

CONGRESSMAN JIM GERLACH

Supplemental Appropriations Questions

DUE C.O.B. WEDNESDAY MARCH 18

1. How many employees do you currently have and how many jobs do you expect to save or create if the funding you requested is approved?

The Sinking Spring Borough Revitalization Committee (BOSS 2020) is made up of 35 volunteer members. Representatives include Borough Council members, Borough staff, Business owners, Residents and several representatives of broader County-wide organizations.

The Penn Avenue Traffic Improvement & Economic Development Phase 1 will create 80 to 100 jobs primarily in the construction trades. Phase 1 jobs will last approximately 2 years. Phase 1 is the reconstruction of the two major intersections and the creation of a new parallel street within the Redevelopment Zone.

Phase 2 (not part of this request) will revitalize the central business district area that the Berks County Redevelopment Authority will oversee. This includes approximately 28+- acres of commercially zoned land that lies between the two intersections noted above. The new parallel street to U.S. 422 (Penn Avenue) will make it possible for developers to build a 'Town Center' with 2 and 3 story buildings for mixed use; retail and services on the 1st floor, professional and commercial on the 2nd floor and residential on 3rd and upper floors. This construction phase will create an estimated 150+ jobs and will last 2-3+ years.

Finally, an occupied Town Center will create 300+ permanent jobs in a broad range of businesses including retail, service and professional disciplines.

2. What impact do you currently have on the local economy and, if funding is approved, what economic development or growth do you anticipate?

The BOSS 2020 Committee is planning the revitalization of the CBD in Sinking Spring Borough. This will impact neighboring communities primarily west of the Borough. The PA Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) has awarded BOSS 2020 a \$91,000 Land Use Planning & Technical Assistance Program grant (LUPTAP) to identify the impact of the Sinking Spring Project and recommend changes in land use, zoning and smart growth policies to be adopted into the three multi-municipal comprehensive plans that are effected by the project.

The planning initiative and the reconstruction and economic development projects have the support of the Berks County Commissioners, the Berks County Planning Commission, The Redevelopment Authority, the Industrial Development Authority and the Berks Economic Partnership (BEP) which is the chief economic development agency on behalf of Berks County.

The project will create significant economic development in the CBD of Sinking Spring valued at an estimated \$50 Million and directly raise the quality of life for Borough residents. It will positively impact surrounding businesses, traffic flow will be dramatically improved, and the five neighboring municipalities will benefit from new 'smart' growth policies that will support the retention of open space in the Townships while spurring redevelopment in the Boroughs. The regional Transit Authority BARTA is considering a regional bus transfer hub within the Sinking Spring project including a 'park & ride' facility. This will further reduce traffic congestion, reduce emissions and make the CBD 'Town Center' accessible to those who make public transportation their choice.

3. If you are a non-profit or similar organization, how many members of the community are served annually by your organization?

BOSS 2020 is a non-profit Committee dedicated to raising the quality of life for the 4,000+ residents of Sinking Spring Borough. Nearby community residents, visitors, motorists, business and other stakeholders are being served via the planning and implementation of the 'smart growth' projects.

4. Will the funding you are requesting allow you to provide additional services to the community?

The reconstruction of the two intersections and the creation of the new parallel street will greatly benefit regional economics by easing traffic gridlock and creating a new 'Town Center' that will serve a regional audience with retail, services, professional and commercial applications.

5. Any additional information that you believe someone unfamiliar with your project should know as they determine whether it is an appropriate use of tax payer dollars?

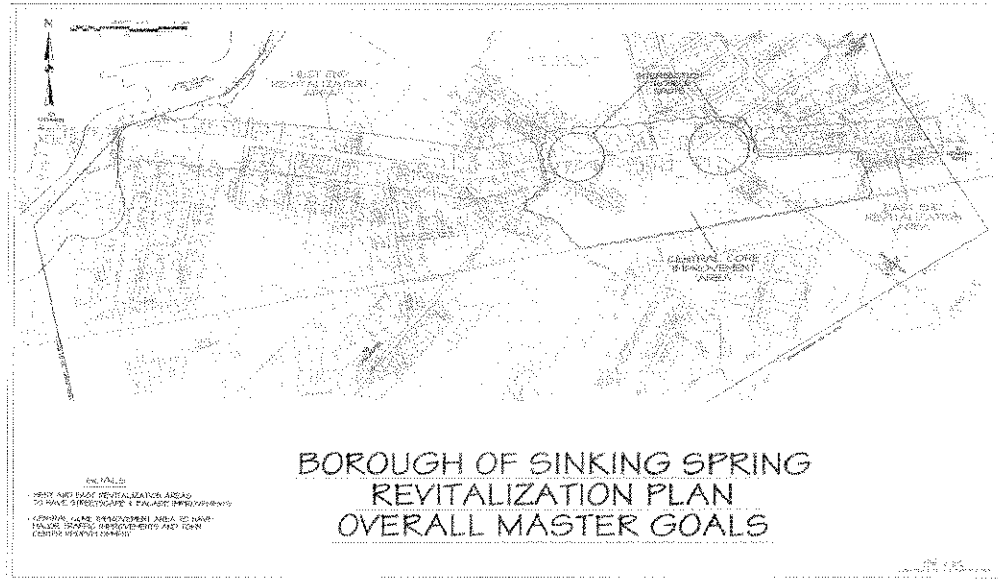
The project will modernize the multi-municipal comprehensive plans with new land-use policies, new zoning codes that promote economic development in concentrated areas such as Boroughs while preserving open space in the outlying Townships. Municipalities that lie west of the City of Reading and those Townships that lie north and south of the U.S. Route 422 corridor (Penn Avenue) will directly benefit from the planning process, construction and revitalization project. The area that will be benefitted by the project is home to over 75,000 Berks County residents.

(Please refer to Attachment 1 "Proposed Phase 1 Construction for Revitalization Area" Borough of Sinking Spring) MAP.

The full project with maps and timetable is available on the Committee's website www.boss2020.org ! All activities of the organization are fully public. Monthly meetings are open and a monthly e-Newsletter is available with updates on the progress of the Committee.

Attachment 1: "Proposed Phase 1 Construction" for the Revitalization Area of the Borough of Sinking Spring

1a Current Conditions



1b Proposed Phase 1

