



Blair County Planning Commission

Public Participation Plan

March 31, 2016

BLAIR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

423 Allegheny Street, Suite 046

Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

814-693-2080

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Introduction & Purpose

The Blair County Planning Commission is committed to a public involvement process that provides information, timely public notice, public access to policy decisions, and supports early and continuing public involvement in preparing plans and transportation improvement programs. The purpose of this plan is to help ensure that the general public and people with low-incomes, people who speak English less than very well, minorities, seniors and people with disabilities are included in the transportation planning process.

The Planning Process

The Blair County Planning Commission was formed in 1964 through a cooperative agreement between the county and the constituent municipalities to provide planning and grant administration services countywide. It grew from the example of its predecessor, the Blair Regional Planning Commission, which covered just the areas around Altoona, Hollidaysburg, and Duncansville. The planning process includes, but is certainly not limited to the following:

- Involve people and business interests across the community;
- Forecast population and employment growth and identify major growth areas;
- Identify current and projected future problems and needs;
- Prepare a county comprehensive plan and assist municipalities with planning efforts;
- Estimate the benefits and impacts of community changes on environmental features, livability, community health, and environmental justice populations;
- Prepare a funding plan for securing sufficient revenues for implementation.

The BCPC, is tasked with carrying out the planning process in which it provides a forum for countywide planning and programming and has five core functions:

- Establish a fair and impartial setting for effective regional decision making;
- Use data and planning studies to identify and evaluate available options;
- Prepare and maintain a comprehensive plan;
- Assist the municipalities with their respective planning efforts;
- Involve members of the public and other affected partners.

The process for gathering public comments for the various planning efforts and documents begins with the BCPC surveying the County of Blair and the municipalities for community needs and issues or with such municipalities approaching the BCPC for assistance with a planning need.

Opportunity for the public to comment on planning issues also occurs at public meetings for draft plans and programmatic documents, at meetings of municipal governments, project needs studies, and project plans displays, and meetings of the BCPC Board.

Before the BCPC adopts plans or programs, announcements are made in the newspaper, on the BCPC website and on the Facebook page: 1) the public comment period for plans and programs, 2) the public meeting at which they will be presented, and 3) provides a link so that the public obtain electronic copies. After the public meeting is held and public comments are received and responded to, the BCPC considers approval of plans and programs. After BCPC approval, the appropriate governing body adopts the plan or program, as and if appropriate.

Title VI and Environmental Justice

The goal of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Executive Order No. 12898 of 1994 (Environmental Justice) is to ensure that the benefits and impacts of Federally-funded projects are fairly distributed to all people, regardless of race, national origin, or income, and that all groups have access to meaningful participation.

The Executive Order states that each federal agency shall, to the greatest extent allowed by law, administer and implement its programs, policies, and activities that affect human health or the environment so as to identify and avoid "disproportionately high and adverse" effects on minority and low-income populations. The number and percent of the populations in Blair County is from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year estimates as follows:

- *People aged 65 and over* = 18.1% or 23,015 people;
- *People with disabilities* = 15.4% or 19,202 people of the 125,053 non-institutionalized;
- *Individuals below the poverty level* = 14.1% or 17,899 people;
- *Minorities or people of races other than Caucasian/minorities* = 4.8% or 6,096 people;
- *Age 5 and over who speak English less than "very well"* = 0.7% or 839 people.

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by public entities in services, programs and activities. As a result, the BCPC is required to make programs accessible to individuals with disabilities, including conducting meetings and hearings in ADA-compliant buildings. Special accommodations must be provided to ensure communications are equally effective for persons with disabilities in order to participate in meetings, planning and programming activities.

Blair County Planning Regions

When gathering public comments to prepare the Areawide Comprehensive Plan – on which the regional transportation plan is based - the Blair County Planning Commission held public workshops in each of the seven planning regions or school districts shown on the map in Figure 1.

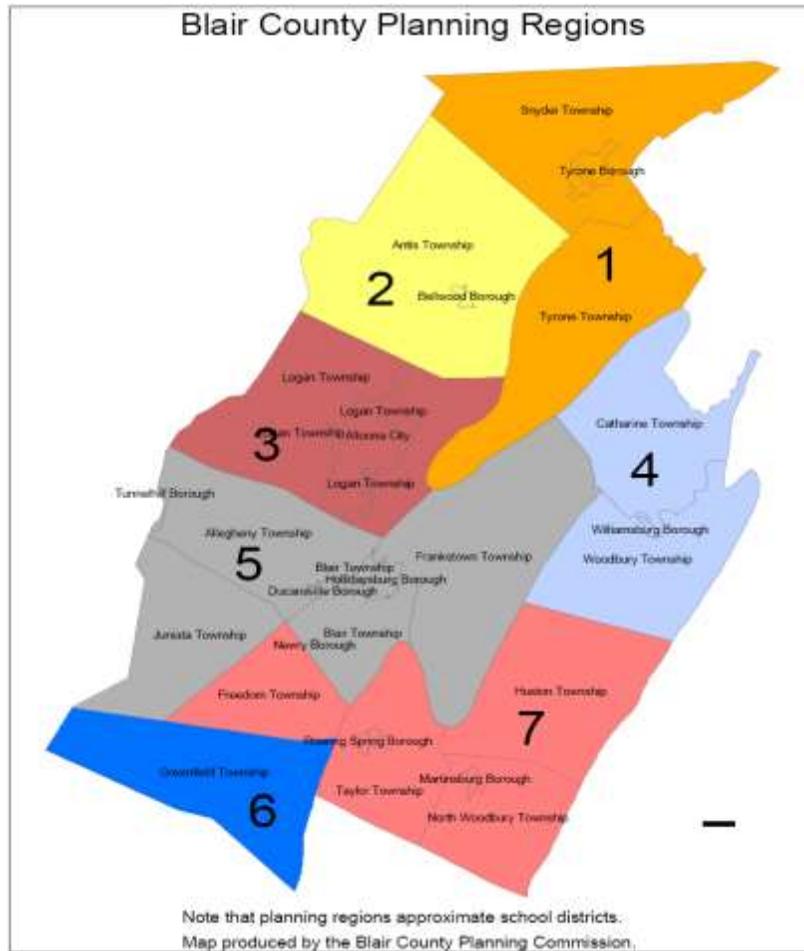


Figure 1. Blair County Planning Regions

Public Participation Goals

1. Identify interested parties and environmental justice groups and keep contact information current;
2. Inform interested parties and environmental justice groups that they can provide comments on transportation issues and projects during the State Transportation Commission’s online public meeting and survey;
3. Place all draft TIPs and plans on the Blair County Planning Commission’s Web site with a link to the MPO’s Facebook page as ways to receive public comments;
4. Provide interested parties and environmental justice groups with the link to the BCPC’s Web site;
5. Inform interested parties and environmental justice groups of public comment period and public meeting on TIPs and plans;
6. Meet with leaders of environmental justice groups to discuss TIPs and plans if needed;
7. Provide feedback to those who provide public comments if they leave a contact address;
8. Make a summary of public comments received from the STC’s online public survey, from the public comment period and from the social media. Include the comment summary in the plan document or the environmental justice summary for the TIP.

Demographics*Population Change*

Estimates show that between years 2010 and 2014, the County's population decreased by 0.9% or by 1,134 persons. Table 1 shows the number and percent change in population in the other municipalities in this time period.

Table 1

Blair County Municipal Population Change 2010-2014				
Municipality	2010	2014	+ / -	% + / -
Blair County	127,089	125,955	-1,134	-0.9
City of Altoona	46,320	45,558	-762	-1.6
Borough of Bellwood	1,828	1,794	-34	-1.9
Borough of Duncansville	1,233	1,210	-23	-1.9
Borough of Hollidaysburg	5,791	5,779	-18	-0.3
Borough of Martinsburg	1,958	1,921	-37	-1.9
Borough of Newry	270	268	-2	-0.7
Borough Roaring Spring	2,585	2,549	-36	-1.4
Borough Tunnelhill (part)	118	117	-1	-0.8
Borough of Tyrone	5,477	5,380	-97	-1.8
Borough of Williamsburg	1,254	1,229	-25	-2.0
Township of Allegheny	6,738	6,660	-78	-1.2
Township of Antis	6,499	6,433	-66	-1.0
Township of Blair	4,494	4,544	-50	-1.1
Township of Catharine	724	720	-4	-0.6
Township of Frankstown	7,381	7,435	-54	-0.7
Township of Freedom	3,458	3,436	-22	-0.6
Township of Greenfield	4,173	4,107	-66	-1.6
Township of Huston	1,336	1,342	6	0.4
Township of Juniata	1,112	1,103	-9	-0.8
Township of Logan	12,289	12,319	30	0.2
Township N. Woodbury	2,644	2,670	26	1.0
Township of Snyder	3,364	3,333	-31	-0.9
Township of Taylor	2,465	2,479	14	0.6
Township of Tyrone	1,885	1,893	8	0.4
Township of Woodbury	1,693	1,676	-17	-1.0

Population by Age Group

Blair County's fastest growing population group is those age 65 years and over with the percent of its population in that group almost 5 percent higher than the national average.

Table 2

Number and Percent of Population by Age Group 2009-2013 5-Year Population Estimate						
	Under 18	20-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Blair County Total	26,559	8,091	14,196	23,908	23,509	23,105
Blair County %	20.9	6.4	11.2	18.8	18.5	18.1
Pennsylvania %	21.7	6.9	12.2	19.7	20.8	15.7
United States %	23.7	7.1	13.4	20.2	19.3	13.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates, Table B01001

Population by Minority Group

Estimates in Table 3 show that the largest minority population groups in Blair County in 2014 by percent were as follows: African American 1.9 %, Hispanic 1.2 %, and Asian at 0.7%.

Table 3

Number and Percent of Population by Minority Group 2014 Estimates for Blair County						
	Caucasian	African American	Amer Indian	Asian	Two or more Races	Hispanic
Blair County Total Year 2014 Estimates	120,791	2,393	126	882	1,637	1,512
Blair County %	95.9	1.9	0.1	0.7	1.3	1.2
Pennsylvania %	82.9	11.6	0.3	3.3	1.8	6.6
United States %	77.4	13.2	1.2	5.4	2.5	17.4

Source: US Census Bureau, Census, 2014 Population Estimates

By comparing with Tables 3 and 4, one can see that between 2000 and 2014 the population of minorities is estimated to have increased from 2.4 to 4.1% of the total population.

Table 4

Number and Percent of Population by Minority Group in 2000 for Blair County						
	Caucasian	African American	Amer Indian	Asian	Some other race	Hispanic
Blair County Total Year 2000 Census	126,059	1,535	109	463	180	662
Blair County %	97.6	1.2	1.0	0.4	0.1	0.5
Pennsylvania %	85.4	10	1.0	1.8	1.5	3.2
United States %	75.1	12.3	0.9	3.6	5.5	12.5

Source: US Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF 1)

Table 5

Organizations with Potential Interest and Environmental Justice Groups

Absentee-Shawnee Tribe*	Inter-municipal Recycling Committee
Allegheny Ridge Corporation	Local Emergency Planning Committee
Altoona-Blair County Development Corp.	Municipalities of Blair County
Altoona Housing Authority	Natl. Assoc. for the Adv. of Colored People*
Altoona Metro Transit	Nittany & Bald Eagle Railroad
Bellwood-Antis Community Trust	Amish Community
Blair Bicycle Club	Old Order Mennonite Community
Blair County Airport Authority	PA Motor Truck Association
Blair County Chamber of Commerce	Penn State Altoona
Blair County Community Action Agency*	Rails-to-Trails of Central PA, Inc.
Blair Senior Services, Inc.*	School Districts
Center for Indepdnt. Living of S. Central Pa*	Seneca-Cayuga Tribe*
Delaware Nation*	Shawnee Tribe*
Eastern Shawnee Tribe*	Skills of Central PA, Inc.*
Friends of Canoe Creek State Park	Southern Alleghenies Planning & Dev. Com.
Fullington Trailways (school buses)	Technical Committee of the Blair MPO
Greyhound Bus Lines	The ARC of Blair County *
Garver YMCA	The Everett Railroad Company
Hollidaysburg YMCA	Tyrone Area Chamber of Commerce
Home Nursing Agency	Blue & White Taxi
Explore Altoona	Yellow Cab & Transfer Company

* = Environmental Justice Group

Public Involvement Process

To ensure that the BCPC has a proactive Public involvement process that provides complete information, timely public notice, full public access to key technical and policy decisions, and supports early and continuing involvement of the public in developing plans and programs, at a minimum the following procedures will be followed.

1. All plans, programs and major amendments (projects that will significantly affect conformity, projects that will have a tangible effect on the community, etc.) to these documents will be subject to review and comment, as appropriate, by the full BCPC Board and any such committees as the Board may establish.
2. All BCPC Board meetings shall be open to the public.
3. All BCPC Board meetings shall be advertised in the local newspaper(s) that has (have) a circulation that covers the jurisdiction of the Blair County Planning Commission. This notification will be done annually and/or individually for each meeting. Notices for additional meetings or rescheduled meetings shall be placed in the local newspaper(s) at a minimum of 72 hours prior to the meeting.
4. At least thirty days prior to the adoption of any plan, program, or major amendment to these documents an official notice summarizing the document(s) or amendment(s), indicating where copies for review can be obtained, and where to send comments shall be placed in the local newspaper(s).
5. When comments are received on the draft plan or program, a summary, an analysis and report on the disposition of all comments shall be made a part of the final document.
6. Prior to the adoption of any major plan or program, a public meeting shall be held. At least two weeks prior to such meeting, notice of the meeting shall be published in the local newspaper(s) that has (have) a circulation that covers the study area of the MPO.
7. When the final document differs significantly from the one that was made available for public comment or raises significant new issues, as determined by the full BCPC Board, an additional opportunity for public comment shall be provided. The members of the BCPC Board will make the determination as to whether or not to provide an additional opportunity for public comment and the appropriate length of the comment period.
8. This process shall be coordinated and integrated with other required public involvement processes, wherever necessary, to enhance public involvement.
9. All public meetings shall be held in places accessible to the disabled. All advertisements for public meetings shall indicate that accommodations will be made for the disabled, including the visually and hearing impaired upon notification to the Planning Director five days prior to the meeting.

To request copies of documents, make comments or to request assistance for the disabled, including visually and hearing impaired, please contact the Blair County Planning Commission, 423 Allegheny Street, Hollidaysburg, PA, 16648 or (814) 693-2080, TTY Relay 711 or FAX (814) 696-3490.

Appendix A

Duties & Responsibilities of the BCPC

The BCPC performs two functions at the request of Blair County: (1) to prepare and maintain a county-wide comprehensive plan and (2) to keep records of all its actions. And, under MPC Section 209.1, the BCPC is empowered to:

- Make recommendations to the Blair County Commissioners concerning the adoption or amendment of an official map.
- *If requested*, prepare for and present to a member municipality a zoning ordinance, and make recommendations to the member municipality on proposed amendments to it.
- Prepare, recommend and administer subdivision and land development and planned residential development regulations to be consistent with the County Comprehensive Plan.
- *If requested*, prepare for and present to a member municipality a building code and a housing code and make recommendations concerning proposed amendments thereto.
- Do such other acts or make studies as may be necessary to fulfill the duties and obligations requested by the County and/or the BCPC member municipalities.
- *If requested*, prepare for and present to the County and/or the requesting BCPC member municipality an appropriate environmental impact study for a project
- *If requested*, submit to the County and/or a member municipality a recommended capital improvement program consistent with the adopted County-wide Comprehensive Plan.
- Prepare and present to the County and/or the BCPC member municipalities, a water survey, which shall be consistent with the State Water Plan and any applicable water resources plan adopted by a river basin commission. The water survey shall be conducted in consultation with any public water supplier in the area to be surveyed.
- Promote county and local public interest in, and understanding of, the comprehensive plan and planning.
- Make recommendations to governmental, civic, and private agencies and individuals as to the effectiveness of the proposals of such agencies and individuals.
- Hold public hearings and meetings.
- Present testimony before any board.
- Require from other departments and agencies of County and/or the BCPC member municipalities such available information as relates to the work of the BCPC.
- In the performance of its functions, enter upon any land to make examination and land surveys with the consent of the owner.
- *If requested*, prepare and present to the County and/or the BCPC member municipalities a study regarding the feasibility and practicability of using renewable energy sources in specific areas within the County.

- Review the zoning ordinance, subdivision and land development ordinance, official map, provisions for the planned residential development, and such other ordinances and regulations governing the development of land no less frequently than it reviews the comprehensive plan.
- Perform any other planning-related and/or administrative task requested by the County and/or a BCPC member municipality

Outside administrative and technical services may be employed by the BCPC to carry out any of its duties and responsibilities. Also, the BCPC can accept and utilize funds, personnel, and other services made available to it in furtherance of an assigned task with the consent of the Blair County Commissioners. Also, with the consent of the Blair County Commissioners, the BCPC can enter into agreements and/or contracts in acceptance and utilization of any such funds or assistance in furtherance of an assigned task. In addition to the functions enumerated above, member municipalities are provided the following services:

- Representation and participation by representatives of its own choosing in discussions regarding planning of regional or local interest at all meetings of the BCPC.
- Representation on special committees authorized or appointed to study special problems wherein the area involved includes all or part of the territory of the municipal member.
- Staff attendance at meetings of the local planning commissions to enable the member municipalities to have professional advice on current planning problems.
- Staff attendance at any meetings of the governing bodies of the member municipalities to render assistance on local planning problems, as approved by the Director.
- For Zoning:
 - Render all aid necessary in the preparation of new or revised zoning ordinances
 - Provide formal written reports from staff on any local zoning ordinance or amendment
 - Provide formal written reports from staff on zoning appeals brought before the local Zoning Hearing Board or Governing Body when requested by the local board and approved by the Director.
- For Subdivisions and Land Developments
 - Render all aid necessary in the preparation of new or revised subdivision and land development ordinances
 - Provide staff advice on any local subdivision problems that have officially been submitted to the member municipality for consideration
- Special studies on local planning problems, provided the BCPC shall only consider requests made by a duly-adopted resolution of the governing body.
- Staff assistance with local educational programs to keep the public aware of local planning activities in the respective member municipalities.
- Copies of all reports of regional scope sufficient for all members of the local planning commissions, councils, mayors, and administrative department heads of local government bodies
- A report of the financial condition of the BCPC, including the most recent audit.
- Use of the BCPC library

- Act as a liaison agency between a member municipality and any other local, regional, state, federal, or international agency in coordinating activities of a planning nature.
- Reproduction of planning documents and ordinances for material cost when all work is done by the BCPC. In the event the work is done in part or whole by an outside agency, the cost shall be the actual cost to the BCPC.
- Map preparation at the cost of reproduction.
- Land analysis through the BCPC's geographic information system.
- Advice and assistance on the preparation of planning documents.
- Preparation of an Urban Redevelopment Area plan and the subsequent proposals under the Urban Redevelopment Act of 1945.
- Preparation of applications and administration of programs funded by state and federal agencies for green space, ag preservation, and recreation.
- Coordination with the Blair County Conservation District on agricultural preservation programs
- Coordination with the Blair County Housing and Redevelopment Authority on housing rehabilitation, blight remediation, and affordable housing programs
- Administration of the local Community Development Block Grant Program
- Traffic studies, surveys, and counts, and access to the resulting reports and plan documents.
- Professional and/or expert testimony at public hearings or litigation as requested.
- Specialized land use (and related) studies.
- Piggyback mailings and cost sharing services.

The BCPC may provide any of the above services to non-member municipalities or other agencies and organizations through a cost-for-services contract between the BCPC and interested organization, and is approved by the BCPC Board.

Appendix B

Press Distribution List

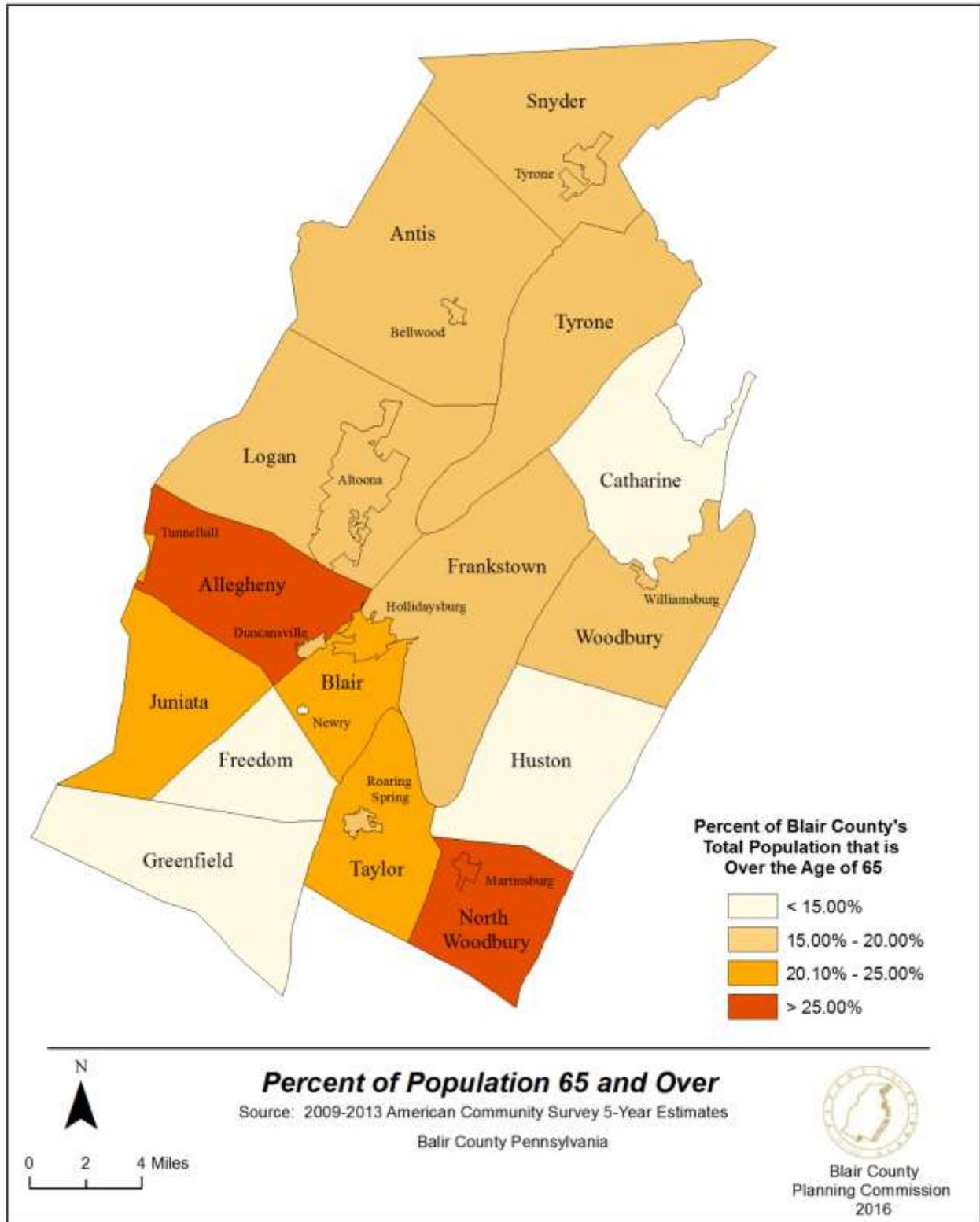
Organization	Media
Altoona Mirror	Newspaper
Tyrone Daily Herald	Newspaper
Morrisons Cove Herald	Newspaper
Altoona Public Access TV	Television
WTAJ CBS	Television
Facebook Webpage	Social Media Internet
Blair County Planning Commission Webpage	Internet
WRTA	Radio
WFGY FROGGY	Radio
WFBG	Radio
WHPA	Radio
WPSU	Radio
WJSM	Radio
WALY	Radio
WTRN	Radio
WHPA	Radio

Appendix C

Persons Age 65 and Over

		Number	Percent
Municipality	Population	65+	65+
U.S.	311,536,594	41,851,042	13.0
Pennsylvania	12,731,381	2,004,801	15.7
Blair County	126,940	23,015	18.1
City of Altoona	46,195	7,556	16.4
Borough of Bellwood	1,951	304	15.6
Borough of Duncansville	1,388	268	19.3
Borough of Hollidaysburg	5,800	1,343	23.2
Borough of Martinsburg	1,930	607	31.5
Borough of Newry	252	36	14.3
Borough of Roaring Spring	2,571	441	17.2
Borough of Tunnelhill (part)	127	27	21.3
Borough of Tyrone	5,451	1,032	18.9
Borough of Williamsburg	1,304	232	17.8
Township of Allegheny	6,738	1,632	24.2
Township of Antis	6,478	982	15.2
Township of Blair	4,517	908	20.1
Township of Catharine	737	88	12.0
Township of Frankstown	7,402	1,288	17.4
Township of Freedom	3,448	415	12.0
Township of Greenfield	4,156	620	15.0
Township of Huston	1,308	166	12.7
Township of Juniata	1,005	210	20.1
Township of Logan	12,311	2334	19.0
Township of N. Woodbury	2,659	837	31.5
Township of Snyder	3,362	526	15.7
Township of Taylor	2,270	513	22.6
Township of Tyrone	1,798	283	15.4
Township of Woodbury	1,809	297	16.4
<i>Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates, PSU Data Center</i>			

Appendix D



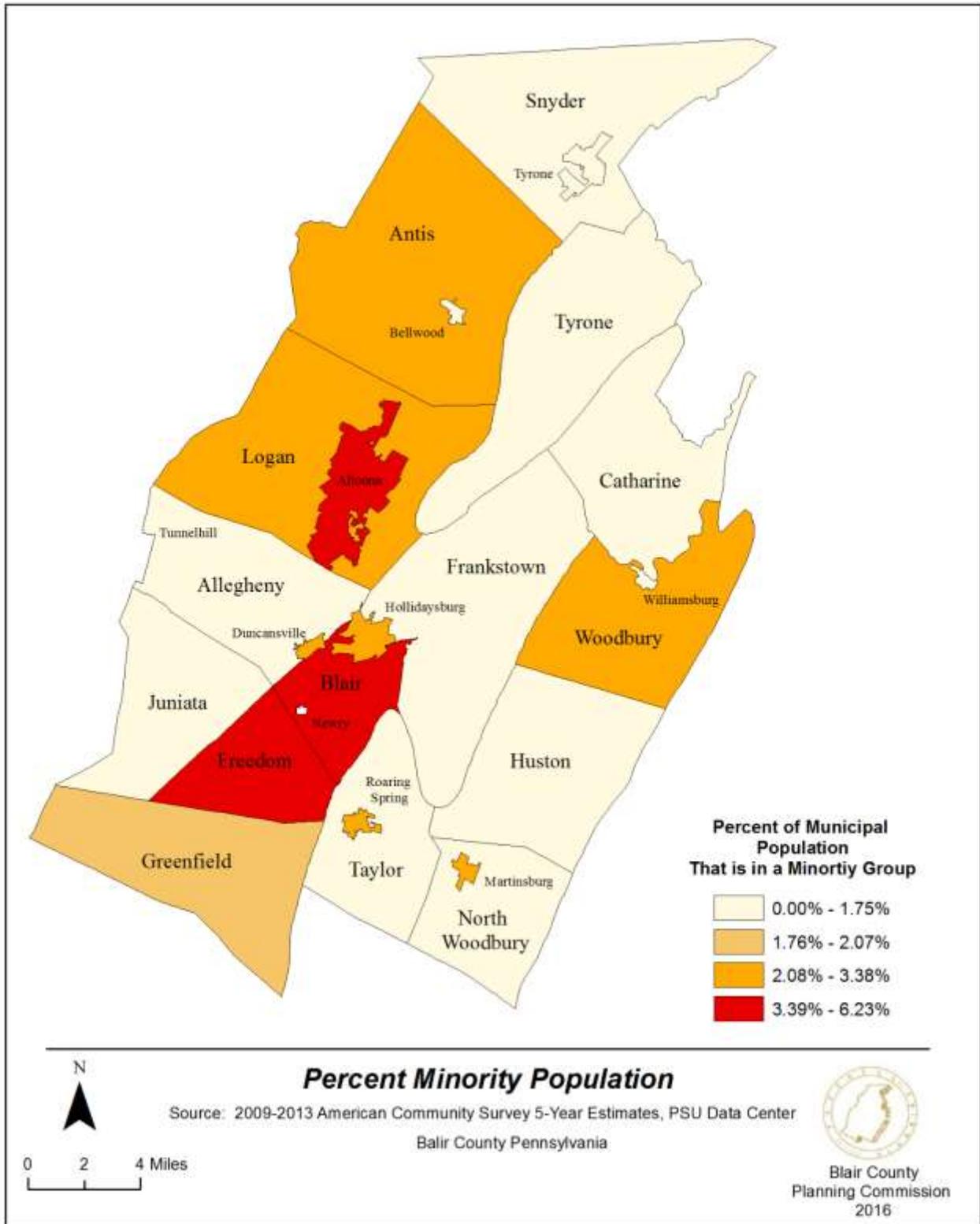
Appendix E

Percent & Number Minority Populations by Municipality in 2009-2013

Municipality	Total	Caucasian	African Amer.	Amer. Indian	Asian	Pacific Islldr.	Other race	Two + races	Hisp. (all)	Min. Pop.
Blair County	126,940	122,136	2,283	96	940	0	178	1,307	1,292	3.8%
City of Altoona	46,195	43,323	1,543	62	447	0	89	731	574	6.2%
BOROUGHES										
Bellwood	1,388	1,370	2	0	5	0	0	11	30	1.3%
Duncansville	1,233	1,207	3	0	12	0	0	11	5	2.1%
Hollidaysburg	5,800	5,658	49	0	34	0	10	49	125	2.5%
Martinsbug	1,930	1,881	31	14	0	0	0	4	14	2.5%
Newry	252	232	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	7.9%
Roaring Spring	2,571	2,487	1	0	56	0	0	27	39	3.3%
Tunnelhill (part)	127	118	0	1	1	0	0	7	0	7.1%
Tyrone	5,451	5,361	27	0	0	0	0	63	93	1.7%
Williamsburg	1,304	1,299	0	0	0	0	3	2	3	0.4%
TOWNSHIPS										
Allegheny	6,711	6,597	15	0	0	0	0	89	0	1.7%
Antis	6,478	6,296	116	0	59	0	0	7	0	2.8%
Blair	4,517	4,247	62	0	86	0	0	122	0	6.0%
Catharine	737	737	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	N/A
Frankstown	7,402	7,277	13	0	112	0	0	0	7	1.7%
Freedom	3,448	3,262	174	0	0	0	0	12	13	5.4%
Greenfield	4,156	4,077	31	0	0	0	35	13	71	1.9%
Huston	1,308	1,308	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Juniata	1,005	1,005	0	0	0	0	0	0		N/A
Logan	12,311	11,981	133	17	124	0	8	48	139	2.7%
N. Woodbury	2,659	2,623	22	0	0	0	0	14	0	1.4%
Snyder	3,362	3,314	6	0	0	0	0	42	0	1.4%
Taylor	2,270	2,233	16	0	0	0	0	21	80	1.6%
Tyrone	1,798	1,777	5	2	0	0	3	11	22	1.2%
Woodbury	1,809	1,749	30	0	0	0	30	0	42	3.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates, PSU Data Center

Appendix F



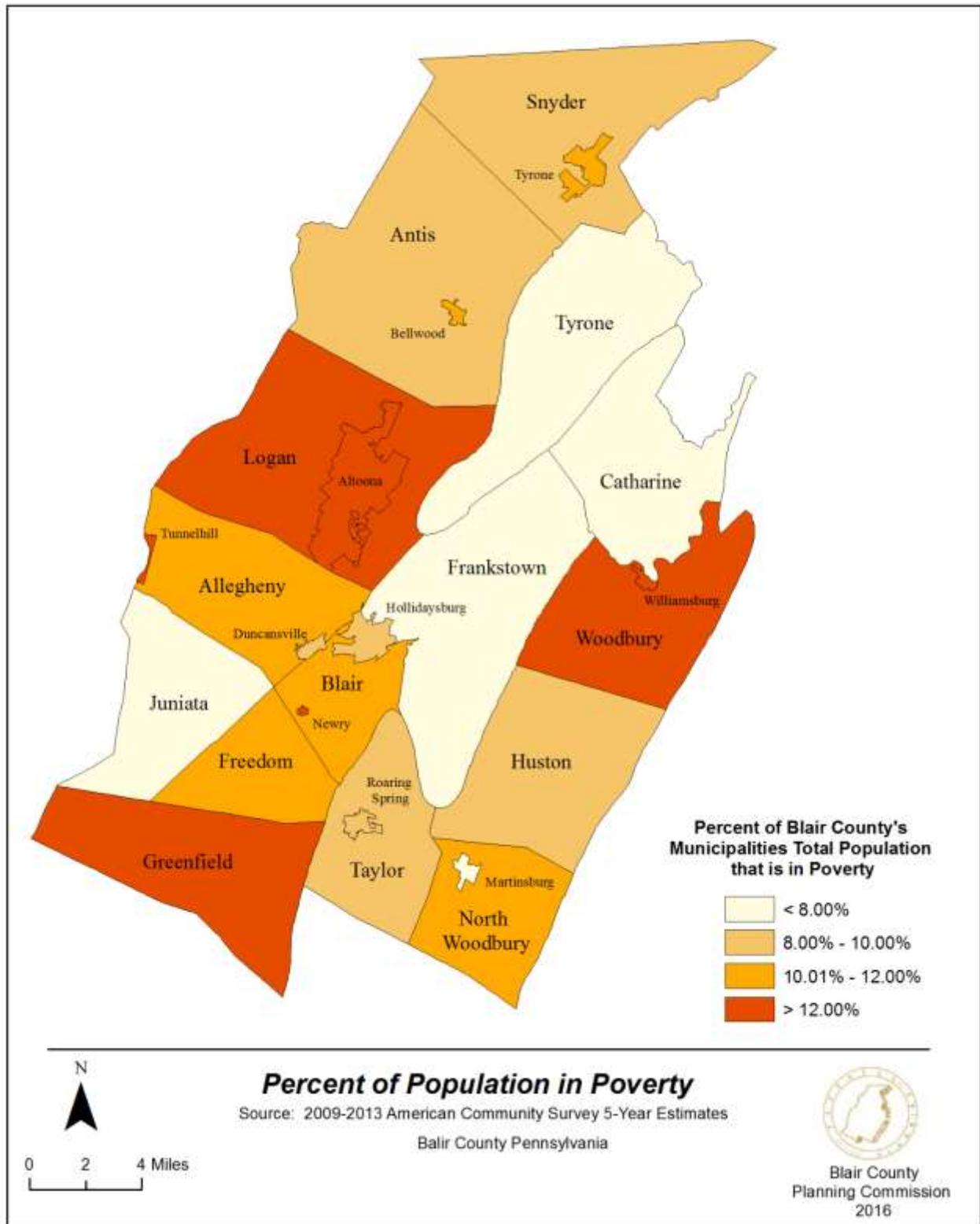
Appendix G

Persons Below the Poverty Level

Municipality	Total Impoverished	People	Under 18	Age 65+
Pennsylvania	11.3%	1,638,820	41.4%	11.9%
Blair County	14.1%	17,899	20.9%	8.0%
City of Altoona	19.5%	9,008	28.7%	10.1%
Bellwood Borough	10.1%	197	14.2%	11.9%
Duncansville Borough	8.4%	117	11.9%	12.3%
Hollidaysburg Borough	8.4%	487	10.9%	2.8%
Martinsburg Borough	5.5%	106	1.3%	11.6%
Newry Borough	23.4%	59	23.5%	36.1%
Roaring Spring Borough	8.7%	224	12.6%	11.3%
Tunnelhill Borough (Part)	18.1%	23	63.6%	11.1%
Tyrone Borough	11.6%	632	14.5%	12.0%
Williamsburg Borough	23.8%	310	42.5%	12.9%
Allegheny Township	11.2%	751	17.4%	7.5%
Antis Township	8.6%	557	12.0%	4.8%
Blair Township	10.2%	461	19.6%	8.5%
Catharine Township	0.9%	7	0.0%	5.7%
Frankstown Township	7.3%	540	10.8%	3.7%
Freedom Township	12.0%	414	26.1%	0.0%
Greenfield Township	17.5%	727	28.1%	11.3%
Huston Township	8.8%	115	13.4%	12.0%
Juniata Township	6.8%	68	14.2%	4.8%
Logan Township	15.6%	1,921	13.9%	4.5%
North Woodbury Twp	10.5%	279	13.9%	13.5%
Snyder Township	10.0%	336	20.2%	0.0%
Taylor Township	9.8%	222	13.4%	6.0%
Tyrone Township	6.3%	113	3.7%	4.2%
Woodbury Township	15.5%	280	22.9%	5.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates, PSU Data Center

Appendix H



Appendix I

Persons with Disabilities Non-Institutionalized – 5 Yr. Average Estimate			
Municipality	Total	Persons With Disabilities	
US	306,448,495	37,168,880	12.1%
Pennsylvania	12,525,314	1,651,733	13.2%
Blair County Total	125,053	19,202	15.4%
City of Altoona	45,889	7,912	17.2%
Borough of Bellwood	1,921	225	11.7%
Borough of Duncansville	1,388	175	12.6%
Borough of Hollidaysburg	5,408	618	11.4%
Borough of Martinsburg	1,840	328	17.8%
Borough of Newry	252	22	8.7%
Borough of Roaring Spring	2,571	384	14.9%
Borough of Tunnelhill	127	22	17.3%
Borough of Tyrone	5,317	759	14.3%
Borough of Williamsburg	1,304	303	23.2%
Township of Allegheny	6,329	1,213	19.2%
Township of Antis	6,428	699	10.9%
Township of Blair	4,433	776	17.5%
Township of Catharine	737	86	11.7%
Township of Frankstown	7,264	664	9.1%
Township of Freedom	3,448	386	11.2%
Township of Greenfield	4,156	574	13.8%
Township of Huston	1,308	182	13.9%
Township of Juniata	1,005	200	19.9%
Township of Logan	12,191	1,835	15.1%
Township of North Woodbury	2,521	383	15.2%
Township of Snyder	3,362	624	18.6%
Township of Taylor	2,270	332	14.6%
Township of Tyrone	1,795	265	14.8%
Township of Woodbury	1,789	235	13.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey Estimates, Table S1810

Appendix J

**Persons (5 Yrs +) Speaking Language Other than English
5 Yr. Average Estimate**

Municipality	Speak Other Than English	Other	1st Other Language	2nd Other Language
Blair County Total	3.0%	3,593	Spanish 1,089	Other German 591
City of Altoona	3.2%	1,159	Spanish 462	German 155
Bellwood Borough	2.8%	50	Spanish 20	Other German 13
Duncansville Borough	3.3%	44	Spanish 19	German 8
Hollidaysburg Borough	3.5%	191	Spanish 106	Other German 20
Martinsburg Borough	2.1%	39	Other German 18	French 9
Newry Borough	2.1%	5	German 3	Japanese 2
Roaring Spring Borough	3.1%	73	Chinese 30	Japanese 21
Tunnelhill (Part)	0.0%	0	N/A	N/A
Tyrone Borough	2.7%	136	Spanish 89	German 22
Williamsburg Borough	1.4%	16	Other German 4	German/Spanish 3
Allegheny Township	2.6%	166	Other German 73	German 49
Antis Township	2.0%	124	German 58	Tagalog 20
Blair Township	2.6%	115	Chinese 54	Spanish 26
Catharine Township	1.3%	9	German 5	Spanish 4
Frankstown Township	4.8%	341	Spanish 45	German 33
Freedom Township	1.6%	16	Other German 24	Spanish/German 13
Greenfield Township	0.7%	25	Spanish 16	Scandinavian 8
Huston Township	1.2%	147	Other German 139	French 5
Juniata Township	0.9%	9	Spanish 9	N/A
Logan Township	2.5%	292	Spanish 85	German 64
North Woodbury Twp.	5.8%	148	Other German 104	Spanish 21
Snyder Township	1.0%	31	German 23	Spanish 8
Taylor Township	4.1%	91	Spanish 81	Other German 5
Tyrone Township	3.7%	62	Other German 31	Spanish 20
Woodbury Township	4.1%	70	German 33	Spanish 30

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey Estimates, Table B16001

Appendix K

**Limited English Proficiency
Persons (5 Yrs +) Who Speak English less than "very well"
5 Yr. Average Estimate**

Municipality	Persons Age 5 Yrs. And Over	Speak English Less Than "Very Well"		Most Common Language of LEP Persons
Blair County Total	119,812	839	0.7%	Asian/Pacific Is.
City of Altoona	43,032	301	0.7%	Asian/Pacific Is.
Bellwood Borough	1,809	24	1.3%	Spanish
Duncansville Borough	1,336	12	0.9%	Spanish
Holidaysburg Borough	5,530	44	0.8%	Spanish
Martinsburg Borough	1,845	6	0.3%	Indo-European
Newry Borough	239	0	N/A	N/A
Roaring Spring Borough	2,391	33	1.4%	Asian/Pacific Is.
Tunnelhill (Part)	125	0	N/A	N/A
Tyrone Borough	5,108	20	0.4%	Spanish
Williamsburg Borough	1,178	0	N/A	N/A
Allegheny Township	6,508	26	0.4%	Indo-European
Antis Township	6,132	31	0.5%	Spanish
Blair Township	4,435	36	0.8%	Asian/Pacific Is.
Catharine Township	704	0	N/A	N/A
Frankstown Township	7,136	64	0.9%	Spanish
Freedom Township	3,142	0	N/A	N/A
Greenfield Township	3,793	0	N/A	N/A
Huston Township	1,254	21	1.7%	Indo-European
Juniata Township	989	5	0.5%	Spanish
Logan Township	11,831	47	0.4%	Spanish
North Woodbury Twp.	2,548	69	2.7%	Indo-European
Snyder Township	3,141	9	0.3%	Spanish
Taylor Township	2,205	75	3.4%	Spanish
Tyrone Township	1,689	27	1.6%	Indo-European
Woodbury Township	1,712	31	1.8%	Spanish

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey Estimates, Table S1601

Appendix L

Language Assistance Plan for Persons with Limited English Proficiency

Introduction and Purpose

The Blair County Planning Commission maintains a continuing and comprehensive planning program carried on cooperatively with the county and local communities to promote the orderly development, preservation, and change in the community. The planning process includes taking reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access for all persons. The purpose of the language assistance plan is to have procedures to provide meaningful access for persons with Limited English Proficiency.

The requirement comes from Executive Order 13166 "Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency", which extends Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin under any program or activity that receives federal assistance to include people who have a limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English.

The plan is based on the December 14, 2005, US Department of Transportation (DOT)'s "Policy Guidance Concerning Recipients' Responsibilities to Limited English Proficient (LEP) Persons". The policy guidance states that organizations receiving federal funds should conduct a four factor analysis to assess the needs of the LEP persons in the community and decide what reasonable steps the MPO should take to ensure meaningful access to its planning process.

Factor 1: The number or proportion of LEP persons eligible to be served or likely to be encountered by a program, activity, or service.

As the table in Appendix K shows, there are 839 people age 5 years and over who speak English less than "very well" or 0.7% of Blair County's population.

Factor 2: The Frequency with which LEP persons come in contact with the program, activity or service.

As of this date, neither the Blair County Planning Commission (BCPC) nor the Blair County MPO has had requests for services from LEP persons or transportation projects that would adversely impact them. However, the numbers of LEP persons will need to be monitored.

Factor 3: The nature and importance of the program, activity or service provided by the recipient to people's lives.

The programs, activities and services of the BCPC ensure an attractive community for residents, business, industry, and visitors. To that end, this LEP policy is in place to assist LEP persons when the activities and services affect such persons. The most likely examples in which the BCPC could currently assist LEP persons are as follows:

- help in reading notices of public meetings or other information regarding recipients' proposed transportation plans or programs of projects; and

- provide language identification cards to facilitate language assistance with regards to planning services.

Factor 4: The resources available to the BCPC and costs.

The policy guidance for Executive Order 13166 states that language services provided should be based on what is necessary and reasonable according to the LEP population and the frequency with which LEP services are requested.

The two main types of language assistance that could be provided are oral interpretation and written translation. *Oral interpretation* is listening to speech in one language and orally translating it into speech in another language. *Written translation* is converting written text from one language into equivalent written text in another language. The costs of providing these services have been reduced by technology, reasonable business practices, and the sharing of language assistance materials and services among and between recipients, groups, and agencies.

According to the executive order, written translation of vital documents for each eligible LEP language groups is required when LEP persons are 5% or number 1,000 persons, whichever is less, of the persons eligible to be served or likely to be affected by a project. Because the total LEP persons in Blair County is 839 persons or 0.7 % of the population, the BCPC does not need to provide written translation services or do outreach to certain LEP groups at this time. However, oral interpreter services are available through PennDOT. Qualified community volunteers for on-site oral interpreter services could also be used if available.

Summary

LEP persons will be ensured meaningful access to MPO activities through oral interpretation services and with written translation if the above stated conditions are met. What's more, the Blair County Planning Commission (BCPC) and the MPO have taken or will take the following actions:

1. have posted language identification cards in its offices, which say "If You Need and Interpreter, Please Point to Your Language";
2. have language oral interpreter services through "propio" provided by PennDOT;
3. have trained staff on how to respond to LEP persons who phone, visit the offices or attend public meetings and how to provide those services;
4. have added a translation program to its Web site making its web pages readable in other languages;
5. Will post a message on the BCPC Web site that free language interpreter services are available at the offices of the BCPC;
6. Will monitor and update the language assistance plan to determine whether new documents, programs, services, and activities are needed due to changes in LEP population, frequency of language services requests, or the needs of LEP persons.