

NEW BEDFORD

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Public Engagement Open House #2

May 17, 2023



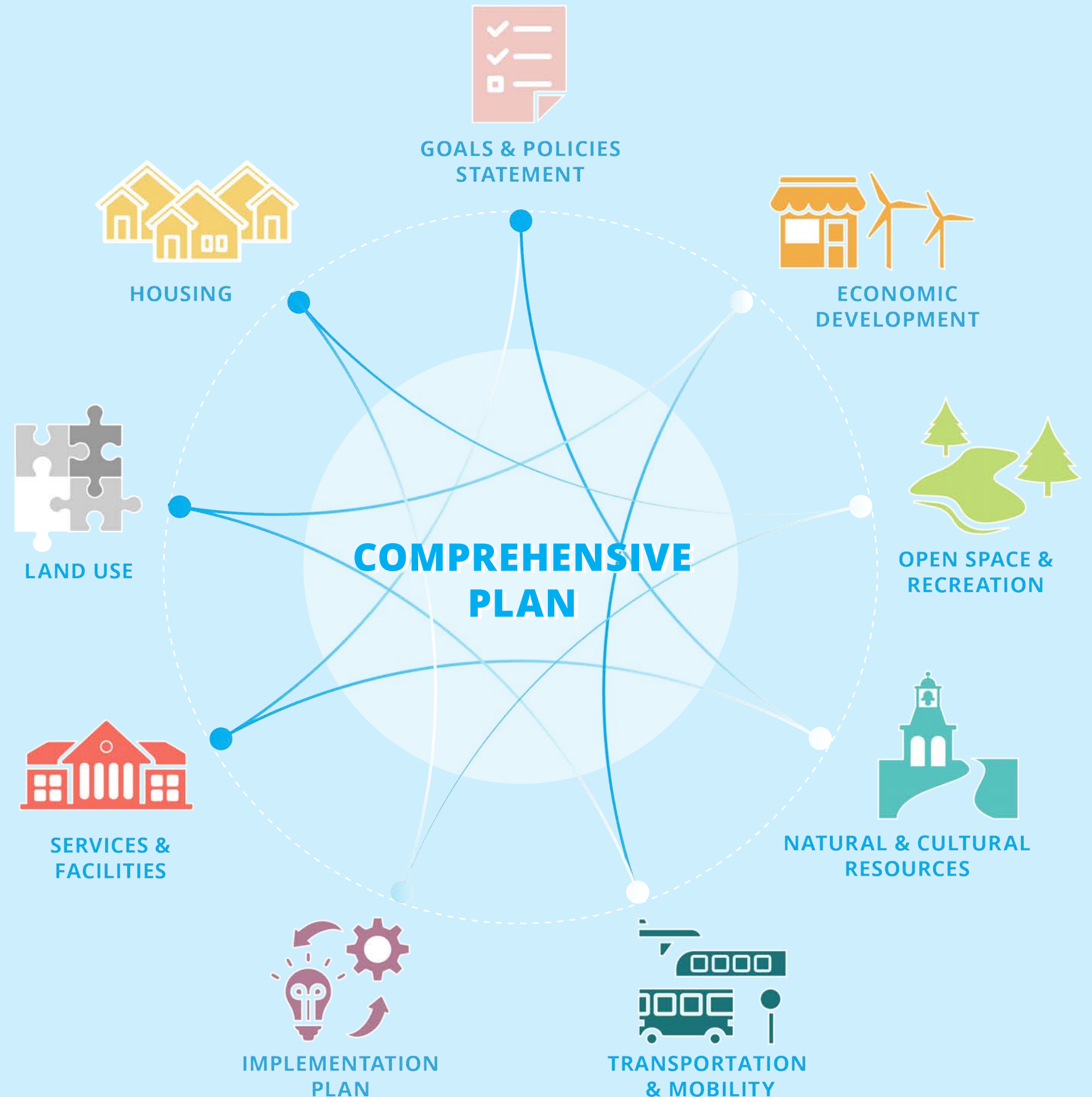
Agency

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

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ELEMENTS

Under Massachusetts General Laws, master planning is governed by Chapter 41, Section 81D. This section requires that the plan address nine elements, including a goals and policies statement and an implementation plan.

Within that framework is a great deal of latitude to craft a master plan that fits the individual needs for the community.



TOPIC AREAS & THEMES WEAVE TOGETHER

LAND USE



HOUSING



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



OPEN SPACE & RECREATION



NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES



SERVICES & FACILITIES



TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY



CLIMATE RESILIENCY

INCREASINGLY DIVERSE CITY

ECONOMIC CATALYSTS

PANDEMIC RECOVERY

ARTS & CULTURE



FROM VISION TO ACTION

Let's Dive in Here Today!

Vision: Plan Framework



A shared vision for the city and its neighborhoods

Goals: Your Aspirations



Community supported goals that support the vision and address all plan elements

Objectives + Actions: Implementation Path

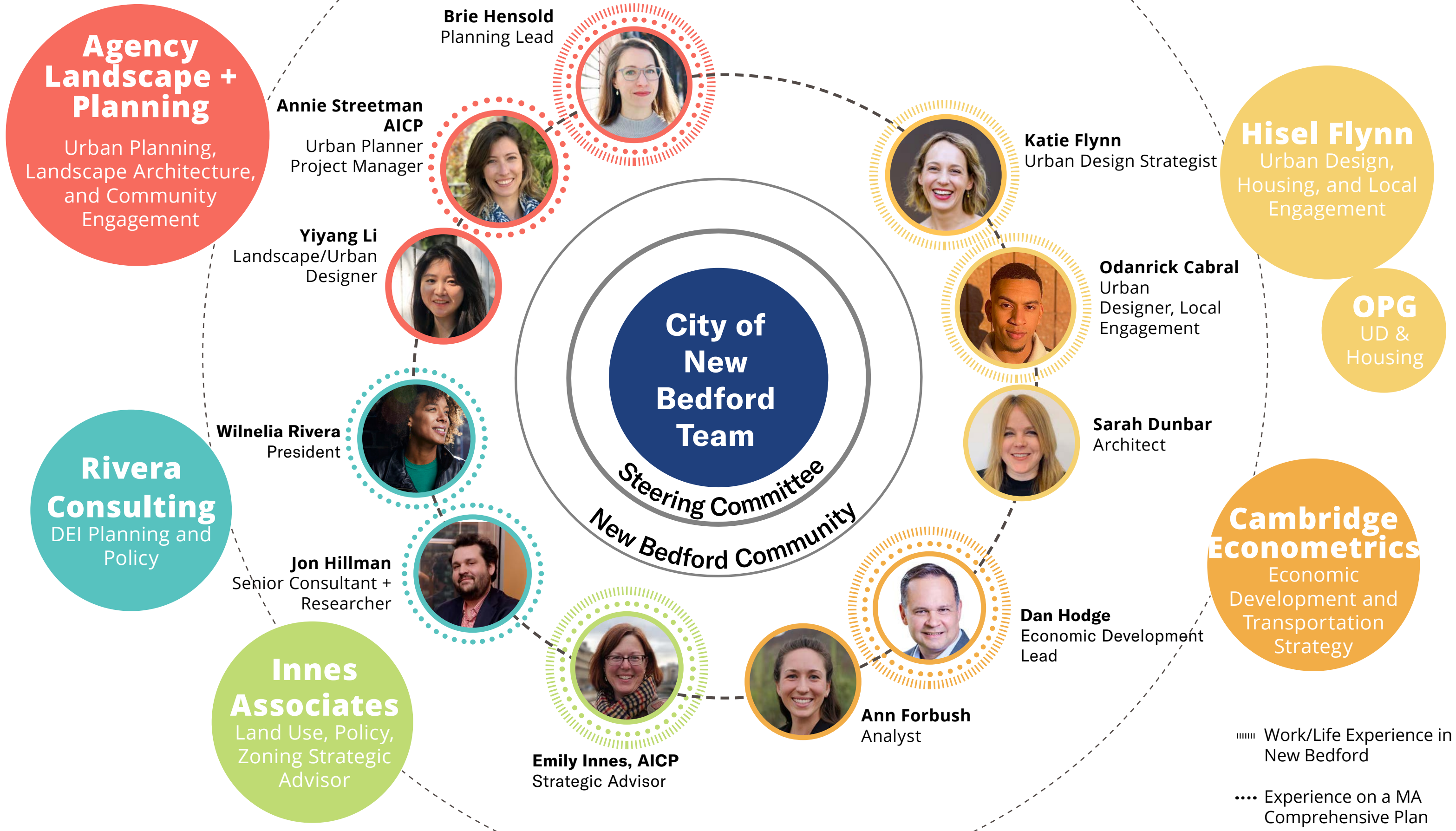


Concrete programs, policies, and projects for policymaking and investments in the future

Community Engagement



HELLO FROM THE PLANNING TEAM



THIS IS NEW BEDFORD'S PLAN

STEERING COMMITTEE

Adrian Ventura

Angela Johnston

Cheryl Bartlett

Brian Gomes

Dan Goulart

Ed Washburn

Ian Abreu

Isaiah Houtman

Jeff Costa

Jon Carvalho

Joe Tavares

Kamile Khazan

Kathryn Duff

Kim Ferreira

Maria Rosario

Michael Goodman

Mike Quinn

Patricia Lareau

Paul Chasse

Paul Pawlowski

Rebecca Barnes

Renee Ledbetter

Rosemary Gill

Shayne Trimbell

Steve Silverstein

Tony Sapienza



SCHEDULE AND PROCESS



START-UP

Collect data; introduce the process to the community

UNDERSTANDING TODAY

Learn about history and current context; confirm and analyze existing conditions

Community Baseline

COMMUNITY VISIONING

Establish New Bedford's values; develop consensus direction; and look to the future

Vision + Goals

REALIZING THE VISION

Develop recommendations and provide tools for managing change

Draft & Final Plan, Presentations

Buffer for Review/Scheduling

INCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT

Planning for community conversations in person and online

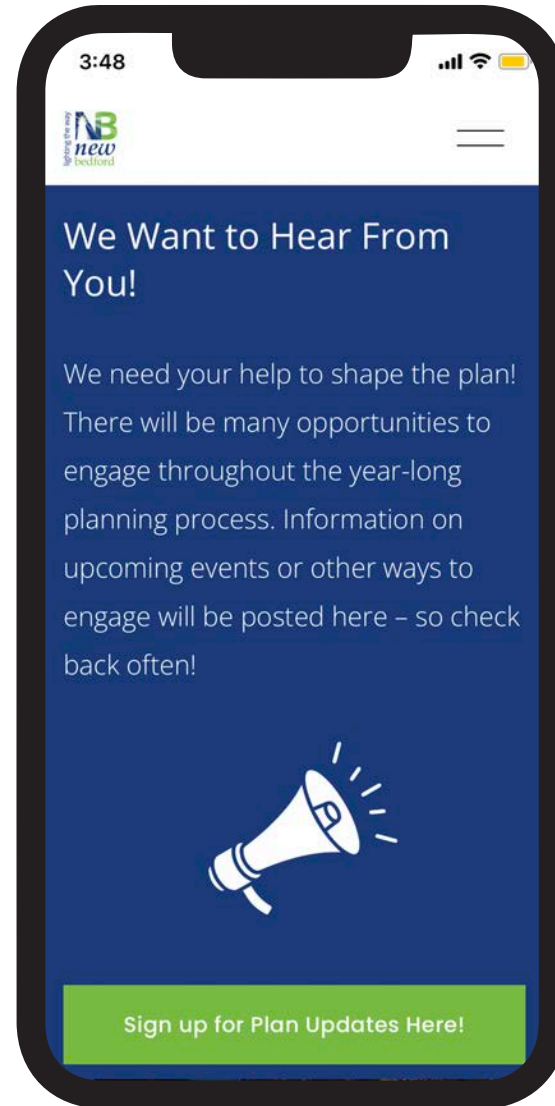


COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PAST VISIONING



PROJECT WEBSITE



www.newbedfordplan.com

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES!

Online Engagement

Check the website for a survey follow-up to tonight's event

Events & Meetings

Look for the planning team at upcoming events & meetings!

FEBRUARY 11TH OPEN HOUSE SUMMARY



100+

**Attendees
at the Alfred J. Gomes
Elementary School**

80+

**Community
Ideas
on Themes and
Goals**



65+

**Topic Area
Priorities Votes**



60+

**Issues & Assets
Noted on a City Map**

PLAN VISION

GLOBAL PIONEER

REGIONAL HUB

THRIVING CITY

INCLUSIVE NEIGHBORHOODS

NEIGHBORHOOD

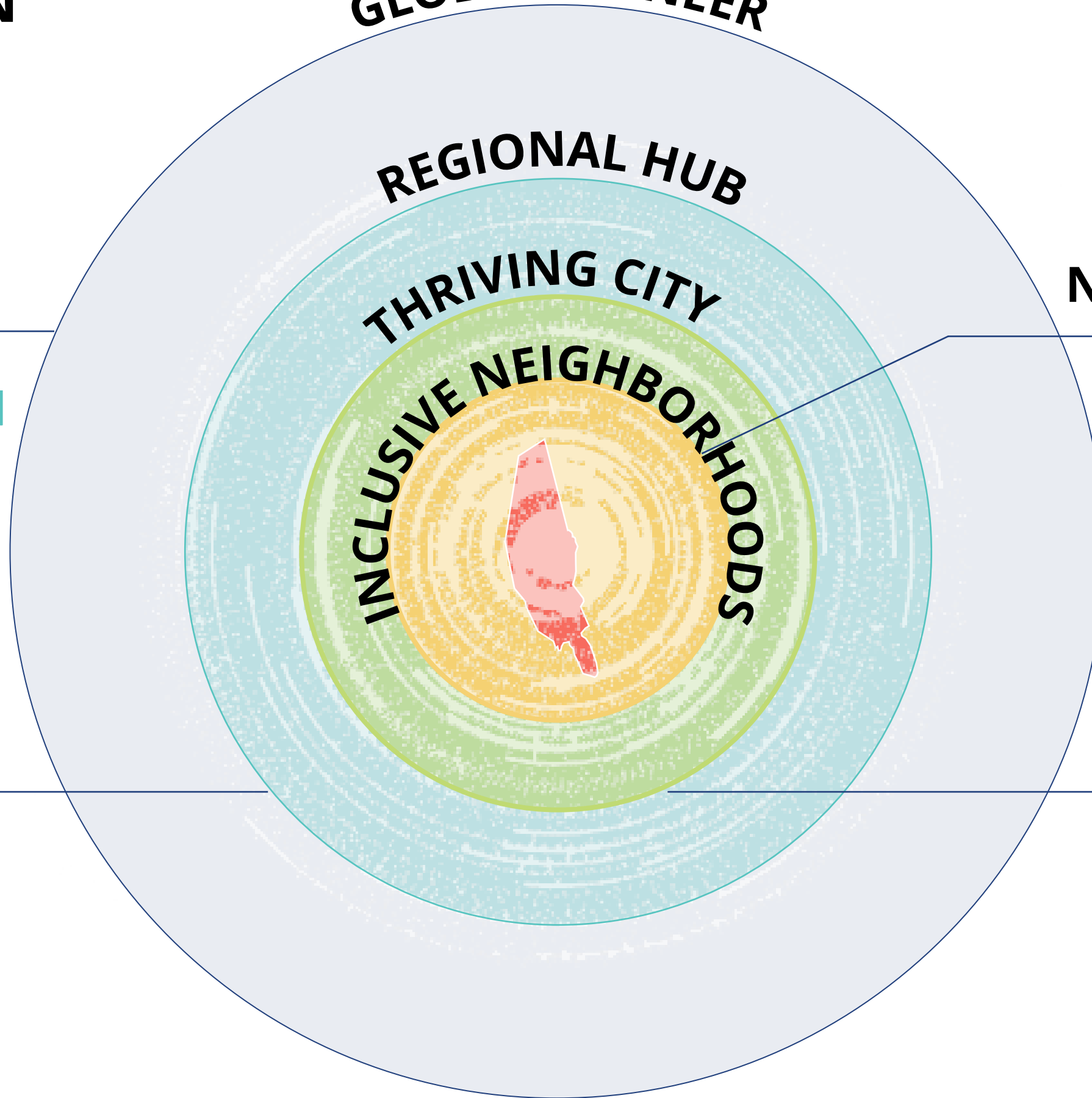
GLOBAL



REGIONAL



CITYWIDE



REALIZING THE VISION

GLOBAL



REGIONAL



GLOBAL PIONEER

REGIONAL HUB

THRIVING CITY

INCLUSIVE NEIGHBORHOODS

AFFORDABILITY
DIVERSITY
COMMUNITY SERVICES

CLIMATE RESILIENCY

CELEBRATE DIVERSITY

INNOVATION

CONNECTIONS

INVEST IN COMMUNITY

ARTS & CULTURE HUB

HOUSING

TRANSIT & MOBILITY

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

NEIGHBORHOOD



CITYWIDE



NEW BEDFORD TODAY...

GLOBAL



Strong history and evolution of welcoming immigrant communities & cultures

Ambitious innovation-based vision requires infrastructure improvements & alignment with community benefits

REGIONAL



Large manufacturing and health care sectors and a strong port cluster

Many regional destination assets and attractions

NEIGHBORHOOD



Rents have increased recently and very few new units have been built in last decade

Challenges of older housing stock (including health/ environmental issues)

CITYWIDE



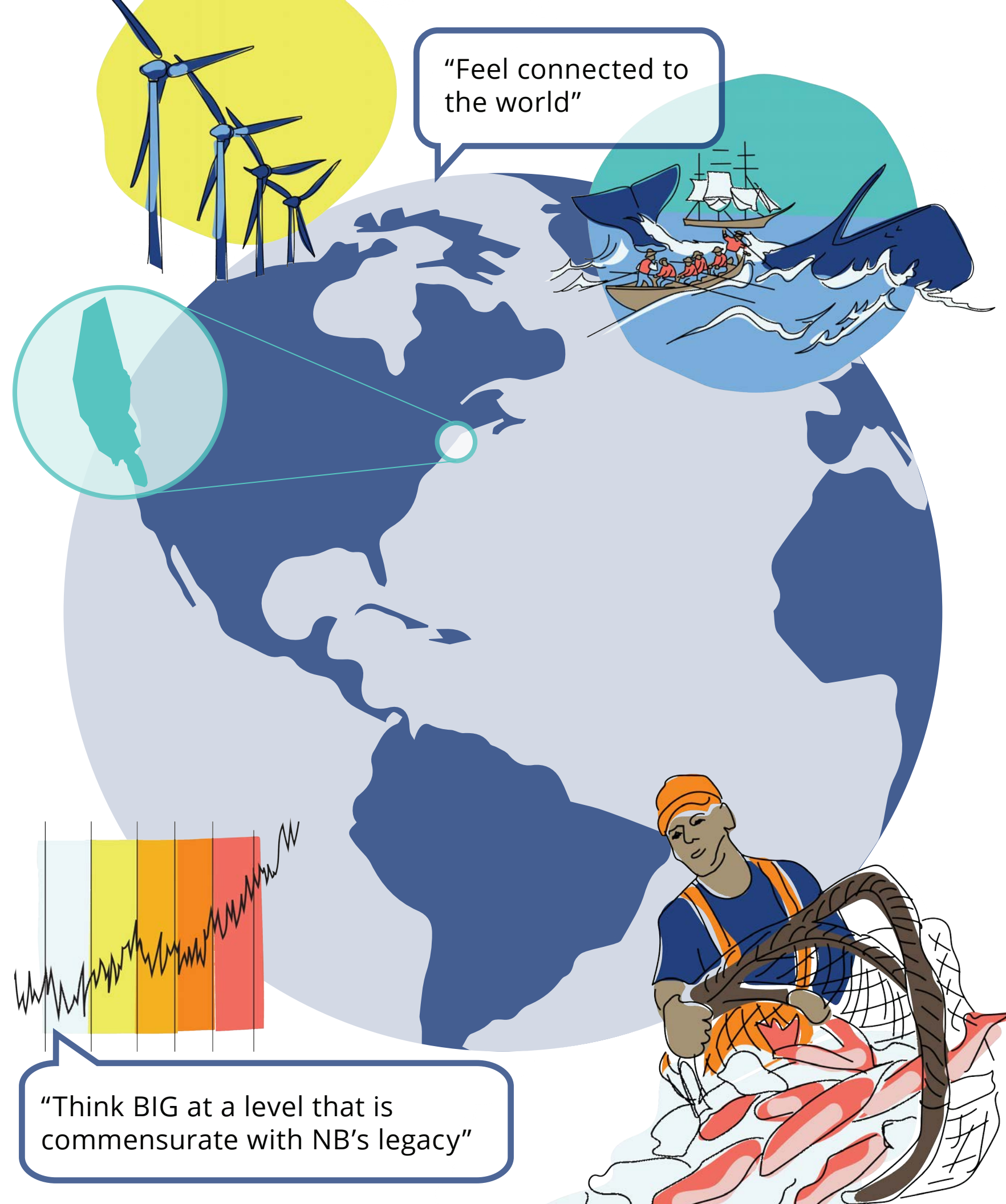
Tremendous community pride for the City

Many entrepreneur support systems and small business success stories

GLOBAL PIONEER

POSSIBLE GOALS

1. Ensure the future success of established hubs, like the port and business park
2. Continue to pioneer economic innovation
3. Lead in climate resiliency
4. Celebrate the City's history as a diverse, multi-cultural community



GLOBAL PIONEER: SAMPLE OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

Future Success of Established Hubs

- » Preserve waterfront-dependent uses for future generations in the port area.
- » Celebrate New Bedford's legacy of success in the fishing industry.
- » Prepare the port for future evolution of the fishing and marine economy.

Pioneer economic innovation

- » Advance New Bedford's position as the leading East Coast ocean economy.
- » Value and foster local entrepreneurship and small businesses.

Lead in climate resiliency

- » Ensure that climate resiliency is embedded in all planning, projects, and initiatives citywide at all scales.
- » Engage vulnerable communities in decision making and preparation for climate impacts.

Celebrate the City's history as a diverse, multi-cultural community

- » Grow multiple arts and culture hubs, expanding from Downtown to places like Acushnet Avenue.
- » Expand and promote events that celebrate the unique cultures in New Bedford.

IDEAS FROM NEAR AND FAR...



NB | Port infrastructure improvements



NB | Small business support



NB | Cape Verdean Parade



Create Shade



Restore Healthy Ecosystems



Manage Stormwater with Rain Gardens

IMAGINE... PLACES THAT CELEBRATE GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

DISTRICT 1: ACUSHNET AVE / TDI DISTRICT



REGIONAL HUB

POSSIBLE GOALS

1. Remain a successful economic competitor that builds, attracts, and retains the workforce and skills needed to anchor the South Coast
2. Reinforce New Bedford's role as an arts, culture, and history hub
3. Capitalize on connections to transportation assets including the airport, ferries, and intercity rail



REGIONAL HUB: SAMPLE OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

Stay a Successful Economic Competitor

- » Nurture a healthy relationship with the private sector to build a diversified and inclusive regional economy that offers opportunity for everyone who seeks it.
- » Capitalize on New Bedford's manufacturing capabilities to develop high-tech industry.

Reinforce New Bedford's role as an arts, culture, and history hub

- » Leverage City, NBEDC, and cultural institutions to embed arts and culture in every neighborhood.
- » Support the arts community by ensuring access to spaces to live, work, and share their art.

Capitalize on transportation including the airport, ferries, and intercity rail

- » Expand and improve access to all modes of transportation, recognizing impacts to the economy and quality of life.
- » Improve gateways and navigation to the airport, including implementation of the planned Shawmut Avenue entrance improvements.

IDEAS FROM NEAR AND FAR...



NB | Planned airport improvements



NB | Neighborhood murals and art



NB | Ongoing TOD land use updates



Create Workforce Education Programs



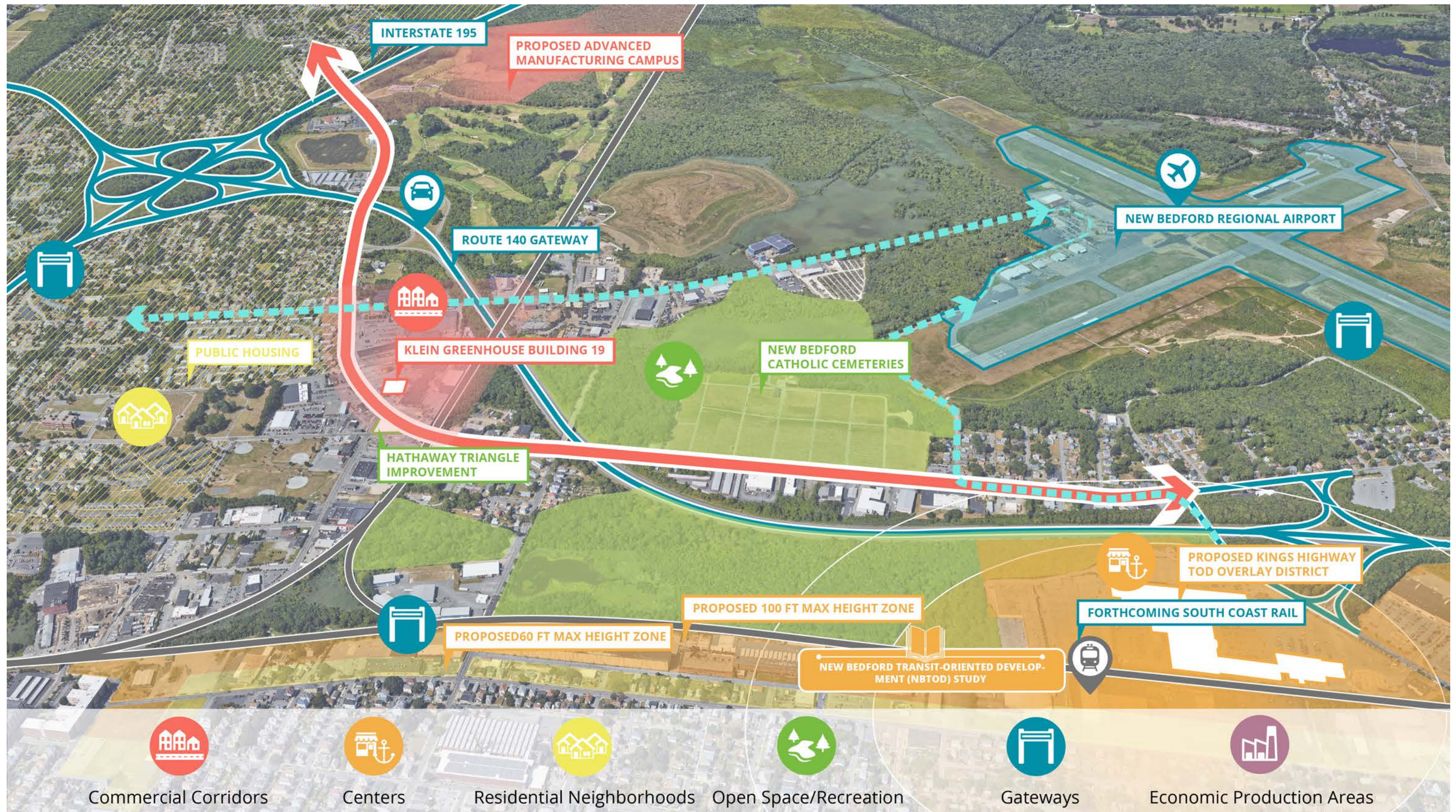
Enable Artists and Maker Spaces



Improve Pedestrian/Bus Stop Comfort

IMAGINE... PLACES THAT PROMOTE ECONOMIC GROWTH

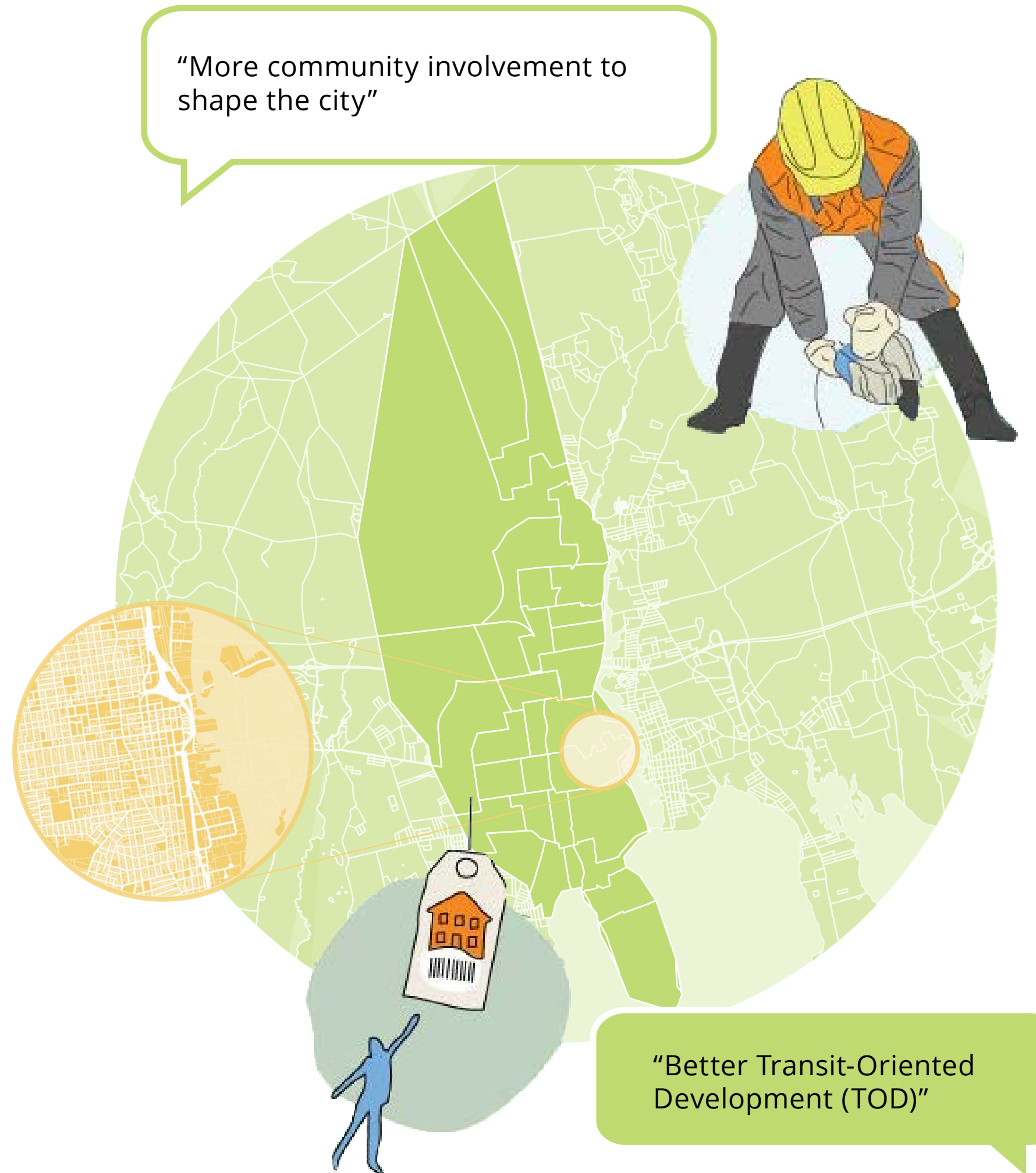
DISTRICT 2: AMC, HATHAWAY RD, AIRPORT



THRIVING CITY

POSSIBLE GOALS

1. Increase the overall supply of housing citywide
2. Embed resilience, equity, and inclusion into all City Departments and initiatives
3. Build a safe, connected multi-modal transportation network
4. Promote a healthy environment for nature and people to thrive
5. Reinvest in Public Buildings & Infrastructure
6. Maintain a Healthy Institutional Presence in New Bedford



THRIVING CITY: SAMPLE OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

Increase the supply of housing

- » Leverage the MBTA Communities Act as an opportunity to rethink housing density in key areas within the City.

Embed resilience, equity, and inclusion into all initiatives

- » Connect all New Bedford residents to economic opportunities.

Build a safe, multi-modal transportation network

- » Enhance safety and access for all users on streets and pathways citywide.

Promote a healthy environment for nature & people to thrive

- » Increase tree canopy coverage equitably across the city.

Reinvest in public buildings & infrastructure

- » Continue to address the City's ongoing deferred maintenance and repair projects.

Maintain a healthy institutional presence

- » Collaborate with existing institutions to evolve and modernize their sites.

IDEAS FROM NEAR AND FAR...



NB | Covewalk



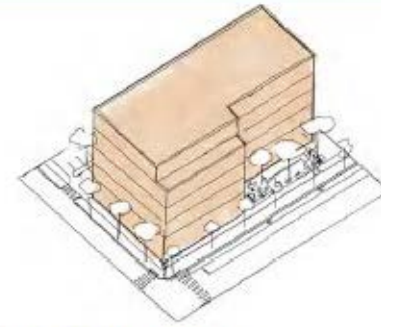
NB | Street Improvements

Design Principles



1. Site Design and Streetscape

1.1 New developments should create new human-scaled blocks by breaking up industrial-scale superblocks with a new public realm extension and street grid.



2. Building Design

2.1 Height differences between buildings should be gradual, where areas adjacent to low-rise residential areas are lower in height and areas adjacent to the rail line and non-residential areas should be higher.

NB | TOD Design Guidelines



Enhance & Celebrate Wetlands



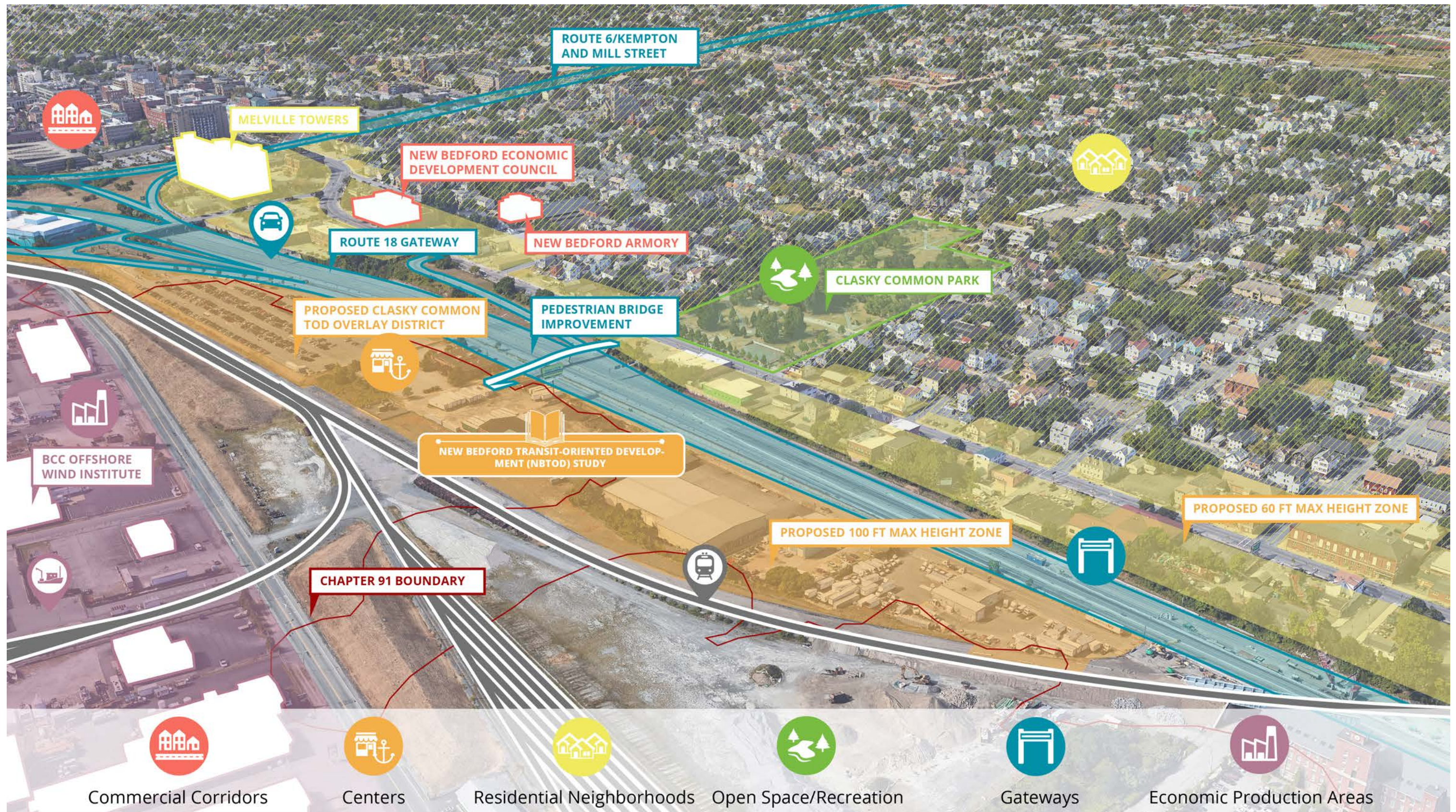
River Overlooks and Trails



Create Strategic Density

IMAGINE... PLACES THAT BALANCE GROWTH AND HISTORY

DISTRICT 3: ARMORY DISTRICT / CLASKY COMMON TOD



INCLUSIVE NEIGHBORHOODS

POSSIBLE GOALS

1. Provide housing for all generations, incomes, and group sizes
2. Ensure all neighborhoods feel safe and welcoming
3. Diversify recreation offerings and improve access to parks and open spaces
4. Support local businesses/ commercial districts and reimagine existing buildings
5. Provide high quality public amenities, services, and infrastructure



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

“Main arteries - better connect them +make them more walkable + safe”

INCLUSIVE NEIGHBORHOODS: SAMPLE OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

Provide housing for all

- » Facilitate new housing production across income levels to meet the needs of New Bedford residents.

Ensure all neighborhoods feel safe and welcoming

- » Enhance the quality and comfort of New Bedford's public realm.

Improve access to parks and open spaces

- » Expand outdoor recreational and open space opportunities for all New Bedford residents, regardless of age or ability.

Support local businesses / commercial districts

- » Foster a model of neighborhood retail and service clusters to support easy access on foot or by bike to most daily needs.

Provide high quality public amenities, services, and infrastructure

- » Continue to pursue excellence in education.

IDEAS FROM NEAR AND FAR...



STANDARD OF APPEARANCE
for the public realm



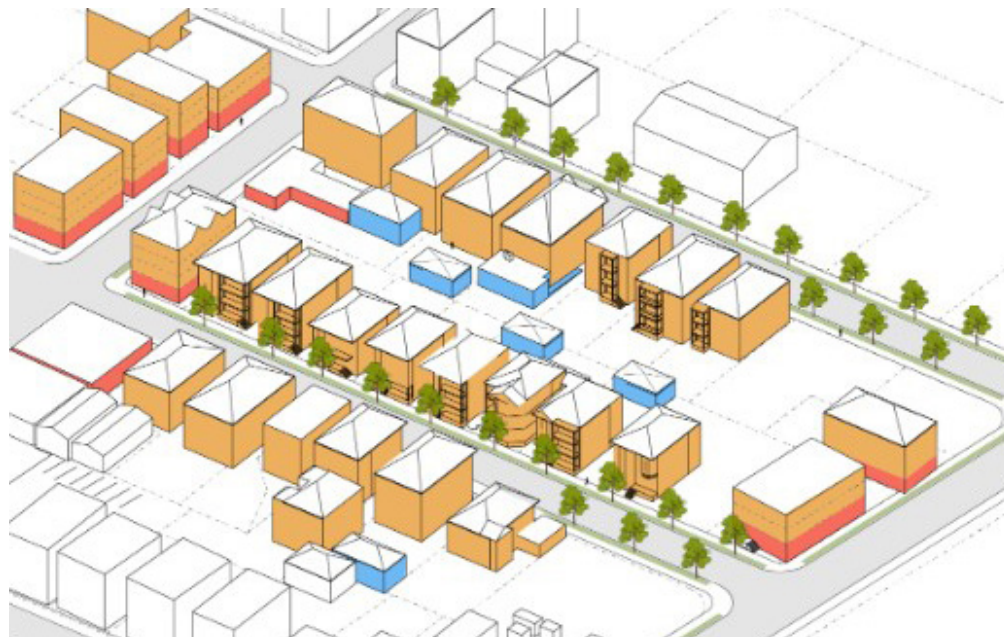
NB | Standard of Appearance for the Public Realm plan



Prioritize Pedestrian Safety

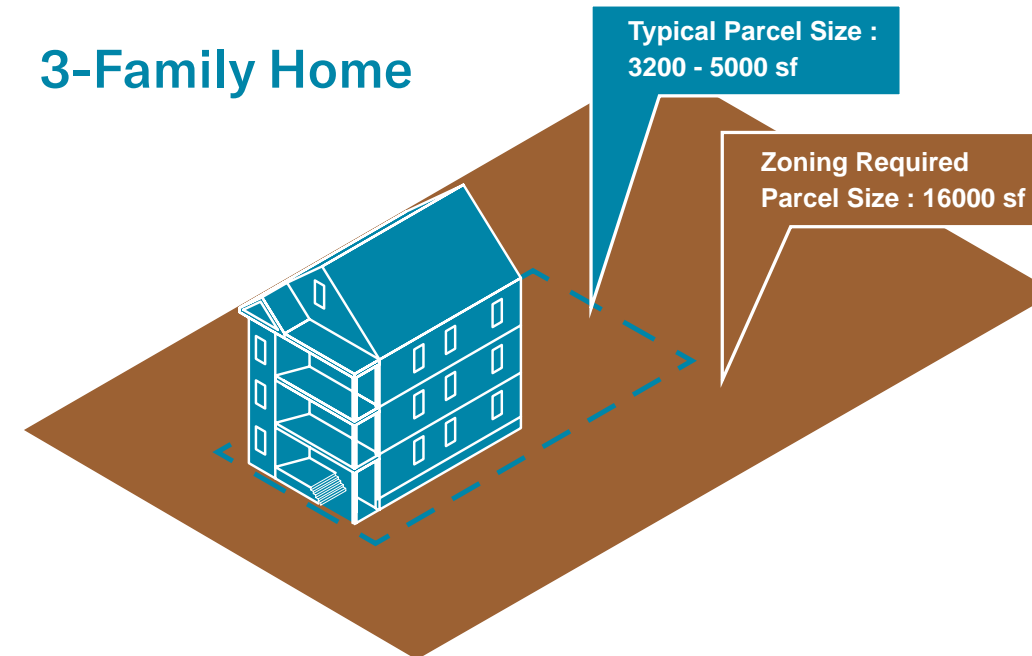


Create Pop-Up Public Spaces



NB | Retrofit Existing Structures

3-Family Home



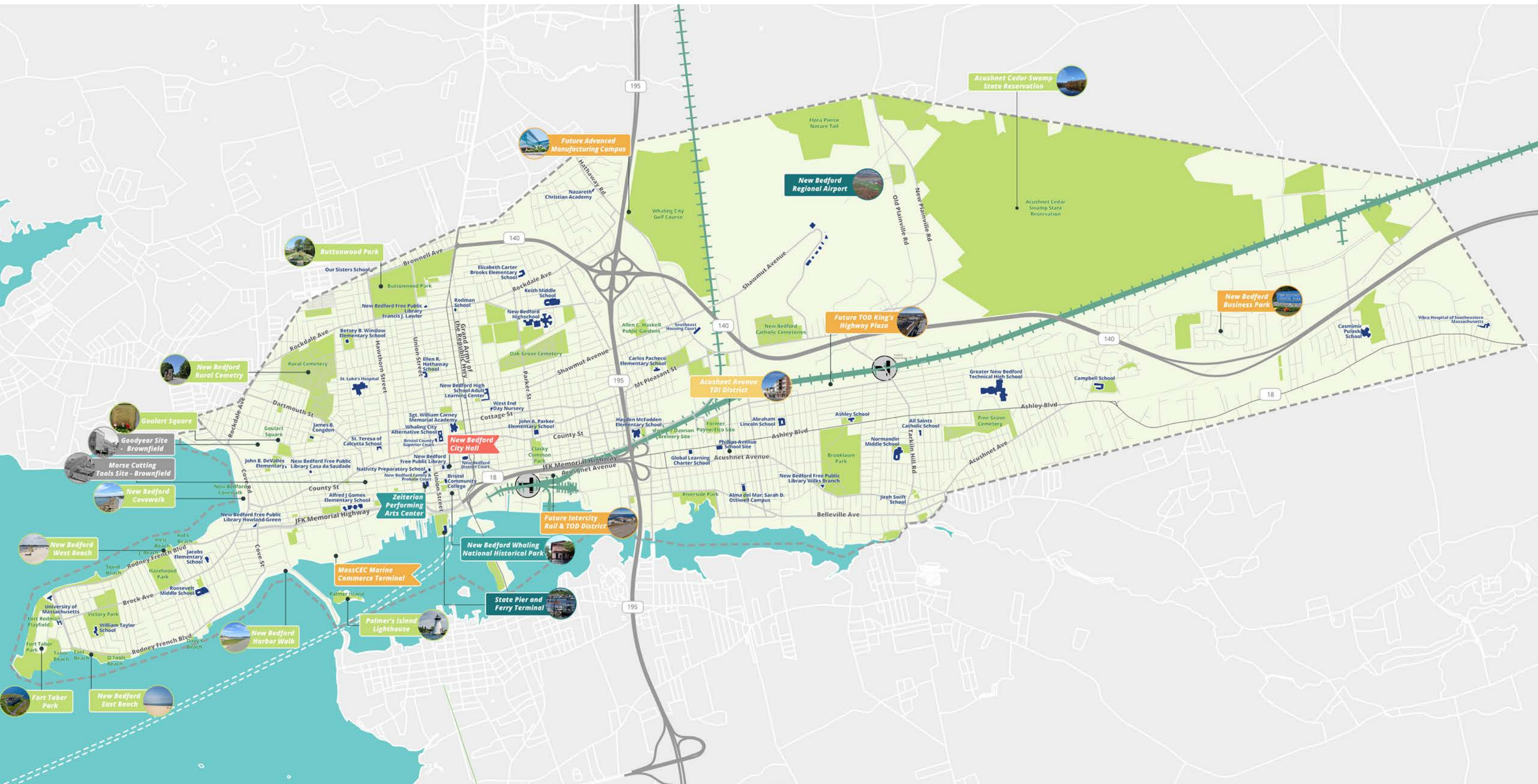
NB | Consider Zoning Updates in Areas that are Noncompliant

Dimensional Regulations*

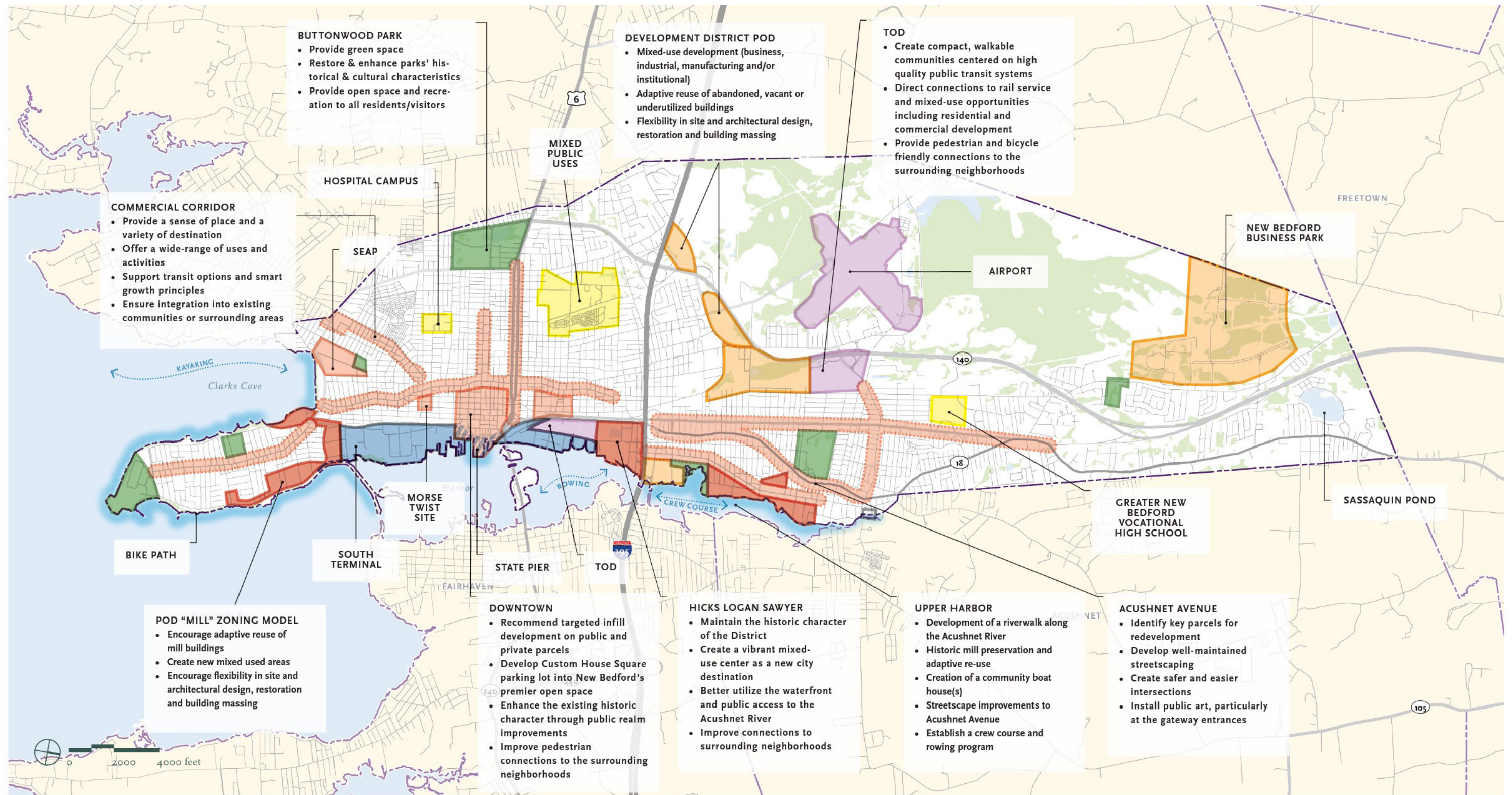
*Maximum and Minimum Allowed listed in table below

Zoning Type	RC	Existing Typically Compliant
Minimum Lot Size	15,000 SF (for 3+ units)	NO
Density of Dwelling Units / Lot	1 / 1,000 SF (for 3+ units)	YES
Lot Frontage	150 FT MIN	NO
Height of Buildings	35 FT MAX*	NO
Height of Buildings (# stories)	4 MAX	YES
Front Yard Setback	20 FT MIN**	NO
Side Yard Setback	10 FT, 12 FT MIN***	NO
Rear Yard Setback	30 FT MIN	YES
Lot Coverage by Building (%)	30; 40 on corner lots, MAX	NO
Green Space	35% MIN	YES

IMAGINE... EQUITABLE, INCLUSIVE NEIGHBORHOODS



NEW BEDFORD 2020 (PREVIOUS MASTER PLAN)



Source: City of New Bedford, MassGIS

Legend

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
|  Open Space |  Redevelopment |  Public Water Access |
|  Mill Development District |  Transit Redevelopment | |
|  Waterfront Redevelopment |  Traditional Industrial | |
|  Commercial Corridor |  Mixed-Use Redevelopment | |

A CITY MASTER PLAN
NEW BEDFORD 2020

Figure 4.5
Development and Neighborhood Centers



NB 2020 PLACES

- Redevelopment
- Mixed-use Redevelopment
- Transit Redevelopment
- Traditional Industrial
- Waterfront Redevelopment
- Mill Development District
- Commercial Corridor
- Open Space
- Public Water Access
- Gateway Areas
- Primary & Secondary Corridors

PROPOSED PLACE TYPES



Others?

TODAY'S EVENT



Share your vision for New Bedford in ten years



Find us around the mapping table for zoom-in studies around certain areas



Give feedback on draft goals & objectives and share your ideas for actions



Dig in on highlights of what we've heard so far



Join us for family activities including games and coloring



Grab some food and drinks!



[News & Events](#) [Get Involved!](#) [About](#)

**VISIT THE
PROJECT
WEBSITE!**



NEW BEDFORD COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

www.newbedfordplan.com

Have Questions?

- **Learn more about the Plan**
- **Sign up for project updates**
- **Find information on upcoming events**

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