



THE REGIONAL CENTER

Summer 2012

BRIDGEWATER • RARITAN • SOMERVILLE

A partnership for a better tomorrow

IN SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

www.regionalcenterpartnership.org

REGIONAL CENTER COMMENTS ON STATE STRATEGIC PLAN

The Regional Center Partnership issued a letter to the State Planning Commission offering the Board's perspective on the Final Draft State Strategic Plan.

The Regional Center is credited in the State Plan for serving as a model for coordinated regional planning.

The Partnership indicated that the Plan may be further strengthened by:

- Reinforcing the municipal role in defining local land use policies while reinforcing the county's role as liaisons between the municipalities and the State;
- Prioritizing completion of the strategic plans and Priority Investment Framework before implementing the "Scorecard System";
- Developing targets and measures to track the success of the Priority Investment Framework;
- Recognizing the critical role of "Regional Centers" to prioritize infrastructure and state incentives to sustain themselves.

REGIONAL CENTER PARTNERSHIP REACHES PLAN ENDORSEMENT MILESTONE

The Somerset County Regional Center Partnership has achieved a major milestone in the State Plan Endorsement process that will ultimately re-establish the Somerset County Regional Center for ten years as a state-recognized regional center in a priority position for state resources, incentives and strategic economic investment.

The Regional Center Partnership received confirmation from the New Jersey Department of State, Office of Planning Advocacy that the State Planning Commission has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the State Planning Commission and the Regional Center Partnership granting a two-year interim period to accomplish certain tasks laid out in an Action Plan. Upon completion of the Action Plan items, the Somerset County Regional Center will be re-established for an additional ten years.

"This represents a major milestone in the 20-year history of the Regional Center," commented Chair Rose Evans. "It allows us another two years to continue those projects that are ongoing and establishes new goals that will serve the businesses and residents of our three communities."

Plan Endorsement is a voluntary review process that ensures the coordination of state, county, and municipal planning efforts in achieving the goals and policies of the State Planning Act. Through Plan Endorsement, all levels of the three municipal governments develop coordinated capital investment and planning implementation mechanisms that are consistent with the State Plan and with each other. With approval from the State, the Regional Center is now in a better position to receive financial and technical incentives to assist in making the vision for the three communities and the Regional Center a reality.

"The Plan Endorsement process has been a herculean effort on the part of the Planning Boards and municipal governments of Bridgewater, Raritan, and Somerville and

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SMALL BUSINESSES CONTRIBUTE IDEAS FOR ECONOMIC AGENDA

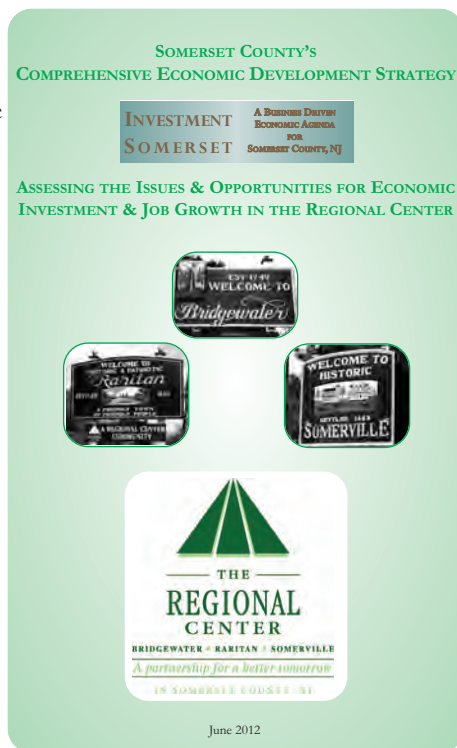
The Somerset County Regional Center Partnership held a public workshop, “Investment Somerset – A Business Driven Economic Agenda,” to elicit ideas from the Regional Center business community regarding the development of a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

“Investment Somerset” is an initiative of the Somerset County Freeholders and the Somerset County Business Partnership that will help define the county’s initiative to guide job creation and private sector economic investment priorities in the future. The session was part of an effort to align local business priorities with regional, state, and federal economic development efforts.

Discussion centered on the economic strengths and weaknesses in the Regional Center, the internal and external influences on the economic situation, and listing of priorities for the future. The workshop helped to isolate projects of regional significance that will form the basis for priority actions having the highest likelihood of creating jobs, expanding the tax base, and creating efficiencies that will lead to economic investment.

“The Regional Center is in a unique position to help drive the economic agenda for the county,” commented Rose Evans, Chair of the Regional Center Partnership. “The State Plan specifically says that among the goals is to focus policies and investments on regions that support regional planning. That’s us and this is our opportunity to take advantage of their generosity.”

The results of the workshop are available at www.regional-centerpartnership.org (Publications) or by calling James Ruggieri at 908-231-7021 or by email at Ruggieri@co.somerset.nj.us.



RAIN BARREL REBATE PROGRAM RENEWED

For a second year, the Somerset County Regional Center Partnership and the New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJWSA) are offering rain barrel rebates of up to \$200 for residents of the Peters Brook Watershed, encompassing parts of Somerville, Bridgewater, and Raritan.

In addition to a money-saving water conservation measure, rain barrels help the environment by reducing the amount of water going to streams and rivers during heavy storms. Rainwater runoff from impervious surfaces flows to streams, picking up pollutants along the way. Rain barrels are one item in the toolbox for managing stormwater runoff.

Funding is available on a first come, first served basis. Rain barrels must meet specific criteria, including minimum capacity, overflow, and spigot location. The program will run through October 2013, based on program funding.

Complete program information and a map showing the eligible area is available on the Regional Center Partnership’s website, www.regionalcenterpartnership.org. Call NJWSA at 908-685-0315 x234 or email rainbarrel@raritanbasin.org to confirm eligibility.

PFIZER PRESENTS CLEAN UP & DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR CYANAMID SITE

Representatives from Pfizer presented a video to the Regional Center Partnership documenting the history of the American Cyanamid site, how it became a Superfund site, and the nature of the pollutants identified in impacted soils and on-site lagoons. They also detailed the level of clean up that has been completed and how Pfizer Corporation has been working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and local communities to select the most acceptable and feasible methods for site remediation and long-term monitoring.

Plans for the use of the property following the completion of the remediation include approximately 30 acres located near the Bridgewater train station to potentially be made available for commercial or light industrial use. Another 30 acres along Polhemus Lane may be transformed into an alternative energy generation site.

Over 190 acres within the floodplain are planned to be set aside as a stormwater management area to help reduce flow into the Raritan River during flooding events. This will include inland wetlands and upland meadows that will allow for integrated passive and active recreation.

The remainder of the site would be preserved and enhanced as an ecological preserve including open water, inland wetlands, and flood plain forest.

ROUTE 22 IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

The Route 22 Sustainable Corridor Long-Term Improvements project is making good progress following several meetings with the NJ Department of Transportation.

A Steering Advisory Committee meeting was held in early April and a Public Information Center was held on June 14, 2012 to receive public comments on the alternatives developed by the consultant engineers following the various public outreach efforts.

The short-term safety improvement projects are expected to be bid in late 2012.

CHIMNEY ROCK INTERCHANGE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

April 2, 2012 saw the official groundbreaking ceremony for the Route 22/Chimney Rock Road grade separation interchange project.

The section of highway has a crash rate of nearly seven times greater than the statewide average for similar roadways and carries more than 70,000 vehicles a day.

The plan is to depress a section of Route 22 and bring Chimney Rock Road over the highway, eliminating stop signs and facilitating a continuous flow of traffic from Route 28 in proximity to Interstate 287 to Martinsville.

The interchange was first proposed in a traffic study conducted by the Regional Center Partnership in the late 1990s. The design includes the construction of a full-service interchange at U.S. Route 22 and Chimney Rock Road that will satisfy current and future traffic demands and meet the mobility goals for the area.

The \$56.7-million project is funded primarily by the federal government.

PLAN ENDORSEMENT (CONT.)

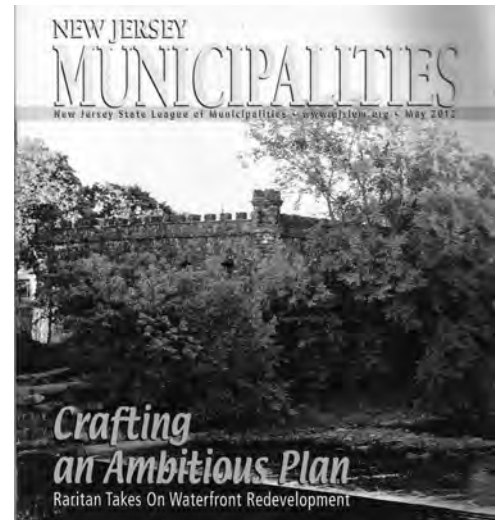
everyone should be complimented,” continued Evans.

Elements of the Action Plan include completion of population projections for the Regional Center as part of the Somerset County Water Quality Management Plan; preparation of a regional Sustainability Statement; a natural resource inventory; a submission of Board of Education 5-year plans; and approval of the Somerset Regional Center Plan Implementation Agreement.

RARITAN REDEVELOPMENT FEATURED AS COVER STORY

An article on the Raritan Redevelopment Plan, authored by Mayor Joanne Liptak, was featured as the cover story in the May, 2012 issue of *New Jersey Municipalities* magazine.

Focusing on the waterfront redevelopment, the article explains the history of the waterfront area and the plan prepared in conjunction with the Raritan River Brownfields studio and the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University. The article may be found at <http://www.njslom.org/magazine/2012-05/pg-4.html>



MUNICIPAL REPORTING

SOMERVILLE

Somerville developer JSM has begun construction on the first of the two-phase Somerville Town Center residential component



of the West Main Street redevelopment project next to the new Shop-Rite.

The Downtown Somerville Alliance has pledged to participate financially with the Borough on a

proposed parking garage behind Shop-Rite.

In addition, the renovation of Division Street was completed and opened to pedestrian traffic only.



RARITAN

The Stone Bridge at Raritan residential development off Route 202 is under construction. The plan calls for mixed housing styles, including a number of two-story buildings and a four-story high rise for veterans.

BRIDGEWATER

Projects at various stages of development or planning including the new AutoSport dealership at the site of the former Courier News building on Route 22 westbound, the Bridgewater Nissan dealership on Route 22 eastbound, a proposed CVS at the intersection of Finderne and Union Avenues; expansion at Eastern Star Home, and the proposed expansion of the New Jersey Eastern Star Nursing Home on Finderne Avenue.

Sanofi has announced that the company will be leaving the Route 202-206 office complex near the Bridgewater Manor, just outside of the Regional Center boundaries. The Township is considering permitting multiple tenants in the office complex by amending the Township's zoning ordinance.

REGIONAL CENTER OFFICERS & BOARD

Chair: Rose Evans
Vice-Chair: Troy Fischer
Treasurer: Freeholder Peter Palmer
Secretary: James Ruggieri (non-voting position)

At-large Private Sector/Institutional Representatives
Rose Evans, Chair, CPM, Vice-President, Levin Management Corp*.
Troy Fischer, Vice-Chair, Senior General Manager, Bridgewater Commons*
Glenn McCreech, Vice-President of Operations, Somerset Medical Center*
James Driscoll, Site Manager, Workplace Solutions, Johnson & Johnson Company
Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders
Patrick Scaglione, Freeholder*
(Freeholder Peter Palmer, Alt.*)
Somerset County Planning Board
Robert Bzik, Director of Planning, Somerset County
Bernie Navatto, Chair, Somerset County Planning Board
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Councilman Matthew Moench
Planner Scarlett Doyle
Henry E. Reynolds, Jr., local private sector rep.
Raritan Borough
Mayor Jo-Ann Liptak*
Councilman Anthony Soriano
Planner David Maski
Don Christensen, local private sector rep.
Somerville Borough
Mayor Brian Gallagher*
Councilman Nick Stires
Planning Board Vice-Chair Phil Decker
Rick St. Pierre, local private sector rep.
Somerset County Business Partnership
Michael Kerwin, President/CEO
(John Maddocks, Alternate)
Somerset County Park Commission
Ray Brown, Secretary/Exec. Director
(Cynthia Sullivan, Alternate)

*RCP Executive Committee member

REGIONAL CENTER 2012 MEETING DATES

September 19th @ 5:00 PM

Thursday, November 8th @ 5:00 PM

January 16, 2013 @ 5:00 PM

All meetings take place in the County Administration Building Engineering Conference Room, Second Floor, 20 Grove Street, Somerville, New Jersey.

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BRIDGEWATER, RARITAN, SOMERVILLE • SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

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