



SOMERSET COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

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**TO: MAYORS AND ELECTED OFFICIALS, PLANNING AND LAND USE
BOARDS, PLANNING DIRECTORS AND CONSULTANT PLANNERS**

FROM: ROBERT BZIK, AICP/PP, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING

RE: SOMERSET COUNTY INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK

DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2012

The County Planning Board is very grateful your valuable assistance and knowledge of local land use conditions and priorities, provided throughout the process of developing the County Investment Framework, which took place over the past 2 years. State support for the County's Investment Framework initiative and its mention as a model in the soon-to-be released State Strategic Plan are a testament to the importance of this work, which could not be achieved without your involvement and support.

A central component of the new State Strategic Plan is the Criteria-based Investment Framework, which is intended to take the place of the old State Plan Policy Map. This framework applies "Core" and secondary criteria to define Priority Growth, Priority Preservation, Alternate Growth and Limited Growth Areas. The County Planning Board has coordinated its initiative to apply the Criteria-based Investment Framework here in Somerset County with the Office for Planning Advocacy (OPA), by working closely with our municipalities and other stakeholders, so that it can be incorporated into the updated County Strategic Plan and County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), as well as serve as the organizational framework for other upcoming planning initiatives.

We would like to bring to your attention the series of draft maps, text documents and tables associated with the County Investment Framework, which have been posted on the County Planning Board Website: <http://www.co.somerset.nj.us/planweb/sustainable/index.htm>. The Somerset County Investment Framework will be brought before the County Planning Board for endorsement at its regularly scheduled October 16, 2012 meeting so this work can continue and the County and municipalities are in a better position to take advantage of a new state and federal agency alignment with a criteria-based investment approach. We are encouraging you to contact us with any comments and feedback on the County Investment Framework documents posted on the County website before the October 16th County Planning Board meeting. Please e-mail them to us at planningbd@co.somerset.nj.us.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me or Supervising Planner Laurette Kratina at 908-231-7021 or Kratina@co.somerset.nj.us

cc: Board of Chosen Freeholders
Somerset County Planning Board
Dan Kennedy, Assistant Director, NJ OPA
Michael Kerwin, CEO, Somerset County Business Partnership