

Burlington County Route 130 Corridor Municipal Questionnaire

**Please review these questions and fill in as much as you can
to paint a picture of your status and trends in planning:**

(We'd love to see additional planning documents if you have them, though we're primarily interested in you telling the story of your community in narrative form so that we get a feel for what makes it unique and what's important to you and your citizens.)

1. Visioning

Do you have a vision statement for your future? Please share it here: The Borough of Palmyra does not have a vision statement.

If so, when was it last affirmed? N/A

Through what process? N/A

Who participated? N/A

What matters most to your community? N/A

Have you thought about your sustainability? Your contributions to Green House Gases (GHG)? How to reduce your GHG contributions? Yes. The Borough of Palmyra has a Green Team, and participates in the Sustainable Jersey program. The Green Team is tasked with developing ideas to lower GHG and reduce the Borough's carbon footprint.

2. Resiliency

Have you started planning for resiliency to climate change and sea level rise? Yes

If so, please attach any planning documents. N/A

Who has been engaged in the discussions? N/A

Have you identified your risks? (Flooding? Erosion? Heat island effect? Increased storms? Disease? Other? Palmyra identifies all risks through its Office of Emergency Management. Identified risks include rising Delaware River and groundwater levels which caused the Borough to track water table levels on a monthly basis via monitoring wells installed throughout Palmyra. This rise in water levels has resulted in many, formerly dry, basements now experiencing flooding. The Borough is also constructing a large water retention system on Temple Boulevard and at the Department of Public Works facility in part due to rising water levels. The flooding occurs due to a rise in the Delaware River, which closes a flood gate, creating flooding in that area. Based on the new FEMA Flood maps, approximately 20% of Palmyra residents live in a flood zone.

Have you assessed vulnerable populations? Yes, Palmyra is participating in the Special Needs Registry which is administered by the New Jersey State Police.

Do you have an inventory of community assets? (Schools, emergency buildings, senior care, churches, businesses, infrastructure, transportation, energy, communications, health & medical facilities, hazardous materials; food water & shelter; safety & security, natural areas, parks, other?) Yes, those items are addressed in the Borough's Office of Emergency Management Operations Plan.

3. Equity

Do you have issues of Environmental Justice or other concerns about equity in your community? If so, list communities/neighborhoods that have borne an outsized burden of pollution, traffic and or other considerations that impact on quality of life. Yes, the Borough of Palmyra is currently enjoined in an environmental justice lawsuit against a property owner in the Rt. 73 South Redevelopment Area (Fillit Corporation) brought by NJDEP.

What is the status of your affordable housing agreement? And, the status of implementation? Palmyra entered into a Settlement Agreement with Fair Share Housing Corporation (FSHC) in 2016. All units (136 total obligation) are to be constructed within the Rt. 73 South Redevelopment Area by 2025.

4. Community Characterization

If not identified in the earlier questions, what are the key elements that define your community?

Strong sense of community

Affordable Housing Stock

Delaware River Frontage

Ongoing redevelopment, particularly the Rt. 73 South Redevelopment Area

5. Mapping

Please attach a file with your zoning map in GIS format (shape files). Sent previously

If you have your community assets and vulnerabilities mapped, please include them as well.

Who is your municipal contact for GIS mapping? (please include email and phone #) ERI, Bill Kirchner, P.E., wkirchner@erinj.com Phone: 856-235-7170

6. State Plan Consistency

Please review the 8 goals of the State Development and Redevelopment Plan (attached) and address how your master plan and vision for your community is (or is not) consistent with these goals, policies & indicators.

Goal 1: Revitalize the State's Cities and Towns: The Borough of Palmyra 2018 Master Plan Reexamination is consistent with this goal. Specifically in the Land Use Objectives section the Reexam the following goals are presented:

- The improvement of the downtown business district through the encouragement of commercial in-fill construction.
- The encouragement of commercial development along the Route 73 corridor so as to expand the tax base while concomitantly preserving adjoining residential areas.
- The undertaking of initial steps leading to environmentally sensitive development of lands west of Route 73.

Goal 2: Conserve the State's Natural Resources and System: The 2018 Reexam is consistent with this goal. Specific objectives include:

- The provision of a comprehensive system of public recreation facilities.
- The protection of natural and environmental resources.
- The development of an effective energy conservation program.

Goal 3: Promote Beneficial Economic Growth, Development and Renewal for All Residents of NJ: The 2018 Reexam is consistent with this goal. Specific objectives include:

- The protection of residential areas from encroachment of commercial and industrial uses.
- The improvement of the downtown business district through the encouragement of commercial in-fill construction.
- The encouragement of commercial development along the Route 73 corridor so as to expand the tax base while concomitantly preserving adjoining residential areas.

Goal 4: Protect the Environment, Prevent and Clean Up Pollution: The 2018 Reexam is consistent with this goal. Specific objectives include:

- The provision of utility services in satisfaction of Borough needs and rectification of storm drainage problems.
- The protection of natural and environmental resources.
- The development of an effective energy conservation program.

Goal 5: Provide Adequate Public Facilities and Services at a Reasonable Cost: The 2018 Reexam is consistent with this goal. Specific objectives include:

- The provision of a balanced land use development pattern enabling effective public facilities management.

- The improvement of the transportation system for the more efficient movement of people and goods.

Goal 6: Provide Adequate Housing at a Reasonable Cost: The 2018 Reexam is consistent with this goal. Specific objectives include:

- The provision of a range of housing types through both rehabilitation and in-fill construction.

Palmyra also has a Settlement Agreement (2016) with FSHC to meet both its Prospective Need and Prior Round Obligations.

Goal 7: Preserve and Enhance Areas with Historic, Cultural, Scenic, Open Space and Recreational Value: The 2018 Reexam is consistent with this goal. Specific objectives include:

- The provision of a comprehensive system of public recreation facilities.
- The protection of natural and environmental resources.
- The preservation of Palmyra's heritage.
- The expansion of open space through the development of parklands along the Delaware River from the Pennsauken creek to Riverton, and through the development of a linear park and the anticipated Heritage Trail.

Goal 8: Ensure Sound, Integrated Planning and Implementation Statewide: The 2018 Master Plan Reexam is largely silent on this Goal. However it does recommend the following specific changes to the Master Plan:

- Work with Burlington County officials to support the Heritage Trail as a means to facilitate travel by visitors and tourists to the Palmyra Arts District.
- Support business development, technical assistance and work with County planning and economic development staff on same.
- Redevelopment planning as enunciated under the Land Redevelopment and Housing Law N.J.A.C. 40A:12A-1 et. seq. should continue to be promoted.

7. State requests

Please list any 'asks' that you have of the state including OPA, DEP, DOT, DCA, BPU or any other state agencies. OPA is committed to bringing them to the table, though we can't guarantee exactly the resolution that you're looking for. N/A

**Please feel free to add anything else that you feel would be pertinent to a planning discussion and
THANK YOU for your time!**