities
- scenic or historic highway programs
- parking management
- traffic management
- preservation of abandoned railway corridors
- landscaping/scenic beautification
- rehabilitation of transportation structures.

“This program represents a significant step in carrying out my commitment to support the State Development and Redevelopment Plan, as well as advancing the land-use and transportation objectives of the state,” said Governor Whitman in announcing the awards.

Nine projects — including a traffic calming project in a residential neighborhood — were selected for funding, for a total of \$1.15 million. Among the successful applicants were the urban centers of Newark and New Brunswick. Newton, Morristown, Dover, Princeton Borough, Princeton Township,

Millville and Vineland are the regional centers that complete the list.

The largest grant — \$210,000 — went to Newton for historic park improvements to the town green. Millville will use its award of \$200,000 for a downtown parking facility across from the Maurice River waterfront. Vineland will undertake the second phase of a project to beautify a mini-park on Landis Avenue with its \$150,000 of state assistance.

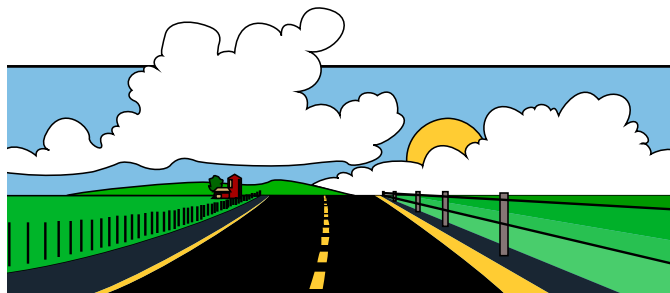
Princeton Township will make improvements to the Mercer Road pedestrian bridge. Princeton Borough is slated to improve the Monument Drive site. The grant to Princeton Township was \$130,500 and the grant to Princeton Borough was \$106,470.

Newark will use \$102,000 to plant street trees along Washington Street and University Avenue. New Brunswick will implement a wayfinder signage program with \$29,525. Morristown has plans to improve the downtown area by purchasing and installing historic lighting with its grant for \$85,000.

And the Town of Dover in Morris County will complete traffic calming improvements on Baker and Princeton Avenues. The grant of \$136,505 will be used to encourage drivers to slow down and to improve the quality of the neighborhood.

Before the application deadline, the DOT and the OSP hosted a workshop on “Livable Communities and Traditional Neighborhood Development.” This workshop focused on how communities can improve the quality of life through non-traditional transportation measures like the projects listed above.

The grants are from the Transportation Trust Fund. This program will continue through 1999, as a result of the fund’s renewal. For more information, call Susan Weber of the DOT at (609) 530-6500.



LAND USE GOVERNANCE REFORM

The State Planning Commission approved a report on Land Use Governance Reform at its December meeting. Entitled "Recommendations for Land Use Governance Reform," this 10-page report summarizes the process by which the SPC's ad hoc Land Use Governance Committee formed, solicited testimony, developed principles and provided recommendations and rationale for improving the state's planning and permit issuance practices.

The Land Use Governance Committee's mandate included reviewing current statutes (e.g., Municipal Land Use Law, County Planning Enabling Act, State Planning Act, other related laws) and regulatory programs which contain — or should contain — a planning component related to land use; bringing together interested parties and coalition building; recommending legislative or administrative changes; and assuming the responsibility for advancing planning enabling legislation at all levels of government and improving the implementation of land use governance.

In her address to the State Planning Commission in February of 1996, Governor Whitman stated "I know that you will work hard to create approaches that lead to a more efficient and predictable land use decision-making system, based on comprehensive and coordinated planning with opportunities for vigorous and informed citizen participation."

Chaired by Paul Maticera, a member of the SPC and the Mayor of North Brunswick Township, the committee held a series of public hearings on issues of land use governance. Organizations representing the development, engineering, environmental, legal, and planning communities were invited to participate and address the committee, as were government agencies with a land use governance role.

The Land Use Governance Committee began by developing consensus on a set of fundamental principles that could be used to guide the review of and changes to the land use governance process. Twelve principles were forwarded to the SPC, which formally adopted them on July 24, 1996.

Principles to Guide the Review of and Changes to The Land Use Governance Process

The land use governance process should:

- 1. Lead to outcomes that reflect public goals.*
- 2. Provide more meaningful public participation appropriate to the scope of the issues under review in the planning and regulatory process.*
- 3. Ensure that public officials and citizens are well educated in planning and regulatory processes.*
- 4. Not be disproportionately influenced by fiscal consideration.*
- 5. Ensure that plans and regulations are compatible between communities and among local, regional and state agencies.*
- 6. Result in a more timely and predictable process.*
- 7. Ensure that planning precedes and guides regulatory decisions.*
- 8. Eliminate duplication of planning and regulatory activities.*
- 9. Result in coordinated land use and infrastructure decisions.*
- 10. Provide for a regional perspective.*
- 11. Provide enhanced conflict resolution mechanisms.*
- 12. Assure adequate ongoing funding for planning and regulation.*

Using research by the Office of State Planning staff and drawing on the oral and written testimony submitted by planners, engineers, environmentalists, public officials and others directly involved in the state's land use governance system, the Land Use Governance Committee identified key issues in the planning and development review process that should be addressed.

The committee then developed a series of recommendations addressing those key issues and reflecting its own discussions, the background research by the OSP, and extensive public com-

ment and input. While some of the recommendations require legislative action, many can be implemented administratively.

Recommendations for Land Use Governance Reform

The recommendations fall into six general categories:

1. State agency planning and permit coordination
2. Intergovernmental plan consistency
3. Conflict resolution measures
4. Local planning improvements
5. Local regulatory improvements
6. Funding for planning.

The recommendations listed in the report were developed as a package, with each category reinforcing and strengthening the other categories. For example, without effective alternative dispute resolution mechanisms (Category 3) and adequate funding and education (Category 6), the recommendations regarding intergovernmental consistency (Category 2) and local planning improvements (Category 4) would be less likely to have significant benefit. Similarly, without state agency planning and permit coordination (Category 1),

local regulatory improvements (Category 5) would be less feasible and effective.

For a copy of the complete report, which contains a full listing of the recommendations, call (609) 292-7156 or write to the Office of State Planning, CN 204, Trenton, NJ 08625-0204. Or, look for the report in the February issue of *OSPlanning Memo*, a monthly publication which highlights strategies, techniques and data of interest to the planning community in New Jersey.

LUIE Project Takes Shape

The Land Use, Infrastructure, and Environment (LUIE) Project is designed to develop a new, integrated system of local, regional, and state decision-making for New Jersey. The project aims to provide more effective, efficient and equitable processes for planning, public infrastructure investment and regulatory decisions.

Administered by the Office of State Planning with the assistance of the Middlesex Somerset Mercer Regional Council (MSM), the LUIE Project is sponsored by the state Department of Transportation and the Department of Environmental Protection. In an effort to achieve consensus among numerous stakeholders, the project is directed by a diverse steering committee of private developers, environmentalists and elected and appointed municipal, county, regional and state officials.

Since last May, the LUIE project team has analyzed the interrelationships of New Jersey's laws, regulations, and agencies in land use, infrastructure, and environmental decisions. Working with a consultant team headed by Lehr and Associates, Inc., the project team has identified and mapped 28 existing decision-making processes involving land use, transportation, wastewater management,

water supply management, stormwater management, floodplain management and wetlands protection. Focusing on integration among the processes, the team has assessed them and has developed a draft proposal for an improved decision-making process that is under study by the steering committee.

The project team will develop an implementation strategy for short-term administrative measures, intermediate-term rule modifications and longer-range legislative recommendations. The team's recommendations are scheduled to be published in the Spring. OSP and MSM will support the steering committee in implementing these recommendations.

The success of the LUIE Project depends on building consensus. That is why the project is directed by a steering committee representative of many interests and stakeholders. And to gain even more input from a full range of sources, the project team has held issue-oriented group meetings and set up a Web site on the OSP home page. Find out more about LUIE on the Web at <http://www.state.nj.us/osp/>.



CoastLines – the View from the Shore

The section of coastal New Jersey beginning at Sandy Hook in mid-state, extending south to Cape May, and curving around the Delaware Bay to Salem County embraces a diverse group of counties and municipalities. What they have in common is an interest in creating sustainable, livable communities, and many have undertaken planning initiatives to ensure this.

In Monmouth County, the municipalities of Long Branch and Red Bank recently attained designation as regional centers under the Centers designation criteria set forth in the State Plan. They intend to use the designation to continue their progress in maintaining livable “Communities of Place.”

Long Branch has taken major steps to restore its place as an oceanfront resort as it continues implementation of its oceanfront master plan. Its master plan details how the city intends to transform 137 acres along two miles of oceanfront into a year-round resort community that will be the key to redeveloping the rest of the city.

The plan is based on a vision of “a new place for the future which respects old foundations along the venerable shore.” It features a “Places of Character” theme and furnishes a blueprint for the creation of balanced, mixed-use development and activities.

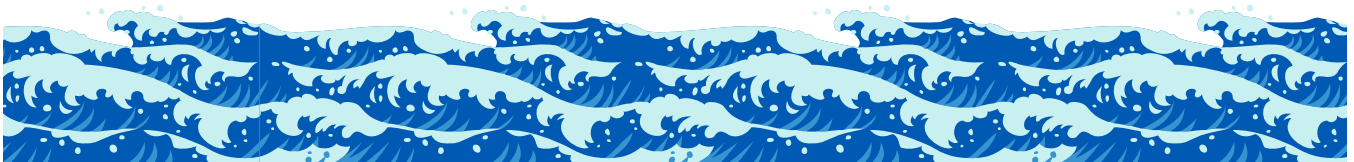
“Places of Character,” says the master plan, “form a

community of neighborhoods blended together into an identifiable city oceanfront district — animated by day and safe at night. It will be a place for neighbors to meet and shop, for strangers to explore, and for visitors to enjoy.”

In their Center designation petition, Red Bank officials articulated a vision of revitalizing the borough “by attracting private investment in office, retail and entertainment facilities, while stabilizing and revitalizing its neighborhoods, and continuing to preserve and enhance its character as a traditional and livable city.”

Located on the North Jersey Coast rail line, the borough has traditionally served the business, social and cultural needs of the northern Monmouth County region; its daytime population swells from 14,000 to more than 42,000. Red Bank’s commercial services lead the county in the financial, medical and arts sectors. Local officials sought Center designation for Red Bank to ensure its continued vitality.

The designation of Long Branch and Red Bank as regional centers is consistent with the recent Monmouth County Growth Management Guide. The guide is a center-based policy document prepared by the county that recommends the revitalization and enhancement of Monmouth’s older urban centers.



In Ocean County, Lakewood Township recently gave final approval to a development plan that features the principles of traditional neighborhood design (TND). One of the first proposals in the state to embrace TND, the 993-unit plan features single-family homes, townhouse, and senior citizen, duplex and apartment units. They are designed around a core of 35,000 square feet of commercial space, 10,000 square feet of office space, and a 12,000-square-foot community center.

Plumsted Township received a town center designation for New Egypt in June 1996. The township has completed a two-year master planning process that featured extensive public participation and a community visioning process. Plumsted's rural landscape and proximity to employers have proven attractive to homebuyers over the last few years. Before that landscape was transformed, the township decided to develop a vision and a comprehensive plan for its future. Residents identified rural character, farmland retention and center-based economic development as critical issues facing the township. The new master plan and municipal ordinances address these issues, and feature innovative land-use techniques to retain rural character and agricultural land, and to focus mixed-use development in the town center of New Egypt.

Farther down the coast, Stafford Township is beginning the Center planning process. Having experienced substantial growth in the past 10 years, the township is refining its growth- management strategies. Host to numerous regional retail, commercial, government and educational facilities, as well as the major highway corridor leading to Long Beach Island, the township, in conjunction with the state Department of Transportation (DOT), is preparing an access management plan for Route 72 to ensure orderly growth and development capacity.

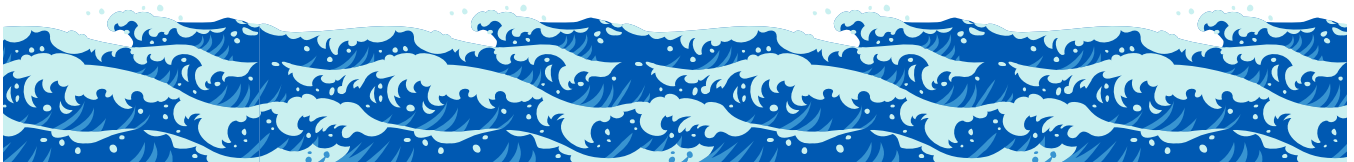
While accommodating growth, the township has also aggressively sought to expand parks and recreation space. In 1995, the State Planning Commission reviewed the Stafford Township master plan, finding it substantially consistent with the goals and objectives of the State Plan. In seeking a regional center designation for the Manahawkin area, the township continues to prepare for future growth and for ways to better organize that growth, as it forges a strategic partnership with state agencies.

Atlantic County has poised for the next wave of casino development in Atlantic City by forming a Vision 2005 committee. With thousands of jobs and accompanying spin-off development anticipated, the county will examine social, economic and development trends to prepare for growth impacts. County planning staff is also working with the OSP to develop new population and employment projections, as well as a variety of model development scenarios.

To the south, in Cape May County, the county planning board recently adopted a new comprehensive plan that incorporates the State Plan's Resource Planning and Management Structure (RPMS), and establishes the State Plan map (RPMM) as the official county map. In May, the county planning board co-sponsored the first of a series of "Listening to New Jersey" meetings across the state, where members of the SPC heard the concerns of Cape May residents and officials, who are facing increased development pressures.

At the southernmost tip of the state, the Borough of Cape May Point is preparing a petition to be designated a village center. Located in one of the premier bird-watching areas in North America, Cape May Point maintains a traditional village atmosphere, with a circular village green and a general store. The entire village is ringed by high dunes covered in native grasses. Borough officials take pride in the fact that local ordinances require minimal vegetation clearing, and call for the planting and maintenance of bird-friendly native plants.

The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) estimates that almost 40 percent of New Jersey's migratory bird habitat has been lost over the past two decades. To combat this, the DEP is proposing a project to reverse the losses. The project will bring local, county and state agencies together with landowners and public land managers to create a landscape-level approach to the protection of the Cape May stopover. This approach includes mapping critical habitat areas, developing model landscaping and site development ordinances and model habitat management procedures, and working with local governments to implement them. The project will also fund landscaping grants to improve existing habitats on private lands. Around the cape and up the Delaware Bay,



state planning notes

Cumberland County planners have been active in helping rural municipalities prepare comprehensive master plans. Through interlocal service contracts, the county planning staff has helped Downe, Commercial and Greenwich Townships design community visioning and public participation processes in order to prepare master plans that consider all community concerns, including land use, housing, natural resources, economic development and transportation. The plans are comprehensive and center-based, focusing growth on the many traditional village centers in the region. The plans also feature land-use elements that strike balances between landowner equity and environmental preservation.

Cumberland County planners have also been active in promoting ecotourism in the region. The county has an abundance of significant ecosystems and extensive public lands, and is home to several waterways designated under the national Wild and Scenic Rivers program. These waterways are the Maurice, Manumuskin, Menantico and Muskee Rivers. Ecotourism is a prime example of a “biodiversity-based industry” — an income-generating activity dependent on the continued existence of pristine environments. Ecotourism is responsible travel that conserves environments and sustains the well-being of local people. The county has completed an ecotourism plan featuring a strategy to capitalize on interest in its resources.

In Millville and Vineland, which host the state’s first multi-jurisdictional regional center, the two municipalities continue to implement infrastructure and transportation plans that bring steady economic growth. As components of a designated Center, both Millville and Vineland have received funds from the state Department of Transportation’s “Local Aid for Centers” program to carry out transportation-related projects that also contribute to downtown revitalization. In Millville, the city is working on these initiatives to enhance the regional center:

- *economic development element*
- *housing element*
- *bike routes and pedestrian linkages*
- *establishing a development corporation to market and promote the historic downtown*

- *strategic revitalization plan*
- *access management planning.*

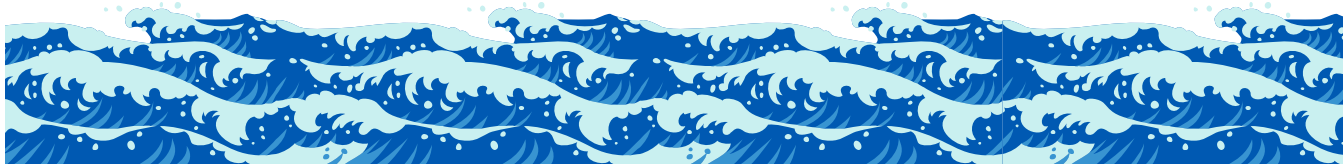
Farther up the Delaware Bay, in Salem County, the county planning board staff is preparing a new master plan. Like Monmouth County’s Growth Management Guide, the Salem County plan will be center-based. The county has many traditional centers, ranging from rural farm villages to industrial riverfront towns. Focusing growth in these centers will help maintain Salem County’s agricultural industry and preserve sensitive resources.

The Borough of Penns Grove, for example, is beginning the master planning process. With assistance from several state agencies, the borough will be preparing a new comprehensive plan to capitalize on its waterfront location and several recent development initiatives.

Located in the middle of Salem County, the Borough of Elmer is preparing a petition for town center designation from the State Planning Commission. At its crossroads location, Elmer serves the social and economic needs of the residents of the central part of the county, and is the site of the hospital serving the region.

In a matter of importance not only to Shore dwellers, but to all New Jerseyans, the DEP is continuing its efforts to reach regulatory consistency and compatibility with the State Plan. It proposes to incorporate portions of the State Plan, its RPMS and its map to replace two subchapters of the DEP Rules on Coastal Zone Management, specifically, Subchapter 5: General Land Areas, and Subchapter 6: General Location Policies.

The DEP intends, through these revisions, to make the coastal decision-making process more predictable, by delineating where and how much development may occur, and easier to interpret and apply, by eliminating Development Potential and Environmental Sensitivity Criteria and Development Intensity Matrices. The revisions also seek to make the agency’s coastal decisions more compatible with local zoning. Look for the DEP to release the proposal for public comment later this year.



SPC & OSP

Celebrate 10th Anniversary



The State Planning Commission and the Office of State Planning celebrated their 10th anniversary on Dec. 4 at a special meeting at the newly restored Roebing Complex in Trenton. Governor Christine Todd Whitman issued a proclamation congratulating and thanking all involved in preparing and implementing the State Development and Redevelopment Plan.

Mark Lapping presented a keynote speech on “The Great Tradition of Planning in New Jersey.” Dr. Lapping, formerly Dean of the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, is now Professor, Provost and Vice-President of Academic Affairs at the University of Southern Maine in Portland.



Brian W. Clymer, State Treasurer presents Governor Whitman's Proclamation to Jay Cranmer, SPC Chairman

A commemorative poster was distributed to attendees. Entitled “Planning for the Future,” the poster is a 1997 calendar. It provides information about the SPC and the OSP, including meeting dates and state holidays, along with office, telephone, fax and Internet addresses.

“Planning for the Future” can be ordered or downloaded on-line from the OSP home page (<http://www.state.nj.us/osp/>). Call Tom Dallessio, Public Affairs Manager, at (609) 292-3502 for more information.

Development Proposals Reviewed by OSP

Pursuant to the Municipal Land Use Law (N.J.S.A. 40:55D-12g), applicants are required to notify the Office of State Planning of proposed development projects in excess of 150 acres or 500 dwelling units. The Office compiles and periodically releases a list of projects for which such notices have been received.

This is an abbreviated list. It has its limitations and should be viewed with caution — it may not reflect all such projects, and it does not constitute a reliable indicator of the magnitude of development activity in the State. Not all applicants notify the Office. Some applications involve previously approved development

projects seeking to modify the conditions of local approval, and as such do not constitute new development applications.

Also, the information forwarded by applicants to the Office is not always complete or consistent - although most notifications are accompanied by a copy of the site plan submitted for municipal planning board review, as required by statute, some consist only of a copy of the public meeting notice.

For further information, or to obtain an up-to-date list, contact Carlos Rodrigues at (609) 292-3097.

OSP Public Affairs Program Wins Two Awards

The Office of State Planning has won two prestigious awards from professional organizations for its public affairs program.

The New Jersey Planning Officials (NJPO) organization has selected OSP's state planning public affairs program to receive a 1996 Achievement in Planning Award. The program has, "through its journalistic efforts made an important contribution to planning or the understanding of the planning process," according to the award citation.

The award was based on NJPO's review of the OSPlanning Memo series, quarterly newsletters, and OSPnet, OSP's World Wide Web site on the Internet. It was presented at the NJPO annual awards luncheon last November in Atlantic City.

"Perhaps the most significant aspect of OSP's public affairs program is its ability to transform the planning process," said Executive Director Herb Simmens. "With the State Development and Redevelopment Plan and other information available from the office, as well as on the OSP home page, the public is able to read, comment on and ultimately suggest revisions to the Plan in a number of formats. Cross-acceptance, already recognized as an innovative process, could be even more so next time."

OSP has also received the 1996 Public Education Award from the New Jersey chapter of the American Planning Association (NJAPA). With this honor, the NJAPA awards jury recognized the OSP public affairs program, including the new Internet home page, quarterly newsletters, monthly planning memos and a technical report, Local Planning Techniques that Implement Provisions of the State Development and Redevelopment Plan.

OSPnet, the home page available to the public on the Internet

(<http://www.state.nj.us/osp/>) provides the viewer with easy access to the State Plan and related documents, as well as up-to-date information on the State Planning Commission. State Planning Notes, the quarterly newsletter published by the SPC and its staff at the OSP, reaches more than 3,000 readers. OSPlanning Memo is a monthly technical memo that highlights cutting-edge planning practices. Both Notes and Memos are also available on OSPnet, as is the Local Planning Techniques report.

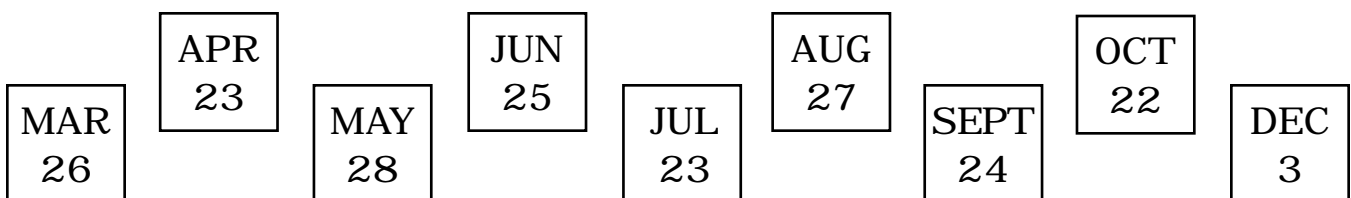
"The Jury determined that OSP's overall effort in providing information to the public through the printed and electronic media, as well as outreach assistance to towns trying to establish centers and otherwise implement the State Plan, was the appropriate choice for the Public Education Award," noted NJAPA President David Roberts in announcing the award.

The award was given in October at the NJAPA's 1996 annual meeting and awards dinner in Jersey City. The Public Education Award is presented annually to an individual, project or program that has informed or educated the public, or a specific segment of the public, about the benefits of planning or how planning works.

These awards complement past awards received by SPC and OSP, including the 1995 NJPO Achievement in Planning Award for the Local Techniques Report; the 1992 NJAPA Outstanding Planning Program, Concept or Process Award for the State Planning Advisory Committees; the 1989 NJAPA Outstanding Media Award for the "Communities of Place" video; and national Distinguished Leadership Awards from the American Planning Association for then-Commissioners James G. Gilbert and Candace Ashmun.

State Planning Commission Meetings for 1997

The State Planning Commission has adopted a schedule of meetings for 1997. We encourage you to mark your calendars and attend these meetings.



Commission meetings are held at 9 a.m. at Thomas Edison State College, 101 West State St., Trenton. To confirm time or location, call our toll-free information line at 1-800-522-0129.

News Briefs Worth Noting....

■ *At a recent State Planning Commission Meeting the Borough of Andover was designated as a Town Center. Chairman Jay Cranmer presented the certificates to Mayor Shirlee M. Bolland and Consultant Eric K. Snyder.*



■ *The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, or ICLEI, established by the United Nations and supported in part by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, is a program to encourage municipalities to take action on climate change and other environmental problems. Its 150 members, including the City of Newark, share information on climate issues affecting urban areas and on ways to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions at the local level.*

■ *ICLEI's Web site at <http://www.iclei.org/co2.html> describes the successful CO₂ reduction plans that these cities have instituted, and explains how different agencies of local government can make emission reduction programs work. ICLEI can also be reached at its United States office — 15 Shattuck Square, Suite 215, Berkeley, CA 94704, phone: (510) 540-8843.*

■ *Cities and towns around the world are producing "Green Maps" to highlight sites that are ecologically significant for tourists, new residents and school children, among others. Check out the Green Map home page at <http://www.interport.net/~webrawer/green.system.html>.*

■ *OSPnet, the Internet home page of the State Planning Commission and the Office of State Planning, contains up-to-date information about the statewide planning process. Find us at <http://www.state.nj.us/osp/>.*

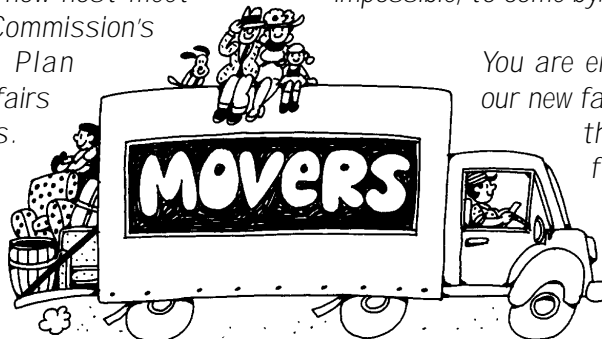
WE'VE MOVED!

The Office of State Planning is now located on the fourth floor at 33 West State Street, Trenton. With this move downstairs comes more office, conference and library space.

The new conference room will now host meetings of the State Planning Commission's Plan Development, Plan Implementation, and Public Affairs and Outreach Committees. Also, the conference room is available to planning-related organizations for meetings of up to 50 people.

The expanded library now enables users to access information on planning at the local, regional, state, national and international levels. And thanks to an Internet connection, we can easily obtain data, maps and other information that used to be difficult, if not impossible, to come by.

You are encouraged to stop by and see our new facilities, and are welcome to use them for research or other professional purposes. Call the OSP at (609) 292-7156 for more information or directions.



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