

The LANCASTER Chamber NEWS

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YOUR CHAMBER AT WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

Developing a Common Vision for Growth Along Harrisburg Pike

Over the past few years, the Harrisburg Pike Corridor has seen explosive growth that has been indicative of our county's strong economy and our private sector's commitment to our future.

From Franklin & Marshall College to Woodcrest Villa; from the Lancaster Arts Hotel to Park City Mall; from the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority Transfer Station to the Lancaster General Health Campus; from Clipper Magazine Stadium to the Veranda housing development; and to everything in between, the development along Harrisburg Pike has been most impressive.

And, still to come are the proposed Crossings at Conestoga Creek lifestyle center, the Independence mixed-use project and a host of smaller projects and expansions up and down the stretch of roadway.

While we celebrate all this recent and pending progress, we also have to realize that it could come at a price if we do not plan accordingly for our future transportation and infrastructure needs along the way.

Recognizing the fact that this road represents a gateway to our City, acknowledging the fact that this road hosts services that benefit our entire county, and appreciating the fact that this road is within an Urban Growth Area of our County's comprehensive



plan, The Chamber has partnered with the James Street Improvement District and the Lancaster County Planning Commission to oversee a broad-based study of the Harrisburg Pike Corridor (from Prince Street in the City to State Road in East Hempfield Township).

The study, which will include at least two public hearings to ensure all views are captured, will explore both transportation needs and future land uses along this important roadway. The study will be shepherded by a

26-member Steering Committee, comprised of a host of stakeholders (of which The Chamber is one) representing the private sector, the public sector, emergency personnel, mass transit, alternative transportation methods and local residents.

"In these challenging times where our vast infrastructure needs don't match with the limited funding available for projects, it is critical to develop a common vision for an area that can have all parties working toward the same goal," Chamber President Tom Baldrige said. "This study group and the public input received through the process will go a long way toward establishing that direction while working to ensure continued economic development opportunities for all."

For more information on this study initiative, check out The Chamber Web site at www.lancasterchamber.com/community.