



*SOMERSET
COUNTY PLANNING
DIVISION - 2010*

Robert Bzik, Director of
Planning

January 19, 2010

MISSION



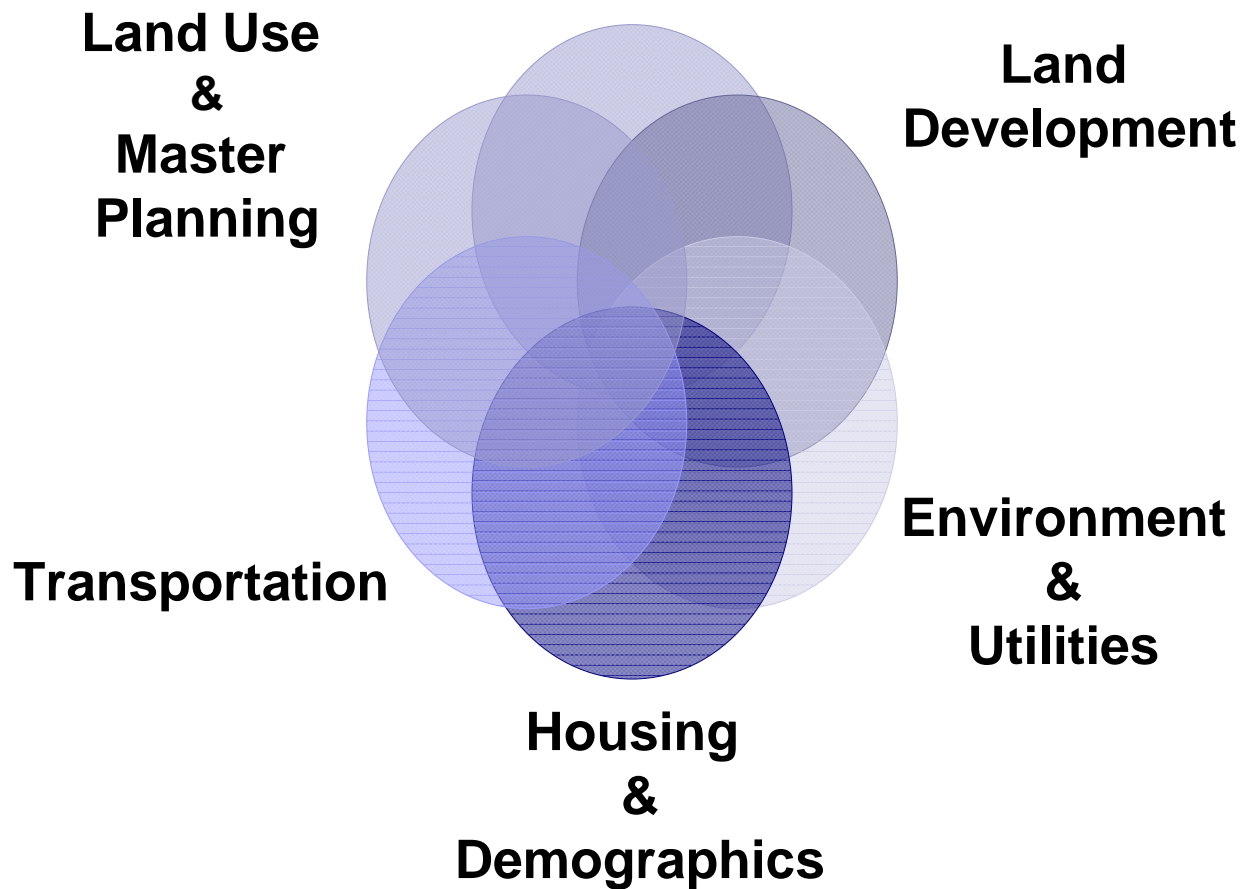
“Positively influence the process of growth and change in the County so that it provides the optimum living and working environment for our residents and employers, build balanced communities, promote regional awareness and cooperation, protect the natural environment and preserve our rich history, farmland and natural beauty”

“CREATING QUALITY COMMUNITITIES TOGETHER”



ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK

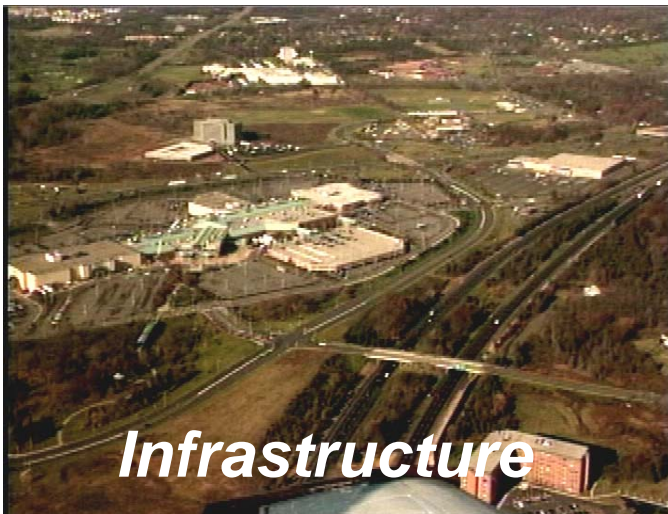
Planning Board



2009 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- National Scenic Byway Designation for River and Canal Roads
- GIS Preserved Lands Data Base Created
- Four new open space acquisitions totaling \$665,000
- Five new farmland preservation applications, 9 in preservation pipeline
- Eight Historic Preservation Grants awarded totaling \$1,130,560.



- Wastewater Management Plan for Somerset County Underway
- County Energy Audit Grant Program underway for 86 municipal and school district sites
- \$788,500 Energy Efficiency Block Grant awarded
- Route 202 Corridor Assessment Multi-mobility Plan and Regional Center Bicycle, Pedestrian & Greenways System Plan NJTPA Technical Studies complete
- Final design - Route 22 safety improvements

2009 ACCOMPLISHMENTS (cont.)

- Six Annual Land Development Awards granted
 - Draft County Highlands Plan Conformance Report completed
 - Draft Smart Growth Strategic Plan received
 - 451 land development projects reviewed
 - GIS Zoning and Targeted Growth Area shape files prepared
 - Ongoing Regional Center Partnership Support
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- Implemented 2010 Census Complete Count Work Program
 - Updated GIS Senior Housing Map and List
 - Prepared Third Round COAH Inventory
 - State Data Center Affiliate
 - Developed and compiled various data to support and enhance local and county planning and decision-making



2010 PLANNING INITIATIVES

Preservation

- Co-Sponsor Raritan Greenway Initiative
- Implement 2010 County Open Space, Farmland and Historic Preservation Grant Programs
- Assist Millstone Scenic By-way Committee

Infrastructure

- Implement Energy Efficiency Block Grant Program Initiatives and County Energy Audit Program Recommendations
- Complete Draft County Wastewater Management Plan
- Undertake Circulation Element Update
- Complete Easton Avenue Corridor Study
- Pursue funding for Route 22 Long-Term Improvements

2010 PLANNING INITIATIVES (cont.)

Land Use

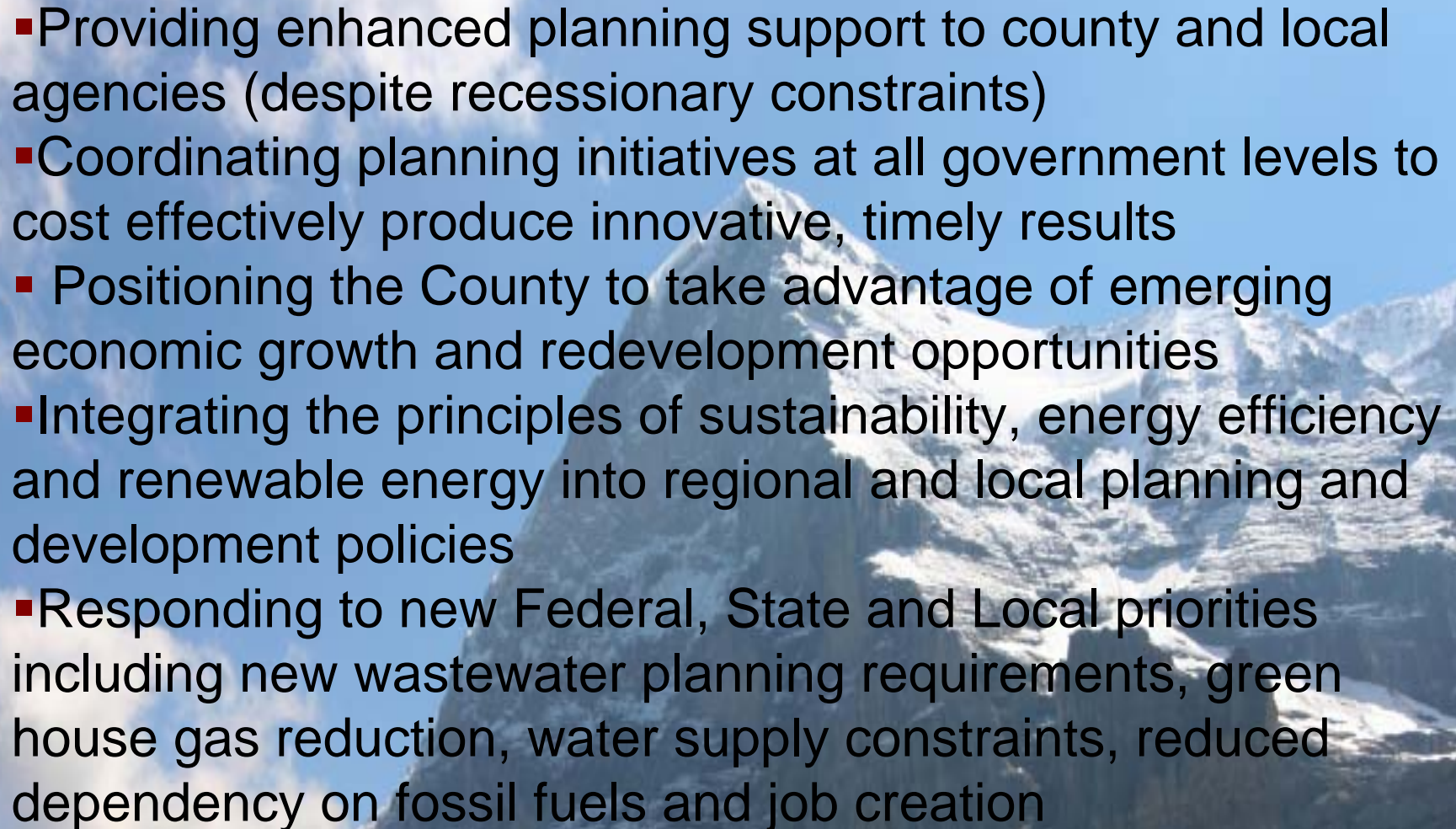
- Highlands Regional Master Plan compliance
- Help guide state planning; complete the State Plan Update process
- Finalize Smart Growth Strategic Plan
- Assist Regional Center Partnership and County Energy Council
- Support municipal achievement of Plan Endorsement, Sustainable NJ Certification, redevelopment, TDR and transit-oriented development
- Prepare updated County Circulation Element

Housing & Demographics

- Continue 2010 Census Work Plan implementation & review preliminary data
- Address new State Plan, NJTPA and other Economic and Demographic trends and provide feedback on new projections
- Update and enhance data and information resources to strengthen County and local planning and decision-making



PLANNING CHALLENGES

- Providing enhanced planning support to county and local agencies (despite recessionary constraints)
 - Coordinating planning initiatives at all government levels to cost effectively produce innovative, timely results
 - Positioning the County to take advantage of emerging economic growth and redevelopment opportunities
 - Integrating the principles of sustainability, energy efficiency and renewable energy into regional and local planning and development policies
 - Responding to new Federal, State and Local priorities including new wastewater planning requirements, green house gas reduction, water supply constraints, reduced dependency on fossil fuels and job creation
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PLANNING NEEDS



- Continue training so that the Planning Division can provide expertise and resources to local and regional agencies
- Engage all governmental entities in achieving coordinated planning and streamlined permitting processes
- Share current information on economic, demographic, land use and environmental trends with local and regional entities to help drive the economic recovery
- Focus resources and build partnerships to achieve a smart energy and sustainable future.
- Incorporate new federal and state mandates into county and local policies, plans and programs



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