

DRAFT Comprehensive Plan – Redline Version

As of April 21, 2021

Prepared for April 27, 2021 Public Hearing/Council Voting Session

Page	Topic	Change	Source/Notes
8	Adoption	Plan Review & Adoption: Steering Committee, MPO, Residents, Municipal, County Planning Staff, Luzerne County Council, and Lackawanna Board of Commissioners.	Edit suggested by Council Member Sheila Saidman at April 13 th Luzerne County Council meeting.
41	Blight	A majority among the Luzerne County Council believe that blight remains a persistent issue. Housing that is vacant or in disrepair is unsightly and hazardous and can hinder the potential for growth and reinvestment in the surrounding area.	Edit suggested by Council Member Harry Haas at March 23 rd Luzerne County Council meeting.
42	Coronavirus	One lesson learned from the Coronavirus Pandemic of 2019-2021 is that it is difficult to social distance within shared housing spaces. Positivity rates were high in Hazleton City where a high proportion of the housing is comprised of multi-family stock. Cases were also seen at a meat-processing facility located west of Hazleton. A majority of Luzerne County Council recommends that, moving forward, developers of new residential, commercial, and industrial buildings consider installing robust ventilation systems, and provide adequate square-footage to safely space employees and staff onsite in order to mitigate the impact of any future pandemics.	Edit suggested by Council Member Robert Schnee at April 13 th Luzerne County Council meeting based on input from Hazleton resident Mark Rabo during public hearing.
59	Stormwater	A majority among the Luzerne County Council believe that stormwater fees are a financial burden on the taxpayers, landowners, and businesses in the area. It is perceived that these taxes are a discouraging factor for future growth, reinvestment, and new enterprise in the County.	Edit suggested by Council Member Harry Haas at March 23 rd Luzerne County Council meeting.
76	Lehigh River	The Lehigh River skirts the southeast borders of Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. The Hazleton City Authority periodically renews a permit with the Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection to maintain the ability to withdraw up to 3 million gallons of water per day from the Lehigh River at a site near Rockport to supplant its water distribution system which serves 14 municipalities in 3 counties. The Authority has been able to keep the Dreck Creek Reservoir full, even during dry periods over the last several years, by pumping water into it from	Edit suggested by Council Member Robert Schnee at April 13 th Luzerne County Council meeting based on input from Hazleton resident Mark Rabo during public hearing.

		<p>the Lehigh River. This water is run through a treatment plant before being delivered to customers. On Jan. 9, 2020, hundreds of area residents attended a public meeting hosted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to hear about a study the Corps plans to undertake regarding various uses of the Lehigh River at Francis E. Walter Dam which may include using it to supplant the water distribution system serving New York City. A majority of Luzerne County Council believes that such plans should be monitored for possible growth-limiting implications they might have for Northeastern Pennsylvania.</p>	
100	Route 11 Corridor	<p>Communities along Route 11 in the Nescopeck Borough and East Berwick areas of the Southwestern portion of Luzerne County, are poised to experience growth, especially if natural and man-made hazards along and within the Route 11 area can be addressed. Existing issues on Route 11 such as flooding and fallen trees along with the implications of the potential decommissioning of the Berwick nuclear plant, should be addressed by PennDOT and the County to support future growth potential.</p>	<p>Edit suggested by Luzerne County Planning Commission at meeting on Jan. 14, 2021.</p>
102	Future Land Use Map	<p>Nescopeck Borough was added as an Urban Center, while surrounding areas like East Berwick and Salem Township were added as future growth areas (Secondary Growth Areas).</p>	<p>Edit suggested by Luzerne County staff during Planning Commission meeting on Jan. 14th, 2021</p>
112	Litter/Illegal Dumping	<p>A majority of Luzerne County Council acknowledges that litter and illegal dumping remain persistent problems in our community. Over the last several months, Wilkes-Barre Area Citizens Blight Committee members have been voluntarily cleaning up illegal dumping sites throughout Luzerne County. The pursuit of grants might be one way to support such group efforts. The strengthening of anti-dumping laws may be another solution that should continue to be explored by civic leaders.</p>	<p>Edit suggested by Council Member Walter Griffith on April 21st based on input from Wilkes-Barre Area Citizens Blight Committee Member, Greg Griffin.</p>