



## SEPTEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

The Community Visioning Workshop held on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the Steelton-Highspire High School, was a successful step toward shaping the future of Steelton's Downtown and Front Street Corridor. Hosted by the Dauphin County Redevelopment Authority and the Borough of Steelton with funding provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the event was attended by residents and interested community stakeholders. As the first public event of several that will be held over the approximately 10-month planning process, attendees were provided with an opportunity to review and comment on an analysis of current conditions, hear a brief presentation explaining the project and key aspects, and actively participate in discussions and provide valuable input that will inform the ongoing redevelopment efforts for Steelton's downtown. Participants engaged in group discussions, reviewed maps, and shared their vision for a what is needed to make a more vibrant, sustainable, and economically thriving Steelton. Residents' input helped identify priorities, concerns, and creative ideas for the transformation of the downtown corridor.

The workshop feedback highlighted the importance of revitalizing Steelton's downtown by support local businesses, fostering more investment, and diversifying the borough's tax base. As residents and stakeholders shared their ideas, a key focus was ways of creating a thriving business district, with an emphasis on a need to attract more food related businesses, especially a grocery store. Many other ideas were discussed and documented for consideration as well. There is a strong desire to make the downtown more attractive for both residents and as a unique regional destination by creating unique reasons to visit. The redevelopment of buildings and sites (including brownfields) along Front Street offers a unique opportunity to attract investment and promote economic growth. By transforming these underutilized spaces into vibrant commercial hubs and special public spaces, Steelton can expand its business offerings, create more jobs, and generate new sources of revenue, ultimately strengthening the borough's financial stability, improving the quality-of-life of residents, and ensuring long-term sustainability.



*Community members participated in a fast-paced vision activity to develop creative ideas for revitalizing their community.*

The workshop was a vital part of the Steelton Targeted Brownfields Area-Wide planning process, supported by the U.S. EPA grant funding that will also support assessing and planning the revitalization of underutilized and potentially hazardous brownfield sites along Front Street (Route 230) in the downtown, a central focus of Steelton's efforts toward economic and environmental renewal.

The input received from the meeting will be an important component in the development of revitalization and redevelopment alternatives and recommendations that will be prepared over the next three to four months. Follow-up public workshops will be held in the first half of 2025 with the anticipated Targeted Brownfields Area-Wide Plan's completion to be achieved in mid-2025. Please check back to the borough's website and facebook page for future updates.