

Chapter 2

Regional Setting & Influences

Introduction & Purpose

Although the jurisdiction of local government ends at their municipal lines, the surrounding communities unavoidably affect the daily lives of the residents. Wise planning requires us to identify and to evaluate the effect of various features beyond the Township and Borough borders. This chapter will place the Shippensburg region within the context of the larger community and will identify those regional features that have the most direct impact upon residents. This chapter also includes an analysis of the Comprehensive Plans for those portions of the surrounding municipalities that are adjacent to Shippensburg Borough and Shippensburg Township.

Geographic Setting and Influences

Shippensburg Borough and Shippensburg Township (the Shippensburg Region) are located in the heart of the scenic Cumberland Valley in south-central Pennsylvania. The Cumberland Valley extends from Carlisle, Pennsylvania south to Winchester, Virginia. The Harrisburg, Baltimore, Washington, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh Metropolitan Areas are all within a few hours' drive from Shippensburg. The entire Township and most of the Borough are within Cumberland County; a small portion of the Borough extends into Franklin County. The Township is also home to Shippensburg University and its 6,500 undergraduate students. Together, the Township, University, and Borough create a small urban center within a predominantly rural region.

The municipalities are located within the Ridge and Valley Region of the Appalachian Mountains. The topography of the area ranges from gently rolling hills to relatively flat farmland, with the elevation ranging between 640 and 720 feet. There are no water bodies of any significance in either municipality. Shippensburg Borough contains 2.0 square miles and Shippensburg Township covers 2.5 square miles. The major transportation corridors include US Route 11 (King Street) and Pennsylvania State Routes 174 (Walnut Bottom Road) and 696 (Earl Street). Interstate Route 81 passes through the extreme eastern portion of the Township. Figure 2.1 depicts a base map for the planning region, and Figure 2.2 is a reproduction of the USGS Quadrangle entitled Shippensburg and Walnut Bottom.

Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan

The 2003 Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan designates the Shippensburg region as a "Planned Growth Area" as well as a "Rural Core Area." According to the Plan, Planned Growth Areas are based upon existing Community Service Areas ("CSA's") with the intent to target future development in and around the Borough and its surrounding area. CSA's are areas which are provided with public services such as sanitary sewerage, water supply, and access to major transportation corridors. The bulk of development should be concentrated within these areas to maximize the infrastructure investment. Typically, not all new growth can be located within existing CSA's. Development is then targeted to the lands adjacent to the CSA's, as necessary, to accommodate anticipated growth.

Rural Cores are defined by the Plan as rural towns with partial public facilities and little or no access to mass transit systems, possibly linked through connections of public service within Planned Growth Areas.

Relevant recommendations from the Cumberland County Plan include:

- Encourage and assist local governments in the preparation and implementation of municipal comprehensive plans
- Direct growth toward designated "Planned Growth Areas."
- Promote revitalization of historic downtowns.
- Encourage the development of landscape standards to aid groundwater recharge and improve aesthetics.
- Limit the number of access points to commercial retail sites along major roadways to increase safety and traffic flow.
- Encourage regulations that allow integrated uses with regard to access, parking, and signage.
- Promote compatible land uses along municipal borders.
- Promote the creation and preservation of greenways and open space, including investigating a bond issue to finance the preservation.

Franklin County Comprehensive Plan

The 1999 Franklin County Comprehensive Plan designates the portion of Shippensburg Borough located within Franklin County as residential, industrial (north of King Street between Lurgan and the railroad tracks), commercial (south side of King Street), and major recreation (Memorial Park). The Plan states that these areas are suitable for these uses at a variety of densities. The areas in which higher density development is allowed should be served by public sewer and water, and should place an emphasis on housing rehabilitation and making sure that infill development is compatible with existing uses.

Adjacent Municipal Planning

Shippensburg Borough and Shippensburg Township share a border with two other municipalities: Southampton Township Cumberland County to the east and Southampton Township Franklin County to the west. Each of these communities has their own Comprehensive Plan, and both have recently enacted Zoning Ordinances as well. The following text contains brief descriptions of each municipality as well as the recommendations of their Comprehensive Plans regarding their relationship to the Shippensburg region.

Southampton Township - Cumberland County

Southampton Township (Cumberland), located east of the Shippensburg planning region, is characterized by a predominantly rural landscape. The Township contains 52.5 square miles and has a population of 4,787 (2000 census).

Southampton Township has a Comprehensive Plan and has recently adopted a zoning ordinance. The Comprehensive Plan encourages the preservation of agricultural lands, while guiding future growth to areas served by public sewer and water, including the areas adjacent to the Shippensburg region.

Public sanitary sewerage is provided by an extension of the Borough of Shippensburg's Waste Water Collection and Treatment Facility under a "Conveyance and Treatment Agreement" with the CFJMA. . Public water service is provided by the Shippensburg Borough Water Authority.

Southampton Township - Franklin County

Southampton Township (Franklin) is found to the west of the Shippensburg planning region. As with Southampton Cumberland, the Township is rural in nature with the landscape consisting primarily of agricultural fields and forests. The Township contains 35.2 square miles, and the 2000 Census population was 6,138 persons.

Much of the residential growth in the Township is occurring along the main traffic arteries leading out of the Borough of Shippensburg, including the Route 11 corridor and Route 533 to Orrstown.

The Township has recently adopted a Zoning Ordinance and a Comprehensive Plan Update. The Plan strongly supports the agricultural industry and open space preservation, which is not surprising given that 85% of the Township's land cover consists of farmland, forested land, and open fields. The Shippensburg area is described as one of the primary growth areas within the Township.

Public sanitary sewerage is provided by an extension of the Borough of Shippensburg's Waste Water Collection and Treatment Facility under a "Conveyance and Treatment Agreement" with the CFJMA. Public water supply is provided by the Shippensburg Borough Water Authority and Guilford Township.

Summary

The region's location between two rural municipalities combined with the high degree of access provided by Interstate 81, the availability of public sewer and water service, and the presence of Shippensburg University, has had a powerful influence upon development. The Cumberland and Franklin County Comprehensive Plans designate the Shippensburg region as a growth area, as do the Comprehensive Plans for both Southampton Cumberland and Southampton Franklin. These factors continue to shape our municipalities today, indicating that our planning efforts must account for their influence as policies, goals, and objectives are established.

FIGURE 2.3: SHIPPENSBURG BOROUGH AT A GLANCE

HISTORY: Chartered 1819

GEOGRAPHY: 2.038 square miles
Cumberland and Franklin Counties
Highest point: Approximately 720 feet above sea level near Dykeman Spring.

POPULATION (2000): 5,586 (4,467 Cumberland County, 1,119 Franklin County)
1990-2000 growth rate of 3.2% (Cumberland County data)
Median household income is \$27,660 (lowest in Cumberland County)

GOVERNMENT: Borough governed by a six-member Borough Council and Mayor. Boards and Commissions include the Planning Commission, the Zoning Hearing Board, and the Historic Architecture Review Board. The day-to-day operations are administered by a full-time Manager/Secretary who is appointed by the Council.

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania: 31st Senatorial District and 89th Legislative District.

In the U.S. House of Representatives: 9th Congressional District of Pennsylvania

SEWER AND WATER: Shippensburg Borough Authority

EDUCATION: Shippensburg Area School District - Public school for grades K through 12. The following schools are located within the Borough:

Shippensburg Area High School- Grades 9-12

Shippensburg Area Middle School- Grades 6-8

Nancy Grayson Elementary- Grades K-5*

James Burd Elementary- Grades K-5*

Shippensburg Independent Baptist School (Private)

BOROUGH OFFICES: Shippensburg Borough
111 North Fayette Street
Shippensburg, PA 17257-0129
(717)-532-2147

*after construction of the new elementary school, these existing schools will be grades K-3 and the new school will be grades 4 and 5.

FIGURE 2.4: SHIPPENSBURG TOWNSHIP AT A GLANCE

HISTORY:	Established 1784
GEOGRAPHY:	2.5 square miles Cumberland County Highest Point: 762 feet above sea level in northeast corner of Township near the Interstate 81 corridor.
POPULATION (2000):	4,504 1990-2000 growth rate of -2.2% Median household income is \$27,661 (second lowest in Cumberland County)
GOVERNMENT:	Township governed by a three-member Board of Supervisors. Boards and Commissions include the Planning Commission and the Zoning Hearing Board. The day-to-day operations are administered by a Township Secretary and Clerk. In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania: 31st Senatorial District and 89 th Legislative District. In the U.S. House of Representatives: 9 th Congressional District of Pennsylvania
SEWER:	Cumberland Franklin Joint Municipal Authority (CFJMA)
WATER:	Shippensburg Borough Authority
EDUCATION:	<u>Shippensburg Area School District</u> - Public school for grades K through 12. Grace B. Luhrs University Elementary- Grades preschool-5 Shippensburg University - Higher education. Enrollment- 6,500 undergraduate students; 1000 graduate students
TOWNSHIP OFFICE:	Shippensburg Township 81 Walnut Bottom Road PO Box 219 Shippensburg, PA 17257 (717)-532-7137