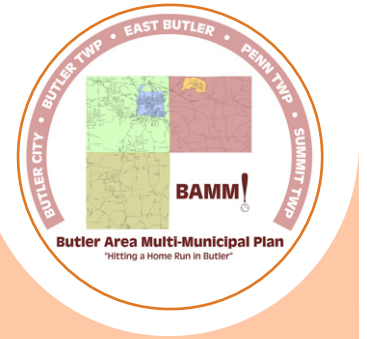


2nd Inning: Public Participation & Review of Past Plans



In order to develop a broad base of information for the BAMB Plan, several different forms of public participation and information gathering techniques were employed early and often in the planning process. In chronological order, these included:

- Steering Committee meetings – throughout the planning process.
- Review of previous plans and studies.
- Key Person Interviews.
- Residential Survey.
- Guided tours and public meetings in each of the municipalities.
- Working Group meetings.
- Public Forum discussion of the Draft Plan.
- Public presentation of the final BAMB Plan and formal approval of the Plan at each municipality.

The five municipalities undertook extensive efforts to assure that the overall community was adequately represented and had the opportunity to provide input at some point(s) in the planning process, going beyond the requirements of the MPC. The Butler Eagle carried numerous articles, and information was placed on the Butler Township and Penn Township websites.

Steering Committee and Working Group members, individuals interviewed as key persons, and/or other people involved in meetings or telephone calls to gather information on this project included:

- City planners, architects, civil engineers, forester, designers, and surveyors;
- Bankers, realtors, attorneys, and a wide variety of other business owners;
- BASA and PA American Water;
- Current and former elected officials, zoning officials, Butler Main Street Manager, Butler Downtown, Succop Conservancy, and Shade Tree Commission;
- Butler County Housing Authority, Butler County Redevelopment Authority, City of Butler Redevelopment Authority, Butler County Development Corporation, Butler County Planning, Butler County Chamber of Commerce, Butler County Parks and Recreation, Butler County Conservation District, and Butler County Tourism & Convention Bureau;
- Transit Authority, former PennDOT executive, Butler Freeport Trail, Butler County Airport, and SPC (transportation planner);
- Butler Eagle, Armstrong, and PEG TV;
- YMCA, BC3, Elementary School Principal, High School teacher, School Board, and United Way;
- DCNR, DCED, and LGA; and
- Property owners.

This chapter discusses the various public participation processes utilized, and briefly summarizes the results of each.

Steering Committee Meetings

The initial Steering Committee (SC) meeting was held on November 8, 2007. A majority of the SC members from each municipality, DCED representative Denny Puko, DCNR representative Kathy Frankel, and representatives from PDG and HRG were in attendance. Following an overview of the intended planning process and State expectations for the plan, key issues within the BAMB area in general, and within each of the individual municipalities, were identified and discussed. Major issues as initially identified include:



2nd Inning: Public Participation & Review of Past Plans



Wastewater

BASA has plan in place to remedy the Consent Order Agreement with DEP.

- Affects development/redevelopment in the City, East Butler, Butler Township and Summit Township.
- The Saxonburg Area Authority is expanding services in Penn Township.
- DEP is mandating sanitary sewer for the Village of Herman – a major issue for Summit Township.

Water

No major issues identified, but likely to be the next major infrastructure issue.

Storm Water

Issues within the City and any areas where it is being directed to the public sanitary sewer system.

Roads

Issues throughout the BAMB area, including:

- Condition of the roads.
- Connectivity between the municipalities and between major roads in the area.
- Access management for future development.
- Need for a connector between the City's downtown and the West End redevelopment area.

Regional routes needing improvements:

- New Castle Road
- SR 8
- SR 68
- SR 228

Better connections needed to I-79 and I-80.

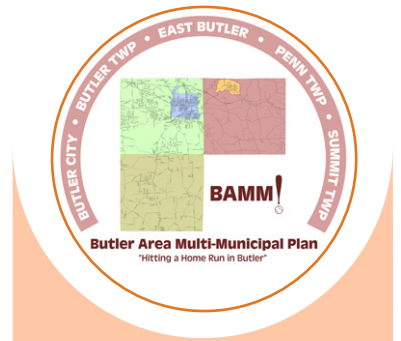
Alternative transportation

- Rails to Trails – regional opportunities with tourism implications.
- Need for a County-wide Greenways Plan.
- Major corridors in Butler Township are not walkable.

Parks & Recreation

- New Penn Township Park planning will be treated as a separate issue.
- City has good parks that need to be updated.
- Opportunities in Butler Township for new parks.
- No parks in Summit Township – on-going debate within the Township.
- East Butler has a great baseball park complex but needs more/better playgrounds.
- Options providing less maintenance and fewer opportunities for vandalism discussed.
 - Open spaces.
 - Walking trails - connected to other trails within the area.
 - Trails connecting subdivisions and required within new subdivisions.

2nd Inning: Public Participation & Review of Past Plans



City of Butler

- High percentage of rental properties vs. home ownership.
- High number of non-taxable properties.
- Blighted properties.
- Duplication of services – within the City and with neighboring municipalities.
- Need more structured activities for youth (in the City and throughout the BAMM area).

8. Better maintenance of private properties should be required and enforced.							
	Strongly Agree(5)	Agree(4)	Neutral(3)	Disagree(2)	Strongly Disagree(1)	Rating Average	Response Count
Agree-Disagree?	49.0% (254)	28.6% (148)	13.7% (71)	5.4% (28)	3.3% (17)	4.15	518
						<i>answered question</i>	518
						<i>skipped question</i>	4

6. Prime agricultural lands in parts of the townships should be preserved.							
	Strongly Agree(5)	Agree(4)	Neutral(3)	Disagree(2)	Strongly Disagree(1)	Rating Average	Response Count
Agree-Disagree?	51.1% (266)	29.8% (155)	12.9% (67)	5.2% (27)	1.2% (6)	4.24	521
						<i>answered question</i>	521
						<i>skipped question</i>	1

Summit Township

Strong desire to remain rural.

East Butler Borough

Tax breaks for industries resulting in low tax revenues.

Review of zoning and development regulations needed in City and Townships.

Preservation

- Preserve open space.
- No more available industrial land in the County.
 - Involve CDC in the creation of a new Industrial/Commercial Park.
 - Include large and small non-retail employers (insurance, tech support, etc.).
- Preserve Ag lands, especially in Summit and Butler Townships.
- Floodplain management – especially in the City, East Butler and Butler Township.
- Lyndora’s historic character.
- Utilization of “Green Building” standards.



2nd Inning: Public Participation & Review of Past Plans

7. Open Space, floodplains, habitat areas, and natural resources should be preserved.

	Strongly Agree(5)	Agree(4)	Neutral(3)	Disagree(2)	Strongly Disagree(1)	Rating Average	Response Count
Agree-Disagree?	48.2% (249)	34.4% (178)	13.2% (68)	3.7% (19)	0.6% (3)	4.26	517
						<i>answered question</i>	517
						<i>skipped question</i>	5

Top-notch medical facilities

- Butler Hospital
- Health clinic on East Butler Road
- VA Hospital

The second and third SC meetings were held on March 12 and May 28, 2008 to refine the key issues facing the BAMM Area municipalities and residents, review the subjects to be covered in the Key Person Interviews and Resident Survey, and begin to form the foundation for the Working Groups. It was at the conclusion of the second SC meeting that the idea of officially naming this Butler area multi-municipal plan the "BAMM Plan" originated.

Key issues within each of the municipalities, and common to the entire BAMM area, were reviewed, refined and initially organized into the following groups:

- Parks & Recreation
- Transportation
- Quality of Life
- Preservation
- Future Land Use
- Infrastructure
- Heritage Tourism
- Downtown Butler
- Economic Development
- Intergovernmental Coordination/Consolidation of overlapping Organizations

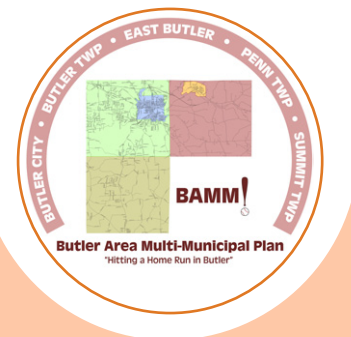
Review of Past Plans

To supplement the information to be gathered via public participation, PDG and HRG compiled and reviewed demographic data for each of the municipalities, and reviewed nine previous plans and studies completed within the County and the BAMM area between 1995 and 2007. Summaries of each are provided in **Appendix 2-1**. The previous studies that were reviewed and summarized include:

- Butler County Steel Heritage Plan – December 2007
- Butler County Historical Sites Survey – 2007
- Butler County Ethnographic Survey – January 2007
- Steel Industry Heritage Corp. Ethnographic Survey of Lyndora – December 2006
- City of Butler Main Street Application – August 2006
- City of Butler Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan – 2005
- Penn Township Comprehensive Development Plan – 2002
- Butler County Comprehensive Plan – 2002
- Butler Township Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan – 1995
- SPC Long Range Transportation Plan



2nd Inning: Public Participation & Review of Past Plans



One of the first and primary documents reviewed was the *Butler County Comprehensive Plan*, which was completed in 2002, in an attempt to assure that the BAMM Planning process pursued issues that were consistent with the County Plan. If issues were not consistent, they would be so noted.

The County Comprehensive Plan summary contained in Appendix 2-1 highlights the major recommendations that affect the BAMM Plan area. The growth rates and projections in the County Plan were accepted for the BAMM Plan. Most of the applicable issues addressed in the County Plan that dealt with proposed development patterns in the City of Butler, small towns, and rural areas with significant potential for growth are reinforced in the BAMM Plan. Major recommendations of the County Natural Resource & Conservation Plan, Economic Development Plan, Historic Preservation Plan, and Transportation Plan are enthusiastically supported in the BAMM Plan (as applicable). In addition, several of the applicable recommendations in the Housing Plan and Community Facilities Plan are also supported in the BAMM Plan.

The County Planning Department was represented on the BAMM Plan Steering Committee and attended several meetings. PDG and HRG feel confident that **the BAMM Plan is consistent with the Butler County Comprehensive Plan in all relevant areas.**

The County Planning Department was represented on the BAMM Plan Steering Committee and attended several meetings. PDG and HRG feel confident that **the BAMM Plan is consistent with the Butler County Comprehensive Plan in all relevant areas.**

Key Person Interviews

The Steering Committee provided PDG and HRG with a list of more than 40 people to be invited to participate. The list included elected officials, municipal employees, business owners, new and long-term residents, and others active in the five municipalities. 38 agreed to participate in the one-on-one interviews, and responded to a series of questions designed to help prioritize the major issues identified by the Steering Committee, identify additional issues, and create an atmosphere for a candid and confidential discussion of the issues facing both their individual communities and the greater Butler area as a whole.

Interviews were conducted on April 22 & 23 and May 28, 2008. A detailed summary of the Key Person Interviews is in **Appendix 2-2**. Highlights of comments regarding specific issues include:

BASA: What is taking so long? Need total change – administration and system. Absolutely a priority.

Revitalization of Downtown Butler: Critical to whole area; Heart of the County; Hub of entire region; Image for whole area.

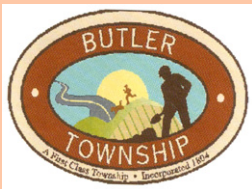
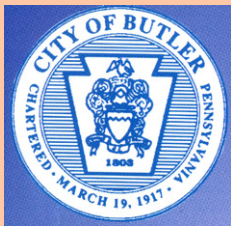
Recruit specific businesses to Downtown: Specialty shops, restaurants, professional services, upper floor residential.

11 Grade Adequacy of:					
	Total	City	But Twp	Penn	Sum/EBut
Safety Services					
Fire - muni	4.26	4.00	4.25	4.29	4.67
EMS - GBA	4.22	3.89	4.46	3.80	4.60
Fire - GBA	4.18	3.78	4.31	4.17	4.60
EMS - muni	4.00	3.78	4.29	3.00	4.67
Police - GBA	3.91	3.78	4.00	4.00	3.80
Police - your muni	3.86	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.00
Infrastructure					
Water - muni	3.62	3.78	3.92	2.33	3.25
Storm water - muni	3.27	3.20	3.08	3.80	3.40
Roads - muni	3.24	2.30	3.57	3.86	3.33
Wellheads - muni	3.20	2.67	3.00	4.67	2.67
WW - muni	3.09	2.78	3.00	4.50	3.00
Sidwalks - muni	2.65	2.33	3.08	1.00	3.00
Utilities & Services					
Hi-speed - muni	4.19	4.20	4.50	3.86	3.80
Cable - muni	4.03	4.00	4.14	4.00	3.80
Electric - muni	3.97	3.70	4.00	4.14	4.17
Telephone - muni	3.92	3.60	4.07	4.14	3.83
Natural Gas - muni	3.86	3.78	3.93	3.67	4.00
Garbage Collection - muni	3.65	3.70	3.57	3.57	3.83
Recycling - muni	3.47	3.22	3.43	3.57	3.83
12 Importance of preservation of:					
Natural resources	4.51	4.50	4.43	4.57	4.67
Historic sites/areas	4.25	4.44	4.14	3.71	4.83
Neighborhoods	4.16	4.00	4.21	3.71	4.83
Tree stands	4.13	4.43	3.42	4.43	4.83
Open space	4.06	3.78	3.62	4.43	5.00
Ag Land	3.88	3.63	3.23	4.43	5.00
13 Priority to create trails throughout GBA?					
	Yes (24). No (10). Not a priority, but yes (3).				

2nd Inning: Public Participation & Review of Past Plans



Q. #	Key Person Interviews Summary PDG, 7/22/08	Responses by Municipality and in Total				
		Total	City	But Twp	Penn	Sum/EBut
1-9	Ranking of specific identified issues:	(Average of all KP Rankings)				
	Address BASA issues	4.51	4.40	4.57	4.29	4.83
	Revitalize DT Butler critical	4.03	4.50	4.36	3.29	3.33
	Recruit Specific Bus. to DT	3.82	4.40	3.85	3.00	3.60
	Enforce Prop Maintenance	3.73	4.30	3.64	3.43	3.33
	Green Development - your muni	3.67	4.00	3.46	3.14	4.17
	Need More & Better Parks - muni	3.62	4.00	3.79	2.86	3.50
	Parking problem in DT	3.19	3.10	3.23	3.43	3.00
	Ind.Dev in West End	3.19	3.00	3.21	2.86	3.83
	RR Grade Separations?	2.39	2.00	2.54	2.14	3.00
	Parking elsewhere	2.30	2.00	2.50	2.80	1.75
10	Ranking of Orgs/Issues	Total	City	But Twp	Penn	Sum/EBut
	(Organizations)					
	BC3	4.41	4.25	4.57	4.00	4.80
	Vo Tech	4.20	4.14	4.23	3.60	4.80
	Butler Memorial Hospital	4.11	3.80	4.43	4.00	4.00
	Chamber of Commerce	3.97	4.13	4.23	3.00	3.75
	Penn United Technology	3.71	4.00	3.73	4.00	3.25
	Schools (5/4/3/2/1)	3.69	3.38	3.79	3.86	3.67
	Butler County Commissioners	3.68	3.89	3.71	3.57	3.25
	Your Twp Supervisors	3.57	na	3.86	4.43	2.00
	VA Medical Center	3.54	3.25	3.25	4.25	4.25
	Butler City Council	3.22	3.33	3.36	3.20	2.50
	(Parks & Rec)	Total	City	But Twp	Penn	Sum/EBut
	County Trails	3.81	3.56	3.83	3.83	4.25
	County Parks	3.77	3.44	3.92	3.67	4.25
	County Parks & Rec	3.74	3.67	3.77	3.71	3.83
	Specific sports (team & Ind)	3.58	3.20	3.50	3.67	4.25
	Your muni's Parks & Rec	3.00	3.00	3.46	2.71	1.67
	(Cooperation)	Total	City	But Twp	Penn	Sum/EBut
	Coop among munis	2.97	2.89	3.08	3.17	2.60
	City-County Cooperation	2.77	2.78	2.85	2.60	2.67



More and better parks: Key to quality of life, bringing people in.

Industrial development in addition to West End: East Butler. Tie West End and East Butler together with a road.

Parking problem areas other than DT: At the schools (especially at special/sporting events; at Pullman Ball Park; in City neighborhoods (references to restrictions on building garages and number of former single-family homes that are now multi-family).

Local schools: Problems caused by "No child left behind" program. There are tax base issues. Disconnect between schools and parents. Huge drug problem exists. Good facilities.

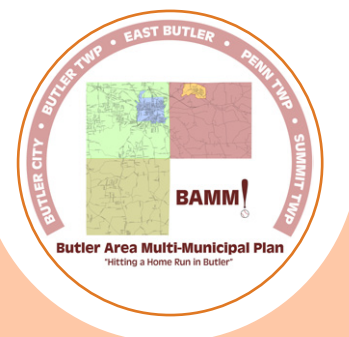
BC3: Very positive comments.

Vo Tech: Good asset with excellent reputation. It should be expanded to 9-12 grades.

Penn United: Important, need to get the word out about its programs. Some disconnect with expectations and jobs actually landed by trainees.

Chamber of Commerce: Mostly positive comments, especially regarding new leadership. There are issues with funding and attracting volunteers, and possibly the amount of emphasis on events rather than promoting and attracting business.

2nd Inning: Public Participation & Review of Past Plans



14 Priority of Transportation issues	Total (%)	City	But Twp	Penn	Sum/EBut
Rte 228 corridor	73.0	80.0	85.7	42.9	66.7
Butler - Cranberry Twp	67.6	70.0	71.4	85.7	33.3
Park & Ride	62.2	60.0	64.3	57.1	66.7
Rte 68 corridor	56.8	60.0	71.4	28.6	50.0
Mass transit	54.1	70.0	57.1	28.6	50.0
Walking/jogging connectivity	54.1	80.0	64.3	14.3	33.3
Bicycle connectivity	54.1	80.0	57.1	14.3	50.0
New Castle Road corridor	45.9	40.0	50.0	28.6	66.7
Parking DT	45.9	40.0	64.3	42.9	16.7
Connections to 80 & 79	45.9	70.0	50.0	42.9	0.0
Wayne to West End	43.2	40.0	57.1	28.6	33.3
Roller Blades/Skateboards	35.1	50.0	28.6	28.6	33.3
Bridges	32.4	40.0	28.6	0.0	66.7
Rte 8 corridor	32.4	50.0	35.7	28.6	0.0
General vehicular connectivity	27.0	30.0	28.6	0.0	50.0
Parking in neighborhoods	24.3	40.0	14.3	14.3	33.3
Rte 422 corridor	24.3	50.0	7.1	14.7	33.3
Connecting Comm. Parking lots	18.9	30.0	14.3	14.3	16.7
Vehicular conn between munis	10.8	20.0	7.1	0.0	16.7
Vehicular conn. Btwn N'hoods	10.8	10.0	14.3	14.3	0.0
Access management	10.8	20.0	7.1	14.3	0.0

City Council/Administration: Recognize budget limitations. There's hope that having a Main Street Manager will help. There are concerns about ability to really change things that need to be changed. The mercantile tax issue is driving businesses out of City & downtown.

Township Supervisors/Administration: Butler and Penn – generally high marks. Summit has issues between Board members and inconsistencies with Planning Commission.

County Commissioners/Administration: Sense of renewed hope with two new commissioners. The County is still smarting from prison issues.

Trails: Moraine Trail recently improved. There are Rails to Trails issues in Summit Township. Need for safe bike routes for both recreation and transportation.

Level of cooperation - City & County: Hopes are raised with new Mayor and Commissioners, but generally considered pretty minimal for a long time. Consensus, however, is that cooperation between the two is critical for the area and that the City needs the County's financial and other support.

Level of cooperation among the municipalities: Improving and needed, but still minimal. Need to find some common ground and/or starting places, as well as explore shared services. Hopes raised with multi-municipal planning effort.

Housing opportunities/availability: Lots of issues in the City – too many rentals, tough for young families to find affordable and safe areas to live, etc. Need for housing for middle-income families, seniors, and families throughout the area.

Tourist attractions and Cultural facilities: A good number already in the area, and opportunities for others suggested. Need more publicity and marketing of local opportunities, especially in conjunction with parades and other special events.

Entertainment opportunities: Need much more for teens, preteens, singles and young adults especially, but also in general. However, there are lots of things to do in the area, but not very well publicized.

Safety Services: High marks all around. Lots of comments about sharing of services, how long we can afford paid Fire Departments, need for more drug enforcement, etc.

Infrastructure/Utilities: Sidewalks, roads, stormwater, and BASA issues. There were mixed comments about utilities in each municipality.



2nd Inning: Public Participation & Review of Past Plans

Should it be a priority to create a network of trails in the Greater Butler Area?

Overwhelmingly yes.

Transportation issues: Mass transit and Park & Ride needs expected to grow with fuel prices. There are parking issues near prison and in Lyndora. Picklegate intersection at Pullman should be a 4-way light intersection. Bridge issues identified. Additional corridors/areas for consideration in the planning effort: SR 8 By-pass, SR 422 at Jefferson and at Bonniebrook, access to SR 422 on N. Duffy, turn lanes on Keck and Karnes Roads, etc. Need for multiuse trails for recreation and transportation. A Skateboard Park is needed, as well as a BMX track.

Main things to attract more businesses: Tax and Development incentives. Eliminate/reduce the mercantile tax. Better zoning, more parking, affordable housing, more downtown businesses, solve BASA issues, and street improvements.

Main things to attract more residents: Jobs. Fix downtown facades. Add more recreation and entertainment, and middle-income housing. Fix BASA. Clean-up the drug problems. Add more retail and lower taxes.

Types of businesses that should be recruited to area: Family recreation and entertainment, coffee shop, microbrewery, family restaurants, services, manufacturing, specialty shops in downtown, warehousing, health care, banquet facility for 400+ and "Whatever we can get."

Where your municipality spends too much money: Ranging from some essential services to "none".

Where your municipality doesn't spend enough money: Mostly roads and other infrastructure.

Cooperation regarding Parks & Recreation: Getting people to understand that they are not islands but that they are attractions that cut across municipal boundaries. Coordinate with the County as well.

Resident Survey

A Resident Survey was undertaken in July 2008. In order to economically reach as many residents within the BAMB Plan area as possible, a survey was distributed as an insert in the Butler Eagle, and was also available on-line via links on the Penn Township and Butler Township websites. Advanced publicity on local radio and TV helped promote the survey. To further encourage participation, local businesses and organizations donated nearly 100 separate prizes including such things as: 4 box seats at a Pirates game, golf for four at local courses, swimming pool passes, theater tickets, bottles of wine, and gift certificates for local merchants and restaurants, to be awarded by drawing to twenty of those completing the survey.

A total of 522 responses were received, including some from non-residents of the BAMB Area. With a total population of 42,933 (2000 census figures), this level of response provides a 99% level of confidence in the results with a margin of error between 5.6 and 6.5%. 80% of those responding were between the ages of 36-75. The number of responses by municipality was also a reasonable reflection of the respective populations.

Questions were organized into three main areas based on the recommendations of the Steering Committee and prioritization of issues from the Key Person interviews – Quality of Life & Community

Thank You
FOR YOUR HELP

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to all of the generous donors of prizes for the butler area multi-municipal plan resident survey

Bernie P. Dowd and I sell Butler County.com
Butler County Chamber of Commerce
Butler County Tourism and Convention Bureau
Butler Hospital Systems
Butler Township Fire Marshal
Conley Resort
IBIS Tek
Leonard Pintell
M.K. & Associates, Inc.
Poggemeyer Design Group
Stepanian and Muscatello, LLP
Unicorn Card and Gift Shoppe

Burt Hill
Butler County Community College
Butler Farm Show
Butler Township
Community Development Corporation of Butler County
Dillon McCandless King Coulter & Graham LLP
Lakevue North Golf Course
ms consultants, inc.
Nextier Bank
Russell Standard Corp
Suncrest Golf Course
Anonymous

Thanks to your generous donations, we have 21 separate prize packages that will be given to the winners of the random drawing of names from those who return a completed BAMB Plan Resident Survey.

The survey appeared as an insert in the July 15 Edition of the Butler Eagle and is also available on-line. Extra copies of the Butler Eagle survey insert are available at the Butler Township Building - 724-287-7465

(Click on the link to the on-line survey at either www.butlertwp.org or www.penn township.org)

All residents of the City, East Butler Borough, and Butler, Penn and Summit Townships are reminded to complete and return their survey by July 31 to support your community and be eligible for the prizes.

The BAMB Plan Steering Committee

986265

2nd Inning: Public Participation & Review of Past Plans



Development, Parks & Recreation, and Downtown Butler. Those responding to the survey agreed with the Key Persons, regardless of residence, that the revitalization of Downtown Butler is critical for the entire Greater Butler Area and should be a top priority for all concerned.

A copy of the survey itself and the detailed results are provided in **Appendix 2-3**. Major highlights include:

The top five issues regarding Quality of Life and Community Development were:

- The revitalization of Downtown Butler.
- Selected neighborhoods also need to be revitalized, especially the “Island” area, the West End, and the South Side.
- Local governments need to improve communications with the public.
- Projects such as the Penn Theater, Pullman Park, Centre City, Wayne Street Connector, and West End redevelopment projects, are important to the revitalization of the area.
- Open space, floodplains, habitat areas and natural resources should be preserved.

22. Projects such as the Penn Theater, Pullman Park, Centre City, Wayne Street Connector, and West End redevelopment projects, are important to the revitalization of the area.

	Strongly Agree(5)	Agree(4)	Neutral(3)	Disagree(2)	Strongly Disagree(1)	Rating Average	Response Count
Agree-Disagree?	50.9% (262)	31.8% (164)	12.8% (66)	3.1% (16)	1.4% (7)	4.28	515
						<i>answered question</i>	515
						<i>skipped question</i>	7

Better highway connections are especially needed on these roads (in priority order).

- 68
- 8
- 422
- 228
- 528

Major areas of emphasis, based on comments received for this section of the survey, should be:

- DT revitalization.
- Jobs.
- Increased home ownership.
- Safe, attractive, drug-free communities.
- More activities for youth.
- Preserve open space.

23. Revitalization of Downtown Butler is critical for the Greater Butler Area.

	Strongly Agree(5)	Agree(4)	Neutral(3)	Disagree(2)	Strongly Disagree(1)	Rating Average	Response Count
Agree-Disagree?	60.7% (312)	26.7% (137)	8.0% (41)	3.1% (16)	1.6% (8)	4.42	514
						<i>answered question</i>	514
						<i>skipped question</i>	8

2nd Inning: Public Participation & Review of Past Plans

Highlights from the Parks & Recreation portion of the Survey include:

- Almost 90% of those responding felt that the Butler area municipalities should partner in the development of parks and recreational programs and facilities.
- Existing parks and recreational facilities should be improved.
- The types of facilities that would get the most use are:
 - Walking trails
 - Restrooms
 - Nature trails
 - Picnic areas and tables
 - Bike trails
- Relatively speaking, there was little demand for team and individual sports facilities such as tennis and basketball courts or baseball, softball, soccer and football fields. Instead, it was obvious that the BAMM Area residents want more opportunities for family-oriented, general fitness and play activities, and more facilities supporting those kinds of activities including picnic areas and restrooms.

34. In your municipality, with regard to Parks and Recreational Facilities (recreational buildings, equipment, features, etc. in parks), please check the statements below that most accurately reflect your opinion:

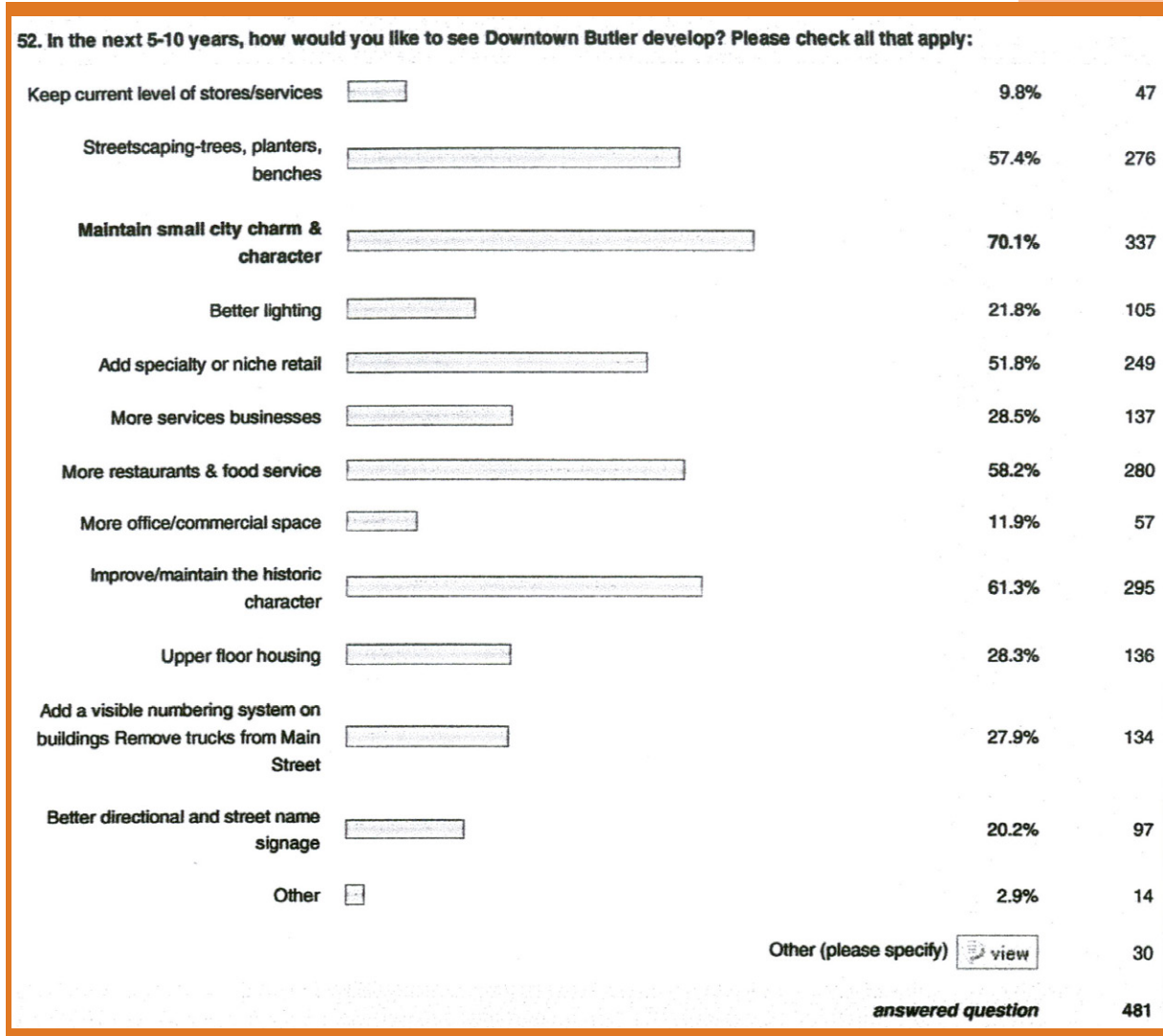
	Response Percent	Response Count
We have too many parks	1.4%	7
We currently have sufficient parks	26.9%	135
We need more parks	21.5%	108
Existing parks should be improved	56.8%	285
We have too many recreational facilities	1.2%	6
We currently have sufficient recreational facilities	16.5%	83
Facilities should be expanded	34.1%	171
Existing recreational facilities should be improved	51.0%	256
Not familiar with parks/recreational facilities in the municipality	9.2%	46
	answered question	502
	skipped question	20

2nd Inning: Public Participation & Review of Past Plans



Highlights from the Downtown portion of the Survey include:

- About 60% of the BAMM Area residents visit Downtown Butler at least once a week, with most of them spending less than \$50 per visit.
- The primary reasons for visiting the Downtown are:
 - Post Office
 - Banking/Financial
 - Restaurants/Bars
 - Doctors/Dentists/Opticians
- The kinds of new or additional stores or services most desired are:
 - Family restaurant
 - Theater showing current movies
 - Clothing store
 - Upscale restaurant
- At the end of the survey there was an opportunity to provide **general comments**. The general issue receiving the most comments was **safety**, with multiple specific references to drugs, Main Street, neighborhood crime, speeding, and the need for more police presence.





2nd Inning: Public Participation & Review of Past Plans

Tours and Visioning Sessions with each Municipality

Over a four-day period in September 2008, PDG representatives were given guided tours of each of the municipalities by municipal officials and/or staff personnel. Each evening following the tours, public visioning sessions were held in the municipalities. At those sessions, results from the key person interviews and resident surveys specific to that municipality were presented as a catalyst for discussion.

The meeting in Summit Township was held at the Herman Fire Hall and was attended by over 55 residents from the Township and the Borough of East Butler. Attendance in each of the other public meetings ranged from 15-25 attendees. In each session, there was a lively discussion regarding the issues of particular interest to those in attendance.

The information garnered during the tours, and in the public visioning sessions provided an even more in-depth and invaluable perspective on the issues facing each of the five municipalities and the BAMB Area as a whole.

Detailed summaries of the four tours and public sessions, which make for some very interesting reading, are provided in Appendix 2-5. Brief highlights of each of the public meetings, with an emphasis on newly-identified issues and definite corroboration of previously identified issues, include:

East Butler/Summit Township:

- Township Zoning Code needs to be updated.
- Commercial development is needed to improve the quality of life and increase Township revenues. Need both public water and sanitary sewer services throughout most of the Township.
- The need for parks and recreation facilities in the Township remains a debated issue.

- The park behind Summit Academy was not maintained and fell apart.
- Don't raise taxes to have parks in the Township.
- The land behind the Herman Fire Department building is available for a park.
- Consider the Township-owned 10 acres near the Township building and adjacent to the planned Rails-to-Trails area.
- East Butler parks need pavilions and restrooms.
- Issues with high levels of traffic and speeding on Keck Road and BonnieBrook.
- Issues with Pennsylvania American Water Company, including insufficient water pressure to fight fires at many area fire hydrants.
- Communications within the Township and among the area municipalities need to be improved greatly.

Penn Township:

- Several Township roads need to be upgraded, especially with the anticipated continued development.
- Need additional commercial development along SR 8, but need to address access management issues as well.
- Need zoning continuity with adjacent municipalities.
- Need public water.
- Need to promote better utilization of the County Airport.
- Loss of local schools from the Township has had a big impact on the sense of community within the Township and the amount of regular contact among families.



Butler Area Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan

BAMB PLAN—PUBLIC INPUT SESSIONS

FOUR Butler Area Public Input Sessions to choose from

"What needs to be improved in YOUR community?"



Housing...Quality of Life...Storm Water...Farmland Preservation...Jobs...etc...

1 Summit Twp/East Butler
Monday 9/8, 6 PMHerman Fire Hall

2 Penn Township
Tuesday 9/9, 6 PMPenn Township Building

3 Butler Township
Wednesday 9/10, 6 PMButler Township Building

4 City of Butler
Thursday, 9/11, 6:30 PMSt. Peter's Social Hall



2nd Inning: Public Participation & Review of Past Plans



- It is hoped that the potential new Township Park could provide a place for Township-wide activities and special events that would help renew a greater sense of community.
- Penn Township has a website and produces a Township flyer.

Butler Township

- Safety issues after dark and with regard to walking in the Township.
 - Opportunity for multi-use trails for both recreation and transportation.
- Need activities for youth.
- Parks & Recreation should be a greater Butler cooperative effort.
- Significant potential for regional mass transportation.
- SR 68 is a major problem area.
- Need affordable senior housing in the Township.
- There are opportunities for consolidation of services.

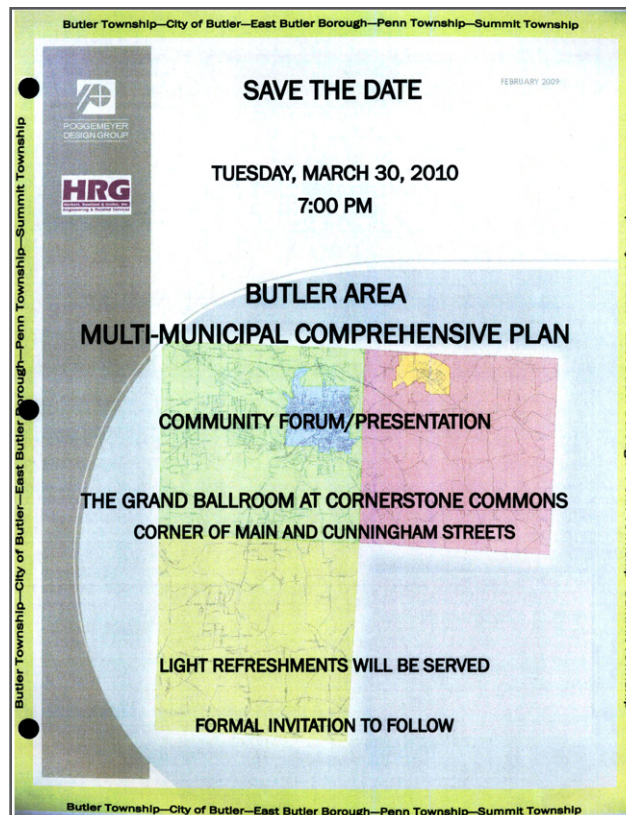
City of Butler

- Need better code enforcement, especially with regard to property maintenance.
- There are serious real and perceived issues regarding crime in the Downtown.
- The key to revitalization is safety.
- Communications between the City and the residents is poor.
- There are several disincentives for people to locate businesses in the City.
- Need an emphasis on economic development.

Working Group Meetings

Additional public input into the planning process continued in late 2008 and in 2009, primarily in Working Group meetings. Based on the identification of the major issues facing the BAMM Area and individual municipalities, six Working Groups were created and organized into compatible groupings which included:

- Downtown Butler
- Economic Development/Heritage Tourism/Quality of Life
- Infrastructure and Transportation
- Intergovernmental Coordination/Organization/Consolidation
- Land Use/Zoning/Preservation
- Parks & Recreation



2nd Inning: Public Participation & Review of Past Plans

These Working Groups consisted of interested volunteers from each of the municipalities, as well as Steering Committee members. The primary objectives for each of the Working Groups were to prioritize the issues germane to their specific areas, develop prioritized recommendations with regard to the major issues, and develop specific implementation steps necessary to accomplish the recommendations.

Butler Downtown Annual Meetings

PDG manned booths at the 2008 and 2009 Annual Meetings of Butler Downtown and provided maps and information on proposed goals and strategies being developed by the BAMB Plan Steering committee and Working Groups. PDG also attended Butler Downtown Committee meetings.

Public Forum

About 250 people attended the Community Forum on March 30, 2010 at the Cornerstone Commons Grand Ballroom. PDG and HRG presented a summary of the recommendations of the BAMB Plan, after which participants were asked to visit each of six stations to review information, ask questions, provide comments and opinions, and vote on issues that the BAMB Plan municipalities should include in an Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement.

The baseball game setting had at:

First Base -- Land Use and Zoning

Second Base – Transportation and Infrastructure

Third Base – Economic Development

Home Plate – Downtown Butler

Visiting Team Dug Out – Parks and Recreation

Home Team Dug Out – Intergovernmental Coordination and Cooperation

Butler Township—City of Butler—East Butler Borough—Penn Township—Summit Township

POGGEMEYER DESIGN GROUP

HRG

ATTENTION INTERESTED PARTIES IN:

Butler Township, City of Butler,
East Butler Borough, Penn Township,
and Summit Township

COMMUNITY FORUM/PRESENTATION

**BUTLER AREA
MULTI-MUNICIPAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 2010
7:00 PM

THE GRAND BALLROOM AT CORNERSTONE COMMONS
CORNER OF MAIN AND CUNNINGHAM STREETS

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

Butler Township—City of Butler—East Butler Borough—Penn Township—Summit Township



Steering Committee and Working Group members helped man the stations and answer questions. Popcorn and refreshments were provided, and Butler Blue Sox baseball caps (donated by Pullman Park) and train whistles (donated by CDC) were awarded as door prizes.

Attendees included representatives from Congresswoman Kathy Dahlkemper's office, Senator Mary Jo White's office, Pennsylvania American Water Company, PennDOT, and the Butler Area School District, in addition to representatives from all five municipalities, the Chamber of Commerce, Butler Downtown, and many other organizations and agencies, as well as residents.

Work Session/Retreat

On May 6, 2010, the BAMB Plan participants attended a Work Session and Retreat at the Butler Township Park Building to review the recommendations of the Plan and discuss any questions or concerns they had about implementation of the BAMB Plan and the Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement (ICA). Thirty-six people attended the event, including seven representatives from the City of Butler, ten from Butler Township, six from Penn Township, six from Summit Township, three from East Butler Borough, and four from the consulting team.



2nd Inning: Public Participation & Review of Past Plans



After a picnic lunch, the group began the discussion by reviewing the summary of the voting from the Public Forum, during which participants voted for issues that should be addressed in the ICA. Adjustments were made, issues discussed, and consensus reached on what issues should be included in the ICA. Consensus was also reached on the recommendations of the BAMM Plan and forwarding it on to the five municipalities for approval. It was agreed to have one combined public hearing and five individual municipal meetings at the same time for approval.

The recommendations and implementation steps developed by the Working Groups, which make up the essence of the BAMM Plan, are detailed in the following six chapters.

Municipal Presentation

On July 1st, 2010 all five municipalities met at the Butler Township Municipal Building and held a joint public hearing, asking for comments on the proposed plan. After the public hearing, a municipal meeting was held by each municipality to approve the plan with one recommended correction. All five municipalities approved the plan and agreed to begin the legal process to approve the ICA.

Joint signing of the resolution adopting the multi-municipal plan

Congratulations Butler Township, Butler City, Penn Township, Summit Township and East Butler Borough!! And Kudos to the Steering Committee for the commitment and hard work required over the last three years to accomplish this feat!

Municipalities discuss plan

Residents pick revitalization as top priority

By ED BULLER
Eagle Staff Writer

According to the more than 150 residents and officials who attended a meeting Tuesday night, revitalization of downtown Butler is the top priority to the Butler Area Multi-Municipal (BAMM) Plan.

Residents of Butler, East Butler, and Butler, Penn and Summit townships attended the meeting at Cornerstone Commons on Main Street to hear the results of more than two years of planning and to weigh in on the initiatives they valued most.

The meeting is one of the last steps in the development of a 20-year plan, one which will be finalized in early April and then submitted for review by the county, adjacent municipalities and school districts.

"There's a lot of different projects we (the five municipalities) could do together, but we can't do them all at once. So, we need suggestions," said Charlene Kerr, principal owner of Poggemeyer Design Group of Pittsburgh, which is the BAMM consultant.

Voting by attendees pointed to these five initiatives as having the highest priority in the overall plan:

- Continued revitalization of downtown
- The need to agree to land uses that may be available in only one municipality, but that would serve the BAMM area
- Renovation of the Penn Theater on Main Street
- Support of the Pullman Center Business Park, the West end connector road and new uses for the former Pullman Building
- Support of the Route 228 improvement project and the implementation of a Route 88 improvement project

Those initiatives were based on 552 resident surveys sent out by Poggemeyer, and were part of six larger categories for BAMM. Those categories are:

- Economic development

Economic development includes, first and foremost, redevelopment of existing areas such as Butler's downtown, the west end, and the Centre City project, which intends to bring a Rite-Aid drugstore, a convention center and a hotel to the city.

Next, the plan proposes identifying...

Real estate investor Matt Scott of the Scott-Stoughton Group looks over charts for the Butler Area Multi-Municipal (BAMM) Plan. **DAVE PHELPS/STY BUTLER EAGLE**

See Plan on Page 5



Back Row left to right: Councilman Joseph Lesnick-East Butler Borough, East Butler Council President Earl Fennel, Butler Township Vice-President Board of Commissioners David Zarnick, Penn Township Supervisor Bert Mowry, Butler Township Commissioner Ben Simon, Butler Township President Board of Commissioners Joseph Hasychak, Butler City Councilman Richard Schontz, Jr., Douglas Roth Vice-President Penn Township Board of Supervisors, Butler Township Commissioner George Shockey, Vice-Chair Summit Township Supervisors Daniel Hay

Front Row left to right: East Butler Borough Vice-President-John Shields, Penn Township Chair of Supervisors-Samuel Ward, Butler Township Commissioner Joseph Cavaliero, Mayor City of Butler-Maggie Stock and Butler City Councilwoman Kathy Kline.