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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Community invited to participate in new survey for places2040

What kind of future is best for Lancaster County? Now through February 10, 2017, the Lancaster County Planning Commission invites local residents to participate in a new online survey comparing options for the county's future. This latest survey builds on issues and opportunities identified in an earlier survey conducted last year. It is all part of an effort called places2040, an update to the Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan.

The survey is available on the plan's website, <https://places2040.com>, and it takes only a few minutes to complete. It asks people to rank their priorities, decide how they would allocate resources to support them, and choose the kind of future they want to see. How should Lancaster County accommodate its anticipated population growth?

Visitors to the website can also watch a short film where local leaders reflect on input the community has provided so far. The film highlights the commission's "Partners for Place" – eighteen organizations that are helping to build awareness, educate, and engage the public about the plan.

Over the past year, the commission asked local residents what would make Lancaster County a better place. In response, they said: create compact, walkable communities; ensure safe, quality housing options for everyone; and promote reinvestment through rehabilitation and infill.

They also called on the community to support 21st-century industries and jobs; build a transportation network with more alternatives and connections; provide more places to hike, bike, and enjoy nature; protect both the farm and the farmer; and promote cooperation, work together, and share resources.

Scott Standish, director for countywide planning at the planning commission, noted that local residents and community leaders seem to agree about many of the challenges ahead, especially the need to look past traditional political and organizational boundaries. "That's encouraging," he said, "because getting to the future we want to see will require us to make some tough choices."

Over the coming year, the planning commission will continue to seek residents' input as it joins with its partners in setting a direction for Lancaster County's next 25 years. Anyone with a stake in the county's future is invited to continue the conversation, stay engaged, visit the places2040 website, and follow places2040 on social media.

