

# **Burlington County Route 130 Corridor Municipal Questionnaire**

## **Borough of Riverton, NJ**

**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:

Riverton has created a vision through implementation of various elements of the Master Plan. The vision is to preserve and enhance Riverton's existing historic and residential character through implementation of varied housing types and preservation of natural and cultural features, while strengthening the economy.

If so, when was it last affirmed? 2018

Through what process?

In March of 2018, the community undertook a Reexamination Report with the assistance of the BCBC and their planner. As part of that report, a Community Planning survey sought residents' input regarding (1) open space, parks, and recreation; (2) environmental issues; (3) the built environment; (4) circulation; (5) economic development and business environment; (6) home occupations; (7) historic preservation; and (8) borough communications.

Who participated?

The survey was available to the entire community.

What matters most to your community?

The public impression of the community is positive and validates the initiatives reflected by the goals and objectives.

The public vision for parks and recreation includes maintaining shade and street trees, implementation of street furnishings such as bicycle racks and trash and recycling stations and improving access to the Pompeston Creek and Delaware River at the end of public streets. Needs set forth by the public include a dog park (which has already been opened), neighborhood pocket parks, walking paths and trails, and a public canoe and kayak launch.

Existing community events, such as the Fourth of July celebration, were cited as beneficial and expansion of other community events, such as farmers' markets, festivals, and food truck nights, should be used to enhance community pride and improve the business climate.

Environmental issues included recycling, trash and litter removal, water quality, water conservation, and tree planting and maintenance. Riverton is a longtime member of Tree City USA and is starting to participate in Sustainable Jersey. There is a large part of our community that is concerned with climate issues and habitat loss and what we can do as a community to timely address those issues.

Issues relating to the built environment include limitation of front yard fences. The majority of respondents to our 2018 survey had no concerns regarding traffic on Main Street, although some residents expressed concerns with excessive speed on Main Street. Many residents expressed concerns with traffic on Broad Street, requesting enhanced pedestrian and traffic lights at the rail crossings (which have been received), as well as vehicle speed and the failure of drivers to stop for pedestrians or oncoming trains.

Respondents favored permitting breweries and beer (Riverton has a brewery ordinance), and believed that wine, and liquor sales would improve the business climate, despite the fact that Riverton remains a dry town. Other residents supported tax abatements or similar methods to enhance the business climate. Discussions continue regarding appropriate businesses for the commercial areas, as well as the expansion of permitted home occupations with limitations upon visitors and activity, something that received more attention during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Current historic preservation controls on construction and improvements to property was cited by a majority of residents as sufficient, while other residents opined that more stringent controls would preserve the historic nature of Riverton and ensure more consistent design elements throughout the town.

Finally, a majority of residents believe that social media should be used to communicate with the public, while a substantial number of respondents suggested that the Borough website, social media, print media, and signs should all be utilized to promote Riverton to residents and non-residents alike.

Have you thought about your sustainability? Your contributions to Green House Gases (GHG)? How to reduce your GHG contributions?

No. But we should think about this and have a plan. Borough Council has passed a few resolutions from as provided by Sustainable Jersey, and Riverton could build upon those resolutions.

## **2. Resiliency**

Have you started planning for resiliency to climate change and sea level rise? NO. However, as a riverfront town with a large creek on one side, a small run near our border with Cinnaminson and another creek not far away and with water tables rising, particularly near Linden Avenue, and with new flooding near Harrison Street, it might be a good plan to have some discussions and a vision for how we respond to changes in climate and water level rise.

If so, please attach any planning documents.

Who has been engaged in the discussions? Participants in those discussion could include the governing body, Planning Board, the Environmental Commission, the Borough Green Team, and the Pompeston Watershed Group.

Have you identified your risks? (Flooding? Erosion? Heat island effect? Increased storms? Disease? Other? What's the status of the county HMP? Flooding and erosion are risks particularly

along Jack's Run and the Pompeston Creek. There are ways to respond with native plantings to better hold creek banks in times of strong high waters and overworked storm drains.

Have you assessed vulnerable populations? NO?

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?) No but this could be easily provided.

What existing plans, studies, or programs satisfy this section?

Sormwater management ordinances have been adopted.

### **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.

Neither environmental justice nor equity appear to be issues within Riverton.

What is the status of your affordable housing agreement? And, the status of implementation?

The 2019 Housing Plan and 2020 Settlement Agreement, as well as the 2018 Master Plan Reexamination Report, resulted in the implementation of ordinances as well as physical improvements. The Borough is located within the Metropolitan Planning Area and is participating in the Municipal Plan Endorsement process. The housing ordinances have been implemented consistent with the Housing Plan and Settlement Agreement, and the last remaining detail is the production of an Existing Land Use Map and revised Land Use Plan Map to implement zone map changes precipitated by the Housing Plan and Settlement Agreement. The Housing Plan seeks to promote equity and inclusion, consistent with municipal and state plan policy goals and objectives.

### **4. Community Characterization**

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

Riverton Borough is framed by the Delaware River and the Pompeston Creek to the north and northeast; Cinnaminson Township to the north, east, and south; and Palmyra to the southwest. The town is bisected into quadrants at the intersection of the rail line and Broad Street with Main Street. The town is one part of a series of communities dotting the Delaware waterfront within Burlington County with views of Pennsylvania beyond the river. The Borough of Riverton was formed after 1851 by Philadelphians eager to escape the summer city heat via ferry initially and later by train. A notable Philadelphia architect, Samuel Sloan, generated a master plan and designed quite a few homes in the community, as well as the ferryboat landing and train station. The plan included a Delaware River waterfront park to provide physical access to the river; and deed restrictions regulating porches and fences to enhance residents visual access to the waterfront.

Riverton is a small, pedestrian friendly town committed to historic preservation, tree-lined streets, community pride and involvement.

## **5. Mapping**

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

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 #)

## **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 maintains its community character, utilizes all forms of transportation to maintain quality of life, and encourages development, where practical.

### **Goal #2 Conserve the State's Natural Resources and Systems**

Water quality, air quality, habitats, vegetation, and wildlife are priorities for Riverton, consistent with the Waterfront Guidelines and Environmental Resources Inventory.

### **Goal #3 Promote Beneficial Economic Growth, Development and Renewal for all Residents of New Jersey**

The Borough has embraced the RiverLine and economic growth, through its plans, ordinances, and development, providing a full-service community.

### **Goal #4 Protect the Environment, Prevent, and Clean Up Pollution**

The Borough maintains its clean community status through social media, education, and community participation.

### **Goal #5 Provide Adequate Public Facilities and Services at a Reasonable Cost**

Community buildings, parks, open space, sidewalks, street trees, infrastructure, and amenities are maintained with a continuous program.

### **Goal #6 Provide Adequate Housing at a Reasonable Cost**

Riverton provides a variety of housing types and a current Housing Element and Fair Share Plan and implementing ordinances.

### **Goal #7 Preserve and Enhance Areas with Historic, Cultural, Scenic, Open Space, and Recreational Value**

From its Historic District and shoreline extending along its border to interior parks and open space, Riverton consistently preserves and enhances cultural and natural resources for future generations.

#### Goal #8 Ensure Sound and Integrated Planning and Implementation Statewide

Riverton is pro-active, with a Master Plan and Elements which are implemented in a thoughtful and comprehensive way to preserve quality of life.

#### **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.

Funding for Delaware River seawall maintenance

Grants for historic preservation

Funding for housing rehabilitation

Additional funding for ADA improvements for public walkways

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