

Sustainable Planning Initiatives in Somerset County

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OUR MISSION

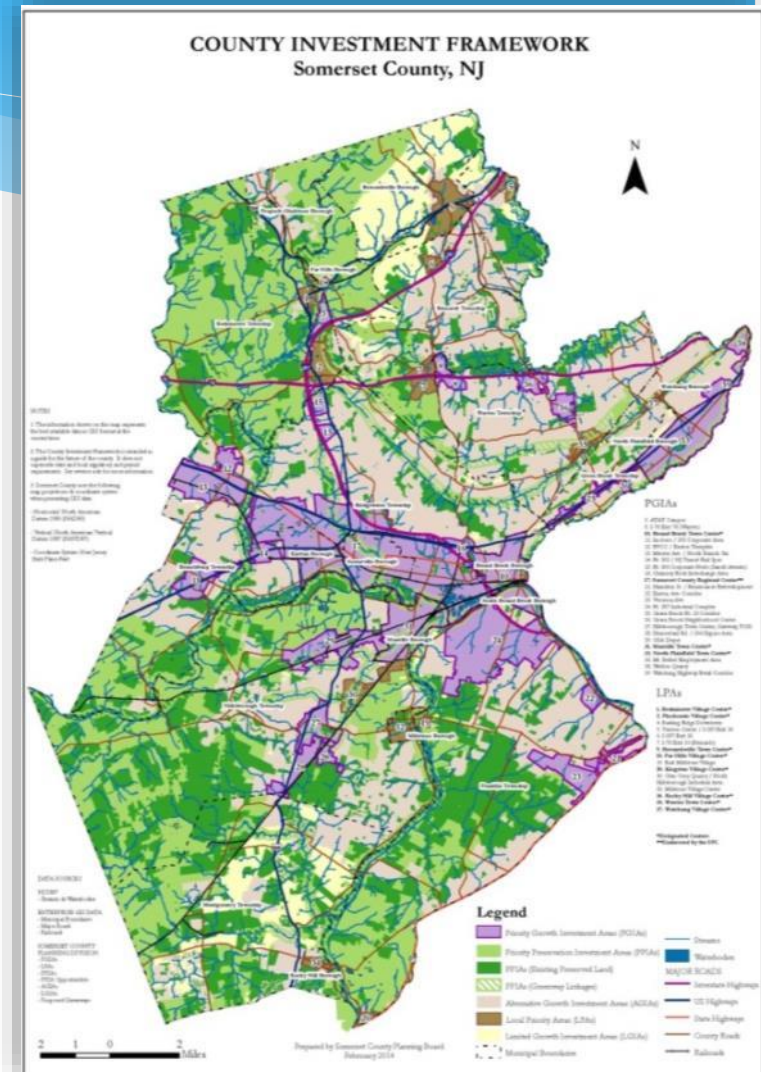


“Positively influence the process of growth and change in the County so that it provides the optimum living and working environment for our residents and employers, build balanced communities, promote regional awareness and cooperation, protect the natural environment and preserve our rich history, farmland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

Somerset County Master Plan

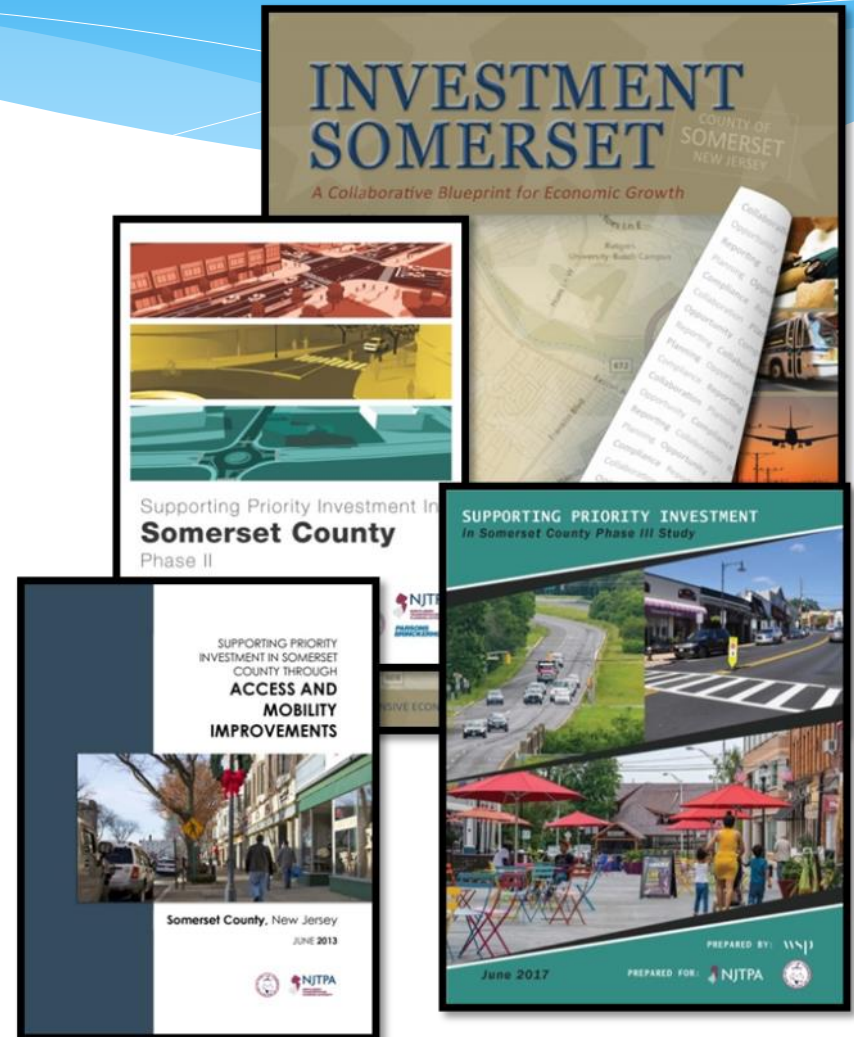
2014 Somerset County Master Plan County Investment Framework (CIF) Map

- ❖ Priority Growth Investment Areas
- ❖ Priority Preservation Investment Areas
- ❖ Local Priority Areas
- ❖ Alternative Growth Investment Areas
- ❖ Limited Growth Investment Areas



Supporting Priority Investment In Somerset County

- ❖ Somerset County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
- ❖ Supporting Priority Investment in Somerset County through Access and Mobility Improvements
- ❖ Supporting Priority Investment in Somerset County Phases I, II, III



Supporting Priority Investment In Somerset County




Land Use and Planning Scenarios

Raritan Borough, though part of the broader Regional Center PGIA, has its own distinctive small town character. While other planning efforts are already addressing opportunities along the riverfront, near the train station, and in the vicinity of the Washington School, additional opportunities were examined for focus areas along the Somerset Street and Orlando Drive corridors and at the Raritan Mall shopping center.

Focus Area 1: Raritan Mall Shopping Center

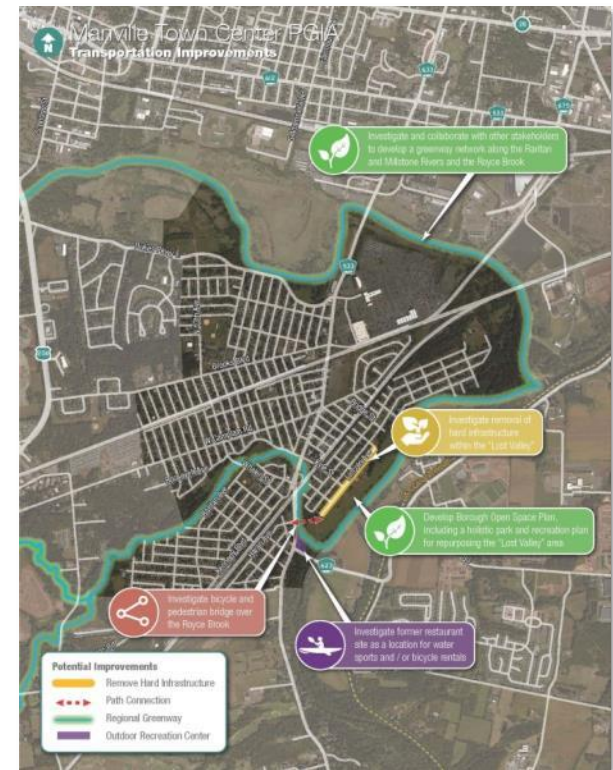
The Raritan Mall shopping center fronts U.S. Route 206 and is currently developed as a single-story, supermarket-anchored retail center comprising approximately 110,000 square feet, plus a 10,000 square foot pad site. There are vacancies throughout the mall and concerns that a supermarket anchor use may not have long-term viability based on strong competition elsewhere in the market. Other existing uses in the strip center are generally quick service food and restaurants, with some retail and personal service.



The site is located within the B-2 Shopping Center Business District, which is designated for large lot, highway-oriented commercial areas serving both local residents and the regional market. Permitted retail uses include supermarkets, personal service establishments, and indoor recreation facilities. While the site is located near the Borough's downtown and is adjacent to residential areas, its highway scale and size, orientation towards U.S. Route 206, and parking lot frontage separate it from the surrounding community. Only the rear employee entrances and loading areas face to the neighboring Busky Lane. Sidewalks connecting to and from the neighboring property and an adjacent children's park lead only to blank walls and service roads.

In each of the following scenarios, site planning, pedestrian, and connectivity improvements can reconnect the site to the eastern end of the Somerset Street corridor and the adjacent Regional Center to the east. Integration with the Raritan River Greenway would enhance local and regional linkages and support opportunities for value added uses, including both recreation and river and trail front dining. Improvements to north/south linkages, including Newton Street and Busky Lane, would better connect the site and the Orlando Drive corridor to the Borough center. This combination of Greenway and local street connections would create potentially extensive of road systems between the Regional Center towns, Raritan Valley Line rail service, and across the Raritan River to Hillsborough and Duke Farms.

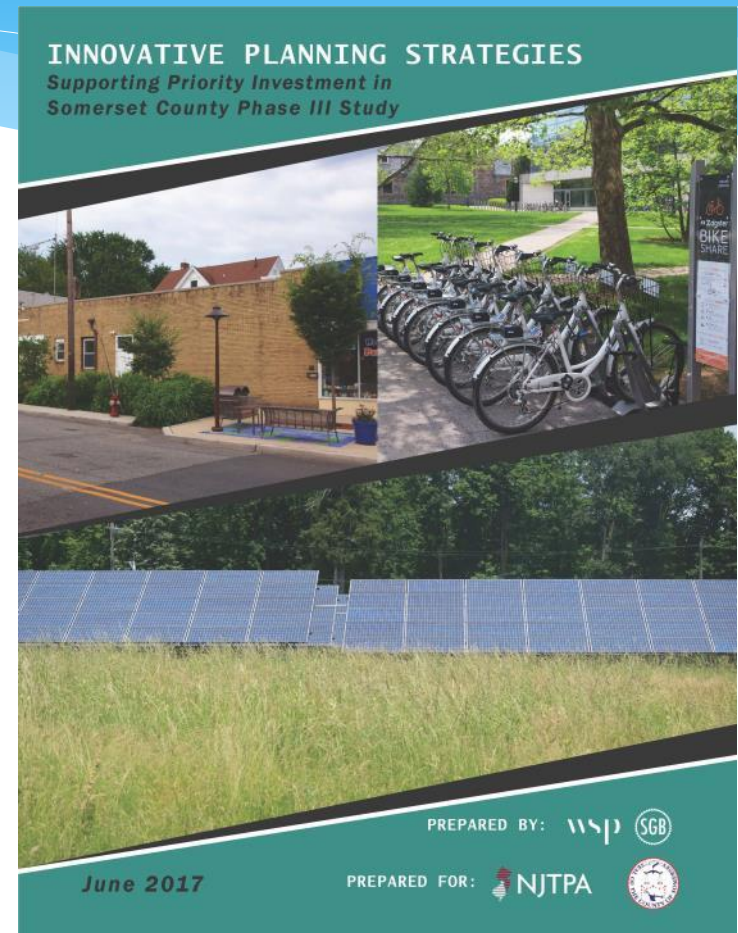
Regional Center PGIA | Raritan Borough 3



Supporting Priority Investment In Somerset County

Planning for Resilient Communities

- * Resilient/Renewable Energy Systems
 - * Microgrids
 - * Distributed Energy
- * Flood Hazard Planning
 - * Wetlands/Flood Plain Restoration
 - * Creating New Flood Storage Capacity through Redevelopment
- * Green Infrastructure
 - * Bioswales
 - * Rain Gardens



Somerset County Hazard Mitigation Plan

2019 Hazard Mitigation Plan

- * Provides a framework to coordinate land use planning and mitigation planning strategies and policies
- * Advances the implementation of the County Investment Framework
- * Contains a draft Flood Resiliency Framework and a draft Energy Resiliency Framework
- * Coordinated with the Somerset County Preservation Plan



SOMERSET COUNTY

HAZARD
MITIGATION PLAN



Source: Senatenj.com

Somerset County Preservation Plan

The Plan will be an innovative document that will effectively:

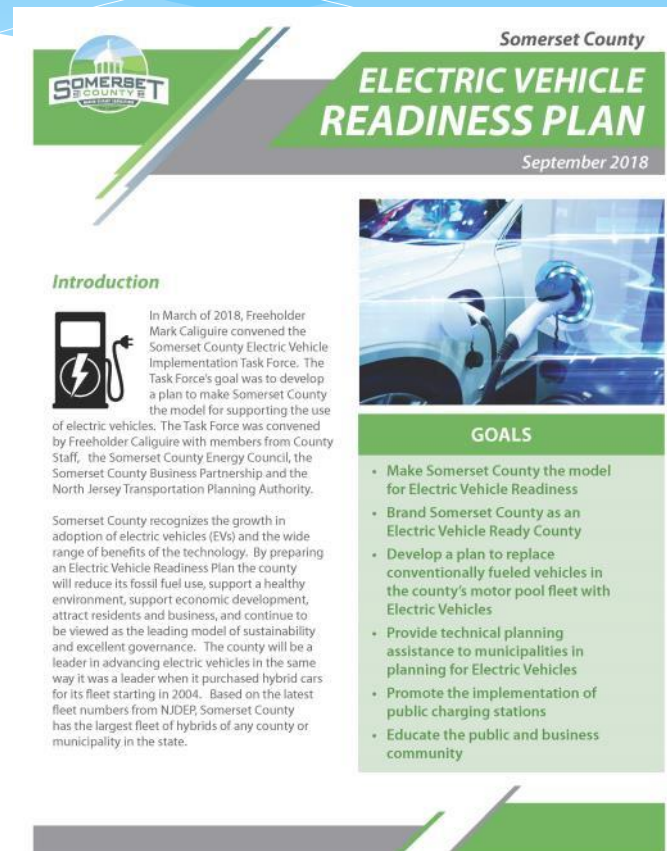
- ❖ Update the 2008 Somerset County Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan
- ❖ Update the 2000 Somerset County Open Space and Recreation Plan
- ❖ Create a Historic Preservation Plan
- ❖ Advance the Somerset County Investment Framework
- ❖ Use sustainability, health, tourism, resiliency and economic development strategies to link the elements together



Somerset County Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan

Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan Goals

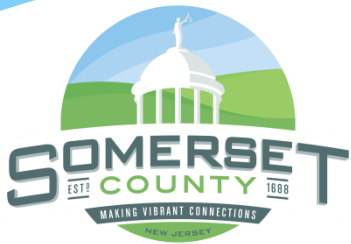
- * Somerset County will be the model for Electric Vehicle Readiness
- * Brand Somerset County as an Electric Vehicle Ready County
- * Develop a plan to replace conventionally fueled vehicles
- * Provide technical planning assistance to municipalities
- * Promote the implementation of Public Charging Stations
- * Educate the public and business community



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:



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