

Armstrong County

2014 Planning Commission Annual Report



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Armstrong County Planning Commission

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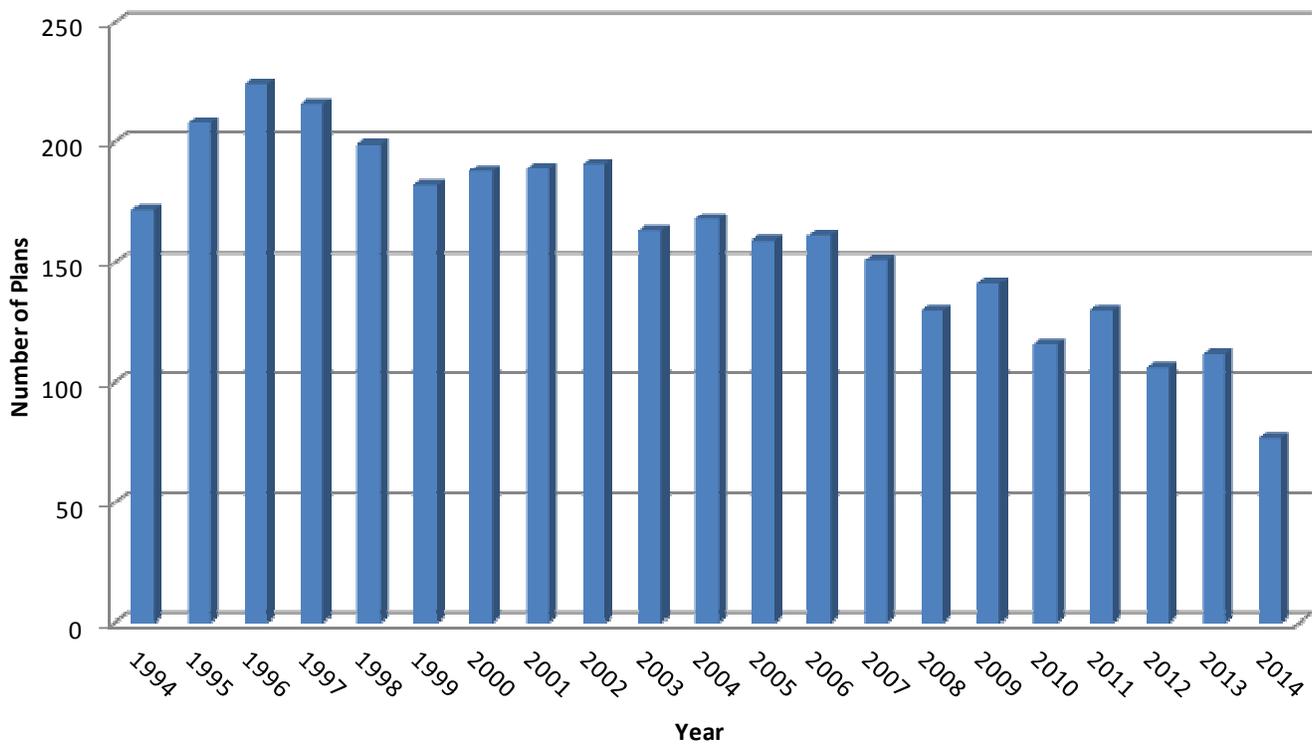
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Armstrong County Planning Commission Report 2014

This report summarizes the activities of the Armstrong County Planning Commission during the 2014 calendar year as well as providing information relating to transportation and special projects.

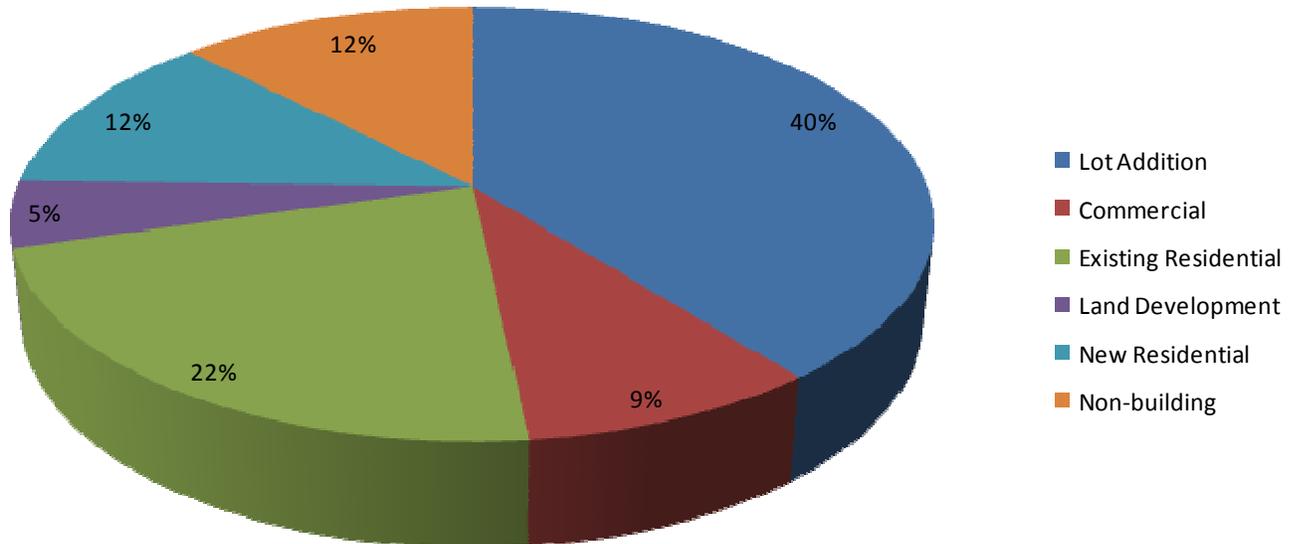
Subdivision and Land Development Activity

Number of Plans Submitted 1994 - 2014



There were 77 plans submitted to the Armstrong County Planning Commission in 2014. This is 35 less plans than 2013. Of the 77 plans submitted, 71 were granted final approval and six were awaiting approval as of December 31, 2014. Plans were submitted in 27 municipalities, creating 122 new parcels.

2014 Proposed Lots By Type

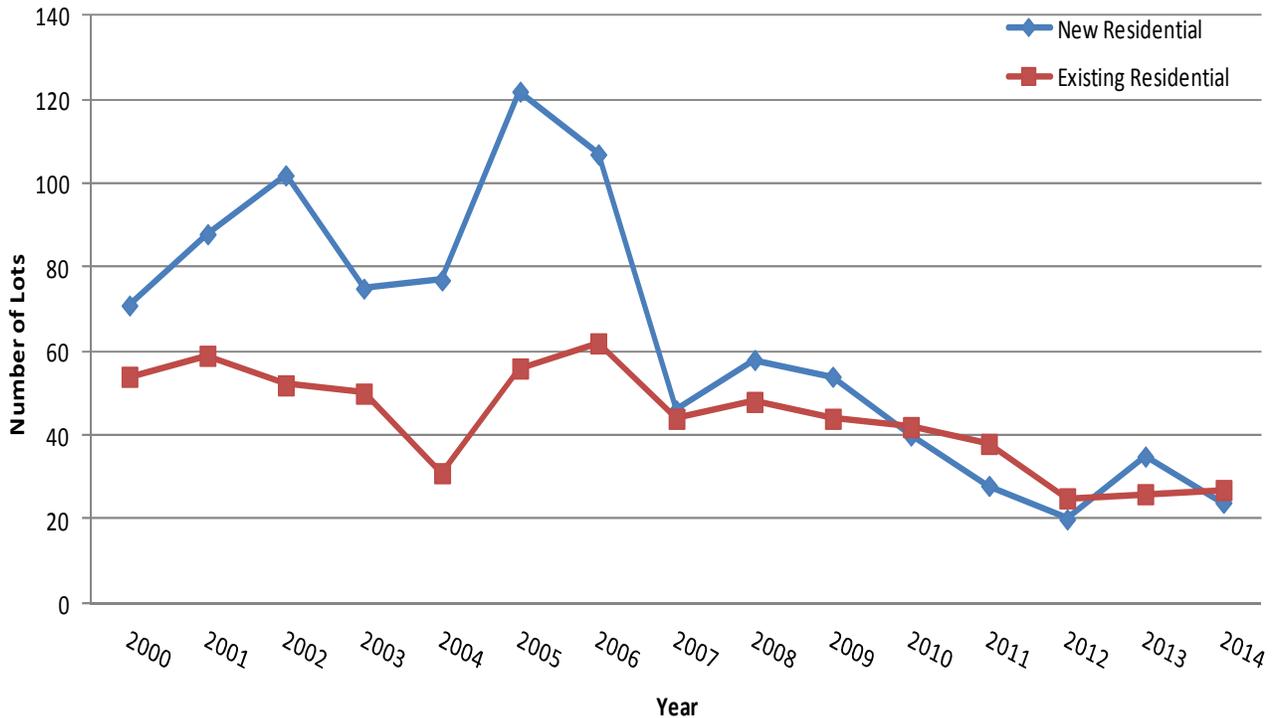


Subdivision activity was tracked for all newly created parcels using the following categories:

- Lot Addition – a parcel created strictly to be joined to another parcel
- Recreation - a parcel developed for recreational or camp use
- Commercial – this includes commercial and industrial lots
- Existing Residential – newly created lot with existing residence
- Land Development – two or more residences, a combination of one or more residential or commercial buildings or one multi-use commercial building
- New Residential – newly created vacant parcel not intended for commercial use
- Non-building – usually larger parcels proposed for agricultural usage where sewage testing has not been conducted

In 2014 lot additions was the largest category, with forty-eight lots being created. Existing residential lots were second with twenty-seven lots created. The total number of residential lots was fifty-one. This was a decrease from 2013.

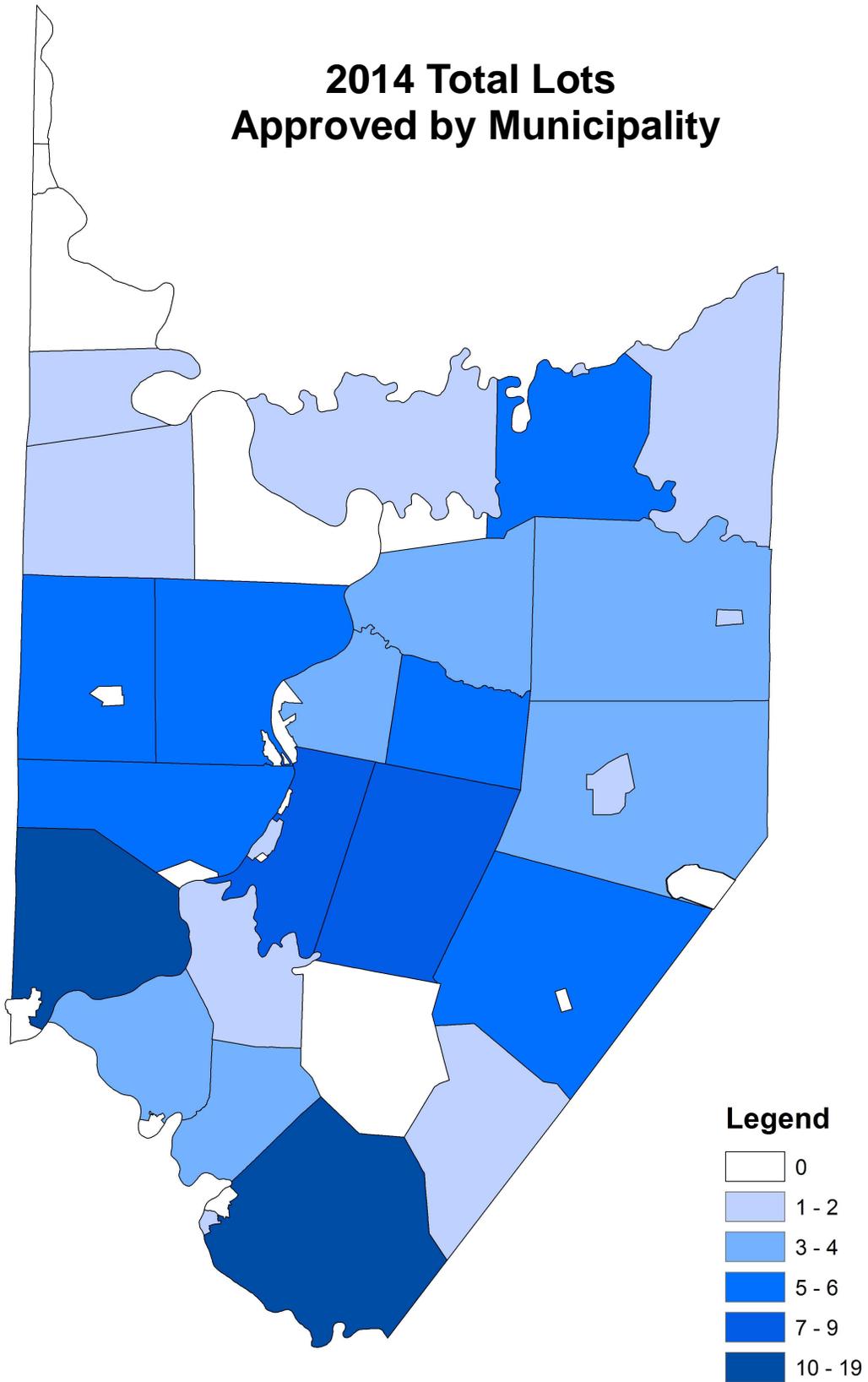
Existing vs. New Residential Lots 2000 - 2014



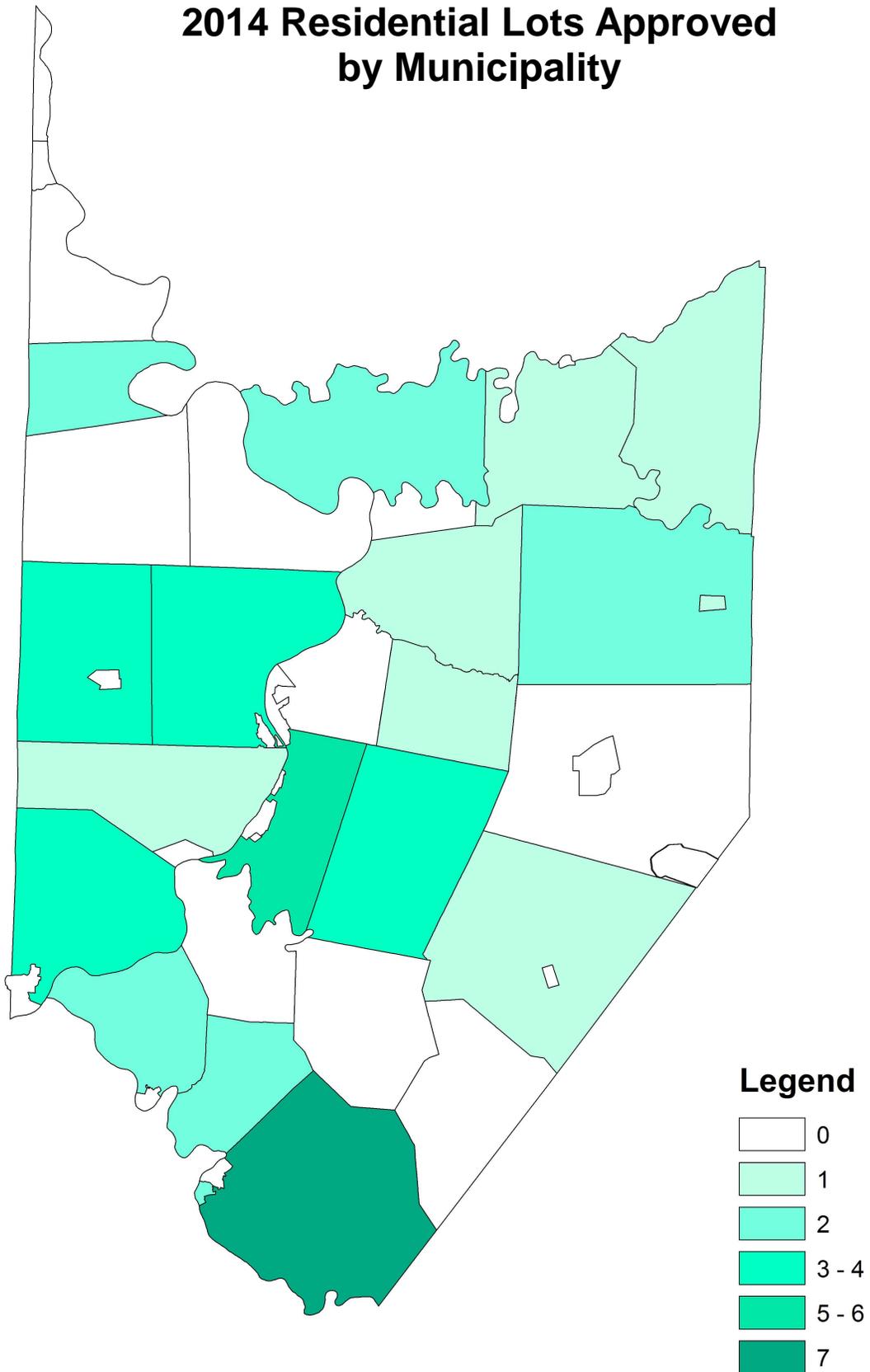
The graph above shows the number of new and existing residential lots approved since 2000. A comparison of the average number of lots created from 2005 - 2009 vs. 2010 - 2014 shows that the overall number of residential lots being created each year has been slowly decreasing.

The maps on the next two pages pertain to the number of lots approved in 2014 by municipality. The first map includes total lots approved while the second provides the total "residential lots" approved. The category "residential lots" includes all new and existing residential lots as well as land developments and mobile home parks that have been granted final approval.

2014 Total Lots Approved by Municipality



2014 Residential Lots Approved by Municipality



Letters of Concurrence

Many State and Federal funding agencies require local planning commissions to review applications to determine compliance with various adopted plans and programs. If the proposal is found to be consistent, a concurrence letter or land use letter is issued. In 2014, there were seventy-five requests submitted to the Planning Commission, primarily from municipalities or authorities applying for grant funding.

The Planning Commission issued letters or land use forms for the following projects:

- Hawthorn Redbank Redbank Municipal Authority - PENNVEST Application for Phase B2 of the Hawthorn Area Sanitary Sewer and Treatment Plant Project located in Redbank Township
- Pennsylvania Department of Transportation – DEP Permit Application for Logansport Bridge Replacement in Bethel Township
- Hawthorn Redbank Redbank Municipal Authority – DEP Permit Application for the construction of a sanitary sewer pipeline throughout the Oakridge Area of Redbank Township
- Linda Alworth - DEP Permit Application for a proposed sanitary sewer line stream crossing in Gilpin Township
- Mountain Gathering, LLC - DEP Permit Application for the construction of a natural gas pipeline in South Buffalo Township
- Allegheny Ridge Corporation - DCNR Grant Application for the installation of seven wooden information kiosks at several river and trail access points and the design and installation of six interpretive signs along the Kiski Valley Greenway
- East Franklin Township - Zoning Ordinance Amendment to include changes to the front building setback requirements in the R-1, R-2 and R-3 zoning districts and the increase of the size of electronic signs in districts where they are currently permitted
- Leechburg Borough - Zoning Ordinance Amendment eliminated the zoning designation Historic Preservation Overlay by making the provisions voluntary in the Central Business District
- Sugarcreek Township - Zoning Ordinance Amendment to eliminate the requirement for approval of the zoning hearing board for the drilling of natural gas and establishing conditions for the drilling of natural gas.
- North Eastern Energy Consulting, Inc. - DEP Permit Renewal for the installation of maintenance shops and expansion of existing office buildings located in Plumcreek Township along SR 210
- PennDot - DEP Permit Application for the replacement of an existing bridge over the South Fork of Pine Creek near Echo, Wayne Township
- County of Armstrong - DCNR Application for a feasibility study of the Belmont Complex Pool
- Rayburn Township - DCNR Application for a boom mower for use along ATV Trail Roads
- Ford City Borough - DCNR Application for rehabilitation of the Armstrong Trail
- Plumcreek Township - DEP Permit Application for the replacement of a culvert under Cashdollar Road

- North Buffalo Township - Zoning Ordinance Amendments
- Mountain Gathering, LLC - DEP Permit Application for the Alexander Lindsay Gas Pipeline located in South Buffalo Township
- ACMH - DEP Permit Application for the Lutheran Senior Life Center to be located in East Franklin Township
- Leechburg Borough - PENNVEST Application for the Leechburg Sanitary Sewer Separation Project
- Manor Township Joint Municipal Authority - Commonwealth Financing Authority PA Small Water and Sewer Project Grant for a waterline relocation project located in Manor Township
- Manor Township Joint Municipal Authority - Commonwealth Financing Authority PA Small Water and Sewer Project Grant for the Route 85 Waterline Swamp Loop Project
- Gilpin Township Municipal Authority - Commonwealth Financing Authority PA Small Water and Sewer Project Grant for improvements to the water distribution system
- Bradys Bend Township Water and Sewer Authority - Commonwealth Financing Authority PA Small Water and Sewer Project Grant for the purchase of a generator for the Authority's existing water treatment plant
- Bradys Bend Township Water and Sewer Authority - Commonwealth Financing Authority PA Small Water and Sewer Project Grant for the Phase I portion of the emergency interconnect project with the Petroleum Valley Regional Water Authority
- Bradys Bend Township Water and Sewer Authority - Commonwealth Financing Authority PA Small Water and Sewer Project Grant for the Phase II portion of the emergency interconnect project with the Petroleum Valley Regional Water Authority
- Cowanshannock Township Municipal Authority - Commonwealth Financing Authority PA Small Water and Sewer Project Grant for new meters, hand held recording device/ software, a computer and billing software
- Parks Township Municipal Authority - Commonwealth Financing Authority PA Small Water and Sewer Project Grant for the Clarion Avenue Waterline Replacement Project
- Rural Valley Borough - Commonwealth Financing Authority PA Small Water and Sewer Project Grant for the purchase of meters, hand held recording device/software and treatment plant operating software
- West Kittanning Borough Municipal Authority - Commonwealth Financing Authority PA Small Water and Sewer Project Grant for the Arthur/North Crescent Waterline Replacement
- West Kittanning Borough Municipal Authority - Commonwealth Financing Authority PA Small Water and Sewer Project Grant for replacement of meters and the purchase of a hand held recording device
- Worthington/West Franklin Municipal Authority - Commonwealth Financing Authority PA Small Water and Sewer Project Grant for well cleaning and filter media replacement
- Kittanning Suburban Joint Water Authority - Commonwealth Financing Authority PA Small Water and Sewer Project Grant for upgrades to the SCADA System
- Borough of Ford City - Commonwealth Financing Authority PA Small Water and Sewer Project Grant for the installation of a backwash settling tank at the existing water treatment plant
- Kittanning Borough - PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund Application for the Kittanning Revitalization Project - Phase II
- Kittanning Borough - Commonwealth Financing Authority Multimodal Transportation Fund Application for the Kittanning Revitalization Project - Phase II

- Kittanning Borough - Keystone Communities Program Application for the Kittanning Revitalization Project - Phase II
- Armstrong School District - PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund Application for intersection improvements at SR 422 and Buffington Drive
- Armstrong School District - Commonwealth Financing Authority Multimodal Transportation Fund Application for intersection improvements at SR 422 and Buffington Drive
- North Buffalo Township - revisions to the North Buffalo Township Zoning Ordinance
- XTO Energy, Inc. - DEP Permit Application for the Frantz Temporary Water Pipeline for the Frantz Well Site location in South Buffalo Township
- XTO Energy, Inc. - DEP Permit Application for the Charlton Temporary Water Pipeline for the Charlton Well Site located in South Buffalo Township, Armstrong County and Buffalo Township, Butler County
- PennDOT - DEP Permit Application for the Nichola Road Bridge Replacement Project located in West Franklin Township
- PennDOT - DEP Permit Application for the Bryan Road Bridge Replacement Project located in Cowanshannock Township
- PennDOT - DEP Permit Application for the South of Dayton No. 2 Bridge Replacement Project located in Wayne Township
- PennDOT - DEP Permit Application for the Center Hill No. 6 Bridge Replacement Project located in North Buffalo Township
- Pennsylvania State Police - DEP Permit Application for the construction of a new state police barracks located in East Franklin Township
- Armstrong Conservation District - Growing Greener Grant Application to install Best Management Practices on the Ronald Baker Farm located in Kiskiminetas Township
- Armstrong Conservation District - Growing Greener Grant Application for a passive abandoned mine drainage treatment system for a discharge to Hulings Run along Kaufman Road located in Washington Township
- Armstrong Conservation District - Growing Greener Grant Application for the replacement of two culvert stream crossings along Scout Run Road in Manor Township
- County of Armstrong - USDA Rural Development Housing Preservation Grant Program Application for assistance to administer a county-wide housing rehabilitation program
- County of Armstrong - DCED Greenways, Trails and Recreation Grant Application for the construction of a multi-purpose room, women's locker room, corridor for pool access and a plaza area at the Belmont Complex
- Armstrong County Industrial Development Authority - DEP Permit Application for the renewal of their existing NPDES Permit to discharge sewage at their sewage treatment plant at Northpointe in North Buffalo Township
- Apollo Borough - DCED Greenways, Trails and Recreation Grant Application for the Owens Grove Park Trail, Railroad Street Trail Improvements and River Enhancements
- Kiskiminetas Township - Flood Mitigation Grant application for Commonwealth Financing Authority funding to replace the Second Street Bridge located in Kiskiminetas Township
- Manor Township - Flood Mitigation Grant application for Commonwealth Financing Authority funding to remove stream obstructions along SR 66
- Ford City Municipal Water Works - NPDES Discharge Permit Application to discharge filter backwash water to the Ford City storm sewers
- Kiskiminetas Township - Zoning Ordinance Amendment to include a section on oil and gas exploration
- Verizon Wireless - Proposed Cell Tower Site located in Dayton Borough

- South Buffalo Township – Greenways, Trails and Recreation Grant Application to repave a portion of the Butler-Freeport Trail
- Kittanning Borough – PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund Application for funding of Business District Road Reconstruction Project located in Kittanning Borough
- Mountain Gathering, LLC – DEP General Permit Application for the McIntyre Compressor Station access road and natural gas pipeline construction in South Buffalo Township
- PennDOT – DEP Permit Application for the realignment and reconstruction of SR 2029 and replacement of the Logansport Bridge located in Bethel Township
- Apex Energy (PA), LLC - DEP General Permit Application for the construction of Kepple to Peterson Waterline in Sugarcreek Township
- Peoples TWP, LLC – DEP Permit Application for replacement of the K.O. Smay gas line located in Plumcreek Township
- PennEnergy Resources, LLC – DEP General Permit Application for storage tanks and a secondary containment area in West Franklin Township
- Pennsylvania American Water Company – DEP Public Water Supply Permit for the construction of an addition to the Kaylor Booster Pump Station in Bradys Bend Township
- XTO Energy, Inc. – DEP Permit Application for the construction of the Alexander Lindsay Waterline located in South Buffalo Township
- CWM Environmental – Act 14 Notification for construction of a new facility within the West Hills Industrial Park located in East Franklin Township
- Mountain Gathering, LLC – DEP General Permit Application for the construction of the Charlton Gas Pipeline in South Buffalo Township
- City of Parker - CDBG Application for exterior renovations to the Community Center
- Peoples Natural Gas Company, LLC - DEP Permit Application for a gas line replacement in Manor Township
- Elderton District Volunteer Fire Company - FEMA Application for the purchase of a new pumper engine
- Pine Township Volunteer Fire Company - FEMA Application for the purchase of a new pumper engine
- South Buffalo Township - Zoning Ordinance Amendment
- Rayburn Township Joint Municipal Authority - DEP Permit Application for the Spaces Corner Waterline Extension located in Rayburn Township

Transportation

The 2015 — 2018 Transportation Improvement Program for Southwestern Pennsylvania identifies the priority highway and bridge improvements programmed for advancement from October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2018. The adopted 2015 — 2018 TIP includes the priorities for Armstrong County and identifies reasonable estimates of both available funds and anticipated project expenditures. The TIP is acted upon by SPC, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the Federal Highway Administration. The 2015 — 2018 TIP became effective on October 1, 2014.

2014 Transportation Projects

The following TIP projects were let in 2014:

- Bradys Bend Bridges #2, #3, #4, #5 & #6 — Bradys Bend Township
- T-746 NuMine Bridge Replacement — Cowanshannock Township
- Fagley Run Bridge #1 Replacement — South Bend Township
- Logansport Bridge Replacement — Bethel Township
- Garrett's Ramp Bridge Replacement —
- T-746 NuMine Bridge Replacement — Cowanshannock Township
- Shelocta to Whitesburg Resurfacing — Elderton Borough and Plumcreek Township

The following TIP projects were completed in 2014:

- Freeport Bridge and Ramp Construction — Freeport Borough
- Slabtown Bridge No. 1/Baum Curve — Boggs Township
- Theater Road Realignment — Kittanning and Manor Townships
- Lower Pine Run Bridge Replacement — Redbank Township
- SINC-UP Project — Kittanning Borough
- Edgewood Signal — Manor Township
- SR 2011 Garretts Run Bridge Replacement — Manor Township
- Hoosicks Mills Bridge #3 Replacement — Cowanshannock Township
- Dayton East Paving — Armstrong and Indiana Counties
- Apollo to Vandergrift Resurfacing
- South Bethlehem South Resurfacing and Baum Pump Station PM — Boggs and Redbank Townships
- Fifth Avenue Resurfacing — Ford City Borough

Downtown Kittanning Revitalization Project

In 2011 Armstrong County obtained a Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiative (PCTI) Grant to conduct a traffic and safety study within Kittanning Borough. Based on the survey results, public comment and discussions held, recommendations were compiled for improvements to be made to Market, Jefferson, McKean, Water and Jacob Streets and Johnson Avenue.

Based on the recommendations of the Traffic and Safety Study, E G & G, a consulting firm from Ohio, was hired to put together a concept plan to incorporate the ideas identified as well as develop a project cost. Based on costs, the project was split into three phases.

Phase I included overhead utility relocation, sidewalk replacement to meet accessibility requirements, decorative street lighting, benches and traffic signal upgrades on Market Street from Grant Avenue to just west of McKean Street. At this time, the project is 80% complete.

Phase II and III includes Market Street from McKean to Water Street. Phases II and III are being combined and funding has been secured from the following grant sources: PennDOT Multimodal, Keystone Communities and ARC. Funding is also being sought through the Smart Transportation Initiative Grant. It is anticipated that construction for Phases II and III will begin in 2015.

Solid Waste Management Plan

As required by Act 101 of 1988, the County is starting the process of revising the County's Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). Counties are required by the DEP to revise their SWMP every ten years, with the revision process starting three years prior to the current plans expiration date. The County's original plan was approved in 1992 with minor revisions occurring in 1994 and 2005.

Revision of the SWMP is required to assess the current trends in generation and composition of waste, look at processing and disposal facilities, review achievements in recycling, explore new opportunities for the county and secure contracts with landfills to accept county waste.

In order to assist the counties in completing plan revisions, DEP offers grant funding under Section 901 of Act 101.

The county has selected Nestor Resources, Inc. as the consultant for the project and a grant was received from DEP to cover 80% of the cost. Also as part of the process, the county's Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) has been reactivated and their kick-off meeting was held on September 9, 2014. The SWAC will continue to meet during the revision process. It is anticipated that this process will take approximately two years to complete.

Storm Water Management Plan

In 2014 the County began the development of a Phase I Act 167 Plan. Development of this plan is being completed with the Assistance from staff from the Southwestern Planning Commission (SPC). A Watershed Advisory Committee was formed and their kick-off meeting was held on October 15, 2014. Storm water surveys were distributed to all forty-five municipalities. The goal of the survey is to identify storm water issues throughout the County. Currently the results of the storm water survey are being compiled. It is anticipated that the Plan will be completed in the summer of 2015.

