

# Press Release



**For business and local editors**

***Westmoreland County Continues To Map Out A Successful Vision For The Future***  
Comprehensive plan consultants will tour Westmoreland County January 9 through 12

**Greensburg, PA., Jan. 5, 2017** – The Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development announces a Westmoreland County Tour with comprehensive plan consultants, three upcoming community workshops, and an update on community engagement activities.

Houseal Lavigne Associates, the consulting firm assisting with [Reimagining Our Westmoreland](#), will be touring the county on January 9 through 12. The purpose of the tour is to give the Chicago-based firm a deeper feel for Westmoreland County. Being led by members of the Planning Department, the group will visit both urban and rural areas, major hubs of employment, large retail centers, cultural destinations, various housing developments, active development areas, and other points of interest.

In preparation for the tour, the Planning Department reviewed Reimagining Our Westmoreland's [sMap](#) tool. The interactive mapping tool allows the community to pinpoint issues that are affecting the county. The department is encouraging the public to continue to use this tool through the comprehensive plan process.

Another way for residents to get involved is through the upcoming community workshops.

**January 11, 2017**

West Overton Museum  
109 W Overton Rd  
Scottsdale, PA 15683  
5:00 – 7:00 PM  
Facilitator: Westmoreland  
County Planning

**January 19, 2017**

Holiday Inn Express Donegal  
3695 PA-31  
Donegal, PA 15628  
3:30 – 5:30 PM  
Facilitator: Laurel Highlands  
Visitors Bureau/Mountain  
Laurel Chamber of  
Commerce

**January 25, 2017**

Regional Trail Corporation  
111 Collinsburg Rd  
West Newton, PA 15089  
5:00 – 7:00 PM  
Facilitator: Smart Growth  
Partnership of Westmoreland  
County

The public engagement phase of the comprehensive plan update started in October 2016 and will continue through March 2017. This phase is aimed at reaching a breadth of residents, business owners, and stakeholders throughout the county. A summary of Reimagining Our Westmoreland's community outreach to-date can be found in the attached infographic.

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# VOICES OF WESTMORELAND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Meaningful planning cannot happen without thoughtful and purposeful community engagement. The input of the Westmoreland County community is critical to make the Westmoreland County Comprehensive Plan a successful vision of the future. This infographic provides a snapshot of community engagement activities through December 21, 2016.



## TOP ISSUES & OPPORTUNITIES

### Transportation

Need for increased public transit options

### Employment

Shortage of qualified and skilled workforce

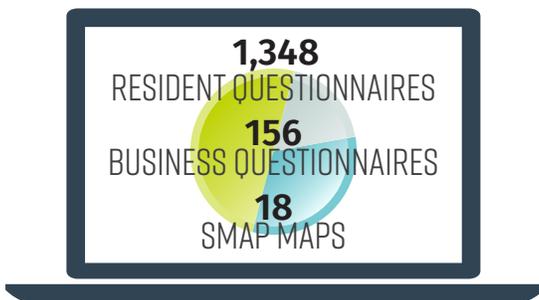
### Local Population

Changing demographics: aging population, need for increased diversity

### Outreach Activity



### Online Outreach



## VOICES OF THE COMMUNITY

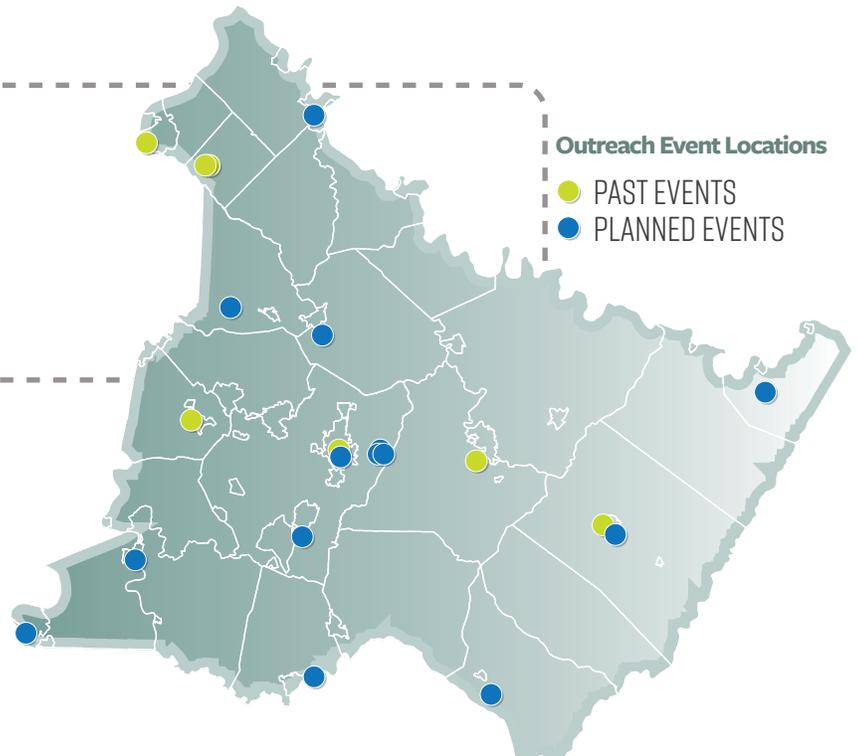
The outreach process is aimed at reaching a breadth of residents, business owners, and stakeholders throughout the County. Thus far, we have heard from:

- 4 SCHOOLS
- 159 BUSINESSES
- 6 ORGANIZATIONS

## STRENGTHS & ASSETS

- Location and proximity to Pittsburgh
- Beauty of the County's natural environment
- Relatively low tax rates and cost of living
- Rural community identity
- Friendly people

### Get Involved



### Outreach Event Locations

- PAST EVENTS
- PLANNED EVENTS

Visit the project website ([bit.ly/ReimaginingOurWestmoreland](http://bit.ly/ReimaginingOurWestmoreland)) to complete a survey, create a sMap, and stay up-to-date on upcoming events. You can also check out our Facebook page: Reimagining Our Westmoreland, for updates and to see photos and activity from past events.