

NEW BEDFORD

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Meeting Summary: 11/16/22 Steering Committee Kickoff

November 22st, 2022



Agency

Landscape + Planning | Cambridge Econometrics | Hisel Flynn Architects | Innes Associates | Rivera Consulting

11/16 MEETING AGENDA

INTRODUCTIONS - 5 min

STEERING COMMITTEE HELLOS - 15 min

SETTING THE STAGE - 25 min

- Comprehensive Plan 101
- Planning Process
- New Bedford Community Snapshot

DISCUSSION - 30 min

- SOAR Activity
- Engagement Ideas

REPORT BACK - 10 min

NEXT STEPS - 2 min



A full copy of the presentation slides can be found on the project website:
www.newbedfordplan.com/materials



GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER - "BASEBALL CARDS"

16


CARDS COMPLETED
SO FAR!

[CLICK HERE](#) to read all of the completed cards.

If you missed the 11/16 meeting, find the card with your name on it at the above link and fill it out virtually!

NEW BEDFORD

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



Name:


Neighborhood where you live or work:

Favorite thing or memory about New Bedford:

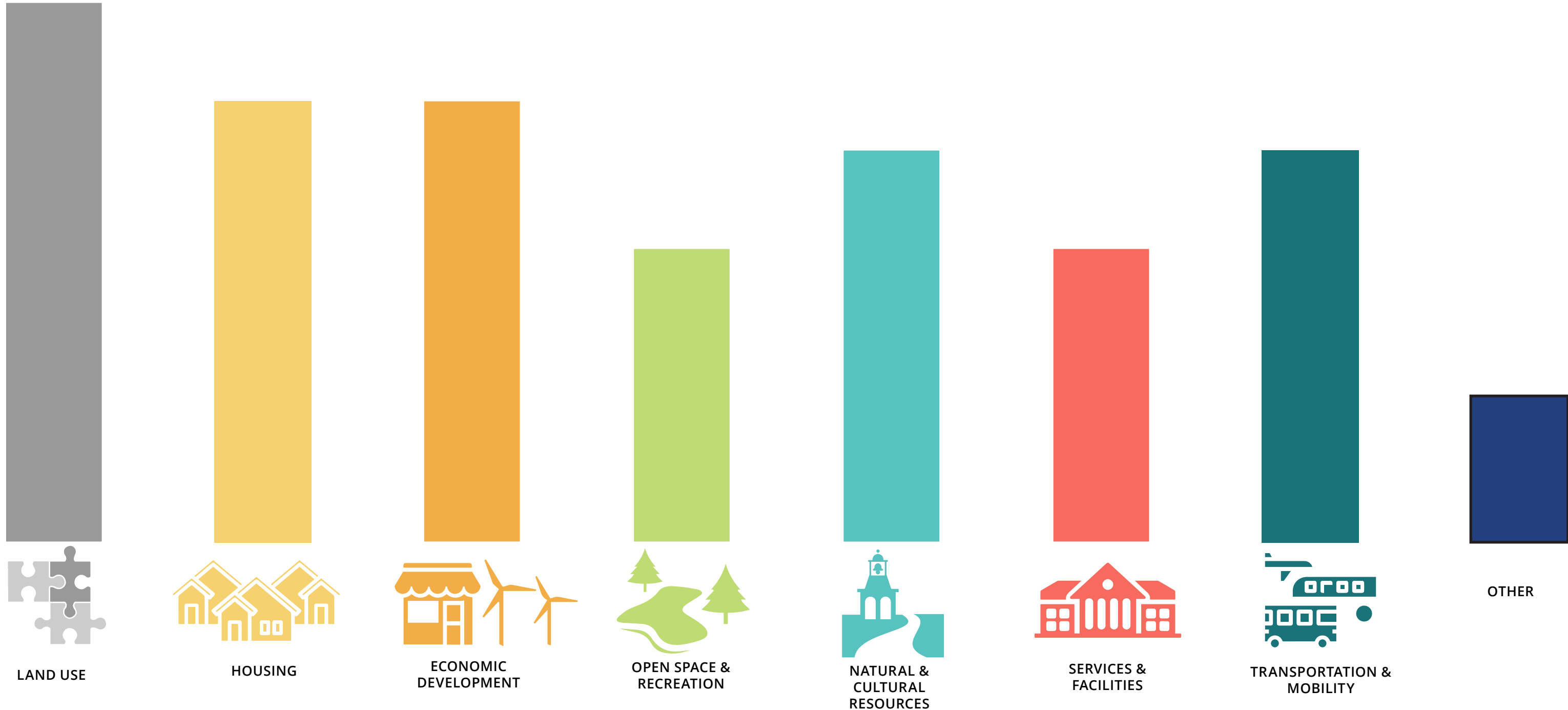
Perspective you will bring to the Committee:

Mark the boxes to indicate the planning areas you are most interested in:

LAND USE <input type="checkbox"/>	OPEN SPACE & RECREATION <input type="checkbox"/>
HOUSING <input type="checkbox"/>	SERVICES & FACILITIES <input type="checkbox"/>
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT <input type="checkbox"/>	TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY <input type="checkbox"/>
NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES <input type="checkbox"/>	OTHER: _____



A WIDE RANGE OF STEERING COMMITTEE INTERESTS

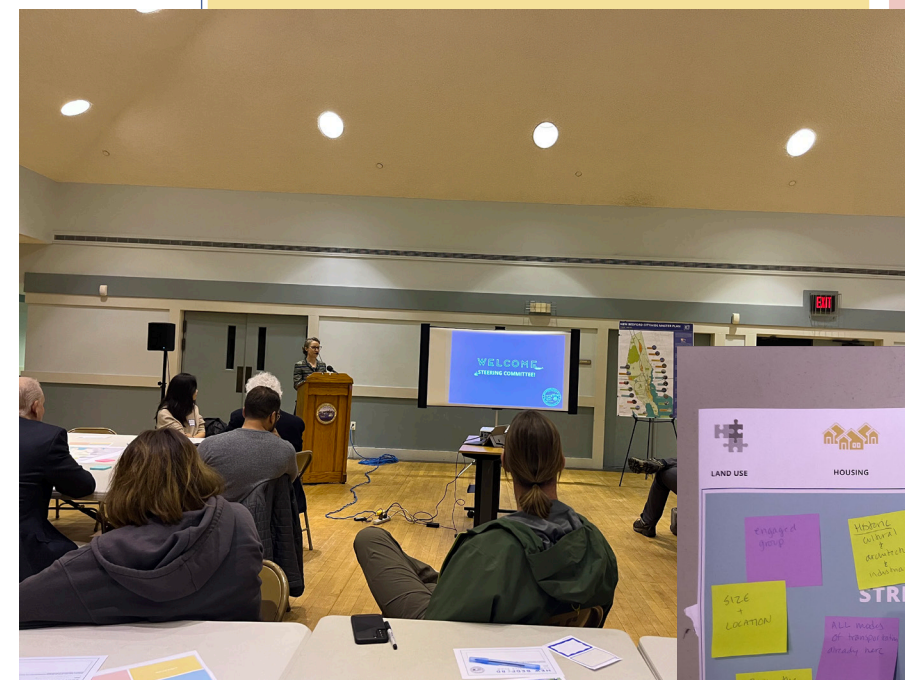


SOAR ACTIVITY

During the SOAR activity, the Steering Committee broke into smaller group discussions and shared thoughts on New Bedford's **STRENGTHS, OPPORTUNITIES, ASPIRATIONS** and **RESULTS** across the Plan topic areas.

This activity aimed to identify some of New Bedford's unique attributes and focused on the following questions:

1. What are New Bedford's greatest strengths?
2. What are New Bedford's opportunities?
3. What are some ideas for New Bedford's preferred future?
4. What are the measurable results that will tell us we've achieved our vision of the future?

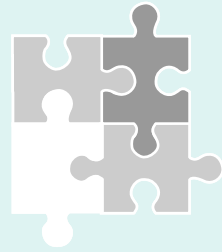


92+

COMMENTS

STRENGTH

39
COMMENTS



LAND USE

- Walkable - dense neighborhood
- Diversity of architecture
- Historic downtown

OTHER: LOCATION

- Size + Location
- Real city!
- Regional location and access to other cities + nature



HOUSING

- Engaged group
- Engaged people who were involved in prior efforts
- Legacy of vision(ing)/people with vision
- Population growth
- Pride (sense of heart) /Passion
- Diversity
- Feel like you can know everyone



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



OPEN SPACE & RECREATION

- Trees
- Parks at similar scale - neighborhoods go to their neighborhood parks
- Parks + open space + memories
- Parks - have an Olmsted/Trees! Protected



NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES

- New Bedford is the "cultural seat" of Bristol County
- Historic + Cultural + Architectural + Industrial
- Metropolitan city with arts and food
- Art's growing
- Deeper historical significance
- Symphony
- Festivals
- Performing arts, zoo
- Diverse cultural base
- Water
- Connection to the sea
- Beautiful, viable, interactive, successful waterfront/ harbor walk



SERVICES & FACILITIES



TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY

STRENGTH

New Bedford's strengths span all topic areas. Of the 39 comments shared during the discussion, here are a few themes that were brought up repeatedly:

Size + Location

- gateway + metropolitan city
- regional location + connections

Resources + Legacy

- diverse culture and art
- parks, open space, and trees
- historic building fabric
- water access / connection to the sea

People + Place

- community passion / pride / sense of heart
- community ties

"Regional location and access to other cities + nature"

"A real city!"

"It's a real city! With performing arts, airport, zoo, hospital..."

"A metropolitan city with arts and food!"

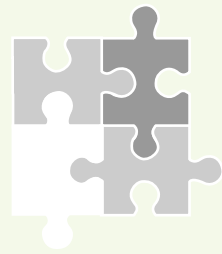
"Parks + open space + memories"

"People share a sense of heart, passion/pride in their city."

"Feel like you can know everyone"

OPPORTUNITY

29
COMMENTS



LAND USE

- Underutilized historic architecture
- Huge stock of vacant lots+old building being retrofitted
- Looking at history of displacement and urban renewal
- Still room for more investment downtown (though sometimes other neighborhood feel overlooked)

OTHER: CONNECTIONS

- Feel connected to a bigger world



HOUSING

- Housing affordability
- Directing investment + be innovative in creating opportunities for homeowners
- Housing costs
- Housing crisis at all levels
- Gentrification

OTHER: YOUTH

- Opportunity for youth in the future - not a lot they're allowed/able to do. Uplifting for them
- More community involvement with youth to shape the city



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Protected Port
- New business revitalize buildings - mobilize our strengths
- City of neighborhood - give attention to small neighborhood centers, invest in neighborhood to support diversity
- Partner with youth in planning + education schools/ workforce development starting with schools, sea lab, connect to industry



OPEN SPACE & RECREATION

- Using open space to offset climate impacts
- Recreational boating - raise awareness + grow outreach

OTHER: CLIMATE CHANGE

- Plan for the long-term relative to climate change
- Context of MA Climate Action Plan - we should be leading sustainability



NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES



SERVICES & FACILITIES

- Inter-municipality coordination
- Great teachers but scale is a challenge/ focus on students who are "getting lost"
- Build on remote work trend - great place to live. Challenged by limited internet - get high speed



TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY

- Southcoast Rail 2023
- Airport area with opportunities for growth?
- Airport! Beautiful plan, connect to a major airport Newark/UMass+BCC
- Good bus network - you can get everywhere without a car, overlooked value!
- Ferry transit - especially with rail location. Add other islands to become Ferry Hub
- Main arteries - better connect them +make them more walkable + safe(e.g. biking in waterfront)

OPPORTUNITY

Of the 29 comments shared during the discussion, here are a few themes that were brought up repeatedly:

Connections

- transportation infrastructure
- internet infrastructure
- inter-municipality coordination

Innovation + revitalization

- housing affordability
- economic development
- historic preservation

Think long-term

- opportunities for youth
- be a sustainability leader!

"Feel connected to a bigger world"

"More community involvement with youth to shape the city"

"Underutilized historic architecture"

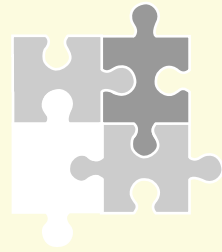
"Main arteries - better connect them + make them more walkable + safe"

"City of neighborhoods - give attention to small neighborhood centers, invest in neighborhood to support diversity"

"Plan for the long-term relative to climate change"

ASPIRATION

19
COMMENTS



LAND USE

- Cost efficient redevelopment + adaptive reuse of existing historic buildings



HOUSING

- Future generations could live here
- Inroads for new homeowners
- What can we do to help homeowners - prepare for impacts change



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Small business/ entrepreneur hub
- Education hub inclusive of fishing industry/ keep fishing viable forever in city (mass maritime)



OPEN SPACE & RECREATION

- #1 Arts community in MA
- Green stormwater management
- Don't move backward on environmental impacts



NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES



SERVICES & FACILITIES

- Best of best in education!



TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY

OTHER: NB'S CHARACTER & LEGACY

- Think BIG at a level that is commensurate with NB's legacy
- Return New Bedford's character
- Respect already articulated aspirations
- Identity stays unique/create the pipeline to keep identity here

OTHER: COORDINATION

- Way tax credits work - ARPA for retrofitting, but historic preservation challenges - organizations at state level need to play well together
- Cross border coordination
- Connects all opportunities

OTHER: EQUITY

- Eliminated disparities in city and culture. Equitable access to success

OTHER: CLIMATE CHANGE

- Net Zero 2050
- Carbon - reduction, sequestration, neutrality

ASPIRATION

Of the 19 comments shared during the discussion, here are a few themes that were brought up repeatedly:

Livability

- housing affordability
- equitable access to success
- education, arts, small business hub

Character + Identity

- build on past visioning
- think BIG
- keep unique identity

Climate + environment

- carbon neutrality
- environmental impacts

"#1 Arts community in MA"

"Education hub inclusive of fishing industry"

"Think BIG at a level that is commensurate with NB's legacy"

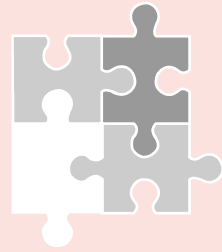
"Identity stays unique"

"Don't move backward on environmental impacts"

"Future generations could live here"

RESULT

5
COMMENTS



LAND USE

- Better Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)

OTHER: NB'S LEGACY

- Build on past efforts
- Remedy the displacement and effects of urban renewal + I95



HOUSING

- Innovate to support homeownership

OTHER: LIVABILITY

- Be an attractive place to live/visit/etc.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



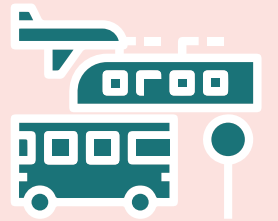
OPEN SPACE & RECREATION



NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES



SERVICES & FACILITIES



TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY

RESULT

Of the 5 comments shared during the discussion, here are a few themes that were brought up repeatedly:

Livability

Equity

Connections

“Be an attractive place to live/visit/etc.”

“Innovate to support homeownership”

“Build on past efforts.”

“Remedy the displacement and effects of urban renewal + I95”

“Better Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)”

GETTING THE WORD OUT

HOW CAN WE GET THE WORD OUT ABOUT THE PLAN? ANY IMPORTANT COMMUNITY MEMBERS OR ORGANIZATIONS TO CONNECT WITH?

You've shared some ideas already!

- CCHO
- Speaker at the Men's Luncheon Club
- Dennison Memorial Community Center
- NB Housing Authority
- Boys & Girls Club of NB
- Martha Briggs Organization
- Youth opportunities within their communities
- Love the Ave: TDI Fellow
- Articles in New Bedford Light & other news sources (local radio, NB "chat")
- Connecting with the Faith-based communities and hosting listening sessions within church communities



HAVE OTHER IDEAS? SHARE THEM ONLINE AT THE LINK ON THE THE NEXT PAGE!


OTHER THINGS TO ADD?

[CLICK HERE](#) to fill out a form to add more ideas around Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, or Results, or for ideas about people to connect with or strategies for getting the word out.

Have a different thought or comment? There's also a box at the end where you can add general input.

NEW BEDFORD

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



Name:

Share your ideas! How can we get the word out about the Plan? Any important community members or organizations to connect with?

VISIT THE PROJECT WEBSITE AND SPREAD THE WORD WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS!

NewBedfordPlan.com