

**FAYETTE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN  
REGIONAL INPUT MEETING RECORDS  
SEPTEMBER 21, 1998 THROUGH OCTOBER 1, 1998**

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As part of the process of completing the Fayette County Comprehensive Plan, the County held “Regional Input Meetings” for the purpose of identifying key issues, concerns, and opportunities within the County. The County decided to create six (6) sub-regions in order to gain input at a regional level and to allow for more convenient public attendance. Table 1 provides a listing of the municipalities included in each sub-region. The table also provides the location and date for each of the six (6) meetings.

Approximately sixty (60) residents within the County gathered to participate in the public meeting process<sup>1</sup>. The Nominal Group Technique (NGT), a small group facilitation process, was used to insure that all participants were afforded an equal voice in defining their ideas. County based issues and ideas were identified by focusing on the following three (3) questions:

1. *What elements of the County do you like and would like to see continue in the future?*
2. *What element of the County would you like to see change?*
3. *What issues, needs, challenges, or opportunities do you see facing Fayette County and your sub-region (now and in the future)?*

The groups were instructed that the responses could relate to any of the following topics:

- Transportation/Traffic (pedestrian, vehicular, railroads, etc.)
- Recreation, Parks, and Open Space
- Existing Land Use and Corridor Issues
- Government Administration and Services
- Utilities (Water, Sewer, and Gas)
- Human Services
- Historical, Cultural, and Natural Resources
- Housing Opportunities
- Public Facilities (Stormwater Management, Water, Sewer, etc.)
- Economic Development and Tourism
- Public Relations and County Image
- Quality of Life

The participants were led by neutral facilitators and asked to provide their views related to the questions stated above. The ideas could be related to any issues they felt were important.

The NGT process consisted of the following five (5) steps:

- (Step 1) *Idea Writing – Each person was asked to write down their ideas on the questions before the group.*

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<sup>1</sup> Fayette County invited all County citizens to the meetings by advertising in local newspapers and on the radio. Letters were also mailed to local municipal officials and persons contained on the Fayette Forward mailing list.  
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- (Step 2) Idea Recording – Each person’s ideas were recorded one at a time on large sheets of paper predominately displayed in front of the group.
- (Step 3) Idea Discussion/Clarification – Each idea was then discussed and clarified. This step moved the ideas from being those of the individuals to becoming those of the group.
- (Step 4) Priority Idea Identification – In this step, each group member was given five (5) note cards<sup>2</sup>. The group members were then asked to pick the five (5) ideas from the list before them that are most important to them and to write one (1) idea on each note card. They were then asked to rank each idea with the most important idea being number 5 and the least important idea ranked number 1.
- (Step 5) Presentation – After all participants had selected their top priorities, the key ideas and findings were presented to the group.

### **List of Key Ideas Countywide**

- Need for greater zoning, building, property maintenance, and general nuisance code enforcement.
- Limited or inadequate infrastructure to serve existing and new growth areas. Need to invest in infrastructure (roads, rail, bridges, gas, water, sewer, etc.).
- Few housing choices for young people and senior citizens (e.g., upper-scale townhouse apartments, condos, etc.).
- Improve the quality of public school education – consider consolidation of school districts under one countywide Board.
- Expand job opportunities and work force training at all levels, especially high-tech.
- Capitalize on tourism opportunities within the County without negatively impacting the historical and natural resources that make Fayette County unique.
- Enhance cooperation between all levels of government (Townships, Boroughs, School Districts, non-profits, County, and State).

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<sup>2</sup> Note: A multi-voting process was used at several meetings where participants were provided dots with a value of 1–5 and were asked to place the highest value dot next to their top idea, etc.

**Table 1**

<b>MEETING LOCATIONS</b>			
<b>SUB-REGION</b>	<b>MUNICIPALITIES</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
1	Brownsville Borough Brownsville Township Jefferson Township Luzerne Township Menallen Township Newell Borough Redstone Township	Monday, September 21, 1998	Menallen School
2	Belle Vernon Borough Dawson Borough Fayette City Borough Franklin Township Lower Tyrone Township Perry Township Perryopolis Borough Upper Tyrone Township Washington Township Everson Borough	Tuesday, September 22, 1998	Perryopolis Borough Building
3	Bullskin Township Connellsville City Connellsville Township Dunbar Borough Dunbar Township Vanderbilt Borough Saltlick Township South Connellville Borough Springfield Borough	Thursday, September 24, 1998	Connellsville Volunteer Fire Department
4	North Union Township South Union Township Uniontown City	Tuesday, September 29, 1998	Uniontown High School
5	Henry Clay Township Markleysburg Borough Ohiopyle Borough Stewart Borough Wharton Township	Wednesday, September 30, 1998	AJ McMullen School
6	Fairchance Borough Georges Township German Township Masontown Borough Nicholson Township Point Marion Borough Smithfield Township Springhill Township	Thursday, October 1, 1998	Smithfield Community Center

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**FAYETTE COUNTY  
REGIONAL PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS  
SUB-REGION 1  
SEPTEMBER 21, 1998**

Letter	Priority Ranking	Ideas/Comments
A, U, HH	2, 5, 5, 2	Maintain the historic significance of the County. Luzerne's unique history and culture should be preserved because it leads to money generated for residents. Need to develop programs for all ages to enjoy cultural and historical benefits of the County and promote tourism and hospitality training.
B, RR, AAA	4, 1, 5, 3	Zoning should be changed or eliminated because it is of no value to the County. The "Planning and Zoning Department" controls Fayette County by controlling permits. Zoning needs to be enforced (i.e., sex clubs).
C, G	2, 4, 2	Would like to see the riverfront developed (especially in the Brownsville area) as industrial or recreational land.
D		Maintain some type of elderly care as a basic human service.
E	1, 2	I enjoy the rural life in Fayette County. Residential development is preferred over industrial.
F	3	Improve the perception of the quality of life in the County.
G		Conservation along the rivers should focus on boating and recreation.
H		Industrial development in Luzerne should be along railroad and river corridors.
I	5	County taxation based on incentives should be promoted. Fayette County is not adequately developing its industry. Brownfield redevelopment needs to preserve green space (tax those who use good green land to discourage misuse of green space).
J, MM	1, 5, 1, 4	Change image of County Government and try to get more industrial companies into Fayette County. Improve the political environment in Fayette County.
K, CC, DD, EE, GG	4, 5, 2, 3, 2, 2, 5, 5	Need public water and sewer in all of Region 1 (especially Jefferson) in order to expand residential development. Why did former supervisors not expand utilities when funding was readily available (1970's)? High priority given to contractors putting in sewer, but now what remains is failing systems and inadequate service. Fayette County is allowing fragmented development. Septic tanks are polluting the land/ground water. Sewers need to be replaced in older communities, but we cannot seem to get funding.
L, N, NN	1	Develop tourism along the Monongahela River and support the Rivers of Steel Action Plan. Promote tourism by adding restrooms to gas stations and calibrating gas pumps to ensure the sale (countywide). Geological resources of the County are a tourist attraction. Mix of forests, streams, farms, and mountains could be maintained as the "Eco-tourism".
M		Penalize "slum" landlords through tax awards and other disincentives.
O		Expand Rails-to-Trails program. Pressing issues are the acquisition of land easements and the Route 40 Corridor which needs a bike lane on the shoulder.
P		The County needs improved access to public libraries and better public financing for libraries.

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<b>Letter</b>	<b>Priority Ranking</b>	<b>Ideas/Comments</b>
Q, R, V (Combined)	5, 3, 3, 3, 5, 1, 4, 4	Would like to see land use around the Mon-Fayette Expressway controlled in terms of development (especially interchanges) to guard against poor commercial development, especially strip bars. Why are there so many planned interchanges? They will negatively affect the green areas in Fayette County. The County needs a good land use plan. Fast food chains, for example, should be out of viewshed and set back from interchanges. Also, there is a concern for the preservation of the National Road.
S		Let industry remain in planned industrial/technical parks. Be cautious of development along and around interchanges.
T		Would like to see no restaurants in Luzerne, keep it agricultural land. We are already losing too much agricultural land.
W		Sign controls are desired.
X		There is an overabundance of junkyards, especially along roads. Eyesores on the landscape counteract tourism, therefore we should keep them out of our viewsheds.
Y		Promote hunting for young people and better cooperation from Gaming Commission. They should stop harassing landowners.
Z		We have a lack up public parks. Our communities do not get grant money, even with matching funds even though we apply every year.
AA, TT (Combined)	4, 3, 4, 4	Reassess the County. Our tax base is stagnant, we need more tax money coming in. New development brings in added taxes.
BB	3	More should be discussed regarding the needs of the County, particularly the low attendance to this meeting, utilities (water and sewage are the answer to development), and the Mon-Fayette Expressway.
FF, II, DDD (Combined)	3, 2, 1	Dumping garbage along roads is a big problem. Penalties for dumping should be enforced. We must enforce violators. No out-of-state garbage should be accepted in Fayette County.
JJ	4, 4	Need better police departments. Lost funding in 1970's and now they are suffering because it is too costly for local governments to operate them up to standard.
KK		Chester County benefits from DEP's experimental program for septic self-contained sewage plant. Is this a possibility for Fayette County?
LL		Education improvements could be made. Schools are underfunded, we need an overhaul of our education system. Election (at large) proves too political and is not working. Go to countywide school system with one board.
OO		The quality of people in Fayette County is one of our greatest strengths.
PP		People of Fayette County need to participate more – only a handful of people tend to participate.
QQ		Need more public transportation.
SS		Upgrade Route 40 and add turning lanes.
UU	3, 1, 1	We need an assessment of our most valuable resources. Agriculture is our #1 industry or resource and it has a strong relationship with tourism.
WW		Would like to see a better highway, but not the Mon-Fayette Expressway because it is essentially a Turnpike. We do not want a toll road.
XX		We need incentives for adaptive reuse of historical structures and preservation.
YY	2	Promote our railroads and railroad development.

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Letter	Priority Ranking	Ideas/Comments
ZZ		We need funding for secondary roads.
BBB		Keep riverboat gambling out of Fayette County.
CCC		Need teenage activities.
EEE		Need to backup our laws (i.e., absentee landowners, weak control, litter, etc.) with enforcement.
FFF		Pass bottle law in Pennsylvania – put on a referendum.

**FAYETTE COUNTY  
REGIONAL PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS  
SUB-REGION 2  
SEPTEMBER 22, 1998**

Letter	Priority Ranking	Ideas/Comments
A	5	Comprehensive plan needs to be coordinated with existing plans (e.g., Yough and Mon River Plans, Historic Guide, etc.)
B, L, M (Combined)	5, 5	Study stormwater management along rivers needs to prevent back flooding in our neighborhoods like occurred in 1996. Water and sewer are needed for any type of development. Awareness about the need for utilities should be used to educate local people to the large-scale benefits.
C, F (Combined)	5	Development of recreational trails in this area needs to look at land use along the trails to have economic development occur. Interconnection for open space and tourism will allow for movement from one site to another.
D, I (Combined)	3	Enhance education of local people to appreciate history and heritage. There is a need for hospitality training for all “communities at-large”.
E		Need to look at open spaces that could be maintained. Keep the existing farmland and develop “intercommunities”.
G, X, H, JJ (Combined)	4, 5, 2	Focus on aesthetic improvements (vandalism issues, slum landlords, litter, eye sores), anything that affects a viewshed. Code enforcement is essential. Open burning for example is not conducive to tourism, so we should develop a way to educate the public on the impacts and local benefits of tourism; but we also want to maintain the relaxed atmosphere of the area because that also attracts people. We need to do something about all of the tires that are dumped in Fayette County. It is important to clean up the County. We need to develop ways to get tires to a processing facility. The condition of our housing and other beautification issues is also important. Look at ways to raze deteriorated structures while also identifying those of historic significance to preserve them from decay and demolition.
J, K, BB (Combined)	3	Need to continue generating money for the Grist Mill Preservation because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It has an associated park of 80 acres that overlooks river;</li> <li>- It was Washington’s original property; and</li> <li>- It is an opportunity to merge culture/heritage and river/recreation/tourism and trail recreation tourism.</li> </ul> Need to create new attractions in our County. Need to market “Pittsburgh Region/Larger Region” and consider Eco-tourism and Agro-tourism. Bed and breakfasts are growing, therefore we should target the market for bed and breakfasts, trout fish, etc.
N		Need places for kids/teens to “hang-out” such as a local community center – Uniontown is too far for them to go for entertainment.
O, Z, U, V (Combined)	3, 1, 1	Improve infrastructure, especially secondary roads. Some railroads and railroad crossings are problematic due to build up and now crossings are too high in some communities (ref: Dawson/Layton). Who do we deal with this? Railroad stations at Connellsville should be relocated to a nicer location to attract rides? Is our public transportation adequate (airport)? Big companies need airports; taxi company; etc. to be attracted to Fayette County.

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Letter	Priority Ranking	Ideas/Comments
P	4	We need to find out where our river water is going. Develop a conservation district. If water is being taken by Westmoreland County, should we not be paid?
Q	4	Overall public perception of Fayette County is a concern.
R, EE (Combined)		There is a need for more jobs. Why are young people leaving? Do we not have enough jobs or local employment? We need wages to match individual skills and be competitive with surrounding areas.
S, CC, DD (Combined)	2, 2, 1	We need to take into account education facilities to educate people for jobs. Are people preparing for new job opportunities? Need to find cheaper alternatives to post-secondary education to keep people here. Community College is a cheaper education opportunity for some residents. Penn State Fayette is a good continuing education opportunity.
T, II, GG (Combined)	1, 4	Will our housing attract new people? What do people need and want and how is Fayette County meeting that? Consider housing for “full service retirement communities” in Fayette County, not just houses. Need complexes for people 25-35 years old. Need housing for young professionals and people just starting out. There is a lack of rental units, especially condominiums and garden apartments with pools, etc.
W	4	We need to take a look at our tax base and property assessment to see if people are moving in and what to do to adapt to the market shifts.
Y	2, 1	We need joint-municipal agreements to share services (police, etc.). Small borough’s can not pay for individual police departments, so we should consider a countywide police force.
AA		Topographic constraints have led to half-developed communities. We should preserve what we have now and maintain greenland.
FF	3	We need to look at rural opportunities for elderly housing and services (e.g. public transportation to services). Suggestion: Go to Brownfield Community Center in Lower Tyrone Township to view a successful model.
HH		Why do we have six telephone books for one County? We need a countywide phone book for better service and marketing.
LL		We need to survey existing overnight facilities and the market need. Accommodations and attractions need to be conducive to the sites and have good interconnections with other sites.

**FAYETTE COUNTY  
REGIONAL PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS  
SUB-REGION 3  
SEPTEMBER 24, 1998**

<b>Letter</b>	<b>Priority Ranking</b>	<b>Ideas/Comments</b>
T1		Need for better transportation facilities.
T2		Need to monitor aging bridges.
T3	5, 4	Roads need to be updated to accommodate industry/resources (i.e., limestone used for building).
T4, S3 (Combined)	2, 5	Public transportation is needed to help aging population (social security and medical care). Ill people cannot get to local medical facilities and HMO requires them to travel.
T5		Need for better busses to serve senior citizens. Suggest along the Route 119 Corridor from Everson to Uniontown.
R1	1	Need to more actively acquire park land prior to development.
Q1		There is no shopping in the immediate vicinity (one grocery store, high prices).
Q2, E9, U4 (Combined)	5	Encourage small business growth (i.e., bed and breakfasts, contractors, and family businesses). Do not want to market retail businesses only. We want manufacturing jobs with benefits. As infrastructure comes in, big business will come in, resulting in a loss of mom-and-pop stores. We need to support the small establishments. We need a balance of small business.
Q3, N4 (Combined)	1	Enhance cultural activities and opportunities and develop new attractions. We do not have enough cultural and recreational opportunities in the cities to attract professional (i.e., doctors, lawyers, etc.).
L1	4	Need a technology corridor to keep technology in Fayette County.
L2, L3, L7 (Combined)	5, 1, 5, 2	Need to re-write the Zoning Ordinance and have staff for enforcement. We need accurate record keeping and our own zoning to control land use. Develop techniques that preserve the integrity of the Zoning Board.
L4		Do we need a Wal-Mart to get things done (i.e., water and sewer, transportation, extensions, and upgrades)?
L5		Growth will change the overall complexion of the County. Taxes will go up.
L6		We do not want to be like the suburbs of Pittsburgh.
E1	1	County tourism does a good job of promoting tourism, especially the rivers (see brochures outside of the state).
E2	4	Need affordable places for people to stay along the bike trails. Currently, most bikers are one day users.
E3	1	It is difficult to establish bed and breakfasts because Connellsville regulations are too strict. Need campgrounds, stops, etc.
E4, E7 (Combined)	3, 3, 5, 3	Need to improve job opportunities (i.e., at all levels – high tech training for youth) in order to bring people back. We are in a depressed area that needs businesses to come in. All we have in Connellsville is Anchor-Hocking, no other industry. Need County Commissioners to go and attract industry.
E5		We need an expanded tax base.
E6		Whitewater rafting is best in the nation. “Franchising” – work with well-known businesses.
E8		Would like to have Fayette-Penn do out-reach to assist local small businesses (family businesses) to remain and compete with big business.

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Letter	Priority Ranking	Ideas/Comments
G1		Like the positive attitude of government and business in Fayette County.
G2, S2 (Combined)	1, 4	Agency on aging is supposed to address local issues, but they say they are understaffed. We need to put an emphasis on this issue and develop it as a whole new area. We should provide education/service center for seniors, youth, and the undereducated. We also need someone to come to them (i.e., 800 number for senior citizens). They need a place where they can go to talk about problems and needs.
G3	5	Property taxes can be used for education. The School District tax is too high. Need an alternative to the school tax. Suggest: Shift from funding the School District through property taxes.
G4		Need open conversation regarding the region Township to Township.
G5, G6, H4 (Combined)	2	Agencies need to do their job. For example, HUD to enforce housing issues, and County to better enforce housing regulations. We need to encourage/attack slum landlords to remedy housing issues and provide decent housing.
G7		We should put out a grant to develop (i.e., a cultural center) and let a private business do it. Entice private enterprise to enhance/develop the area.
P1		In South Connellsville, stormwater management is an issue. Facilities cannot handle the demand and water is going into the rivers. We need all utilities, especially water and sewer, but grants are tough to get for utilities.
P2	2, 1, 4, 2	We should invest in infrastructure (i.e., roads, power, gas, sewage, bridges).
U1, N1 (Combined)	2, 4, 4	Stop Municipal Water Authority of Westmoreland County from taking water out of the Yough River. Level of water is an issue to maneuver a canoe down the river. Maintain present level of the water. Maintain, promote, and preserve cultural and historic resources and rivers (Yough). Leave water in the river, it affects all who use it.
U2	3, 2	Need to provide water/sewer to all. It should come from our tax base. This will encourage people to live here.
U3	3, 4	Everson Borough utilities are old and need to be upgraded, however grants are difficult to get especially for a small borough.
H1	3	There are lots of older places that need to be torn down. We need money to raze and upgrade older, deteriorating homes.
H2		It is cheaper to buy an old home than build a new one.
H3		Estate heirs living out of state are an issue when dealing with deteriorated housing.
C1	1	Get the news out that there are opportunities in Fayette County (i.e., industry, tourism, etc.). Market the County to regional area – Mid-Atlantic. Need to have something to offer (i.e., good infrastructure, utilities, power, low business taxes, etc.).
S1	3, 2	A large segment of our aging citizens need help with transportation, bills, and access to information. Often they do not know what they qualify for in terms of service.
S4	4	Higher education is too expensive.
S5		We need taxi service.

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Letter	Priority Ranking	Ideas/Comments
ED1	5, 3	We need to improve our public schools to make sure the quality of education is the best that it can be. The education system should be evaluated by an outside firm that can provide recommendations (i.e., newspaper and make results available to public). We should look at communities that are doing it right for a model.
ED2		Make teachers accountable by basing their pay upon students test scores. Keep accountability.
N2		No one seems to know the history of Fayette County/Connellsville. We need to research, document, and publish the history. Local Historical Societies need to help. We do not know how to get grants. We need someone to help older people get grants. Hospitality training would be helpful to promote history so tourists will visit.
N3	5	Our local resources are stone, timber, oil, and water (two rivers and lots of streams). We should capitalize on our resources while having a minimal impact on the local community.

**FAYETTE COUNTY  
REGIONAL PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS  
SUB-REGION 4  
SEPTEMBER 29, 1998**

Letter	Priority Ranking	Ideas/Comments
A	5, 3	We need more flowers, gardens, and planted hillsides because they take your eyes away from other things like litter. Green areas promote harmony and community pride, which make a more livable community. We need lots of volunteers to help. Implement an "Adopt-a-Pot Program" by encouraging businesses to plant flowers.
B	5, 5, 2	Our challenge is economic growth and produce diverse professional employment opportunities. There are not a lot of white-collar jobs. We are exporting talent rather than importing it.
C		Continue to preserve our recreational parks and open space – it is one of our strengths. State land preservation is important. We are a playground of Pittsburgh and D.C. and need to preserve that source of income and recreational resource. Do not pave over our land like Westmoreland is going to do.
D		We need to be concerned about the "type" of development. Do not just take and develop for the sake of developing.
E	1, 3, 1, 3	We need to make sure officials look at the Comprehensive Plan when rezoning and make sure to preserve those areas that are designated as Conservation. We need to educate elected officials as to how to use the Comprehensive Plan as a planning tool. There are no "teeth" in the plan. We have to ensure that future generations of elected officials using the plan are becoming educated in the process.
F	1, 1	We must consider our neighboring municipalities. We want to encourage open meetings and communication among local governments so as not to duplicate efforts.
G	2, 2	Consider regional planning, zoning, and services regions that are similar and will impact each other. This will allow for "planning of land uses". We need cooperative action.
H	4	The County is getting the Mon-Fayette Expressway and it will hopefully bring higher wage jobs, more industrial jobs, tourism, better access, etc.
I	4	Fayette County has the nicest people, but I hear a lot of "belly-aching". We need to stop complaining and get neighbors working together and have pride in our communities.
J		We should eliminate eyesores (i.e., junkyards, etc.) through code enforcement. In order to deal with vandalism and graffiti, the courts need to be strong. How will this affect tourism and beyond the weekend visitor?
K	5	The great history in Fayette County needs to be kept alive. We need to build upon that and restore historic properties. There are really beautiful homes in our area. Homes of County millionaires. The houses are now deteriorating. We need to find ways to improve this. Allentown, for example, would condemn the dwelling and sell it for \$1.00 to a potential owner and provide tax breaks or a low interest loan to do improvements.

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Letter	Priority Ranking	Ideas/Comments
L		We need to put teeth into our zoning ordinance. The hodge-podge is obvious: There is no rhyme or reason to development patterns, no sense of consistency. We need good code enforcement.
M	1	Fayette County history is not printed in school history books. It has been abandoned and this is a concern.
N		We need public relations for the County. There are image issues and perceptions by outsiders and insiders of Fayette County as rural and of low education. Who is George C. Marshall? Blame him for our image issues.
O	3, 3, 2, 3, 1, 5	We need to look at the feasibility of development suites for professional people, perhaps in vacant upper level floors. We need people downtown, but are concerned for Uniontown's housing stock which is old, dilapidated, and outdated due to mismanagement in the past. We need to realize that urban living is different than suburban. If we want condos and apartments, we need to consolidate lots to make larger lots. Uniontown needs to concentrate on housing for young people who are just starting out and older people who are looking for urban living. Municipal bonds could be used to develop a senior dwelling high-rise. Urban living apartments for young people should be in the range of \$60,000-480,000. Need to reuse existing utilities and facilities. There is a great need for high-rises (6 stories), private, for-sale condos for persons retiring that could be run by an association and contain landscaped yards, garages, and security. We now have problems in Uniontown, Brownsville, and Masontown with conversion of large, single-family dwellings that are beyond repair and are deteriorated. People do not have money to keep them up. We also have a problem with absentee landlords. Personal care homes could be good reuse of large older homes. We need to entice developers. What do we offer people to do after dark? Where are the variety of restaurants, state theatres, arts, and cultural events? Can we accommodate tourists as well as ourselves?
P	4	Would like to see more cooperation from 10 municipalities who have their own zoning. Uniontown Redevelopment Authority exists from CDBG – sometimes they do not talk to elected officials at Uniontown, but talk to County Redevelopment Authority. Better communication is needed.
Q		How many agencies/different groups are there within the Uniontown area? I worry that we are duplicating efforts and promoting the fragmentation of the local Community.
S		We need grant writers to assist communities in obtaining grants.
T		We need better police protection on key theatre nights. People are afraid to park in the parking garages and the smell and condition of the stairwell in the parking garage is a deterrent.
U	2, 1	We need a decent Greyhound bus station/hub for transportation and local bus transportation to get around. Money from TEA-21 has just opened. We have no taxi service.
V		I love Fayette County. I purchased an old home in Uniontown and have rehabilitated it as one of the resources that the area offers. It is sad that there are only nine people at this meeting.

Letter	Priority Ranking	Ideas/Comments
W	4, 2, 5, 2, 4, 2	Sewage availability is the chief complaint because it will limit growth. Taps in S. Union will not be released until they are upgraded - \$22 million – this is a problem for people on a fixed income. Uniontown needs to process combined stormwater and storm sewer.
X	4, 3, 4	The school system should be combined countywide. We should do a cost-benefit analysis. We need to improve the image of the vocational school system. It should be in the same school campus.
Y		We should eliminate elected tax corrections and have a county government collect for all municipalities. We are duplicating our effort.
Z		Today 80% of jobs require post-secondary education, not college.
AA		In discussing tourism, we forget about our airport.
BB		We need river conservation, especially to address mine run-off and subsidence.
CC		We should consider countywide stormwater management plan.
DD		Fayette County should go to HomeRule – Council/Manager form of government.
EE		Eliminate the monopoly of Helicon TV. Mostly publicize bad stuff and cannot get things done. They are performing poorly.

**FAYETTE COUNTY  
REGIONAL PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS  
SUB-REGION 5  
SEPTEMBER 30, 1998**

Letter	Priority Ranking	Ideas/Comments
A, B, W	3, 4, 5, 5, 3, 3	There is a need for economic development throughout the County. We need to increase job opportunities to all regions and promote job training and education to assist people in finding jobs. Too many people leave the area. Job training will allow us to grow with the community/County and will help graduates to stay in the area and not move out of state. Make it more affordable to local residents.
C	1, 2, 4	Need better promotion of Penn State Fayette Campus to get more local attention. It needs to be more affordable, like a community college, not \$360 per credit. It is the jewel of the community. Consider advertising more extensively.
D	3, 2	The area needs more statistics on revenue that is based on tourism. What are the advantages of tourism?
E	2, 5	We need public transportation to get people to work in the mountain regions (those without private transportation).
F	3, 3, 1	We need to refocus transportation concerns to improving the existing road system. People who come into the mountain region travel the worst roads in Fayette County and that's the first thing they see.
G	4	The new expressway is good for the County and our local tourism.
H	2	Would like to see more facilities move into the industrial parks. We need infrastructure/transportation roads.
I	5, 5	Must have affordable water and sewer before housing and employment opportunities can move in.
J	4	We need greater respect for property rights. For example, in Henry Clay Township plans are being developed and not reflecting ideas of the community. It is better to have no plan than a foolish plan.
K	1, 1	Need more interaction between the County and local government. Mountain region feel separate and do not fit in with the rest of the County, especially with communities that rely on County for zoning implementation and enforcement.
L		Should make better use of the airport by enlarging it to accept larger aircraft and expand business/tourism.
M	4, 3, 4	Public recreation areas are pushed as tourist attractions. We need to consider the impact on public areas and towns near them, e.g. Ohiopyle is surrounded by the state park. Why is the County not interested in solving the region's problems when they bring in money? Ohiopyle Borough has no resources to improve streets; add bike lanes; and parking on local street issue. We need to work with the state parks to correct parking areas.

Letter	Priority Ranking	Ideas/Comments
N	4	We need to mutually understand what we want. Need a collaboration of businesses, government, environment, and academic groups to work together to see the big picture. One agency can see the big picture and be successful. Each of the groups feels close to the issues. Use Penn State as a resource to bring together County citizens (e.g., Penn State could develop a unity center for economic creativity and regional development). This could be unique for Fayette Campus. Take advantage of academic resources and use it as an object to coordinate our issues and values. Work with University Park and Fayette Campus.
O		We lack a lot of cultural diversity in the County. We want more things like museums, theatres, etc.
P	2, 1, 1	Need to change County perception. Need to take more pride in what the area looks like by beautification of highways and road improvements.
Q	2, 2, 1	Preserve what we have. Don't destroy anything. Need enforcement and regulation of strip mining, logging, etc.
R		We need to break the County into smaller regions. Plans have been done that do not apply to the area.
S		The mountain region is diverse in Fayette County. The mountain region is tourism based and we need to focus on it. How can we make it better?
T	5, 3, 4	Natural resources and conservation vs. exploitation. Vast majority of County is under private ownership. Forestry, if done properly, can create wealth and jobs, while it won't be detrimental to tourism and aesthetics. We need to preserve land and set aside areas for economic development opportunities. Apply conservation technique to forestry industries. State has conservation programs, but none in Fayette County. We create spin-off business from forestry, attract business that creates the finished project, e.g. lumber, furniture, etc.
U		Tourism – some places have not lived up to their potential. Consider privatizing the amphitheater.
V	5	Look at the mountain region with a regional outlook. Why do people want to live in Fayette County? Because of the natural resources. You have access to transportation, internet, and can live and access recreational amenities (trails, rapids) – world class resources. Excellent quality of life – fishing, boating, biking, hiking, hunting, camping, etc. We have a regional connection with the expressway; people come from all over the world.
X	5	We need a medical center, grocery store, and high school in the mountain region. Small doctor offices and convenience market are linked and serve need, but may not in future. More and more people are moving in and are not used to the lack of resources. Want a state funded emergency services center.

**FAYETTE COUNTY  
REGIONAL PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS  
SUB-REGION 6  
OCTOBER 1, 1998**

Letter	Priority Ranking	Ideas/Comments
A, K, X (Combined)	3, 5, 5, 3, 4, 2, 5, 5, 4, 1	Point Marion has problems with the sewer plant and water system. Nicholson and German Townships are doing a Comprehensive Plan. In German Township sewage is a big issue because the existing system is not adequate. Funding help is needed in the rural area for utility expansion.
B, N (Combined)	3, 2, 2, 4, 5, 4, 1	Major problem with the Mon River due to riverbank erosion. Point Marion riverside restoration is required due to erosion. The high water washing against the bank is eroding the sewer plant.
C		Fayette County forgets about Point Marion because we are across the river. We need and deserve more recognition.
D	1	Rural nature of the area is a strength and we should preserve the rural character.
F, G (Combined)	4, 4, 5, 1, 2, 3	How do we overcome apathy? Borough leaders lack enthusiasm/elected officials in Region 6 and countywide. Attitude, education, and values are towards a "welfare state: from County on down. "Please send money" is a harmful attitude for the municipality and the County.
E	5	Region 6 is vulnerable because of the Mon-Fayette Expressway. Opportunity for Industrial Parks and residential development. Avoid mistakes of the past. We need specific zoning to focus development. We should consider our viewsheds and use creative design for development: Suggest 20-acre lots.
H		Point Marion lacks land, lacks physical space, and has an inability to incur tax base.
I	3, 1, 1	Condition of riverfront from dam to past Masontown (coal tipples, slag, direct industrial structures) needs to be improved along with watershed and economic value.
J	2, 1, 5	Fayette County is like a forgotten area of PA by Harrisburg. It is a beautiful part of the state, but projects are not innovative like those of Susquehanna River communities. Why is Fayette County lagging behind?
L, S (Combined)	5, 3, 1, 2	We need a better vision for our highway system – Route 1, 40, 199, 57, all suffer from problems like bottlenecks (South Union Township), accidents on 21, broaden upgrade 21 vision, 119 Connellsville also, 40 – too many lights, poor land use planning. Brownsville, Uniontown – "snake road", poor design M/F proposed design will not do Fayette County any good. Need better planning.
M		Process needs more coordination. Need a substantial group working to see the Comprehensive Plan through. Fay-Forward should do this.
O, Z (Combined)	2, 1, 2, 3, 3	Political power of certain areas overrides projects. For example, Westmoreland, Somerset County have more political power. Point Marion does not have the support of government. We are split into too many management groups and must find a way to expand Borough/Township land.

HRG \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Letter</b>	<b>Priority Ranking</b>	<b>Ideas/Comments</b>
P, Q, T	4, 3, 2, 3, 4	We need the Sheepskin Trail to develop for recreation and tourism. There are opportunities for a regional park and spur trail. There is a lack of recreation in Region 6. We need improved secondary access to link recreation areas. Mon-Fayette Expressway included no plans to access the local community. It will bypass region 6. Coordinate river corridors and recreational trails for Comprehensive Plan.
R	2, 2	Eyesore problem! Need to get rid of junk cars, rusting appliances, and better enforcement of dumping.
U	1, 1, 5	Need cooperative coordination among government layers and between municipal governments and the County.
V		We lack a voice here in Fayette County and must start with a voice that works. We need a Senator with commitment and clout.
W	4	Old coal mining communities have a high elderly turnover. New residents lack the values and moral fiber of past residents, but jobs are not there to retain young folks.
Y	3, 4	Aggregate demand idea should be explored – ref. Center for Rural PA.