

NEW BEDFORD

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Meeting Summary: 05/17/23 Public Engagement Open House



Agency

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

PUBLIC WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

LOCATION:

Normandin Middle School
81 Felton St, New Bedford, MA 02745

TIME:

6 - 8 pm, Wednesday, May 17, 2023

AGENDA:

***Share ideas and visions
for New Bedford's future***



***Share thoughts about zoom-
in studies for certain areas***



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



***Hear from the planning
team in a short presentation***



PUBLIC WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

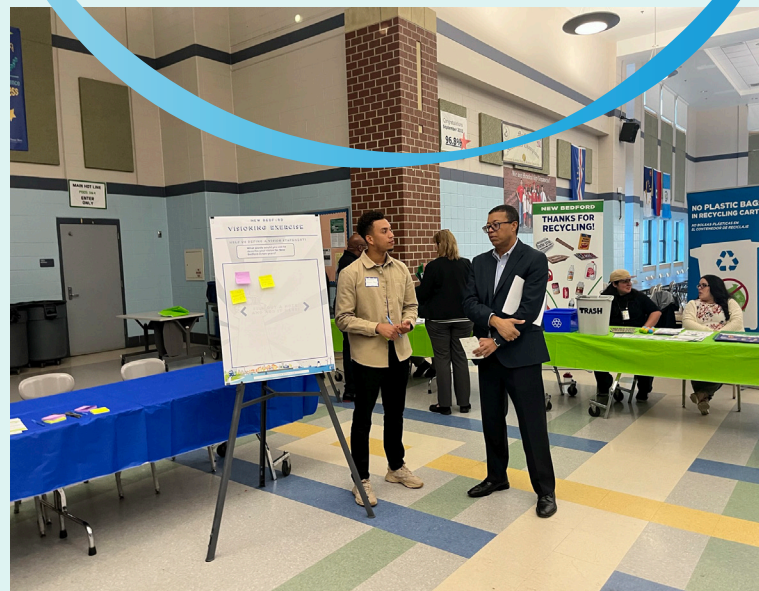


30+

Attendees

15+

**Comments on
Vision Board**



55+

**Comments on
Draft Goals
& Objectives**



150+

**Comments on
Visual Study Maps**

VISIONING EXERCISE

WHAT WORDS WOULD YOU
USE TO DESCRIBE YOUR
VISION FOR NEW BEDFORD
IN TEN YEARS?

COMMUNITY

ENGAGEMENT

TRANSPORTATION

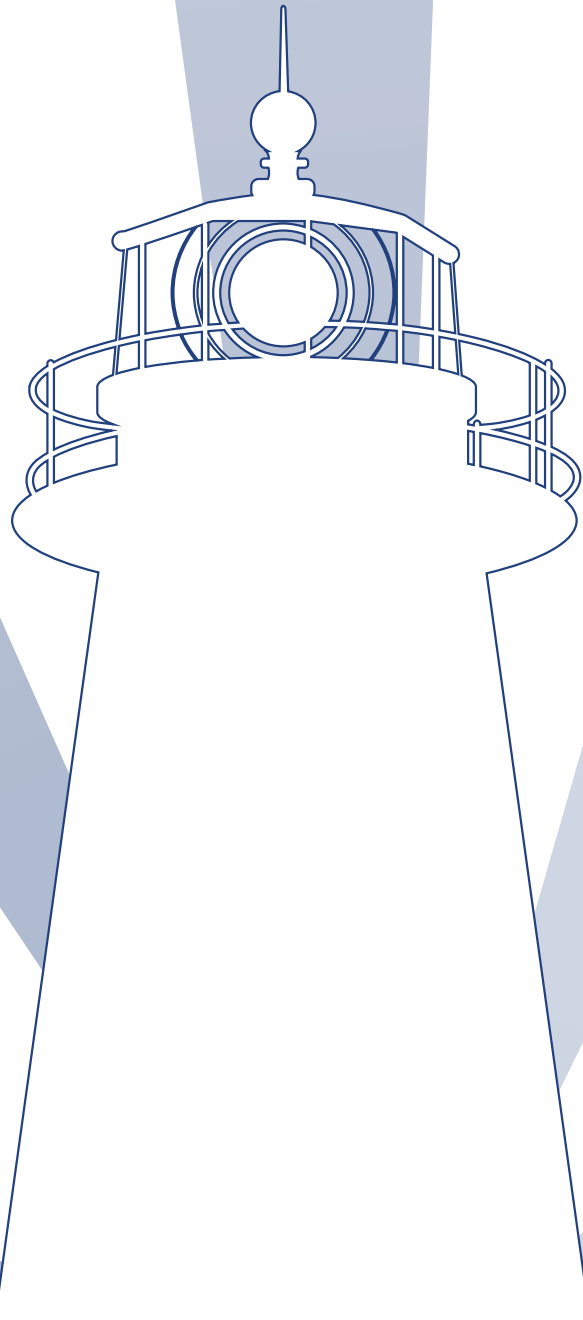
CONNECTION

RESIDENT

SUSTAINABILITY

CULTURE

*WORDS THAT APPEARED MOST FREQUENTLY IN RESPONSES



FEEDBACK ON DRAFT GOALS & OBJECTIVES

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

Which goals are you most excited about?

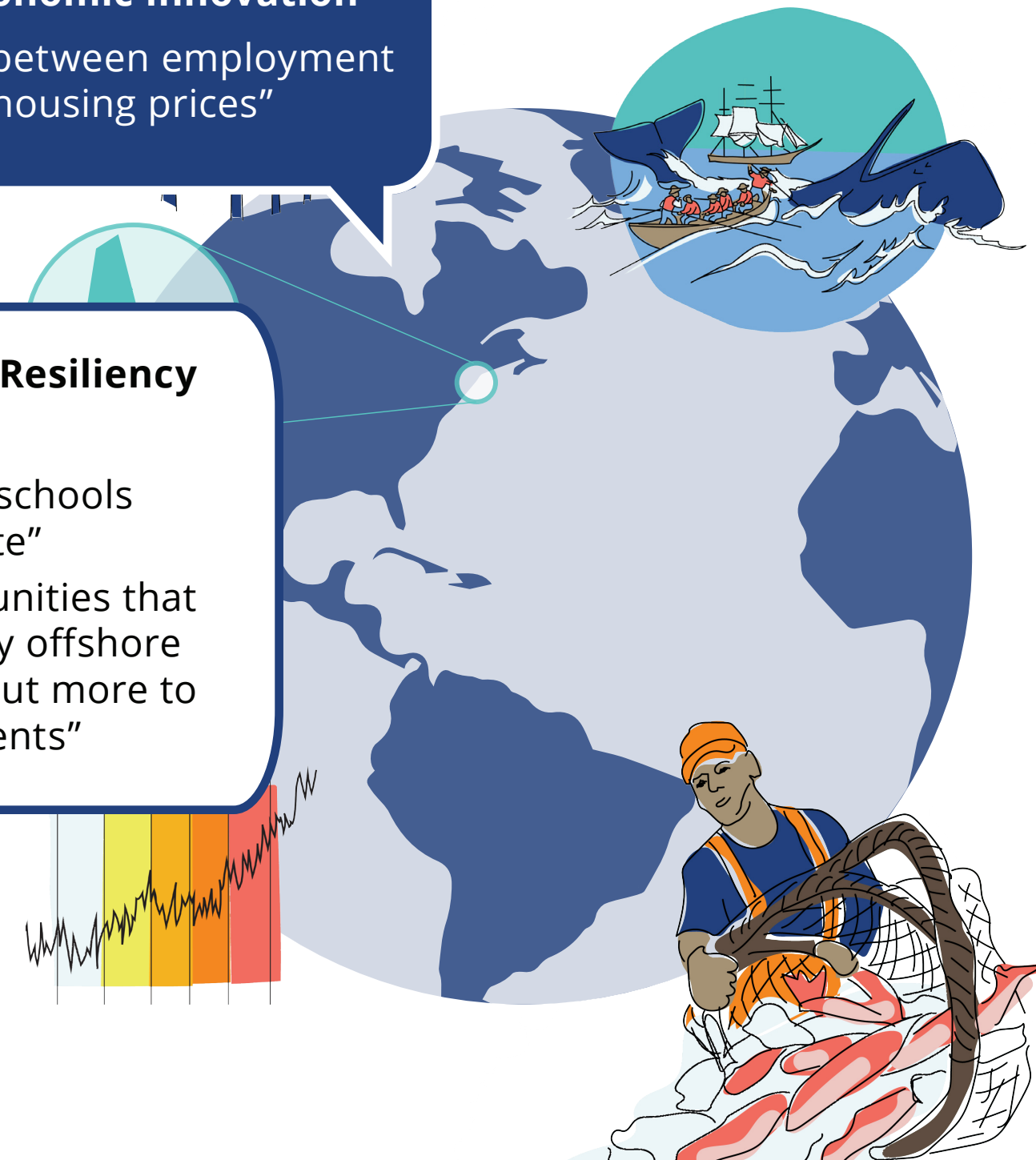
WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU ADD? ANY IDEAS TO MAKE THESE GOALS HAPPEN?

Pioneer Economic Innovation

"mismatch between employment wages and housing prices"

Lead in Climate Resiliency

"solar parking"
"canopies at city schools where appropriate"
"build on opportunities that will be brought by offshore wind and reach out more to high school students"



FEEDBACK ON DRAFT GOALS & OBJECTIVES

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

Which goals are you most excited about?

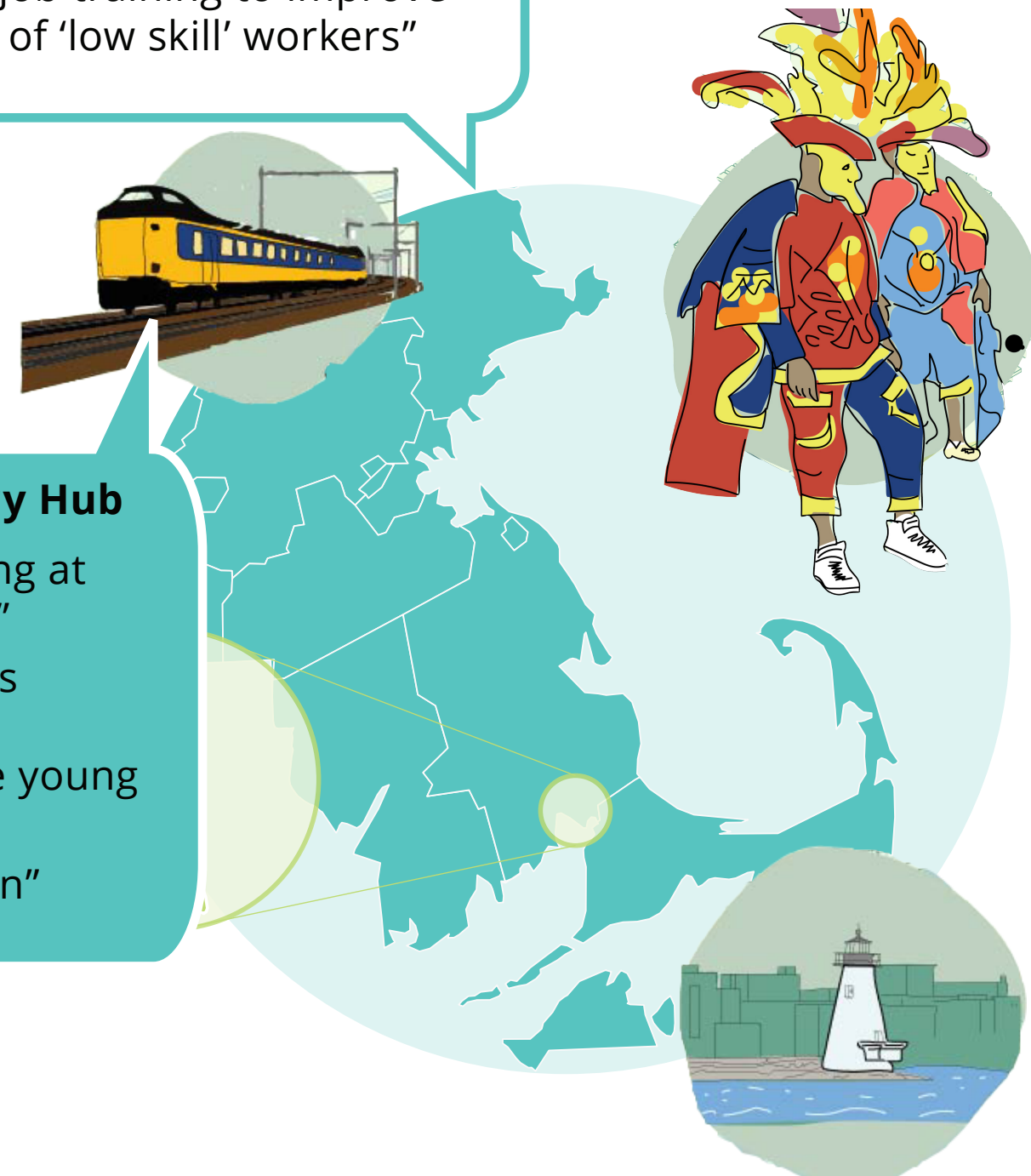
WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU ADD? ANY IDEAS TO MAKE THESE GOALS HAPPEN?

Remain a Economic Competitor

"invest in job training to improve livelihood of 'low skill' workers"

Arts, Culture & History Hub

"more arts programming at Haskell Public Gardens"
"create a New Bedford's history forum for the community and involve young adults"
"a youth trivia campaign"



FEEDBACK ON DRAFT GOALS & OBJECTIVES

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

Which goals are you most excited about?

WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU ADD? ANY IDEAS TO MAKE THESE GOALS HAPPEN?

Housing Supply

- provide low cost or subsidized loans to homeowners to repair multiunit houses
- address missing middle housing and add ADUs
- increase housing density on Acushnet Ave. and provide better public transit

Transportation Network

- more walking paths and bike lanes
- expand SRTA service to nights & weekends
- add bridges over highway
- expand TOD areas

Resilience, Equity & Inclusion

- more youth engagement built on existing programs
- improve communication between residents and DPI
- provide website for reporting potholes & other road problems

Healthy Environment

- build more new parks and better utilize existing parks
- protect historical trees and allocate tree friendly zones
- use native species to restore open spaces & natural habitats



FEEDBACK ON DRAFT GOALS & OBJECTIVES

INCLUSIVE NEIGHBORHOOD

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

Which goals are you most excited about?

WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU ADD? ANY IDEAS TO MAKE THESE GOALS HAPPEN?

Housing for All

- build more affordable housing
- allow for housing conversions & development
- enforcement for landlords on housing quality/upkeep

Safe and Welcoming Neighborhoods

- establish/support neighborhood watch associations
- enforce parking regulations in densely populated neighborhoods

Youth

- focus on youth activities to address barriers and provide opportunities
- a barrier to youth activity in New Bedford is transportation

High Quality Infrastructure

- implement solar stop signs near recreational crosswalks

Reimagine Existing Buildings

- repurpose school buildings as event spaces and keep them open late



FEEDBACK ON PLACES THAT CELEBRATE GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

DISTRICT 1: ACUSHNET AVE / TDI DISTRICT



FOCUS ON HOUSING

What else would you add to this topic?

- increase supply to increase quality of life
- focus on neighborhood scale multifamily
- provide more assistance for affordable housing
- build municipal pools and youth centers

Acushnet Avenue

- finish Massworks infrastructure on Acushnet Ave
- address the lack of parking along the Avenue

River Access + Open Space

- expand park space to underutilized mill buildings
- redesign the riverside especially its southern half
- invest in riverside park, add access and shade for everyone
- more visibility of the rowing center will bring in more new and diverse people
- pavilion for public events
- build soccer fields in the neighborhood and near the riverwalk

Neighborhood Needs

- affordable daycare opportunities
- affordable housing
- increase mixed use housing
- provide access to healthcare
- community solar

Route 18 Gateway

- do not add lanes
- commercial redevelopment
- community solar project

FEEDBACK ON PLACES THAT PROMOTE ECONOMIC GROWTH

DISTRICT 2: AMC, HATHAWAY RD, AIRPORT



FOCUS ON

CONNECTIVITY

What else would you add to this topic?

- synchronize lights from Rockdale to Mt pleasant to Kings Highway

Hathaway Road

- reinforce as an important corridor
- activate building 19
- address the extreme topographic changes along Hathaway Road
- build an indoor/outdoor sports center
- facilitate more community-facing commercial activity

Infrastructure

- the 25-30' wide roads bring in huge vehicle volume and create high risks for pedestrians and bikers
- better define road infrastructure - narrow them down, or convert to protected bike lanes/pedestrian paths/landscape medians
- innovate a safe transportation model for youth
- consider potentials for pedestrian bridge over Rt140

TOD District

- build on future potential brought by Southcoast rail
- provide opportunities for mixed used/multi-modal development
- create better connections to Acushnet Ave neighborhood for pedestrians and bikes
- build soccer fields on Payne Cutlery site
- provide zoning support

Others

- invest in Haskell Public Gardens to become a destination of the city
- revise the AMC RFP
- create pipelines for renters to own
- empower the people that are already there

FEEDBACK ON PLACES THAT BALANCE GROWTH AND HISTORY

DISTRICT 3: ARMORY DISTRICT / CLASKY COMMON TOD



FOCUS ON INNOVATION

What else would you add to this topic?

- technology incubator hubs

Armory District

- promote commercial development and create more retail businesses
- rely less on developers and streamline the process to build a house
- create a catalog of pre-approved plans
- facilitate fitness and wellness
- address drug issues
- focus on placemaking along Purchase St.

Infrastructure

- improve pedestrian connections to the downtown district
- design a path under highway as part of the viaduct plan
- address the issue of poor internet conditions in waterfront areas

FEEDBACK ON EQUITABLE, INCLUSIVE NEIGHBORHOODS



FOCUS ON EQUITY

What else would you add to this topic?

- move non-profit offices into the neighborhoods and out of downtown
- would like to see mixing of cultural groups
- make pedestrian and bicycle safety on roads the #1 priority for all projects

“celebrate history of diversity”
“multilingual elderly activity center”
“children’s community center in north end”
“neighborhood retail/eatery”
“could schools have an entrepreneurship program to help brewing business?”

“more formal recreation and trails”
“education about native species and how to care for them”
“how can private green space work with public green space?”

“get rid of single family zoning”
“legal duplexes and ADUs throughout the City”
“eliminate parking & lot size minimums”

“street parking during events”
“address the issue of illegal dumping”
“care for the Harbor”
“use beachfront for public events”