



# Envision Linesville, Inc.

"A Charming Community, Growing Better Each Day"

**\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\***

**August 27, 2007**

For the past four years, Envision Linesville has been working on the planning and development of the National U.S. Route 6 Museum project with the intent that this project serve as a catalyst for further downtown revitalization in the community. These efforts have included completion of the *U.S. Route 6 Museum & Visitor Center Master Plan* and *National U.S. Route 6 Museum Development Plan*, which included a market analysis & benchmarking report, architectural site assessment, and conceptual layout for the facility. Envision Linesville also completed research and documentation to gauge the potential for creating a historic district in the downtown commercial business district.

These planning studies and analyses indicate that while the project is feasible, a tremendous amount of energy and funding would be required to create the type of first-rate facility that would serve as an educational asset and heritage tourism enhancement to the community. Initial capital costs are likely to exceed \$4 million. While Envision Linesville has secured the funds needed for property acquisition, we have been unable to line up the more substantial funding needed for building rehabilitation. We have also learned recently of the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission's determination that Linesville's commercial business district is not eligible as a historic district on the National Register of Historic Places. This is likely to limit Envision Linesville's ability to pursue historic preservation funding for the project, which was identified as a key potential funding stream.

Due to the magnitude of these challenges and the fact that Envision Linesville is still a fledgling all-volunteer organization, the Board of Directors has decided to indefinitely suspend work on the National U.S. Route 6 Museum project and to focus its efforts on other on-going projects. As such, Envision Linesville will not be moving forward with site acquisition activities.

At this time, Envision Linesville will be focusing its resources on other Route 6 efforts, such as scenic byway designation, and on continuing to plan, develop, and build the regional trail network outlined in the *Pymatuning Trails Vision Plan*. The Board of Directors feels that these projects are manageable in size and will minimize risk and maximize return for the organization, while providing opportunities to build institutional capacity over time. With the planning framework for the museum in place, the project could be revived when the organization is in a better position to advance it.

We would like to thank all of the businesses and individuals who have supported our work up to this point and we look forward to continuing our efforts in making Linesville a great place to live, work and visit.