Southern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan

Birdsboro Borough

Caernarvon Township Robeson Township Union Township









ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Berks County Planning Commission would like to acknowledge those members of the Study Committee who contributed to and oversaw the preparation of this Plan update:

| <u>Member</u> | <u>Affiliation</u> |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Aaron Durso | Birdsboro Borough |
| Richard S. Happel | Birdsboro Borough |
| Neil McCauley | Birdsboro Borough |
| Joan Bair | Caernarvon Township |
| Colleen Easterday | Robeson Township |
| Tom Keim | Robeson Township |
| Christopher M. Smith | Robeson Township |
| Harold W. Steve, Jr. | Robeson Township |
| Dave Talarico | Robeson Township |
| Shane Kochel | Union Township |
| Lee Mauger | Union Township |
| Jason A. Wager | Union Township |

All maps and aerials presented within this Plan rely upon digital information of the Berks County Geographic Information System. While the accuracy of this information is believed to be very high, it should only be used for community planning purposes and cannot be relied upon for definitive site survey delineation.



This Plan update was prepared by:

Berks County Planning Commission Staff

Matthew F. McGough, Intergovernmental Cooperation Planner Beth A. Burkovich, GISP, GIS Analyst

Devon Hain, Planner II Pauline R. Klopp, Office Support V Jamie L. Passon, Planner II

Ashley Showers, Planner II Amanda M. Timochenko, Planner II

BOROUGH OF BIRDSBORO BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

RESOLUTION 2020-21

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF BIRDSBORO, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA TO ADOPT THE SOUTHERN BERKS JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF 2020

WHEREAS, the Borough of Birdsboro in conjunction with Caernarvon, Robeson, and Union Townships (hereinafter referred to as the Participating Municipalities), all of which are municipalities located within Berks County, Pennsylvania, have joined efforts with the County of Berks, as part of its Joint Comprehensive Plan Program, and

WHEREAS, the County of Berks in conjunction with the Participating Municipalities have selected the consulting team to prepare, at the direction of the Participating Municipalities, the maps, charts, textual matter, photographs, and all other materials within the Southern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Southern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan has been prepared pursuant to the provisions specified under Article III of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC), and

WHEREAS, the Southern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan was financed by a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development, and

WHEREAS, copies of the proposed Southern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan have been forwarded to the Berks County Planning Commission, the Daniel Boone School District, the Twin Valley School District, and the adjacent school municipalities for review and comment in accordance with the provisions of the MPC, and

WHEREAS, copies of the proposed Southern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan were made available to the residents and property owners of the participating municipalities in accordance with the provisions of the MPC, and

WHEREAS, the Participating Municipalities Planning Commissions held a public meeting pursuant to public notice in accordance with the provisions of the MPC, and have provided a recommendation to their respective Governing Bodies, and

WHEREAS, the Governing Bodies of the Participating Municipalities have conducted a public hearing pursuant to public notice in accordance with the provisions of the MPC.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that after considering the recommendations and comments presented as part of this public hearing, the Borough Council of the Borough of Birdsboro does hereby adopt the Southern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan of 2020, which is

comprised of maps, charts, textual matter, photographs, and all other materials constituting a part thereof.

FURTHER, RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall become effective immediately.

DULY PRESENTED AND ADOPTED by the Council of the Borough of Birdsboro on the 8th day of September, 2020.

COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF BIRDSBORO

BY:

Neil McCauley, President

ATTEST:

Bonnie L. Frisco, Secretary

Yoşeph A Peterson, Mayor

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-22

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CAERNARVON, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA ADOPTING THE UPDATED SOUTHERN BERKS JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AS ITS OFFICIAL JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

WHEREAS, Section 302 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, authorizes the adoption of municipal, multi-municipal and county comprehensive plans and plan amendments and provides that the same shall be adopted by Resolution in the name of the municipality, and duly enacted by the governing board of said municipality, and

WHEREAS, on August 10, 2004, the Township of Caernarvon, Berks County, Pennsylvania (the "Township of Caernarvon") adopted the Comprehensive Plan for the Township of Caernarvon, Township of Robeson, Township of Union and Borough of Birdsboro (the "2004 Southern Berks Regional Comprehensive Plan"); and

WHEREAS, the 2004 Joint Comprehensive Plan was intended to address the long-term development and preservation of the participating municipalities, to provide a solid foundation for development regulations, to provide coordination of development, infrastructure and traffic across municipal borders, and to guide other public policies within the Southern Berks Region; and

WHEREAS, as a result of many changes, the Planning Commission of the Township of Caernarvon (the "Planning Commission"), the Township of Robeson, the Township of Union, the Borough of Birdsboro, the Berks County Planning Commission, and the Southern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan Committee have participated in the preparation of a revised Southern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan (the "Joint Comprehensive Plan");

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has recommended the adoption of the Joint Comprehensive Plan to the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Caernaryon; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Caernarvon has complied with the requirements and procedures as set forth in Section 302 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code for adopting the Joint Comprehensive Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED by the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Caernarvon, Berks County, Pennsylvania, that the Township of Caernarvon hereby acknowledges its July 14, 2020 adoption of, and hereby re-adopts and reaffirms, as its official Joint Comprehensive Plan the Southern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan, last revised April 2020, which is incorporated herein by reference, made a part hereof and attached hereto as Exhibit A.

DULY ENACTED THIS 28th Day of July 2020, by the Supervisors of Caernarvon Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania.

CAERNARVON TOWNSHIP

BY:

Allen Styer, Chairman

SEAL

ATTEST

Joan Bair, Township Secretary

TOWNSHIP OF ROBESON, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

RESOLUTION NO. 2020 - 11

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROBESON, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING THE REVISED AND UPDATED SOUTHERN BERKS JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

WHEREAS, a Joint Comprehensive Plan was prepared for Southern Berks County municipalities consisting of the Borough of Birdsboro, Township of Robeson, Township of Union and Township of Caernarvon, and the school districts of Daniel Boone and Twin Valley in 2004; and

WHEREAS, with the passage of time and changes in population of the stated municipalities and school districts, and for various other reasons, it has become desirable to revise and update the Southern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Planning Commission consisting of representatives from the four municipalities, under the guidance and direction of Matthew F. McGough, Intergovernmental Planner with the Berks County Planning Commission, met from time to time and prepared a revised Southern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan in accordance with Article III of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Code (Act 247 of 1968, as amended); and

WHEREAS, a governing body public hearing was held on August 18, 2020, in accordance with the Pennsylvania Municipalities Code (Act 247 of 1968, as amended).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Robeson, Berks County, Pennsylvania hereby adopts the revised and updated Southern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan attached hereto as Exhibit A. Pursuant to the MPC, Section 302(c), it is specifically found that the following maps, charts, textual matter, and other matters listed are intended to form the Southern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan:

LIST OF FIGURES

| FIGURE 1 | GEOLOGY | 31 |
|----------|-------------------------------------|----|
| FIGURE 2 | SOILS | 33 |
| FIGURE 3 | PROTECTED LANDS | 35 |
| FIGURE 4 | NATURAL RESOURCES | 37 |
| FIGURE 5 | MS4 AREAS | 39 |
| FIGURE 6 | COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND RECREATION | 95 |

| FIGURE 7 | PUBLIC UTILITIES | 97 |
|-----------|---|-----|
| FIGURE 8 | HISTORIC RESOURCES BIRDSBORO BOROUGH | 113 |
| FIGURE 9 | HISTORIC RESOURCES CAERNARVON TOWNSHIP | 115 |
| FIGURE 10 | HISTORIC RESOURCES ROBESON TOWNSHIP | 117 |
| FIGURE 11 | HISTORIC RESOURCES UNION TOWNSHIP | 119 |
| FIGURE 12 | ROAD CLASSIFICATIONS AND AVERAGE ANNUAL DAILY TRAFFIC | 145 |
| FIGURE 13 | BRIDGE AND PAVEMENT CONDITIONS | 147 |
| FIGURE 14 | EXISTING LAND USE - REGIONAL | 155 |
| FIGURE 15 | EXISTING LAND USE – BIRDSBORO BOROUGH | 157 |
| FIGURE 16 | EXISTING LAND USE - CAERNARVON TOWNSHIP | 159 |
| FIGURE 17 | EXISTING LAND USE - ROBESON TOWNSHIP | 161 |
| FIGURE 18 | EXISTING LAND USE - UNION TOWNSHIP | 163 |
| FIGURE 19 | FUTURE LAND USE – REGIONAL | 179 |
| FIGURE 20 | FUTURE LAND USE – BIRDSBORO BOROUGH | 181 |
| FIGURE 21 | FUTURE LAND USE – CAERNARVON TOWNSHIP | 183 |
| FIGURE 22 | FUTURE LAND USE – ROBESON TOWNSHIP | 185 |
| FIGURE 23 | FUTURE LAND USE – UNION TOWNSHIP | 187 |

FURTHER RESOLVED, that if any provision, sentence, clause, section, or part of this Resolution shall for any reason be found to be unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, such determination shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions, sentences, clauses, sections, or parts of this Resolution, and it is hereby declared to be the intent of the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Robeson that this Resolution would have been adopted had such unconstitutional, illegal or invalid provision, sentence, clause, section or part not been included herein.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that all Resolutions or parts of Resolutions inconsistent with this Resolution are hereby superseded.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall become effective immediately.

CERTIFICATE

| | I hereby c | ertify t | hat the for | egoi | ng is a t | rue a | nd accurat | te cop | by of a | a res | olutic | on of the | Board | d of |
|---------|------------|----------|-------------|------|-----------|-------|------------|--------|---------|-------|--------|-----------|--------|------|
| Supervi | sors of R | obeson | Townshi | p, E | Berks Co | ounty | y, Pennsyl | vania | a, whi | ch v | vas fi | ully ado | pted a | at a |
| public | meeting | held | pursuant | to | notice | as | required | by | law | on | the | 18 | day | of |
| _a | isust | | _, 2020. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | 0.1 | Ω | ſ | , _ | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Secretar | len | J | .1 | ri | run | | _ |
| | | | | | | | Secretar | y of Ì | Robes | on T | owns | hip | | |

Dated: <u>August 19</u>, 2020

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Board of Supervisors of Robeson Township, Berks

County, Pennsylvania has caused this Resolution to be adopted this /8 day of

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

OF ROBESON TOWNSHIP,

BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

Chairman

Member

Lalu L. Brown

Member

TOWNSHIP OF UNION BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA RESOLUTION NO. 2020- 12

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF UNION, Berks County, Pennsylvania, adopting the 2020 Southern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan Update.

WHEREAS, Union Township, in conjunction with Birdsboro Borough, Caernarvon Township, and Robeson Township (hereinafter the "Participating Municipalities"), adopted by Resolution the Southern Berks Regional Comprehensive Plan of 2004.

WHEREAS, in 2006, the Participating Municipalities also enacted ordinances, which authorized each individual municipality to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with each other to implement the Comprehensive Plan of 2004.

WHEREAS, in 2018, the Participating Municipalities, based on the implementation agreement, likewise entered into an agreement to update the Comprehensive Plan of 2004, utilizing the Staff of the Berks County Planning Commission to facilitate the preparation of the 2020 Southern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan Update (hereinafter the "2020 Plan Update").

WHEREAS, at public meetings of the Union Township Planning Commission, and the Union Township Board of Supervisors from 2018 through 2020, the proposed sections of the 2020 Plan Update were discussed as they were being developed by County Planning Staff and representatives of each of the Participating Municipalities.

WHEREAS, at a public meeting on February 6, 2020, the Union Township Planning Commission took action to forward a complete draft of the 2020 Plan Update to the Union Township Board of Supervisors for its consideration.

WHEREAS, the draft 2020 Plan Update, after consideration, was authorized by the Board of Supervisors to be circulated to the County Planning Commission, contiguous municipalities, and the school districts for their review and comment.

WHEREAS, comments were received from the County of Berks, which were considered by both the Union Township Planning Commission and the Union Township Board of Supervisors.

WHEREAS, the draft 2020 Plan Update, as revised to address comments, was made available to the public by the Township through links on the Township website.

WHEREAS, the Union Township Planning Commission, at its July 2020 meeting, recommended the revised 2020 Plan Update for consideration for adoption by the Union Township Board of Supervisors.

WHEREAS, at the July 2020 meeting of the Union Township Board of Supervisors, the advertising of a public hearing was authorized, to accept any final comments from the public before consideration of adoption of the 2020 Plan Update.

WHEREAS, the public hearing of the Union Township Board of Supervisors has now been held to accept comment.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Union, that after considering the draft 2020 Plan Update, as well as all comments provided, and consistent with the recommendation of the Union Township Planning Commission, the Union Township Board of Supervisors hereby adopts the 2020 Southern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan Update, which is comprised of maps, charts, textural material, and all other materials constituting a part thereof.

| Adopted and effective this <u>17th</u> day of _ of Supervisors of the Township of Union. | A06057 , 2020, by the Board |
|---|---|
| | BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF UNION Chairman |
| ATTEST: | Supervisor 7 |
| Interim Secretary | In drew Karik |

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| 1. | INTRODUCTION | 1 |
|-----|---|-------|
| 2. | THE VISION AND GOALS OF THIS PLAN | 3 |
| 3. | DEMOGRAPHICS AND HOUSING | 9 |
| 4. | NATURAL FEATURES AND AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PLAN | 19 |
| 5. | COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES PLAN | 41 |
| 6. | HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN | 99 |
| 7. | ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN | . 121 |
| 8. | TRANSPORTATION PLAN | . 137 |
| 9. | EXISTING LAND USE PLAN | . 149 |
| 10. | FUTURE LAND USE PLAN | . 165 |
| 11. | IMPLEMENTATION PLAN | . 189 |
| 12. | ACTION PROGRAM | . 197 |

LIST OF FIGURES

| FIGURE 1 | GEOLOGY | 31 |
|-----------|---|-----|
| FIGURE 2 | SOILS | 33 |
| FIGURE 3 | PROTECTED LANDS | 35 |
| FIGURE 4 | NATURAL RESOURCES | 37 |
| FIGURE 5 | MS4 AREAS | 39 |
| FIGURE 6 | COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND RECREATION | 95 |
| FIGURE 7 | PUBLIC UTILITIES | 97 |
| FIGURE 8 | HISTORIC RESOURCES BIRDSBORO BOROUGH | 113 |
| FIGURE 9 | HISTORIC RESOURCES CAERNARVON TOWNSHIP | 115 |
| FIGURE 10 | HISTORIC RESOURCES ROBESON TOWNSHIP | 117 |
| FIGURE 11 | HISTORIC RESOURCES UNION TOWNSHIP | 119 |
| FIGURE 12 | ROAD CLASSIFICATIONS AND AVERAGE ANNUAL DAILY TRAFFIC | 145 |
| FIGURE 13 | BRIDGE AND PAVEMENT CONDITIONS | 147 |
| FIGURE 14 | EXISTING LAND USE - REGIONAL | 155 |
| FIGURE 15 | EXISTING LAND USE – BIRDSBORO BOROUGH | 157 |
| FIGURE 16 | EXISTING LAND USE – CAERNARVON TOWNSHIP | 159 |
| FIGURE 17 | EXISTING LAND USE - ROBESON TOWNSHIP | 161 |
| FIGURE 18 | EXISTING LAND USE – UNION TOWNSHIP | 163 |
| FIGURE 19 | FUTURE LAND USE – REGIONAL | 179 |
| FIGURE 20 | FUTURE LAND USE – BIRDSBORO BOROUGH | 181 |
| FIGURE 21 | FUTURE LAND USE – CAERNARVON TOWNSHIP | 183 |
| FIGURE 22 | FUTURE LAND USE - ROBESON TOWNSHIP | 185 |
| FIGURE 23 | FUTURE LAND USE – UNION TOWNSHIP | 187 |