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EDITORS: The following information is for immediate release. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Costello, program and marketing coordinator of the Chester County Economic Development Council, at 610 458-5700.

Route 1 Business Corridor Governance Committee outlines steps to be taken to attract new business

Keeping existing businesses and pastoral landscape are also objectives

NEW GARDEN _ Attracting new businesses, keeping existing ones and maintaining the pastoral landscape of Southern Chester County were the objectives discussed at a meeting of the Route 1 Business Corridor Governance Committee.

Chester County Commissioner Terence Farrell gave the opening remarks during a meeting on January 17 at the New Garden Township building. “The Governance Committee’s objectives reinforce one of the County’s priority commitments outlined in our strategic plan – to support the growth and development of a strong and vibrant economy,” said Commissioner Farrell.

“By encouraging commercial development along the Route 1 business corridor, we can increase job opportunities and tax ratables, while achieving our goals for the preservation of our agricultural base and open space preservation. Given my affinity with Southern Chester County, I’m pleased to see this effort taking shape, with solid municipal and business support,” Farrell added.

Commissioner Kathi Cozzone said: “This initiative is a good opportunity to examine the prospect of business development in the area. Economic development can increase the availability of jobs for our citizens as well as the tax base, which helps school districts and municipalities, and ultimately taxpayers, provided it is done responsibly with respect to the environment and the surrounding infrastructure.”

Almost 50 government, civic and business leaders attended the meeting. Those giving talks were Caln Township Manager Greg Prowant and Rich Bickel of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Committee.

The Route 1 corridor stretches from Kennett Township to West Nottingham Township. Bounded by Route 1 to the north and the East Penn Railroad line to the south, this corridor includes 12 municipalities and 4 school districts.

The committee members also discussed prioritizing issues and planning. The committee spent part of last year seeking public input into the planning process. “During our public meetings, we had standing-room-only crowds. There was an overwhelming consensus that an organized multi-municipal effort is needed to help create tax ratable properties to support local governments and the school districts,” said Bob Grabus, Development Advisor of the Economic

Development Partners Initiative of the Chester County Economic Development Council.

Five subcommittees were formed on January 17 to discuss the most pressing issues. A total of 29 issues are being considered.

The mission of the committee is to promote a region that provides jobs, expands its tax base and invests in business districts. The aim is also to attract commerce and development while protecting the region's agricultural base and picturesque landscapes. For more information on the committee, contact Bob Grabus at 610-458-5700 ext. 306.

The Chester County Economic Development Council is a private, non-profit economic development organization that has been nurturing economic growth in Chester County and the surrounding region for 50 years. The Council's portfolio of business growth services includes: low-interest financing, small business lending, workforce training, retention and expansion, customized international business assistance, land and building site selection, brownfields consultation and remediation, urban redevelopment, and agricultural economic development. The Council also offers state-of-the art conference and training facilities at its facility in Eagleview. For more information, see www.cceconomicdevelopment.com.