

**SOMERSET COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE SOMERSET COUNTY INVESTMENT
FRAMEWORK**

WHEREAS the Somerset County Planning Board has a long standing goal of coordinating and integrating State Planning goals with the County Master Plan and its Plan elements; and

WHEREAS, the Somerset County Planning Board has successfully led and facilitated three rounds of Cross Acceptance in successive updates of the State Development and Redevelopment Plan and supported the concept of a State Plan that serves as a policy framework for coordinating the functional plans, programs, regulations and investment decisions among the various state agencies; as well as among the state, regional and local jurisdictional levels; and

WHEREAS, the draft Final State Strategic Plan calls for a transition away from the State Plan Policy Map to a criteria-based system for defining a statewide priority investment framework that identifies areas for growth, alternate growth, limited growth and agriculture and open space preservation; and

WHEREAS, the draft Final State Strategic Plan allows counties and regional planning entities to lead the development of regional Criteria-based Investment Frameworks and assures that the process is “bottom-up” to insure that regional and local planning and investment priorities are considered and addressed; and

WHEREAS, the Somerset County Planning Board has been actively engaged in the development of a set of comprehensive asset maps that illustrate Geographic Information System (GIS) data resources which allows the County Planning Board to effectively apply the new state criteria-based system; and

WHEREAS, the Somerset County Planning Board has actively engaged its municipalities, the Somerset County Business Partnership and other stakeholders through multiple meetings and workshops focused on the development and application of the State criteria-based system, resulting in a customized Somerset County Investment Framework that reflects local conditions and priorities; and

WHEREAS, the Somerset County Planning Board has also posted various documents supporting the County Investment Framework on the County Planning Division website, including Frequently Asked Questions, Screening Criteria and Methodology, Stakeholder Involvement Process reports; PGIA Core and Essential Criteria, PGIA Supplemental Criteria: Housing Density, PGIA Supplemental Criteria: Community Facilities, PPIA Core Criteria, PPIA Supplemental Criteria: Natural Habitat, PPIA Supplemental Criteria: Special Resource Areas, PPIA Supplemental Criteria: Wetlands, PPIA Supplemental Criteria: Surface Water, PPIA Supplemental Criteria: Groundwater, PPIA Supplemental Criteria: Land Use Policy Areas and Draft Final Somerset County Investment Framework Maps; and Acreage Analysis, PGIA and LPA Screening Criteria Results, and PPIA Screening Criteria Results tables; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for the Somerset County Planning Board to take formal action at this time to recognize, endorse and confirm a draft Final Somerset County Investment Framework so it can be integrated into the Somerset County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), incorporated as a future element of the Somerset County Strategic Master Plan, and provide a geographic framework for other County planning initiatives.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Somerset County Planning Board does hereby endorse the Draft Final County Investment Framework, dated September 2012, and the core and secondary criteria, methodology and process used to development the same.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Somerset County Planning Board authorizes the transmittal of the County Investment Framework to the Somerset County Business Partnership to be used as a geographic investment context in the County CEDS and to be incorporated as a future element of the updated County Strategic Plan, which will be subject to the customary public hearing, notices and requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Somerset County Planning Board authorizes the use of the County Priority Investment Framework as the basis of other ongoing and upcoming county planning initiatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Somerset County Planning Board recommends the use of an update and amendment process to recognize changes in the criteria-based Investment Framework datasets and local priorities; and the submission of a Final County Investment Framework to the New Jersey State Planning Commission after State adoption of the Final Rules and Procedures for the statewide criteria-based system so the County and its municipalities can be in a preferred position to receive state funding, incentives and regulatory priority considerations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution and the County Investment Framework be provided to all municipal governing and planning bodies in Somerset County, Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Somerset County Park Commission, adjacent County Planning Boards, Somerset County Business Partnership and the New Jersey Office of Planning Advocacy and New Jersey State Planning Commission.

I, Matthew Loper, Secretary, of the Somerset County Planning Board do hereby certify the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Somerset County Planning Board at its meeting of October 16, 2012.



Matthew Loper