



SOMERSET COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

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SOMERSET COUNTY SELF ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

This is a summary of the County of Somerset's Self Assessment which highlights the steps the County has taken to achieve basic conformance for the Preservation Area in Somerset County and those additional actions the county anticipates for Full Conformance.

Somerset County has been an active participant in all County-Highlands staff meetings and hosted numerous local forums on the Highlands Regional Master Plan. A Petition for Conformance was acted upon by the Board of Chosen Freeholder in February 2009 and the county engaged Banish Associates to work with the County Planning Board on the required Plan Conformance Documents. At the November 17, 2009 meeting, the County Planning approved the Highlands Master Plan Element, Environmental Resource Element and the Self Assessment Checklist for submission the Highlands Council for review and comment prior to taking the required formal action for adoption. In addition the Board of Chosen Freeholders approved a Petition Resolution at their regularly scheduled December 1, 2009 meeting and approved transmitting amendments to the Somerset County Land Development Review Resolution and a waiver request on adopting the "Regulations Governing the Use of Land And Buildings" on the basis that the County owns no land or buildings covered in the model regulations.

Somerset County current Master Plan dates back to 1986 and a draft Strategic Master Plan has been prepared in 2009, but is awaiting completion pending adoption the County Wastewater management and State Development and Redevelopment Plan which will be included in the Plan as part of the growth management component. The draft Strategic Master Plan also includes the Highlands RMP Land Use Capability Map (LUCM) as a reference and supports the RMP Goals, Policies and Objectives. Other stand-alone Master Plan Elements include the Transportation Master Plan adopted in 2003, Open Space and Recreation Facilities Plan adopted in 1992, Agriculture Preservation Plan adopted in 2008, the Scenic Road and Corridor Study adopted in 1992 and the Cultural and Historic Preservation Inventory adopted in 1991. No updates these documents are planned at this time except action by the County in 2010 on the Strategic Master Plan and Transportation Element in 2011.

The County is also actively engaged in the development of a Countywide Wastewater Management Plan pursuant to the recently adopted Water Quality Management Planning Rules. This Plan covers the Highlands portion of the County and it is anticipated that the County will be completing this document in 2010 and NJDEP will be forwarding the Plan to Highlands Council for a consistency determination. Because of the limited size of the Preservation Areas (1,000 acres) no additional Resource Management Plans are planned.