

## MEDWAY MASTER PLAN

### Community Forum Summary

*Prepared by JM Goldson LLC 11/8/2021*

#### Summary

The Medway Master Plan Committee (MPC) hosted the second community forum on Sunday, October 3, 2021, at the Medway High School, to provide community members an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the Draft Vision and Goals statements. The consultant team developed these draft statements based on the summer's community engagement efforts, which generated over 1,000 points of participation, in addition to the findings of the Phase I Existing Conditions analysis.

The community forum consisted of informational and interactive stations as well as a presentation. The forum was open house style, where community members could drop by at any time between 11am and 3pm.

The forum was an opportunity for the project team to share what they have learned through the summer engagement efforts and the Existing Conditions analysis and to solicit community members' thoughts and opinions on the priorities outlined in the Draft Vision and Goals statements. MPC members, town staff, and members of the consultant team from RKG Associates and JM Goldson assisted with the interactive stations, registration, and kid's activities. Jenn Goldson, of JM Goldson, presented three times during the forum to describe the project status, design, and purpose of the interactive stations, and hold question and answer time.

Participants were invited to explore a series of stations dedicated to the draft overarching vision statement and statements for each of the four Core Themes that emerged through the summer engagement.

After the forum, the team released an online version to continue to gather feedback from those who could not attend the in-person forum. The results of the online forum are integrated into this summary.

**Questions to Clarify Divergent Opinions:** Each interactive station included space for participant engagement through a Likert Scale activity and a board asking for participants' overall thoughts. The Likert Scales asked participants targeted questions to clarify divergent opinions provided during the summer engagement.

#### Welcome to the 2nd Community Forum for the Medway Master Plan! We're glad you're here.

##### STEP 1:

Register with one of the Master Plan Committee members. You'll get a name tag and be entered into the raffle to win one of three grand prizes!

##### STEP 2:

Take a Forum Passbook. This will be your guide to the event.

##### STEP 3:

Visit each station in any order! Talk to members of the project team, participate in activities, and see what we've learned so far.

##### STEP 4:

Check out one of the presentations! The project consultant will present in the auditorium at:  
11:15am  
12:30pm  
1:45pm

##### STEP 5:

Step 5: Grab some food and hear some live music outside!

This aggregated summary documents which statements were mostly agreed on (green dots) and which were under some contention (yellow dots). There were no statements that most participants disagreed with.

**Metrics:** In total, 119 people participated in the community forum: 58 participants in person and 61 online. Every participant in the in-person forum indicated they are currently a resident of Medway. The majority were aged 35 to 64, followed by about 15 participants over age 65 and four participants aged 18 to 34. The vast majority are homeowners in Medway, with only three renter participants. Slightly more than half of the participants had children under age 18 living with them.



Participants in the online forum were mostly aged 35 to 64 as well. All were Medway residents, and all but two were homeowners rather than renters. About 60 percent of online participants had children under age 18 living with them.

**Outreach Efforts:** The project team and Master Plan Committee conducted extensive outreach for the in-person forum through various social media channels, physical advertising including flyer distribution, a radio interview, and newspaper coverage. Using social media channels and distribution of flyers at events, the project team distributed the link for the online forum for those who could not attend the in-person forum.

## Key Findings:

- A divide is evident between those who would like Medway to promote a greater diversity of housing options and expanded business types and those who wish to minimize such change, although the majority of responses in the forum were still in favor of creating more diverse housing types.
- Most participants viewed conservation and preservation of natural areas as a priority for the community.
- Participants see the promotion of arts and culture in the town through the creation of a community center and more support for the arts as beneficial to the community. However, those who participated in the online forum had more mixed feelings about the necessity of a community center in Medway.
- Expanding electric vehicle infrastructure and other clean fuel options was another point of minor contention among participants, some of whom were skeptical that this would be beneficial step in the next decade. Although there was more dissent on this issue than others, the majority of responses on the online and in-person forum were still in favor of electric vehicles.

Analyzing the results of the in-person and online forum found that both sets of participants shared many similar viewpoints on the information presented. Aside from the small difference regarding the

desire for a community center, online commenters were also slightly more hesitant on the implementation of electric vehicle infrastructure.

### Draft Overarching Vision

One station at the community forum was focused on the draft overarching vision statement:

## OVERARCHING VISION

In 2032, Medway continues to be a family-oriented small town with active locally owned farms, cows grazing along Route 109, a deep and celebrated history from Native American roots through to the 21st century, and many families that are proud to include multiple generations of Medway residents.



### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

**Write or draw your responses on the butcher paper at this station!**

*Tell us what you think of this draft overall vision for the future of Medway. Does it align with your vision for the future of the community? What do you like about it? What would you want to change about it?*

### Overarching Vision for Medway 2032

In 2032, Medway continues to be a family-oriented small town with active locally owned farms, cows grazing along Route 109, a deep and celebrated history from Native American roots through to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and many families that are proud to include multiple generations of Medway residents.

Medway ...

- Is a peaceful, friendly, close-knit community whose residents take care of each other and welcome and embrace new residents of all ages, identities, and backgrounds
- Protects natural resources to support clean and plentiful drinking water, local food production, agricultural heritage, scenic beauty, passive recreation, and promote carbon absorption
- Supports a vibrant town center and strategic, sustainable residential, commercial, and industrial growth to promote local jobs and enhance local economic vitality
- Provides strong, modernized public schools and facilities including high quality athletic fields, interconnected trail system, as well as a well-resourced senior center, community center for all ages, and library and makerspace
- Is well-run with professional, transparent, and fiscally responsible leadership that excels at delivering public services as well as maintaining and expanding infrastructure and assets

At the station, participants responded to a series of prompts to provide feedback on the draft vision, shown above: Does it align with their vision for the future of the community? What do they like about it? What would they change about it?

Most participants agreed with the draft overall vision statement and said it aligns with what they want to see in the town. Participants mentioned the following elements in their positive comments:

- Protecting natural resources
- Honoring the agricultural past and present
- Family-oriented small town
- Creating a vibrant town center
- Maintaining rural character

Some had suggestions for improving the vision, including the following:

- Include fostering biodiversity in natural areas
- Fiscal responsibility should be more prominent
- The overall vision should be more aligned with the vitality conveyed in the supporting statements
- More strong language about sustainability
- More discussion of public transportation and connectivity to Boston
- Bring more attention to and highlight the arts in the community
- Include limits on large developments that would urbanize the town
- More emphasis on conservation
- Need more specifics on sidewalks and connectivity



## Core Theme Activities

For each of the four core themes that came out of the summer engagement feedback, the project team created a station staffed by a member of the consultant team or Master Plan Committee. Each station included an information board describing key points from the summer engagement responses and a summary of relevant findings from the Existing Conditions report; a board with the draft visions and goals associated with the theme; and a Likert scale activity for participants to weigh in on several questions related to the theme that had divergent opinions during the summer engagement. There was space provided for participants to leave general comments as well regarding the draft vision and goals statements. A complete inventory of the boards can be found in the Appendix.

The online forum reflected this activity by asking the same questions regarding each core theme in a survey form.

### Core Theme #1: Responsible and Sustainable Growth

*Promote responsible, sustainable growth that reinforces the small-town feel, minimizes residential tax burden, welcomes a diverse population, and is supported by strategic infrastructure and service investments and high-quality schools.*

#### CORE THEME #1:

### RESPONSIBLE & SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

*Promote responsible, sustainable growth that reinforces the small-town feel, minimizes residential tax burden, welcomes a diverse population, and is supported by strategic infrastructure and service investments and high-quality schools.*

#### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

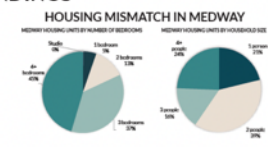
Through the community engagement process, community members made it clear that Medway's rural, small-town appeal is something that makes the town special. Many residents also remarked on Medway's potential to become an even more welcoming, diverse community by embracing responsible growth.

While the need for expansion of infrastructure capacity and natural resources protection came up in the discussion of growth, many saw opportunities for responsible and sustainable growth while maintaining Medway's small-town draw.

#### EXISTING CONDITIONS FINDINGS

##### HOUSING

Diversifying the housing stock with an increase in rental units, multi-family dwellings, and smaller units is important to meet the needs of current residents of the community and to make the town more welcoming and inclusive to all. Medway's population is also aging, indicating a need for an increase in smaller and more affordable units.



##### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Town faces daytime population drain resulting from net negative commuter flows – approximately 3,600 more people leave Medway for work than come to town for work. Increasing the number of jobs in Medway would help support commercial uses and amenities that serve residents, as well, while diversifying a tax base that relies overwhelmingly on single-family residences.

##### PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

Limitations of the Town's public water and wastewater systems are becoming a more urgent issue due to population growth and seasonal drought. Medway is approaching the limit of its allocated wastewater capacity at the Charles River Pollution Control District treatment facility. In addition, potable water demand may exceed supply if any Town wells need to be taken offline temporarily.

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**VISION FOR . . . Responsible and Sustainable Growth**

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In 2032, Medway has a thriving, attractive, walkable town center on Route 109; strong local businesses and employment opportunities; multigenerational, affordable, accessible, and smaller housing options; attractive public art; and well-preserved historic buildings.

Over the preceding decade, the community has made strategic public infrastructure and service investments to support responsible, sustainable growth that minimizes the residential tax burden and maximizes protection and health of the community's living infrastructure including the Charles River and its tributaries, the Great Black Swamp, groundwater resources, forested areas, native plants, and habitat areas.

Oak Grove supports a cluster of established companies and entrepreneurs in addition new residential redevelopment, which has created new jobs as well as a prominent western gateway for Medway. Additional redevelopment plans are pending or underway as the town realizes its vision for this important area, increasing local jobs, non-residential tax base, and residential options.

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**GOALS FOR . . . Responsible and Sustainable Growth**

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1. Expand wastewater treatment capacity to accommodate projected additional wastewater demand of 165,000 gallons per day.
2. Protect drinking water quality and ensure full capacity of groundwater wells including water conservation and treatment.
3. Catalyze redevelopment of key properties on Route 109 to create a traditional, walkable town center with public facility investments, public/private partnerships, creation of cohesive visual district branding, coordinated marketing and promotion, and a net increase to the local tax base.
4. Promote new development in the Oak Grove Area to realize the vision of the 2017 Urban Renewal Plan with a diverse mix of uses, including business, industry, open space, and housing and generate sustainable employment opportunities, provide opportunities for economic development, and deliver a net increase to the local tax base.
5. Actively leverage financial, technical, and promotional support for the continued success of existing and new local businesses throughout Medway.
6. Foster smaller, accessible, and affordable housing options in strategic and sustainable locations that enable residents to thrive in the community including to support the needs of an aging population, young adults, special needs, and a socioeconomically diverse population.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

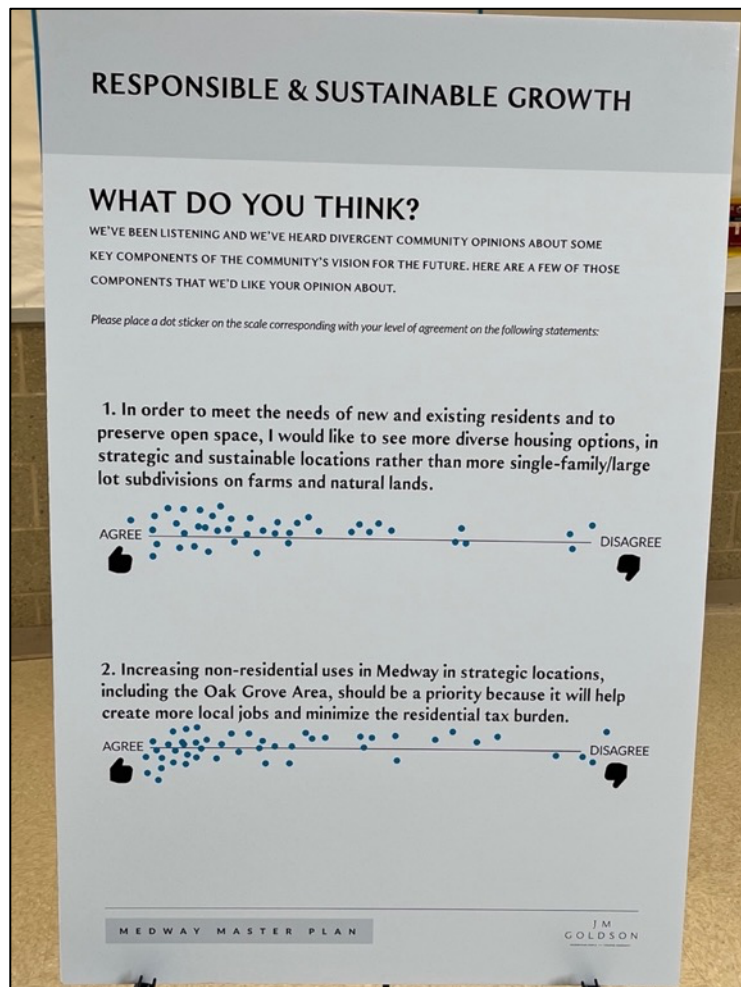
WE'VE BEEN LISTENING AND WE'VE HEARD DIVERGENT COMMUNITY OPINIONS ABOUT SOME KEY COMPONENTS OF THE COMMUNITY'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE. HERE ARE A FEW OF THOSE COMPONENTS THAT WE'D LIKE YOUR OPINION ABOUT.

*Please place a dot sticker on the scale corresponding with your level of agreement on the following statements:*

- 1. In order to meet the needs of new and existing residents and to preserve open space, I would like to see more diverse housing options, in strategic and sustainable locations rather than more single-family/large lot subdivisions on farms and natural lands.
- 2. Increasing non-residential uses in Medway in strategic locations, including the Oak Grove Area, should be a priority because it will help create more local jobs and minimize the residential tax burden.

Most people at the forum agreed that diverse housing options are necessary in Medway; however, approximately six participants marked that they mostly disagreed with this statement. More respondents disagreed with the second statement regarding increasing non-residential uses in Medway, although the majority were still in agreement.

The online results also showed high numbers of participants agreeing with each statement. About 50 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that diverse housing options are necessary, 20 percent were neutral, and 30 percent disagreed or strongly disagreed. On the second option, the majority (75 percent) of online responses were in favor of increasing non-residential uses in Medway.



Comments on this theme showed varied viewpoints. While some people are in support of multi-family housing development, others are wary of increased development, especially in Oak Grove. Some suggested focusing on creating a downtown by redeveloping the 109 plaza or other already developed areas instead. Several commenters suggested the development of smaller houses for families, or elderly housing. A few commenters who are against increased development noted the importance of open space preservation in the town. Online respondents had similar suggestions and concerns.

**Core Theme #2:**  
**Conservation, Resiliency,**  
**and Stewardship**  
*Ensure heritage protection,*  
*natural resource*  
*conservation and*  
*regeneration, and renewable*  
*energy for a sustainable and*  
*resilient town and region.*

#### CORE THEME #2:

## CONSERVATION, RESILIENCY, & STEWARDSHIP

*Ensure heritage protection, natural resource conservation and regeneration, and renewable energy for a sustainable and resilient town and region.*

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

Medway residents made it clear in many of the engagement activities this summer that the protection of Medway's heritage and resources is very important. Medway is a community that values the natural world and open space protection and seeks to maintain its beautiful natural resources. Along with an abundance of natural resources, Medway's long history is evident in the multitude of historic

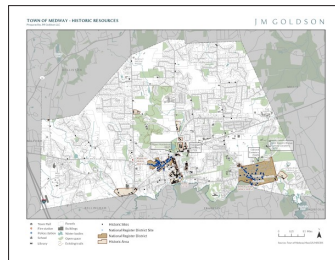
buildings and places in the town, which residents would like to see protected. While protection of existing resources is important to community members, many looked towards the future as well. Participants want to see Medway move in the path of resiliency to prepare for a changing climate and embrace a sustainable future.

### EXISTING CONDITIONS FINDINGS

*"The historic neighborhood nodes are home to a variety of civic uses such as town hall, the police department, the fire department, parks, and houses of worship. However, a lack of density resulting in part from demolition of older structures and their replacement with parking, and in-town competition from shopping plazas have limited commercial development in these areas."*

#### HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Medway has the potential to preserve and celebrate its history and culture while also ensuring wise stewardship of the town's resources and reducing negative impacts on the environment. Historic preservation and sustainability are very compatible as the preservation and reuse of historic buildings reduces resource and material consumption, puts less waste in landfills, and consumes less energy than demolishing buildings and constructing new ones. Medway has a wealth of historic resources but there are no Local Historic Districts and minimal other protections, leaving the community's irreplaceable historic resources at risk.



*"Planning for agriculture is important because of its value to food systems, local economies, the environment, and quality of life, and also to help communities become more resilient and able to adapt to market forces and climate change."*

#### NATURAL RESOURCES

Medway's landscape offers a wide range of natural resources, including fertile soils that support local food production, the trees and forested areas that help cool and clean the air while capturing carbon, and water resources that supply homes and businesses, as well as providing habitat and scenic views. The Town continues to make coordinated efforts to conserve and sustain these resources; however, pressure from development and population growth, and the uncertainty associated with climate change, will require continued vigilance. Medway has made significant progress in land conservation and trail development in the Chicken Brook corridor. For the health of the community's open spaces, all species in Medway, and the community, further connections and expansion of this network would provide significant benefits.

**VISION FOR ... Conservation, Resiliency, and Stewardship**

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In 2032, the community is regarded as a regional conservation leader due to its commitment and initiatives to ensure heritage protection, natural resource conservation, reforestation, and regeneration, and renewable energy for a sustainable and resilient town and region. Medway's natural resource conservation has not only increased protected open space and tree coverage, but also has reduced the impacts on essential natural systems caused by human activity, such as wastewater and solid waste, energy consumption and fossil fuels, and changes in land use that reduce natural ground cover and increase impervious surfaces.

Medway's commitment to supporting locally grown food and regenerative, water smart farming practices ensures the availability of healthy local food options and viable farming businesses as well as pulling excess carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and benefiting local water quality and quantity.

Town assets are well-maintained including Choate Park, the Community Farm, Idylbrook Fields, the Thayer House, athletic fields, playgrounds, and the town's extensive, interconnected trail system along the Chicken Brook corridor.

**GOALS FOR ... Conservation, Resiliency, and Stewardship**



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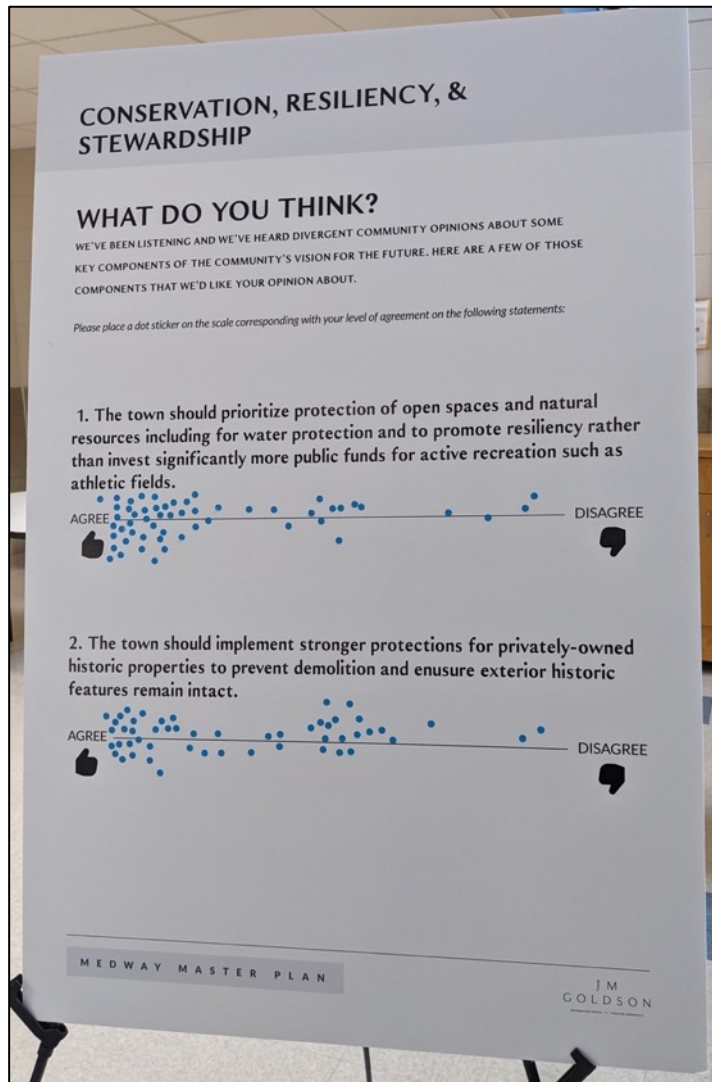
1. Actively work to achieve 40% emissions reductions below the FY2009 baseline by 2030 in alignment with the state's Act Creating a Next-Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy.
2. Permanently protect tree canopy and at least 30% of open space land prioritized for three purposes:
  - a. carbon sequestration to remove carbon from the atmosphere
  - b. biodiversity conservation to ensure long-term persistence of rare and other native species and their habitats
  - c. prime farmland to enable local food production through regenerative water smart farming practices
3. Celebrate and honor local heritage by increasing local awareness and protecting historic resources including buildings, cemeteries, landscapes, archeological resources, and other irreplaceable resources.
4. Reduce impacts on essential natural systems caused by human activity including through water conservation, eco-friendly landscaping and waste disposal, nature-based stormwater solutions, electric vehicle infrastructure, and use of renewable energy sources.
5. Ensure ongoing stewardship and improve accessibility for public assets including parks, playgrounds, trails, athletic fields, as well as public facilities including town hall, police, fire, DPW, Thayer House Ide House, and other town-owned assets.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

WE'VE BEEN LISTENING AND WE'VE HEARD DIVERGENT COMMUNITY OPINIONS ABOUT SOME KEY COMPONENTS OF THE COMMUNITY'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE. HERE ARE A FEW OF THOSE COMPONENTS THAT WE'D LIKE YOUR OPINION ABOUT.

Please place a dot sticker on the scale corresponding with your level of agreement on the following statements:

-  1. The town should prioritize protection of open spaces and natural resources including for water protection and to promote resiliency, rather than invest significantly more public funds for active recreation such as athletic fields.
-  2. The town should implement stronger protections for privately-owned historic properties to prevent demolition and ensure exterior historic features remain intact.



Many participants strongly agreed that the town should prioritize protection of open space and natural resources, although about four participants appeared to disagree and others remained neutral. Responses were slightly more spread out on the second question, which asked whether the town should implement stronger protections for privately owned historic properties. The number of people who agree with this idea and the number that are neutral are about equal.

Online participants also strongly agreed that the town should prioritize the protection of open spaces and natural resources and implement stronger protections for historic properties, although there were more “neutral” responses on the latter statement.

When asked for thoughts and suggestions, participants supported the preservation of natural areas, including open space and agricultural land, and emphasized their support of the trail system. A couple comments mentioned support for historic preservation, but within moderation. Online commenters emphasized the need for a balance in between protecting open

space and keeping athletic fields in use, as well as offered ideas about historic preservation options. There were conflicting opinions in the comments about protections for private historic buildings, although several comments suggested increasing resources for private homeowners to preserve their homes.

*Core Theme #3: A Caring, Close-Knit Community  
Foster caring community connections supported by accessible services, vibrant local businesses, and cultural and recreation opportunities for a healthy, close-knit community.*

#### CORE THEME #3:

### A CARING, CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITY

*Foster caring community connections supported by accessible services, vibrant local businesses, and cultural and recreation opportunities for a healthy, close-knit community.*

#### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

Participants in the community engagement events see Medway as a caring, tight-knit community. The town has several cultural and recreation resources that offer opportunities for community members to connect with one another and

participate in public life, but many saw opportunities for even more resources, such as increasing the number of local businesses, offering activities for people of all ages, and increasing accessible services for those who need them.

#### EXISTING CONDITIONS FINDINGS



##### CULTURAL RESOURCES

Medway has several cultural resources, including a well-loved community library with a makerspace, town-wide events, and many people dedicated to the arts. However, with a lack of event space and dedicated centers for arts and culture, access to the arts can be limited. Supporting the arts in a town like Medway is not only beneficial for the artists themselves, but it also allows the town to become more unique and desirable, leading to a thriving community culturally.

##### SCHOOL FACILITIES

While schools are not currently facing capacity challenges, the Town and School Department did have facility assessments and plans completed for each of the public buildings discussed in this chapter, including the four school buildings. The school facility assessments provided a 20-year capital plan with an estimated \$60 million in capital needs. As this amount is likely too high for the Town to fund, the School Department and Facilities Manager are carefully programming capital investments over time to ensure buildings continue operating safely and efficiently with minimal disruptions to school activities.

##### COUNCIL ON AGING & SENIOR CENTER

The Senior Center offers many programs and services for Medway's older residents and serves as a meeting place, wellness check, and opportunity for socialization particularly for those seniors who may live alone or have mobility challenges. In general, the Senior Center offers programs in four broader areas which include: health, events, meals, and transportation/trips. As Medway's senior population continues to grow from both aging in place and new age-restricted residential development, additional pressure will be placed on both the Senior Center facility and the programs offered. This is particularly true for exercise space, outdoor space, and multi-purpose spaces where seniors of various ages and abilities can take part in a variety of activities.

##### MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Medway and Franklin are jointly participating in an innovative program whereby both towns share a mental health clinician who can accompany police to calls related to mental health issues. In 2020, the clinician responded to 106 incidents and can evaluate a person or persons on scene to determine if they are a threat to themselves or others. This program has reduced the number of people sent to the hospital for evaluations as the clinician can do those on scene compared to officers who would be more likely to transfer the person to the hospital for an evaluation. The Police Department estimates each evaluation and hospital visit can cost upwards of \$4,000 in insurance and hospital costs. The Town is now discussing an expansion of the clinician program to full-time.

##### RECREATION

Medway has made significant investments to increase the capacity and diversity of athletic facilities. The numerous sports leagues and other organized outdoor activities require extensive coordination by Town staff and volunteers. Ongoing maintenance and management of these facilities will require dedicated resources. The Town has also identified the need for improvements at secondary ball fields and playground areas, including the VFW softball field and Winthrop Street Playground.

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**VISION FOR . . . A Caring Close-Knit Community**

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In 2032, Medway fosters caring connections supported by accessible services; strong and inclusive schools; and arts, cultural, and recreation opportunities for all ages for a healthy, interconnected community.

Residents of Medway, regardless of income, age, identity, and ability, support the community as volunteers, actively participate in local decisions including at Town Meeting, and enjoy the various community events, festivals, and activities sponsored by the Town, schools, and local organizations.

Medway has varied recreation, creative arts, and cultural options where teens and young adults engage with each other as well as programming and services for older adults and intergenerational participants that fosters a socially-connected community with strong support systems.

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**GOALS FOR . . . A Caring Close-Knit Community**

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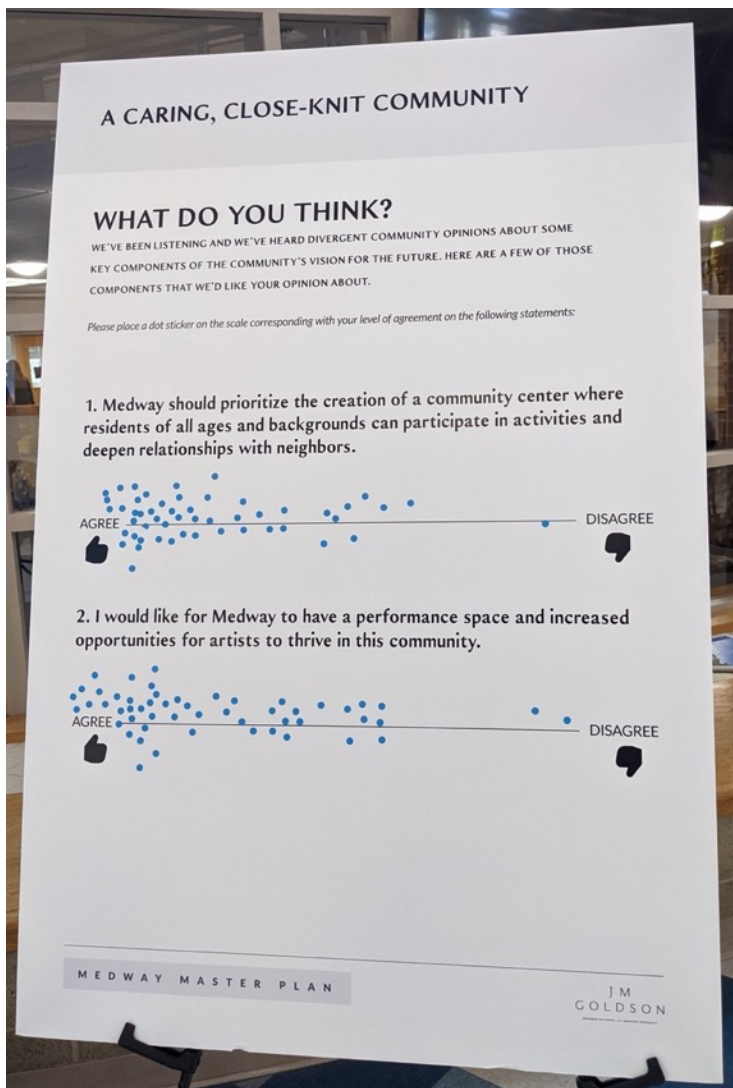
1. Nurture and reinforce a sense of belonging for all residents of Medway as a welcoming and inclusive community where people with diverse backgrounds and cultural identities feel safe, respected, and integrated, and are encouraged to participate in town government.
2. Invest to maintain and modernize school facilities and technological resources to reinforce and sustain Medway's high quality public education services to plan and prepare for changes to school enrollment.
3. Foster strong community connections and social participation by providing intergenerational gathering spaces and supporting coordinated educational, artistic, and fun cultural activities and events for all ages and abilities, including children, teens, young adults, and older adults.
4. Support affordable supportive community and health services, including social and emotional health services, as well as community volunteer opportunities to encourage civic engagement.
5. Meet community needs for inclusive indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities, continued learning, green spaces, and water recreation options that can be used and enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities.

# WHAT DO YOU THINK?

WE'VE BEEN LISTENING AND WE'VE HEARD DIVERGENT COMMUNITY OPINIONS ABOUT SOME KEY COMPONENTS OF THE COMMUNITY'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE. HERE ARE A FEW OF THOSE COMPONENTS THAT WE'D LIKE YOUR OPINION ABOUT.

*Please place a dot sticker on the scale corresponding with your level of agreement on the following statements:*

1. Medway should prioritize the creation of a community center where residents of all ages and backgrounds can participate in activities and deepen relationships with neighbors.
2. I would like for Medway to have a performance space and increased opportunities for artists to thrive in this community.



Most participants agreed with both statements related to this core theme: that Medway should create a community center and aim for the establishment of a performance space and more opportunities for artists. Several participants were neutral, and only a couple disagreed with each statement. On the online forum, participants also mostly agreed on both statements, although about five people disagreed on each.

Commenters on this theme had a few ideas when asked for their thoughts and suggestions. Several participants wrote that they are in support of more space for performing arts and artists. Others emphasized the need for community spaces and activities for teenagers, people without young children, and elderly residents. Online participants echoed this concern. Several online participants, however, remarked that they do not see the benefits of a new community center, and that current recreation opportunities and spaces are enough.

**Core Theme #4: Safe and Connected Mobility Options**

*Invest in safe, walkable local streets and mobility options for all ages and connections to local and regional employment and education opportunities.*

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**VISION FOR . . . Safe, Green, and Connected Mobility Options**


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In 2032, Medway's decades of investment in safe, walkable, bikeable local street networks have benefited the whole community – young and old alike. Improvements in connected bike facilities, accessible sidewalks and crosswalks, electric vehicle infrastructure, and access to a variety of local and regional mobility options for all ages connect Medway residents to employment and education opportunities as well as parks, grocery stores, restaurants, healthcare facilities, and gathering places that support a healthy, high-quality life.

New commercial and residential development in the Town Center area on Route 109 and Oak Grove area benefit from expanded local and regional shuttle services, safe walkable sidewalks and crosswalks, and bicycle lanes and storage facilities.

Nature-based green infrastructure and design improvements on Medway's major roadways have reduced the stormwater pollution to surface and groundwater sources and beautified streetscapes with vegetation to help capture and treat runoff. These improvements have also reduced urban heat island effects, reduced water treatment costs, and helped to mitigate flooding.

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**GOALS FOR . . . Safe, Green, and Connected Mobility Options**


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1. Improve walking and biking safety, accessibility, and connections on arterial and connector streets throughout Medway for all ages and abilities by creating a connected network of sidewalks and bike lanes, as well as off-road trails or pathways providing people with safe and efficient access to schools, parks, commercial areas, and other key destinations.
2. Invest in traffic calming and safety improvements to high crash areas to improve overall road safety, particularly the intersections on Main Street/Route 109 at Holliston and Highland/Franklin Street.
3. Consider the needs of all residents when planning future transportation improvements with land use planning and regulatory changes that encourage nodal residential or commercial growth, such as shuttle services to support new development at Oak Grove and in the Central Business District.
4. Systematically reduce the impervious surface footprint of public streets and parking areas and use nature-based solutions to reduce stormwater runoff and protect surface and groundwater quality.
5. Increase availability of technology and infrastructure to support electric vehicle and bicycle use, including charging stations and bicycle storage.
6. Expand local and regional public transportation service, such as Dial-a-Ride and shuttle service, to maximize non-auto travel for residents including commuters and older residents to get to MBTA commuter rail stations, grocery stores, medical appointments, and the like.

## CORE THEME #4:

## SAFE AND CONNECTED MOBILITY OPTIONS

*Invest in safe, walkable local streets and mobility options for all ages and connections to local and regional employment and education opportunities.*

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

Community members often described Medway as a very safe, family-oriented town. However, many did not feel that level of safety for themselves, their children, and other loved ones when it came to walkability in town. The desire for more sidewalks and safer street crossings was one mentioned in almost every engagement activity. The

concern for safety extends to bicyclists as well, who have limited infrastructure to cycle safely in town. Along with this need, many residents identified their wish to be more easily connected to surrounding towns and metropolitan areas through public transportation opportunities.

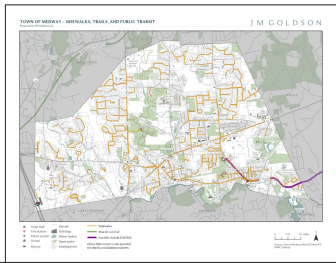
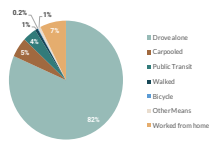
## EXISTING CONDITIONS FINDINGS

"Medway, while not directly served by the MBTA, has found ways over the last ten years to invest in public transit by engaging CATRA and the local Senior Center to develop creative ways to help people get around. This has resulted (pre-pandemic) in high ridership on both the Dial-a-Ride service and the Norfolk T Shuttle, showing strong demand for alternatives to driving alone."

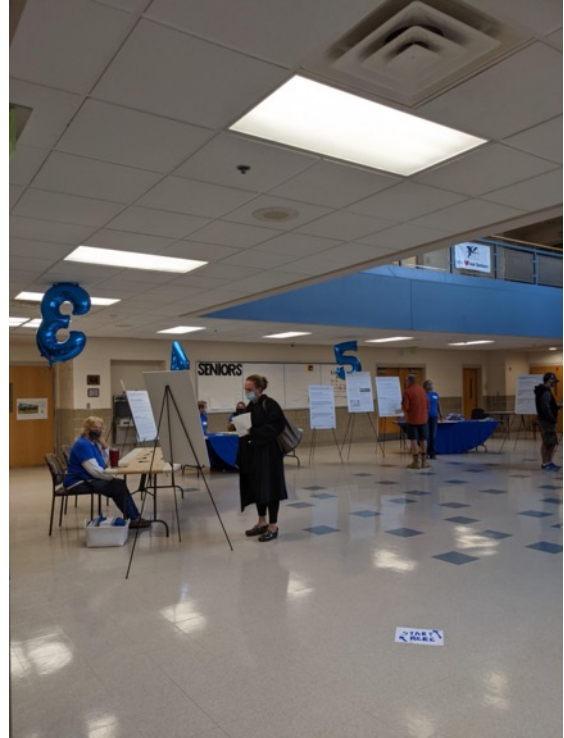
## TRANSPORTATION

Transportation issues in Medway center around the desires for improving connectivity and safety for all users around Medway, but with particular attention to pedestrians, transit users, and cyclists. Medway is a growing and changing community, and accounting for these demographic and physical changes is key to evolving the existing transportation system to serve all users. Changes to the transportation infrastructure and how it interfaces with land uses also provide opportunities to reduce energy consumption and emissions related to vehicle trips and create greater opportunities for the human interactions that build social capital and community resilience.

MODE OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK FOR MEDWAY RESIDENTS



MEDWAY MASTER PLAN

JMG  
GOLDSON

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

WE'VE BEEN LISTENING AND WE'VE HEARD DIVERGENT COMMUNITY OPINIONS ABOUT SOME KEY COMPONENTS OF THE COMMUNITY'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE. HERE ARE A FEW OF THOSE COMPONENTS THAT WE'D LIKE YOUR OPINION ABOUT.

*Please place a dot sticker on the scale corresponding with your level of agreement on the following statements:*



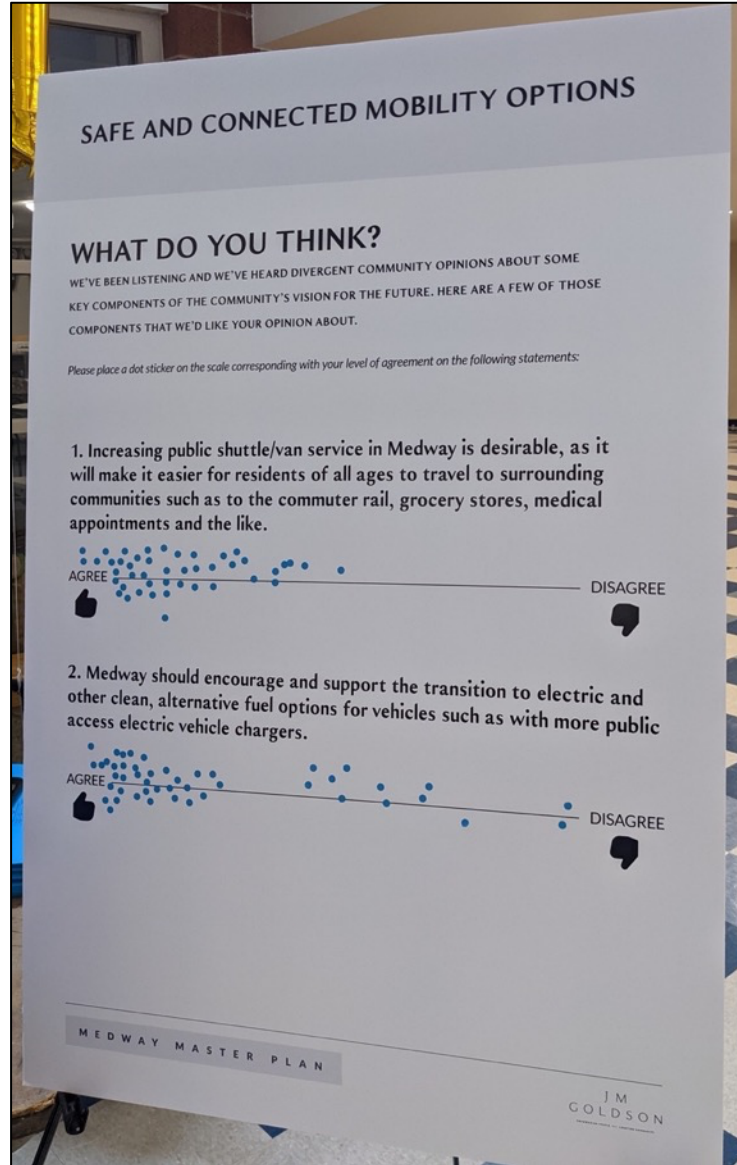
1. Increasing public shuttle/van service in Medway is desirable, as it will make it easier for residents of all ages to travel to surrounding communities such as to the commuter rail, grocery stores, medical appointments, and the like.



2. Medway should encourage and support the transition to electric and other clean, alternative fuel options for vehicles such as with more public access electric vehicle chargers.

Almost every participant agreed that increasing public shuttle/van service in Medway is desirable, with only a few participants remaining neutral. Most participants agreed that Medway should encourage and support the transition to electric and other alternative fuel options, although about nine participants were neutral and three disagreed. In the online forum, most people were neutral or agreed that increasing public transportation would be a good idea. Similar results appeared on the second statement, with only a few people disagreeing with each.

When asked to write their thoughts and suggestions, participants emphasized the need for more sidewalks and safe street crossings in town. A couple of responses called for bike safety measures, and others mentioned the need for traffic calming solutions. Lastly, a couple comments mentioned the need for bus transportation. On the online forum, participants echoed the concerns about a lack of sidewalks and bus service for seniors. There were several concerns about electric vehicle chargers from commenters who believe the town doesn't yet need this infrastructure, and others that encouraged bicycle infrastructure that is separate from vehicle infrastructure.



## **APPENDICES**

- I. Community Forum Boards
- II. In-Person Forum Summary
- III. Online Forum Summary

## APPENDIX I: COMMUNITY FORUM BOARDS

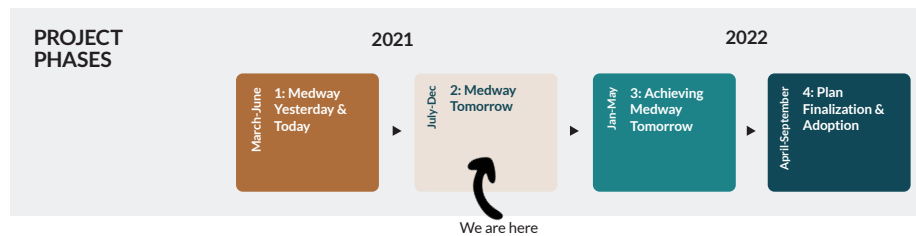
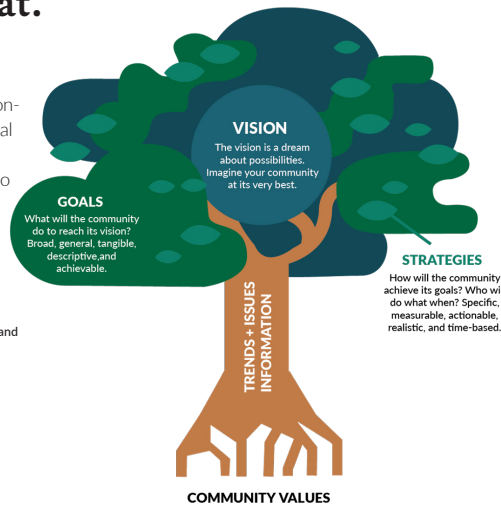
## MEDWAY MASTER PLAN

Can you envision the next decade in Medway?  
The Town of Medway is creating a  
Master Plan to do just that.

## WHAT IS A MASTER PLAN?

A Master Plan is a policy document to help local decision-makers. It is primarily focused on a community's physical evolution and is long-range and visionary. Creating a comprehensive Master Plan is a way for a community to respond to change over time.

A Master Plan has eight elements:



## WHAT TO EXPECT TODAY

The purpose of the forum is to reflect on what we've learned so far and think about your vision and goals for Medway's future.

Today's forum will include five activity stations. These stations will be interactive! Visit each one to give your feedback and ask the project team member(s) any questions.

The program will also include a presentation repeated three times (11:15am, 12:30pm, and 1:45pm) by the lead project consultant. Tune in to one of the presentations to hear about the master planning process, the results from the engagement, and the next steps.

MEDWAY MASTER PLAN

JMG  
GOLDSON

# Welcome to the 2nd Community Forum for the Medway Master Plan! We're glad you're here.

## STEP 1:

Register with one of the Master Plan Committee members. You'll get a name tag and be entered into the raffle to win one of three grand prizes!

## STEP 2:

Take a Forum Passbook. This will be your guide to the event.

## STEP 3:

Visit each station in any order! Talk to members of the project team, participate in activities, and see what we've learned so far.

## STEP 4:

Check out one of the presentations! The project consultant will present in the auditorium at:  
11:15am  
12:30pm  
1:45pm

## STEP 5:

Step 5: Grab some food and hear some live music outside!

---

*Throughout the event, we will be hosting Story Time for kids age 4 and older. Kids can also get special Master Plan-related temporary tattoos at the tattoo station!*

**CORE THEME #1:****RESPONSIBLE & SUSTAINABLE GROWTH**

*Promote responsible, sustainable growth that reinforces the small-town feel, minimizes residential tax burden, welcomes a diverse population, and is supported by strategic infrastructure and service investments and high-quality schools.*

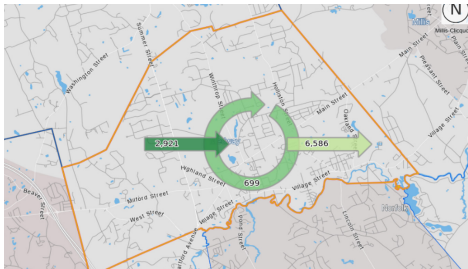
**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESULTS**

Through the community engagement process, community members made it clear that Medway's rural, small-town appeal is something that makes the town special. Many residents also remarked on Medway's potential to become an even more welcoming, diverse community by embracing responsible growth.

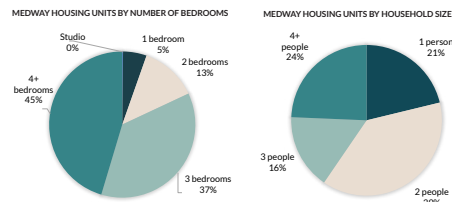
While the need for expansion of infrastructure capacity and natural resources protection came up in the discussion of growth, many saw opportunities for responsible and sustainable growth while maintaining Medway's small-town draw.

**EXISTING CONDITIONS FINDINGS****HOUSING**

Diversifying the housing stock with an increase in rental units, multi-family dwellings, and smaller units is important to meet the needs of current residents of the community and to make the town more welcoming and inclusive to all. Medway's population is also aging, indicating a need for an increase in smaller and more affordable units.

**PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS**

Limitations of the Town's public water and wastewater systems are becoming a more urgent issue due to population growth and seasonal drought. Medway is approaching the limit of its allocated wastewater capacity at the Charles River Pollution Control District treatment facility. In addition, potable water demand may exceed supply if any Town wells need to be taken offline temporarily.

**HOUSING MISMATCH IN MEDWAY**

"Over 11 percent of housing in Medway is listed on the Subsidized Housing Inventory, putting the town past the state's goal of 10 percent."

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The Town faces daytime population drain resulting from net negative commuter flows – approximately 3,600 more people leave Medway for work than come to town for work. Increasing the number of jobs in Medway would help support commercial uses and amenities that serve residents, as well, while diversifying a tax base that relies overwhelmingly on single-family residences.

## RESPONSIBLE & SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

### DRAFT FUTURE VISION FOR... RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

In 2032, Medway has a thriving, attractive, walkable town center on Route 109; strong local businesses and employment opportunities; multigenerational, affordable, accessible, and smaller housing options; attractive public art; and well-preserved historic buildings.

Over the preceding decade, the community has made strategic public infrastructure and service investments to support responsible, sustainable growth that minimizes the residential tax burden and maximizes protection and health of the community's living infrastructure including the Charles River and its tributaries, the Great Black Swamp, groundwater resources, forested areas, native plants, and habitat areas.

Oak Grove supports a cluster of established companies and entrepreneurs in addition new residential redevelopment, which has created new jobs as well as a strong western gateway for Medway. Additional redevelopment plans are pending or underway as the town realizes its vision for this important area, increasing local jobs, non-residential tax base, and residential options.

### GOALS FOR... RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

1. Expand wastewater treatment capacity to accommodate projected additional wastewater demand of 165,000 gallons per day.
2. Protect drinking water quality and ensure full capacity of groundwater wells including water conservation and treatment.
3. Catalyze redevelopment of key properties on Route 109 to create a traditional, walkable town center with public facility investments, public/private partnerships, creation of cohesive visual district branding, coordinated marketing and promotion, and a net increase to the local tax base.
4. Promote new development in the Oak Grove Area to realize the vision of the 2017 Urban Renewal Plan with a diverse mix of uses, including business, industry, open space, and housing and generate sustainable employment opportunities, provide opportunities for economic development, and deliver a net increase to the local tax base.
5. Actively leverage financial, technical, and promotional support for the continued success of existing and new local businesses throughout Medway.
6. Foster smaller, accessible, and affordable housing options in strategic and sustainable locations that enable residents to thrive in the community including to support the needs of an aging population, young adults, special needs, and a socioeconomically diverse population.

## RESPONSIBLE & SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

WE'VE BEEN LISTENING AND WE'VE HEARD DIVERGENT COMMUNITY OPINIONS ABOUT SOME KEY COMPONENTS OF THE COMMUNITY'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE. HERE ARE A FEW OF THOSE COMPONENTS THAT WE'D LIKE YOUR OPINION ABOUT.

*Please place a dot sticker on the scale corresponding with your level of agreement on the following statements:*

**1. In order to meet the needs of new and existing residents and to preserve open space, I would like to see more diverse housing options, in strategic and sustainable locations rather than more single-family/large lot subdivisions on farms and natural lands.**

AGREE \_\_\_\_\_ DISAGREE  
 

**2. Increasing non-residential uses in Medway in strategic locations, including the Oak Grove Area, should be a priority because it will help create more local jobs and minimize the residential tax burden.**

AGREE \_\_\_\_\_ DISAGREE  
 

**CORE THEME #2:****CONSERVATION, RESILIENCY, & STEWARDSHIP**

*Ensure heritage protection, natural resource conservation and regeneration, and renewable energy for a sustainable and resilient town and region.*

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESULTS**

Medway residents made it clear in many of the engagement activities this summer that the protection of Medway's heritage and resources is very important. Medway is a community that values the natural world and open space protection and seeks to maintain its beautiful natural resources. Along with an abundance of natural resources, Medway's long history is evident in the multitude of historic

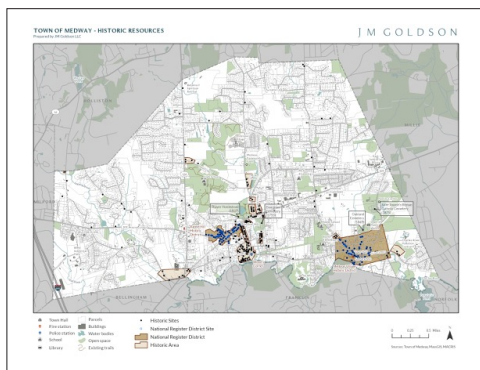
buildings and places in the town, which residents would like to see protected. While protection of existing resources is important to community members, many looked towards the future as well. Participants want to see Medway move in the path of resiliency to prepare for a changing climate and embrace a sustainable future.

**EXISTING CONDITIONS FINDINGS**

"The historic neighborhood nodes are home to a variety of civic uses such as town hall, the police department, the fire department, parks, and houses of worship. However, a lack of density resulting in part from demolition of older structures and their replacement with parking, and in-town competition from shopping plazas have limited commercial development in these areas."

**HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

Medway has the potential to preserve and celebrate its history and culture while also ensuring wise stewardship of the town's resources and reducing negative impacts on the environment. Historic preservation and sustainability are very compatible as the preservation and reuse of historic buildings reduces resource and material consumption, puts less waste in landfills, and consumes less energy than demolishing buildings and constructing new ones. Medway has a wealth of historic resources but there are no Local Historic Districts and minimal other protections, leaving the community's irreplaceable historic resources at risk.



Chicken Pond Dam © Tim Riss Photo

"Planning for agriculture is important because of its value to food systems, local economies, the environment, and quality of life, and also to help communities become more resilient and able to adapt to market forces and climate change."

**NATURAL RESOURCES**

Medway's landscape offers a wide range of natural resources, including fertile soils that support local food production, the trees and forested areas that help cool and clean the air while capturing carbon, and water resources that supply homes and businesses, as well as providing habitat and scenic views. The Town continues to make coordinated efforts to conserve and sustain these resources; however, pressure from development and population growth, and the uncertainty associated with climate change, will require continued vigilance. Medway has made significant progress in land conservation and trail development in the Chicken Brook corridor. For the health of the community's open spaces, all species in Medway, and the community, further connections and expansion of this network would provide significant benefits.

## CONSERVATION, RESILIENCY, & STEWARDSHIP

### DRAFT FUTURE VISION FOR... Conservation, Resiliency, and Stewardship

In 2032, the community is regarded as a regional conservation leader due to its commitment and initiatives to ensure heritage protection, natural resource conservation, reforestation, and regeneration, and renewable energy for a sustainable and resilient town and region. Medway's natural resource conservation has not only increased protected open space and tree coverage, but also has reduced the impacts on essential natural systems caused by human activity, such as wastewater and solid waste, energy consumption and fossil fuels, and changes in land use that reduce natural ground cover and increase impervious surfaces.

Medway's commitment to supporting locally grown food and regenerative, water smart farming practices ensures the availability of healthy local food options and viable farming businesses as well as pulling excess carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and benefiting local water quality and quantity.

Town assets are well-maintained including Choate Park, the Community Farm, Idylbrook Fields, the Thayer House, athletic fields, playgrounds, and the town's extensive, interconnected trail system along the Chicken Brook corridor.

### GOALS FOR... Conservation, Resiliency, and Stewardship

1. Actively work to achieve 40% emissions reductions below the FY2009 baseline by 2030 in alignment with the state's Act Creating a Next-Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy.
2. Permanently protect tree canopy and at least 30% of open space land prioritized for three purposes:
  - a. carbon sequestration to remove carbon from the atmosphere
  - b. biodiversity conservation to ensure long-term persistence of rare and other native species and their habitats
  - c. prime farmland to enable local food production through regenerative water smart farming practices
3. Celebrate and honor local heritage by increasing local awareness and protecting historic resources including buildings, cemeteries, landscapes, archeological resources, and other irreplaceable resources.
4. Reduce impacts on essential natural systems caused by human activity including through water conservation, eco-friendly landscaping and waste disposal, nature-based stormwater solutions, electric vehicle infrastructure, and use of renewable energy sources.
5. Ensure ongoing stewardship and improve accessibility for public assets including parks, playgrounds, trails, athletic fields, as well as public facilities including town hall, police, fire, DPW, Thayer House Ide House, and other town-owned assets.

## CONSERVATION, RESILIENCY, & STEWARDSHIP

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

WE'VE BEEN LISTENING AND WE'VE HEARD DIVERGENT COMMUNITY OPINIONS ABOUT SOME KEY COMPONENTS OF THE COMMUNITY'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE. HERE ARE A FEW OF THOSE COMPONENTS THAT WE'D LIKE YOUR OPINION ABOUT.

*Please place a dot sticker on the scale corresponding with your level of agreement on the following statements:*

**1. The town should prioritize protection of open spaces and natural resources including for water protection and to promote resiliency rather than invest significantly more public funds for active recreation such as athletic fields.**

AGREE \_\_\_\_\_ DISAGREE



**2. The town should implement stronger protections for privately-owned historic properties to prevent demolition and ensure exterior historic features remain intact.**

AGREE \_\_\_\_\_ DISAGREE



**CORE THEME #3:****A CARING, CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITY**

*Foster caring community connections supported by accessible services, vibrant local businesses, and cultural and recreation opportunities for a healthy, close-knit community.*

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESULTS**

Participants in the community engagement events see Medway as a caring, tight-knit community. The town has several cultural and recreation resources that offer opportunities for community members to connect with one another and

participate in public life, but many saw opportunities for even more resources, such as increasing the number of local businesses, offering activities for people of all ages, and increasing accessible services for those who need them.

**EXISTING CONDITIONS FINDINGS**

Medway Public Library © Tim Biss Photo

**CULTURAL RESOURCES**

Medway has several cultural resources, including a well-loved community library with a makerspace, town-wide events, and many people dedicated to the arts. However, with a lack of event space and dedicated centers for arts and culture, access to the arts can be limited. Supporting the arts in a town like Medway is not only beneficial for the artists themselves, but it also allows the town to become more unique and desirable, leading to a thriving community culturally.

**SCHOOL FACILITIES**

While schools are not currently facing capacity challenges, the Town and School Department did have facility assessments and plans completed for each of the public buildings discussed in this chapter, including the four school buildings. The school facility assessments provided a 20-year capital plan with an estimated \$60 million in capital needs. As this amount is likely too high for the Town to fund, the School Department and Facilities Manager are carefully programming capital investments over time to ensure buildings continue operating safely and efficiently with minimal disruptions to school activities.

**COUNCIL ON AGING & SENIOR CENTER**

The Senior Center offers many programs and services for Medway's older residents and serves as a meeting place, wellness check, and opportunity for socialization particularly for those seniors who may live alone or have mobility challenges. In general, the Senior Center offers programs in four broader areas which include: health, events, meals, and transportation/trips. As Medway's senior population continues to grow from both aging in place and new age-restricted residential development, additional pressure will be placed on both the Senior Center facility and the programs offered. This is particularly true for exercise space, outdoor space, and multi-purpose spaces where seniors of various ages and abilities can take part in a variety of activities.

**MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

Medway and Franklin are jointly participating in an innovative program whereby both towns share a mental health clinician who can accompany police to calls related to mental health issues. In 2020, the clinician responded to 106 incidents and can evaluate a person or persons on scene to determine if they are a threat to themselves or others. This program has reduced the number of people sent to the hospital for evaluations as the clinician can do those on scene compared to officers who would be more likely to transfer the person to the hospital for an evaluation. The Police Department estimates each evaluation and hospital visit can cost upwards of \$4,000 in insurance and hospital costs. The Town is now discussing an expansion of the clinician program to full-time.

**RECREATION**

Medway has made significant investments to increase the capacity and diversity of athletic facilities. The numerous sports leagues and other organized outdoor activities require extensive coordination by Town staff and volunteers. Ongoing maintenance and management of these facilities will require dedicated resources. The Town has also identified the need for improvements at secondary ball fields and playground areas, including the VFW softball field and Winthrop Street Playground.

## A CARING, CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITY

### DRAFT FUTURE VISION FOR... A CARING CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITY

In 2032, Medway fosters caring connections supported by accessible services; strong and inclusive schools; and arts, cultural, and recreation opportunities for all ages for a healthy, interconnected community.

Residents of Medway, regardless of income, age, identity, and ability, support the community as volunteers, actively participate in local decisions including at Town Meeting, and enjoy the various community events, festivals, and activities sponsored by the Town, schools, and local organizations.

Medway has varied recreation, creative arts, and cultural options where teens and young adults engage with each other as well as programming and services for older adults and intergenerational participants that support a healthy, vibrant community.

---

### GOALS FOR... A CARING CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITY

1. Nurture and reinforce a sense of belonging for all residents of Medway as a welcoming and inclusive community where people with diverse backgrounds and cultural identities feel safe, respected, and integrated and are encouraged to participate in town government.
2. Invest to modernize school facilities and technological resources to reinforce and sustain Medway's high quality public education services through ebbs and flows in enrollment.
3. Foster strong community connections and social participation by providing intergenerational gathering spaces and supporting coordinated educational, artistic, and fun cultural activities and events for all ages and abilities, including children, teens, young adults, and older adults.
4. Support affordable supportive community and health services, including social and emotional health services, as well as community volunteer opportunities to encourage civic engagement.
5. Meet community needs for inclusive indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities, green spaces, and water recreation options that can be used and enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities.

## A CARING, CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITY

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

WE'VE BEEN LISTENING AND WE'VE HEARD DIVERGENT COMMUNITY OPINIONS ABOUT SOME KEY COMPONENTS OF THE COMMUNITY'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE. HERE ARE A FEW OF THOSE COMPONENTS THAT WE'D LIKE YOUR OPINION ABOUT.

*Please place a dot sticker on the scale corresponding with your level of agreement on the following statements:*

**1. Medway should prioritize the creation of a community center where residents of all ages and backgrounds can participate in activities and deepen relationships with neighbors.**

AGREE \_\_\_\_\_ DISAGREE

**2. I would like for Medway to have a performance space and increased opportunities for artists to thrive in this community.**

AGREE \_\_\_\_\_ DISAGREE

**CORE THEME #4:****SAFE AND CONNECTED MOBILITY OPTIONS**

*Invest in safe, walkable local streets and mobility options for all ages and connections to local and regional employment and education opportunities.*

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESULTS**

Community members often described Medway as a very safe, family-oriented town. However, many did not feel that level of safety for themselves, their children, and other loved ones when it came to walkability in town. The desire for more sidewalks and safer street crossings was one mentioned in almost every engagement activity. The

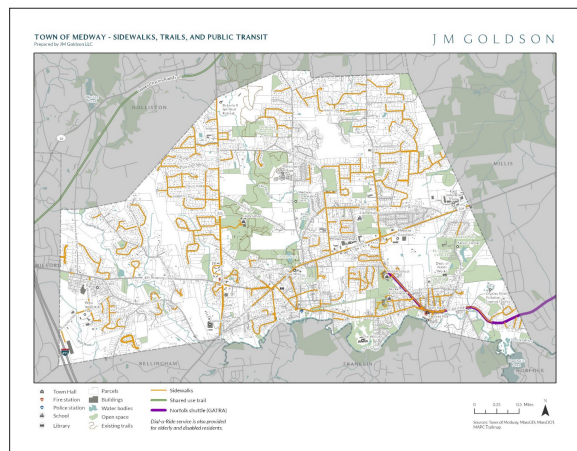
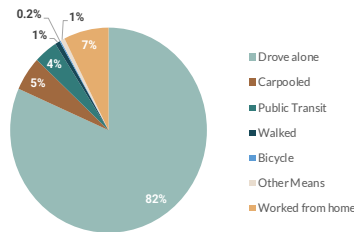
concern for safety extends to bicyclists as well, who have limited infrastructure to cycle safely in town. Along with this need, many residents identified their wish to be more easily connected to surrounding towns and metropolitan areas through public transportation opportunities.

**EXISTING CONDITIONS FINDINGS**

"Medway, while not directly served by the MBTA, has found ways over the last ten years to invest in public transit by engaging GATRA and the local Senior Center to develop creative ways to help people get around. This has resulted (pre-pandemic) in high ridership on both the Dial-a-Ride service and the Norfolk T Shuttle, showing strong demand for alternatives to driving alone."

**TRANSPORTATION**

Transportation issues in Medway center around the desires for improving connectivity and safety for all users around Medway, but with particular attention to pedestrians, transit users, and cyclists. Medway is a growing and changing community, and accounting for these demographic and physical changes is key to evolving the existing transportation system to serve all users. Changes to the transportation infrastructure and how it interfaces with land uses also provide opportunities to reduce energy consumption and emissions related to vehicle trips and create greater opportunities for the human interactions that build social capital and community resilience.

**MODE OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK FOR MEDWAY RESIDENTS**

## SAFE AND CONNECTED MOBILITY OPTIONS

### DRAFT FUTURE VISION FOR... SAFE, GREEN, AND CONNECTED MOBILITY OPTIONS

In 2032, Medway's decades of investment in safe, walkable, bikeable local street networks have benefited the whole community – young and old alike. Improvements in connected bike lanes, accessible sidewalks and crosswalks, electric vehicle infrastructure, and access to a variety of local and regional mobility options for all ages connect Medway residents to employment and education opportunities as well as parks, businesses, grocery stores, restaurants, and gathering places that support a healthy, high-quality life.

New commercial and residential development in the Town Center area on Route 109 and Oak Grove area benefit from expanded local and regional shuttle services, safe walkable sidewalks and crosswalks, and bicycle lanes and storage facilities.

Nature-based green infrastructure and design improvements on Medway's major roadways have reduced the stormwater pollution to surface and groundwater and beautified streetscapes with vegetation to help capture and treat runoff. These improvements have also reduced urban heat island effects, reduced water treatment costs, and helped to mitigate flooding.

### GOALS FOR... SAFE, GREEN, AND CONNECTED MOBILITY OPTIONS

1. Improve walking and biking safety, accessibility, and connections on arterials and connector streets throughout Medway for all ages and abilities with interconnected sidewalks and bike lanes, as well as off-road trails or pathways to connect people safely to schools, parks, commercial areas, and other key destinations.
2. Invest in traffic calming and safety improvements to high crash areas to improve overall road safety, particularly the intersections on Main Street/Route 109 at Holliston and Highland/Franklin Street.
3. Integrate multi-modal transportation planning and future improvement projects with land use planning and regulatory changes that encourage nodal residential or commercial growth, such as shuttle services to support new development at Oak Grove and in the Central Business District.
4. Systematically reduce the impervious surface footprint of public streets and parking areas and use nature-based solutions to reduce stormwater runoff and protect surface and groundwater quality.
5. Increase availability of technology and infrastructure to support electric vehicle and bicycle use, including charging stations and bicycle storage.
6. Expand local and regional public transportation service, such as Dial-a-Ride and shuttle service, to maximize non-auto travel for residents including commuters and older residents to get to MBTA commuter rail stations, grocery stores, medical appointments, and the like.

## SAFE AND CONNECTED MOBILITY OPTIONS

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

WE'VE BEEN LISTENING AND WE'VE HEARD DIVERGENT COMMUNITY OPINIONS ABOUT SOME KEY COMPONENTS OF THE COMMUNITY'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE. HERE ARE A FEW OF THOSE COMPONENTS THAT WE'D LIKE YOUR OPINION ABOUT.

*Please place a dot sticker on the scale corresponding with your level of agreement on the following statements:*

**1. Increasing public shuttle/van service in Medway is desirable, as it will make it easier for residents of all ages to travel to surrounding communities such as to the commuter rail, grocery stores, medical appointments and the like.**

AGREE \_\_\_\_\_ DISAGREE  
 

**2. Medway should encourage and support the transition to electric and other clean, alternative fuel options for vehicles such as with more public access electric vehicle chargers.**

AGREE \_\_\_\_\_ DISAGREE  
 

## OVERALL VISION FOR MEDWAY 2032

### What is a vision?

*An aspirational view of what residents hope the community will be like in the future, at its very best. Before a meaningful plan can be created, the community needs to imagine the future it is aiming for. The vision statement then becomes the driving force behind the plan.*

## DRAFT FUTURE OVERALL VISION FOR MEDWAY

In 2032, Medway continues to be a family-oriented small town with active locally owned farms, cows grazing along Route 109, a deep and celebrated history from Native American roots through to the 21st century, and many families that are proud to include multiple generations of Medway residents.

### Medway...

- Is a peaceful, friendly, close-knit community whose residents take care of each other and welcome and embrace new residents of all ages, identities, and backgrounds
- Protects natural resources to support clean and plentiful drinking water, local food production, agricultural heritage, scenic beauty, passive recreation, and promote carbon absorption
- Supports a vibrant town center and strategic, sustainable residential, commercial, and industrial growth to promote local jobs and enhance local economic vitality
- Provides strong, modernized public schools and facilities including high quality athletic fields, interconnected trail system, as well as a well-resourced senior center, community center for all ages, and library and makerspace
- Is well-run with professional, transparent, and fiscally responsible leadership that excels at delivering public services as well as maintaining and expanding infrastructure and assets



Cows on Route 109, Medway © Tim Rice Photo

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

**Write or draw your responses on the butcher paper at this station!**

*Tell us what you think of this draft overall vision for the future of Medway. Does it align with your vision for the future of the community? What do you like about it? What would you want to change about it?*

*We're glad you came today! Please use the dot stickers to answer the following questions and give us a sense of who you are.*

### 1. WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO MEDWAY?

I live in Medway	I don't live in Medway, but I work here	I don't live in Medway, but I own property here.	Other
------------------	---	--	-------

### 2. HOW OLD ARE YOU?

Under 18	18-34	35-64	Over 65
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### 3. DO YOU RENT/OWN YOUR MEDWAY HOME?

Rent	Own	Other
------	-----	-------

### 4. DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN UNDER 18 LIVING IN MEDWAY?

Yes	No
-----	----

## THOUGHTS? SUGGESTIONS?

*Use the post-it notes to let us know what you think of the draft vision and goals at this station. What do you like about them? What would you want to see changed? Is anything missing that is important to you?*

## APPENDIX II: IN-PERSON FORUM SUMMARY

### MEDWAY MASTER PLAN

#### In-Person Community Forum Summary

*Prepared by JM Goldson LLC 11/8/2021*

##### Summary

The Medway Master Plan Committee (MPC) hosted the second community forum on Sunday, October 3, 2021, at the Medway High School, to provide the community with the chance to review and provide feedback on the Draft Vision and Goals statements. The consultant team developed these draft statements based on the summer's community engagement efforts and the Phase I Existing Conditions analysis. The community forum consisted of informational and interactive stations as well as a presentation. The forum was open house style, where community members could drop by at any time between 11am and 3pm.

The forum was an opportunity for the project team to share what they have learned through the summer engagement efforts and the Existing Conditions analysis and offered community members an opportunity to share their thoughts and opinions on the priorities outlined in the Draft Vision and Goals statements. MPC members, town staff, and members of the consultant team from RKG Associates and JM Goldson assisted with the interactive stations, registration, and kid's activities. Jenn Goldson, of JM Goldson, presented three times during the forum to describe the project status, design, and purpose of the interactive stations, and hold question and answer time.

Participants were invited to explore a series of stations dedicated to the draft overarching vision statement and statements for each of the four Core Themes that emerged through the summer engagement.

##### Key Findings:

- Participants did not always agree that increasing development in the town is a good idea. A divide is evident between those who would like to see more density and a diversity of housing and business types and those who prefer to maintain Medway's rural nature.
- Most participants viewed conservation and preservation of natural areas as a priority for the community.
- Participants see promoting arts and culture in the town through the creation of a community center and more support for the arts as beneficial to the community.
- The transition to electric vehicles was another point of minor contention among participants, some of whom were not convinced that this is a necessary step for the town to take.

**Questions to Clarify Divergent Opinions:** Each interactive station included space for participant engagement through a Likert Scale activity and a board asking for participants' overall thoughts. The Likert Scales asked participants targeted questions to clarify divergent opinions provided during the summer engagement.

**Metrics:** 58 people participated in the community forum. Every participant in the forum was a resident of Medway. The majority were aged 35 to 64, followed by about 15 participants over age 65 and four participants aged 18 to 34. The vast majority are homeowners in Medway, with only three

renter participants. Slightly more than half of the participants had children under age 18 living with them.

This aggregated summary documents which statements were mostly agreed on (green dots) and which were under some contention (yellow dots). There were no statements that most participants disagreed with.

## Draft Overarching Vision

One station at the community forum was focused on the draft overarching vision statement.

### Overarching Vision for Medway 2032

In 2032, Medway continues to be a family-oriented small town with active locally owned farms, cows grazing along Route 109, a deep and celebrated history from Native American roots through to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and many families that are proud to include multiple generations of Medway residents.

Medway . . .

- Is a peaceful, friendly, close-knit community whose residents take care of each other and welcome and embrace new residents of all ages, identities, and backgrounds
- Protects natural resources to support clean and plentiful drinking water, local food production, agricultural heritage, scenic beauty, passive recreation, and promote carbon absorption
- Supports a vibrant town center and strategic, sustainable residential, commercial, and industrial growth to promote local jobs and enhance local economic vitality
- Provides strong, modernized public schools and facilities including high quality athletic fields, interconnected trail system, as well as a well-resourced senior center, community center for all ages, and library and makerspace
- Is well-run with professional, transparent, and fiscally responsible leadership that excels at delivering public services as well as maintaining and expanding infrastructure and assets

At the station, participants responded to a series of prompts to provide feedback on the draft vision, shown above: Does it align with their vision for the future of the community? What do they like about it? What would they change about it?

Most participants agreed with the draft overall vision statement and said it aligns with what they want to see in the town. Participants mentioned the following elements in their positive comments:

- Family-oriented small town
- Preserving natural resources

- Maintaining rural character
- Establishing a vibrant town center

Some had suggestions for improving the vision, including the following:

- Bring more attention to and highlight the arts in the community
- Include limits on large developments that would urbanize the town
- More emphasis on conservation
- Need more specifics on sidewalks and connectivity

## Core Theme Activities

For each of the four core themes that came out of the summer engagement feedback, the project team created a station staffed by a member of the consultant team or Master Plan Committee. Each station included an information board describing key points from the summer engagement responses and a summary of relevant findings from the Existing Conditions report; a board with the draft visions and goals associated with the theme; and a Likert scale activity for participants to weigh in on several questions related to the theme that had divergent opinions during the summer engagement. There was space provided for participants to leave general comments as well regarding the draft vision and goals statements.

### Core Theme #1: Responsible and Sustainable Growth

*Promote responsible, sustainable growth that reinforces the small-town feel, minimizes residential tax burden, welcomes a diverse population, and is supported by strategic infrastructure and service investments and high-quality schools.*

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

**WE'VE BEEN LISTENING AND WE'VE HEARD DIVERGENT COMMUNITY OPINIONS ABOUT SOME KEY COMPONENTS OF THE COMMUNITY'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE. HERE ARE A FEW OF THOSE COMPONENTS THAT WE'D LIKE YOUR OPINION ABOUT.**

*Please place a dot sticker on the scale corresponding with your level of agreement on the following statements:*

1. In order to meet the needs of new and existing residents and to preserve open space, I would like to see more diverse housing options, in strategic and sustainable locations rather than more single-family/large lot subdivisions on farms and natural lands.
2. Increasing non-residential uses in Medway in strategic locations, including the Oak Grove Area, should be a priority because it will help create more local jobs and minimize the residential tax burden.

Most people at the forum agreed that diverse housing options are necessary in Medway; however, approximately six participants marked that they mostly disagreed with this statement. More respondents disagreed with the second statement regarding increasing non-residential uses in Medway, although the majority were still in agreement.

Comments on this theme showed varied viewpoints. While some people are in support of multi-family housing development, others are wary of increased development, especially in Oak Grove. Some suggested focusing on creating a downtown by redeveloping the 109 plaza or other already developed areas instead. Several commenters suggested the development of smaller houses for families, or elderly housing. A few commenters who are against increased development noted the importance of open space preservation in the town.



### ***Core Theme #2: Conservation and Resiliency***

*Ensure heritage protection, natural resource conservation and regeneration, and renewable energy for a sustainable and resilient town and region.*

## **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

**WE’VE BEEN LISTENING AND WE’VE HEARD DIVERGENT COMMUNITY OPINIONS ABOUT SOME KEY COMPONENTS OF THE COMMUNITY’S VISION FOR THE FUTURE. HERE ARE A FEW OF THOSE COMPONENTS THAT WE’D LIKE YOUR OPINION ABOUT.**

*Please place a dot sticker on the scale corresponding with your level of agreement on the following statements:*

-  1. The town should prioritize protection of open spaces and natural resources including for water protection and to promote resiliency, rather than invest significantly more public funds for active recreation such as athletic fields.
-  2. The town should implement stronger protections for privately-owned historic properties to prevent demolition and ensure exterior historic features remain intact.

Many participants strongly agreed that the town should prioritize protection of open space and natural resources, although about four participants appeared to disagree and others remained neutral. Responses were slightly more spread out on the second question, which asked whether the town should implement stronger protections for privately owned historic properties. The number of people who agree with this idea and the number that are neutral are about equal.

When asked for thoughts and suggestions, participants supported the preservation of natural areas, including open space and agricultural land, and emphasized their support of the trail system. A couple comments mentioned support for historic preservation, but within moderation. homeowners to preserve their homes.



### ***Core Theme #3: A Caring, Close-Knit Community***

*Foster caring community connections supported by accessible services, vibrant local businesses, and cultural and recreation opportunities for a healthy, close-knit community.*

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

WE'VE BEEN LISTENING AND WE'VE HEARD DIVERGENT COMMUNITY OPINIONS ABOUT SOME KEY COMPONENTS OF THE COMMUNITY'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE. HERE ARE A FEW OF THOSE COMPONENTS THAT WE'D LIKE YOUR OPINION ABOUT.

*Please place a dot sticker on the scale corresponding with your level of agreement on the following statements:*

-  1. Medway should prioritize the creation of a community center where residents of all ages and backgrounds can participate in activities and deepen relationships with neighbors.
-  2. I would like for Medway to have a performance space and increased opportunities for artists to thrive in this community.

Most participants agreed with both statements related to this core theme: that Medway should create a community center and aim for the establishment of a performance space and more opportunities for artists. Several participants were neutral, and only a couple disagreed with each statement.

Commenters on this theme had a few ideas when asked for their thoughts and suggestions. Several participants wrote that they are in support of more space for performing arts and artists. Others emphasized the need for community spaces and activities for teenagers, people without young children, and elderly residents.



### *Core Theme #4: Safe and Connected Mobility Options*

*Invest in safe, walkable local streets and mobility options for all ages and connections to local and regional employment and education opportunities.*

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

WE'VE BEEN LISTENING AND WE'VE HEARD DIVERGENT COMMUNITY OPINIONS ABOUT SOME KEY COMPONENTS OF THE COMMUNITY'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE. HERE ARE A FEW OF THOSE COMPONENTS THAT WE'D LIKE YOUR OPINION ABOUT.

*Please place a dot sticker on the scale corresponding with your level of agreement on the following statements:*

-  1. Increasing public shuttle/van service in Medway is desirable, as it will make it easier for residents of all ages to travel to surrounding communities such as to the commuter rail, grocery stores, medical appointments, and the like.
-  2. Medway should encourage and support the transition to electric and other clean, alternative fuel options for vehicles such as with more public access electric vehicle chargers.

Almost every participant agreed that increasing public shuttle/van service in Medway is desirable, with only a few participants remaining neutral. Most participants agreed that Medway should encourage and support the transition to electric and other alternative fuel options, although about nine participants were neutral and three disagreed.

When asked to write their thoughts and suggestions, participants emphasized the need for more sidewalks and safe street crossings in town. A couple of responses called for bike safety measures, and others mentioned the need for traffic calming solutions. Lastly, a couple comments mentioned the need for bus transportation.

### Comments on Draft Vision:

- Maintaining ruralness is paramount – open space, farms, etc. Once it's gone, there's no getting it back! No more taking down large swaths of open space for large apartment complexes. Expand and enjoy the community spaces and parks, Thayer house, senior center.
- When will the west side 109 upgrade even be started?
- Sidewalks and trails to allow teens to safely travel to new recreation sites created for them.
- I don't think the part in the box is welcoming to new residents. I've been here almost 15 years and am still treated like an outsider. The first bullet is more welcoming. I like the rest, although I don't feel like we're as farm-centered as the description indicates. I don't feel strongly about farms either way.
- Racial integration and acceptance in community is needed
- How much more growth do we actually want?
- Sidewalks in areas of town we have to connect everyone
- Find a way to bring more attention/highlights to the arts in our community
- Love the cows on 109 but shouldn't be in vision statement. Include below statement. I love the cows! Moo!
- The importance of being a family oriented town is permanent and seems to be a unifying view. Also, prioritizing open space and preserving land in Medway for public enjoyment. I would strongly recommend adding limiting large developments that would urbanize town (large apartment complexes). Ensure resource resources are plentiful (water) and don't outgrow the space/resources we have.
- Bullet 4 re: schools is too busy. It needs to be broken up. The statement is heavy on agriculture. Many of the goals are good, but also need to welcome new residents.
- Vision feels well-balanced
- Local jobs from small business
- Safe, ongoing strong funding and support for local law enforcement to keep medway residents safe and known as individual families
- I'd like to see more emphasis on conservation. I have lived in Medway for 20 years. The past two years there have been an increase in noise (industry traffic). Medway is not as peaceful as it used to be. Otherwise I love the vision for a more diverse town. I also love the Medway community farm!
- Love the focus on preserving natural resources and love the idea of having a town center. Thank you!
- Clean up the Charles river for boating!
- Support for local farms
- Needs sidewalks and bicycle connections
- What is considered "the town center"? I think it is the area around town hall
- A website page that gives information about events and activities, what is available?
- Love the cows!
- Stop building large houses. All town property should go solar.
- Agree with vision statement!
- We need a "real" town center
- We need sidewalks, esp along the older, scenic streets and byways
- We need to include arts and culture venues in future plans

- Love it. Very transparent.
- Agree with vision
- Great idea
- Strong support and fiscal and regulatory support for real business to create the local jobs Medway envisions
- Include arts programming, cultural life
- Bring in a good bagel place and a no-frills veggie market. Low prices and a variety of less common produce.
- Better public transportation for seniors for shopping and appoints. Shopping local area and towns.

### Board 1: A Caring, Close-Knit Community

- I'll never stop advocating for indoor pool. All ages benefit
- Town pool
- Ice hockey rink would bring more revenue than a pool
- I'm new in town. Where do I go for activity etc information
- Dedicated outdoor space for teenagers to gather and play
- I agree with the need or a pool. Many residents cannot afford their own pool or pool membership
- Allow more opportunities for town organizations to use the fields, not just sports.
- Choate Park – it would be nice to see more performances there
- Indoor walking area for seniors
- More activities/events for people without young kids
- Consider cost vs benefit
- Faith community mentions involvement?
- Do we need more space to maintain?
- Have a room(s) dedicated where Medway Cable can broadcast meetings of town Boards and Committees
- All the park & rec activity offerings are awesome. Continue to support!
- Continue to support schools to the highest level possible
- Space for artists to display their work
- Medway has spent a lot of money and resources on teen athletics. I'd like to see more focus on the other areas mentioned here. I'd like to see the arts and elderly residents get the same or even more attention.
- Town hockey/ice skating rink. Have fun and make \$!
- Good job w/ goals!
- For recreation I'd prefer more trails, use of water resources like kayaks, skate parks, etc. Less large scale team athletic investment. In other words, recreation for the community and for residents to enjoy the outdoors and be well
- Art and performing arts center
- Website for all Medway stuff
- Promotion and social awareness of diversification. People of color are being discriminated and targeted in our own community.
- Make over or improve Ocean State strip mall

- Combined community space and performance space. Be sure this space has room darkening possibilities for PowerPoints.
- Performance center for musicians, groups, local artists. Dedicated space for groups like teens to gather.

**A CARING, CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITY**

**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

WE'VE BEEN LISTENING AND WE'VE HEARD DIVERGENT COMMUNITY OPINIONS ABOUT SOME KEY COMPONENTS OF THE COMMUNITY'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE. HERE ARE A FEW OF THOSE COMPONENTS THAT WE'D LIKE YOUR OPINION ABOUT.

*Please place a dot sticker on the scale corresponding with your level of agreement on the following statements:*

**1. Medway should prioritize the creation of a community center where residents of all ages and backgrounds can participate in activities and deepen relationships with neighbors.**

AGREE ————— DISAGREE

2. I would like for Medway to have a performance space and increased opportunities for artists to thrive in this community.

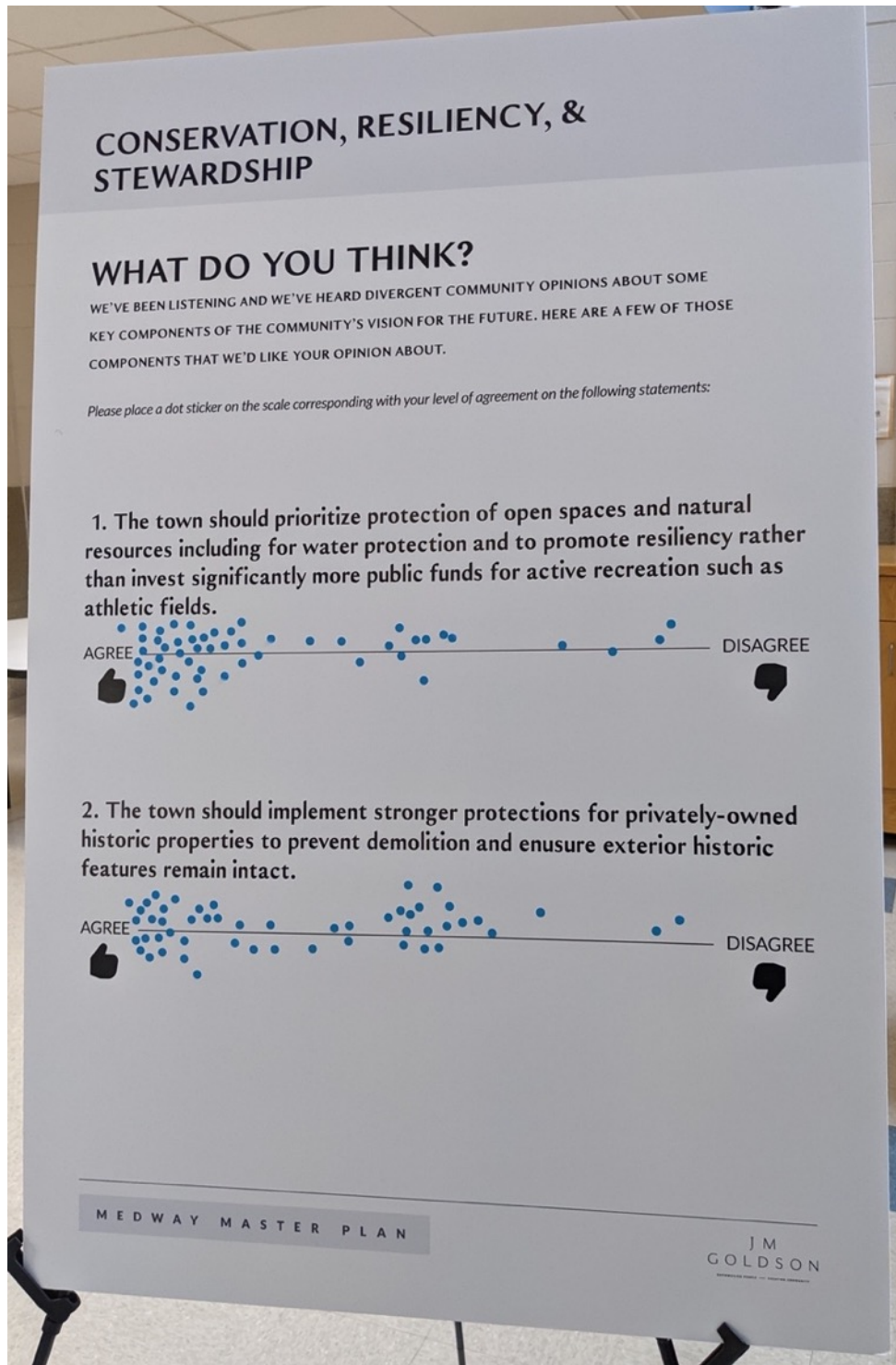
AGREE ————— DISAGREE

MEDWAY MASTER PLAN

JM  
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## Board 2: Conservation, Resiliency, and Stewardship

- Medway needs to promote/install solar canopies on town owned paved spaces and needs to promote solar canopies on commercial parking lots
- Goal #2: fully support efforts to protect tree canopy and 30% of open space, biodiversity of natural areas
- I love the trails – thank you for the great upkeep
- Open spaces dedicated to teens
- Charge Newton, Brookline, Cambridge for supporting their green energy projects
- Preserve as much as we can – there is too much buildup in Medway. Thank you for the trails and for protecting the forests!
- Greater focus on agriculture and passive open space
- Medway needs to invest in more open space and passive recreation areas
- General concern about keeping farms from development
- Reduce amount of athletic fields – awful environmentally
- Encourage privately owned property and businesses to help meet these goals through a number of methods
- We need more open space for hunting
- Stronger protections for historic preservation need to be defined before one can weigh in. Do not want it to be too restrictive.
- Statement is pretty good, but need a stronger emission reduction target. By 2035, only a couple years after 10 year vision, we should be closer to 100% reduction.
- More grass playing fields – less plastic!
- Medway needs to stop housing development and keep our open spaces. Also go solar on all town buildings
- We need to reduce impermeable surfaces (e.g. turf) in town
- Wetland back from Village St west of #254 to 26 (?) to be preserved as conservation land. Add viewing platform and trail from Memorial Field
- “Rent a goat” to clear weeds and poison ivy on the trails
- I support historic protections within moderation. No restrictions on home color, updates, etc. But I don’t want to limit private sales. I want to see the homes preserved as residences and not become duplexes, etc. Protection with moderation.
- Agree with goals
- Erosion is a good thing to consider for trees
- Conservation is a great idea. We should improve our trails, make them wider. Allow better parking. Promote family walks. Loved the bridge festival, need more such family events. Improve the parks.
- More sidewalks and lights to make getting around on foot easier
- Loved the trails and bridges. Carry on.
- I agree with all of this
- Seems like protecting 30% of open space is a low bar. How about 50%?
- Trails are great! Agree with goals
- What are the plans for the Jacob Ide House?



### Board 3: Safe and Connected Mobility Options

- Need sidewalk to sidewalk safe crossing, i.e. Alexandria to Hill at Winthrop
- Sidewalks at Winthrop St
- Add traffic light at Fisher and 109

- Anything that encourages safe biking. Bike safety – helmets for kids enforced
- Keep West St/Granite St safe from traffic/pedestrian accidents with increased traffic from new development. We want to go for a walk without fear of being hit.
- Traffic calming solutions, Hill Street
- Yes!
- Make 109 4 lanes I-495 to 126 to keep cars moving, and reduce pollution from idling
- Increased sidewalk connectivity in dense neighborhoods, North Street to Holliston Street
- More sidewalks, bikeways. Easier transport to train station
- Restore bus transportation down 109 to Boston as well as improve transportation to Norfolk train station
- Replace sidewalks along Village Field Farm to Oakland
- Bike path on abandoned RR bed from Millis Line to elementary schools
- Moving too fast on electric vehicles
- We need more infrastructure for EV
- Town EV charges should be free for town residents
- A bus to get me to the public transportation MBTA
- Like the goals, especially 1: Rt 109 from Highland to Milford is hard to bike
- Love all the goals! Sure important!
- Need sidewalks connecting Winthrop Street to the house communities behind it, going towards elementary school. Need better trails and paths to bring families outside into our community.
- With increased traffic on 109, especially what will be added with Oak Grove, we need lights on more cross streets, especially Fisher and Clark st.
- Safe sidewalks on busy roads is more important than electric charging stations and shuttles. More sidewalks near West/Granite St. with growing of affordable housing
- Light needed at Holliston and Lovering street

**SAFE AND CONNECTED MOBILITY OPTIONS**

**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

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AGREE ————— DISAGREE

2. Medway should encourage and support the transition to electric and other clean, alternative fuel options for vehicles such as with more public access electric vehicle chargers.

AGREE ————— DISAGREE

MEDWAY MASTER PLAN

JM GOLDSON

#### Board 4: Responsible and Sustainable Growth

- Small homes for families
- Create a real downtown – redevelop the 109 plaza to mixed use/residential
- I would prefer more small, single family homes rather than large multi-family dwellings

- Draw for older (teen) kids to get them outside
  - i.e. safe access to downtown area with actual things to do
- Improve water quality & taste
- Subsidized housing
- I am completely against development of the bottle caps lots @ Oak Grove. These were meant to create an open space area, which also embodies the draft “vision”. The beauty of entering Medway is seeing the woods on 109 – not more business
- Multifamily housing will disproportionately draw on resources (water, schools, etc) and overburden them
- Currently, there are empty store fronts in Medway. The Oak Grove development is not in line with preserving Medway. It will heavily increase traffic,, resource use, etc. for services we don’t need.
- Find ways to attract and keep the business downtown/ plaza area
- More housing for aging population
- Help the townspeople “see” how to master plan vision + goals would change/affect living conditions
- Comprehensive plan or town facilities
- Goals are good but want to protect open space
- Pool – indoor & outdoor
- Against Oak Grove – feel there is an excess of retail
- Indoor sports facility in Oak Gove
- Would like more sidewalks connected
- Village District more investment – don’t leave it behind completely
- Community center
- Overall goals are good, but taxes are important. Town needs revenue from those who benefit from it. Also, protecting our aquifers is more important than listed
- Agree with goals
- I don’t think the average Medway resident wants to reverse the commuter flow or build apartments/ multifamily homes. This seems like what developers want – not townsfolk. Preserve the space we have!
- Expand trails
- More walkable areas
- More multi family homes
- Protection for private wells or everyone on town water. Overall look at groundwater protections/mitigation not just town wells
- Gathering space for local community groups to use for meetings
- Multiuse art space – performing and visual
- Funding for public art? Perhaps small tax towards public art?

## RESPONSIBLE & SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

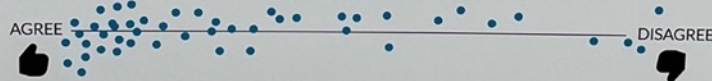
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## APPENDIX III: ONLINE FORUM SUMMARY

### MEDWAY MASTER PLAN

#### Online Community Forum Summary

*Prepared by JM Goldson LLC 11/8/2021*

##### Summary

The Medway Master Plan Committee (MPC) hosted the second community forum on Sunday, October 3, 2021, at the Medway High School, to provide the community with the chance to review and provide feedback on the Draft Vision and Goals statements. The consultant team developed these draft statements based on the summer's community engagement efforts and the Phase I Existing Conditions analysis. After the forum, the project team released an online version to capture feedback from community members who couldn't make the in-person forum.

The forum was an opportunity for the project team to share what they have learned through the summer engagement efforts and the Existing Conditions analysis and offered community members an opportunity to share their thoughts and opinions on the priorities outlined in the Draft Vision and Goals statements.

Participants were asked to explore a series of informative sections and polling questions dedicated to the draft overarching vision statement and statements for each of the four Core Themes that emerged through the summer engagement.

##### Key Findings:

- Protecting open spaces and natural resources is an important priority for participants.
- Many participants were torn on whether to increase development to provide more housing options, citing the need for open space preservation.
- More so than in the in-person forum, online participants had mixed feelings about the actual need and potential use of a community center in Medway.

**Questions to Clarify Divergent Opinions:** Each interactive section included space for participant engagement through polling questions and space for written feedback. The polling questions asked participants targeted questions to clarify divergent opinions provided during the summer engagement.

**Metrics:** 61 people participated in the online community forum. Participants in the online forum were mostly aged 35 to 64. All were Medway residents, and all but two were homeowners rather than renters. About 60 percent of online participants had children under age 18 living with them.

This summary documents which statements were mostly agreed on (green dots) and which were under some contention (yellow dots). There were no statements that most participants disagreed with.

## Draft Overarching Vision

One station at the community forum was focused on the draft overarching vision statement.

### Overarching Vision for Medway 2032

In 2032, Medway continues to be a family-oriented small town with active locally owned farms, cows grazing along Route 109, a deep and celebrated history from Native American roots through to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and many families that are proud to include multiple generations of Medway residents.

Medway . . .

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- : Provides strong, modernized public schools and facilities including high quality athletic fields, interconnected trail system, as well as a well-resourced senior center, community center for all ages, and library and makerspace
- : Is well-run with professional, transparent, and fiscally responsible leadership that excels at delivering public services as well as maintaining and expanding infrastructure and assets

At the station, participants responded to a series of prompts to provide feedback on the draft vision, shown above: Does it align with their vision for the future of the community? What do they like about it? What would they change about it?

Most participants agreed with the draft overall vision statement and said it aligns with what they want to see in the town. Participants mentioned the following elements in their positive comments:

- Protecting natural resources
- Honoring the agricultural past and present
- Family-oriented small town
- Creating a vibrant town center

Some had suggestions for improving the vision, including the following:

- Fostering biodiversity in natural areas
- Fiscal responsibility should be more prominent
- The overall vision should be more aligned with the vitality conveyed in the supporting statements

- More strong language about sustainability
- More discussion of public transportation and connectivity to Boston

## Core Theme Activities

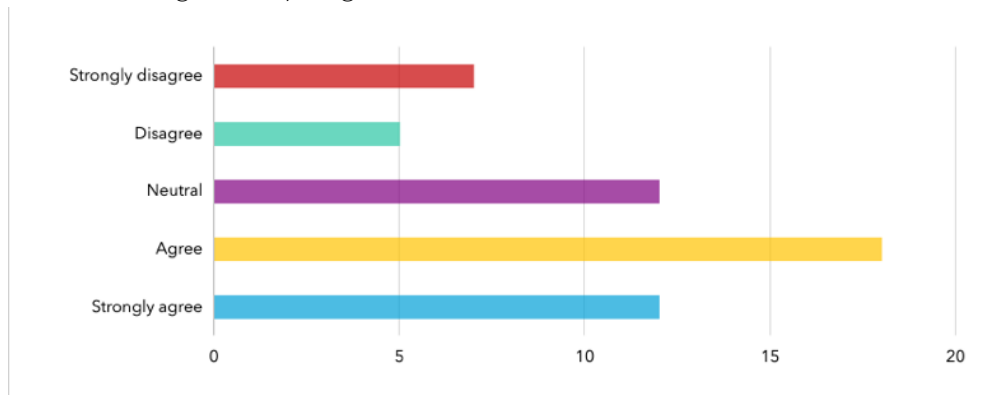
For each of the four core themes that came out of the summer engagement feedback, the online forum included an informative section, two polling questions, and space for comments. The informative section included the same boards from the in-person forum describing key points from the summer engagement responses and a summary of relevant findings from the Existing Conditions report and the draft visions and goals associated with the theme. The polling questions asked participants to weigh in on several questions related to the theme that had divergent opinions during the summer engagement. There was space provided for participants to leave general comments as well regarding the draft vision and goals statements.

### Core Theme #1: Responsible and Sustainable Growth

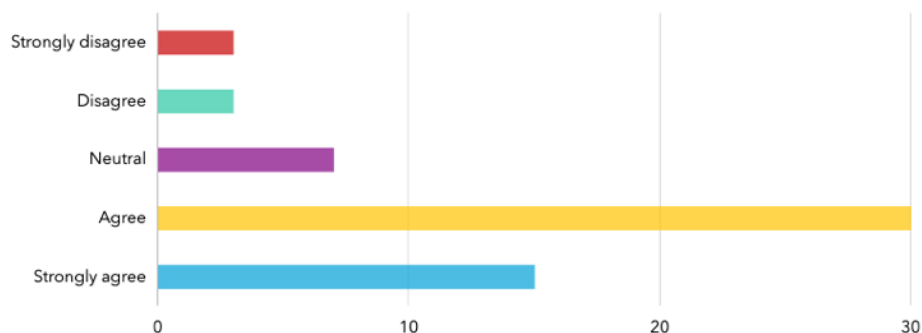
*Promote responsible, sustainable growth that reinforces the small-town feel, minimizes residential tax burden, welcomes a diverse population, and is supported by strategic infrastructure and service investments and high-quality schools.*



1. In order to meet the needs of new and existing residents and to preserve open space, I would like to see more diverse housing options, in strategic and sustainable locations rather than more single-family/large lot subdivisions on farms and natural lands.



2. Increasing non-residential uses in Medway in strategic locations, including the Oak Grove Area, should be a priority because it will help create more local jobs and minimize the residential tax burden.



The online results showed high numbers of participants agreeing with each statement. About 50 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that diverse housing options are necessary, 20 percent were neutral and 30 percent disagreed or strongly disagreed. On the second option, the majority (75 percent) of online responses were in favor if increasing non-residential uses in Medway.

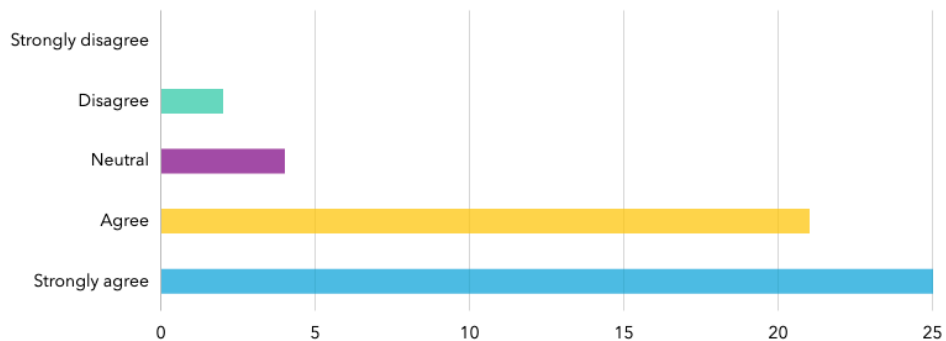
Comments on this theme showed varied viewpoints. While some people are in support of multi-family housing development, others are wary of increased development, especially in Oak Grove. Some suggested focusing on creating a downtown by redeveloping the 109 plaza or other already developed areas instead. Several commenters suggested the development of smaller houses for families, or elderly housing. A few commenters who are against increased development noted the importance of open space preservation in the town.

### ***Core Theme #2: Conservation and Resiliency***

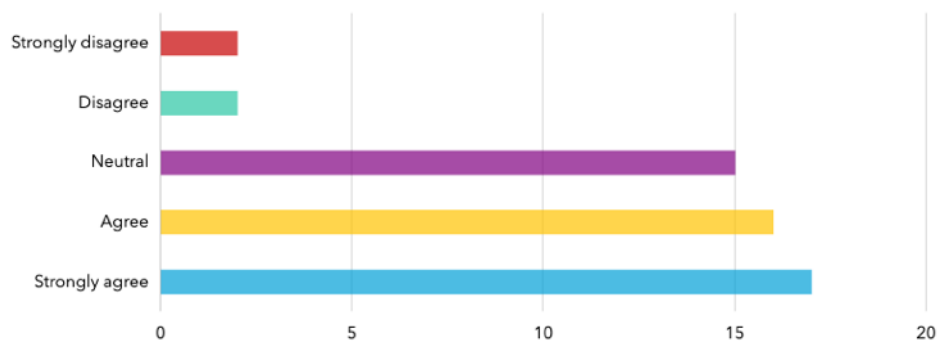
*Ensure heritage protection, natural resource conservation and regeneration, and renewable energy for a sustainable and resilient town and region.*



1. The town should prioritize protection of open spaces and natural resources including for water protection and to promote resiliency, rather than invest significantly more public funds for active recreation such as athletic fields.



2. The town should implement stronger protections for privately-owned historic properties to prevent demolition and ensure exterior historic features remain intact.



Online participants strongly agreed that the town should prioritize the protection of open spaces and natural resources and implement stronger protections for historic properties, although there were more “neutral” responses on the latter statement.

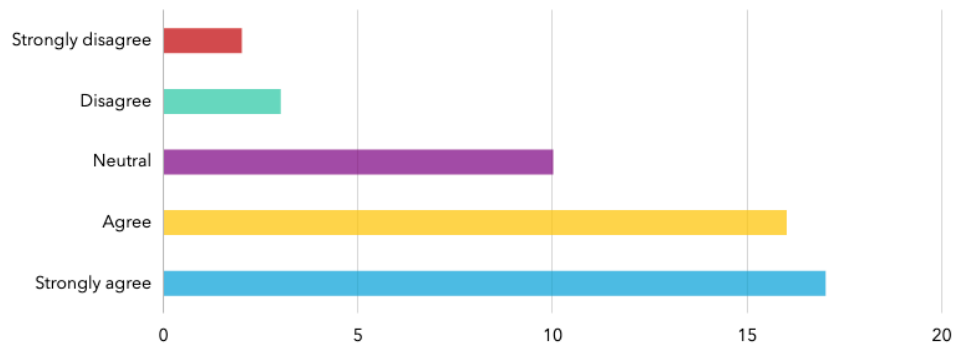
Online commenters emphasized the need for a balance in between protecting open space and keeping athletic fields in use, as well as offered ideas about historic preservation options. There were conflicting opinions in the comments about protections for private historic buildings, although a number of comments suggested increasing resources for private homeowners to preserve their homes.

### ***Core Theme #3: A Caring, Close-Knit Community***

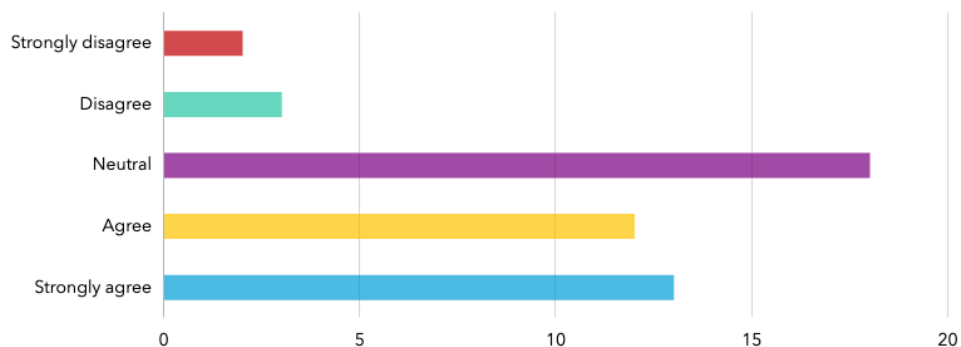
*Foster caring community connections supported by accessible services, vibrant local businesses, and cultural and recreation opportunities for a healthy, close-knit community.*



1. Medway should prioritize the creation of a community center where residents of all ages and backgrounds can participate in activities and deepen relationships with neighbors.



2. I would like for Medway to have a performance space and increased opportunities for artists to thrive in this community.



Most participants agreed with both statements related to this core theme: that Medway should create a community center and aim for the establishment of a performance space and more opportunities for artists. On the online forum, participants mostly agreed on both statements, although about five people disagreed on each.

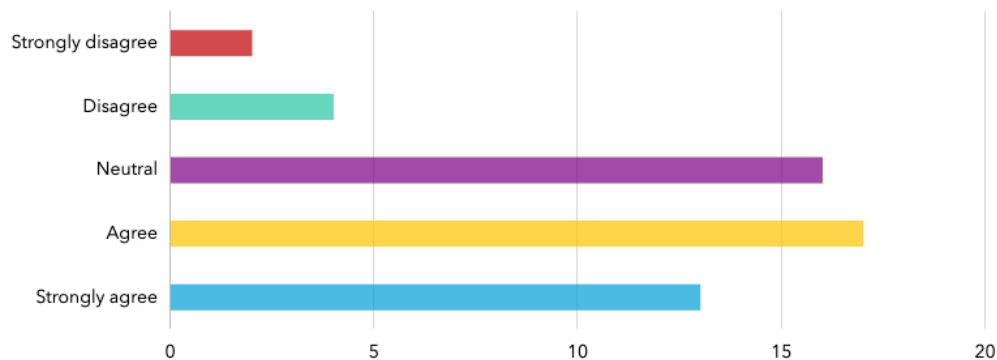
Many online participants emphasized the need for community spaces and activities for teenagers, people without young children, and elderly residents. Several online participants, however, remarked that they do not see the benefits of a new community center, and that current recreation opportunities and spaces are enough.

#### **Core Theme #4: Safe and Connected Mobility Options**

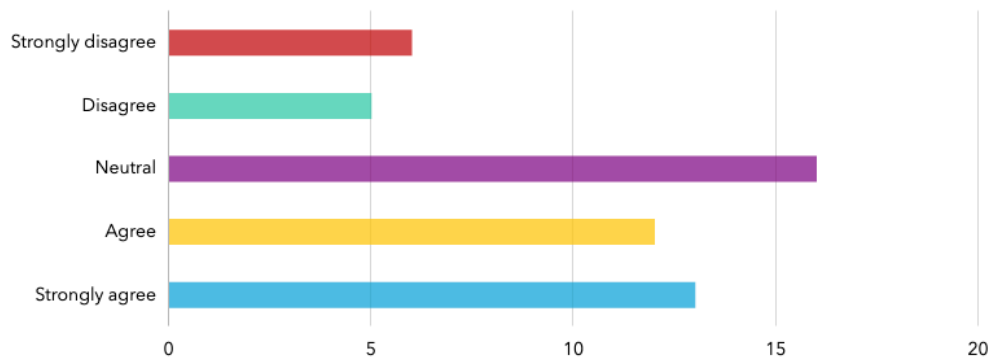
*Invest in safe, walkable local streets and mobility options for all ages and connections to local and regional employment and education opportunities.*



1. Increasing public shuttle/van service in Medway is desirable, as it will make it easier for residents of all ages to travel to surrounding communities such as to the commuter rail, grocery stores, medical appointments, and the like.



2. Medway should encourage and support the transition to electric and other clean, alternative fuel options for vehicles such as with more public access electric vehicle chargers.



Most people on the online forum were neutral or agreed that increasing public transportation would be a good idea. Similar results appeared on the second statement, with only a few people disagreeing with each.

When asked to write their thoughts and suggestions, participants spoke of concerns about a lack of sidewalks and bus service for seniors. There were several concerns about electric vehicle chargers from commenters who believe the town doesn't yet need this infrastructure, and others that encouraged bicycle infrastructure that is separate from vehicle infrastructure.

## Comments on Draft Vision

I think this mostly fits but I would like to see something about a downtown that is "accessible via all modes of transportation and prioritizes walkability."
like the vision, would be nice if town could purchase the large building across from townhall to turn into office rentals or small boutiques like in the mill. also purchase old hardware store to convert to rental space for business and would make the town hall area more like a "downtown" . possibly new post office somewhere in the area.
Love the vision of cows along Route 109! Would love to keep Medway as rural as possible.
Yes, especially the town center proposal. I also am hoping that Medway becomes one of the AARP livable communities. I think it's called an age friendly community that Dedham has already implemented.
In 2032, Medway continues to be a family-oriented small town with active locally owned farms, cows grazing along Route 109, a deep and celebrated history from Native American roots through to the 21st century, and many families that are proud to include multiple generations of Medway residents. QUESTION: ARE SINGLE INDIVIDUALS WELCOME TOO?  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protects natural resources to support clean and plentiful drinking water, local food production, agricultural heritage, scenic beauty, passive recreation, and promote carbon absorption QUESTION: WHY ARE ROOSTERS BANNED IF WE SUPPORT AGRICULTURE? QUESTION: WHY IS ACTIVE RECREATION NOT INCLUDED?</li> <li>• Provides strong, modernized public schools and facilities including high quality athletic fields, interconnected trail system, as well as a well-resourced senior center, community center for all ages, and library and makerspace QUESTION: WHY THE EMPHASIS ON ATHLETIC FIELDS....WHAT ABOUT MUSIC, ART, SCIENCE, MATH?</li> </ul>
I think that it holding onto the land with cows on 109 isn't going to happen until 2032. It would be great if the 109 shopping district could be completely redesigned to make a pedestrian shopping district with housing above in 2-3 floors. Sidewalks should be corrected so that places where grass was planted that needs landscaping work should be modified to become extended sidewalks with room for a bicycle path on the inside to reduce pollution, increase safety of bicyclists and minimize public works costs.
I generally agree with this, but we should avoid polluting this with the flavor of the month DEI talking points
If what you mean by "sustainable commercial, and industrial growth" is within appropriately zoned areas then I generally agree. However, I disagree completely with rezoning of residential parcels to Industrial where there is no transitional zoning to protect the peaceful surrounding residential properties. This type of Industrial creep would not be inline with my vision for Medway.
yes

It does.
This looks good. I would love to see a more cohesive version of Main Street specifically.
I like this statement about respecting our past and moving towards a continued inclusive future
My wife, kids and I just moved here a couple years ago and we love how open it is, all the farmland and how close, yet how far we are from everything. The school system seems to continually strengthen but I highly discourage to much affordable housing. As you are seeing in Medfield, they have recently started adding a lot of apartments, affordable housing etc.. and you can see they're school system dropping in ranking significantly. If you start adding in apartments, section 8 housing and low income communities, we will lose so much of what makes Medway special. I understand the need and priority for housing for those less fortunate but please add this strategically and not in bulk. Try to make specific requirements in order to apply and access this type of housing and please don't do it in large communities or apartments/condos. Mainly because when you do that you alienate the people living there from the rest of the community, instead look how to integrate into current communities.
Blown away by the thought, care, time, and resources vested in the creation of this plan. Thank you for your efforts, this is a masterpiece!
Vision sounds great, looking forward to continue drilling down to see what that looks like.
Yes except I am very wary of the commercial and industrial growth. Holliston just fought back from the Amazon warehouse that would have increased traffic and I don't want to see the same for medway. Also the continued destruction of green space/land for massive apartment complexes is just sad
I LOVE the community center idea - what a great addition to Medway it would be. Also, the trail system and improving schools even more would be my priorities.
I like that it has a small hometown vibe. I am sorry to see so many multi family units or condo type construction
It sounds nice but, is this really possible? How do we support a vibrant town center if a private owner(s) is at the "center" of any plan?  As for strategic residential development, I believe many in town would like to see less residential development going forward. The town has grown too fast and now that we have met our affordable housing stock goal, let's make more restrictive zoning to limit future growth.  Protecting natural resources is the biggest challenge and should be the #1 goal.
Would like to see the Arts referenced in point #3.
Overall, the vision is strong though it lacks any discussion of public transportation/sustainable commute options and the inter-connectivity to greater Boston which could create a greater opportunity for community members.

I'd like to see parking lots moved to the back of storefronts to increase the attractiveness of the 109 downtown area, and to promote safety in accessing new commercial businesses through walking (not having to traverse parking lots on foot from the sidewalk).
I would like to see more strong language here about sustainability. Later you talk about a 40% emissions reduction, which is great. But I'd like to see more of that right up front here. And really think about what it would take to get there, as I don't see specifics on how. And there have been things in the past that have hurt that progress. For example, I believe we had/have a town building code that required new buildings (like CarQuest) to have fake dormers. And while that (debatably) may look nice, it just guaranteed that all these new buildings could not possibly add solar panels. I'd like to see building codes that encourages more solar panels, and recommending (if not requiring) 50amp 14-50 outlets in garages of new builds for EVs to use.
I would like to see more sidewalks along rte 109 thru West Medway. Right now there is nothing and people drive so fast thru this area, some one could easily be hit, hurt, killed.
I thinks that's pretty much in line with what I would hope for. I would emphasize the need to keep open space for the sake of having open space and not turning it into athletic fields.
The overall vision seems to convey that Medway is a sleepy small town made up of farms. But the other supporting vision statements that convey vitality, commerce, a more bustling and progressive town that preserves its natural resources and history yet has progressed. The overall vision needs to be more aligned and consistent because it's the touchstone for all decision makers. Suggest changing it.
yes, that seems a realistic view too. My passion is sustaining open spaces and strengthening the senior center options too
Yes this aligns, good schools being the most important, out of all these very important points
Don't run the Town like a business; its not and community character doesn't get preserved.
It is a little fluffy and "fiscally responsible" should be more prominent. And in addition to transparent, the Town administration and leadership needs to be collaborative.
In my view, this is aspirational but achievable. To get there, we must root out and address the persistent racism evident in our schools and our community. In addition, there is need for a concerted effort to attract businesses to Medway and define the re-invigorated town center described above. The commitment to transparent and stable leadership is apparent in all aspects of the community - our leaders can do more to address these areas for growth.
Yes, I purchased in Medway in 2008 and plan to retire here. I am excited about the future of Medway
I particularly like the section about protecting natural resources. I also like seeing cows grazing along Route 109. I appreciate the desire to continue to honor the agricultural past and present.  Creating a vibrant town center is a great goal. I think that is lacking right now.

Overall, not bad however the library is far from a modernized facility. The makerspace is great but could be expanded if the community cared more about culture than athletics. This town spends way too much money on athletics and not enough on the arts. The local government seems to be more worried about increasing revenue, attracting 40b and senior housing than increasing amenities to attract and keep families (ice rink, swimming pool, town forest, better trail signs, new library, community center, town center beautification). I'm not sure how the town supports agri heritage when there is a rooster ban yet I listen to gas powered mowers all hours of the day. It is not peaceful and I live a mile from 109. I listen to construction sounds from the unnecessary 40 b project and my heart breaks every day from the constant forest destruction in this town. I'm not sure about scenic beauty since the board is opposed to something so simply as painting utility boxes.

I agree with the vision.

It's a good start. Would add--

- Biodiversity is fostered in Medway's natural areas in order to increase resilience to climate change and to increase their ecological health.
- Medway encourages a wide range of volunteers who support sports, arts and other recreational activities, much of town government, always working closely with the professional staff.

Yes, definitely. The vision covers every aspect of what a town needs and wants to be at the end of the day.

Yes it does align with my core values. I most like the idea of keeping Medway a small close knit community. I most dislike that town meeting is often a rubber stamp and isn't as welcoming and less intimidating for residents to participate.

yes aligns

Yes, it aligns

This is ambitious, but I suppose that's the idea of a grand plan. I would say this is the exact kind of thing that the town tends to over-complicate in my experience.

## Comments on Core Theme #1: Responsible and Sustainable Growth

How recent is this data below? Seems way off. If pre-covid throw it out... Nearly everyone I know has no plans of commuting back into an office full time. At most, the average person will be going into an office 1-2 days a week. This presents an opportunity for Medway and should be thinking about what this means for retail and commercial space. For example, could we create a small coworking space with a private/public partnership that would bring more people into Medway "downtown" during the weekdays? Something like this would help support a more diverse set of businesses.

The Town faces daytime population drain resulting from net negative commuter flows – approximately 3,600 more people leave Medway for work than come to town for work. Increasing the number of jobs in Medway would help support commercial uses and amenities that serve residents, as well, while diversifying a tax base that relies overwhelmingly on single-family residences.

work on building up more available space near townhall to make it more small business orientated so we will go back to the old town center,

We should avoid the over emphasis on higher density low cost housing. The peaceful and tranquil town that we have is in large part due to the vast majority of the towns housing being single family homes at market values.

Keep the residential areas together. Expand business by business.

Revitalizing Main Street with some strategic development (including some apartment housing stock) would be ideal

An elephant in the room exists in the shopping plaza on Main St. The owner is clearly not vested in the community, and has in fact caused harm by embracing practices that contributed to the loss of several viable and community focused businesses. A collaborative approach to encourage more engaged stewardship is needed, but sadly, doubtful the current owner would be willing to participate. It would be wonderful to see the property sold to a more caring entity.

We definitely need ideas for increasing traffic and jobs through town, including how we can attract more diverse audiences (especially teachers!)

My only though is that I hate to see more "buildings" going up. It is a shame to use areas in town for more housing/industrial purposes.

I like that the current vision for 2032 is a walkable town center. With the effects of climate change becoming more severe, the decrease in use of fossil fuels by decreasing the amount of cars on the road is ideal.

Another idea I appreciate is the variety of affordable housing. I am planning on staying in Medway for a long time after I graduate college in 2024. I don't know how long, but starting in my hometown is a good way for me to build independence.

Looking at Medway several years down the road and seeing what sustainable aspects we can include now that will affect the town in the future is a good place to start.

The first question in this survey segment is not clear - I hope that it is not intentionally convoluted.

Medway has many strengths but a walkable downtown is not one of them. Medway is the ONLY town in the area that doesn't have a pedestrian friendly downtown that has mix use of shops, dining and housing. We should focus on getting people out of their cars and to stay in town to purchase anything other than coffee or car parts.

Smaller, affordable housing is a goal mandated by the State - we have met that standard/goal and the town of Medway has (or will be) changed as a result. Enough is enough.....

Looking to non-residential uses is another great idea on paper but what options are out there? Very few of the parcels available will create "local jobs". Many will be retail or industrial that will allow non-resident business owners to profit and most likely, non resident workers to be employed.

While the vision of creating greater housing options is admirable, a balance needs to be created to ensure that the vision is achievable. Additionally, the driving force to create diversity of housing is still missing, as the gap on public transportation along with commercial/industrial jobs.

I think we should concentrate on upgrading the non residential areas we already have and bringing in more popular tenants into the vacant spots. We have enough auto parts, dollar stores, pharmacies, how about a nice restaurant? more attractive shopping areas?

I would emphasize responsible industrial growth rather than retail to help curtail the excessive traffic we have.

Not sure most know oak grove area being referenced. In terms of businesses that could bring more jobs and to fill a need for more diversity we should consider more eateries and restaurants

While open space is important, why not use open space just for that: open space rather than building, building which may bring business and employers to town but will also necessitate more services

walkable town center is very important, as well as more sidewalks to support getting to the center on foot

I would like to see Medway lean into its identity as a 'bedroom' community. Creating more stress on existing infrastructure by encouraging non-residential commercial uses will be a net-negative relative to any local tax revenues that might be generated.
Stop allowing single family zoning and create more pockets of density along main roads.
I am not sure I want 109 to be the only walkable "center." Where are the thoughts on improving the area surrounding Town Hall?
This carefully written draft is excellent.
We've proven time and time again that there is no chance of tax reductions through growth, and the aggressive destruction of the oak grove forest cannot be undone once we realize there isn't the appetite for additional retail. It is a folly effort that should be immediately abandoned and the land turned over to long term conservation groups like the Trustees for proper management.
No
Every time I scroll up to refer to the information, my answer here is deleted! #6 does not include families which are a big part of this town. What is the source and year of the data for the housing pie charts? Of course there is an abundance of 3+ bedrooms and a lot of them have 2 people. We have many 4 bedroom houses in my neighborhood with older citizens that have raised their children and decided to stay. Why does that make the town responsible to create smaller units? People stay here after their children are gone. It's their choice to stay in a big house. I'm confused why the town needs to take on responsibility for people that make their own housing choices. Does the above data include places like the Willows? And the future 40b on 109?
I would like to see a walkable town center that is attractive (unlike the Job Lot plaza).
Small business owners often tell that they struggle to survive. Is there a way to increase town support for these entities?
Less cluster housing. Now that we have exceeded the 10% requirement zoning should scale back how much can be built in terms of special permit overlay districts.
Scale of housing will be very important, in terms of visual impact on the neighborhood and emotional impact on the residents of that housing. Large-scale multi-story developments are, to my mind, negative in impact in both arenas, and also will contribute to dense traffic and disruption of existing neighborhood feeling.
One other comment: I feel very strongly that the visual impact of the commercial stretch of parking lots and businesses along 109 is completely negative. When we were first looking at possible homes in Medway, I would close my eyes when we drove along that stretch of road so I did not have to look at it. I still feel the same way. This is one definition of UGLY. This area needs massive rethinking and redesign to be converted into an attractive part of town. Right now it is an asphalt desert and an unrelenting eyesore.
Seems to put a lot of eggs in the Oak Grove basket. Is thought being given to the types of business to attract?

## Comments on Core Theme #2: Conservation and Resiliency

Establish a small town funded annual grant to be dispersed to the owners of existing historic structures, or houses in historic areas who plan on making improvements/restorations.

Homeowners would submit plans to be voted upon and dispersed by the Historical Commission.

It makes much more fiscal sense to inspire historical homeowners to maintain / rehab their historic properties than it does for the town to rescue the properties when the costs to restore become too great of a burden.

50k annual fund= (25k 1st prize), (10k 2nd place) (5k 3rd place) and 5 projects would get 2k each.

25k won't put much of a dent in most projects, especially when dealing w historic properties, but it will spur preservation and inspire additional private spending.

The town would get much of this money back in the form of higher appraised property values (taxes) of these improved historical structures.

A local historic district would be great. Some homes recently that could have been saved in the historic areas of town were not and they were small homes that would have been good starter homes. So we've lost stock in affordability as well.

A Medway pool is important. It would promote health, recreation and sense of community. We have strong sports programs but our HS has to go to other towns for swim.

AI is comprehensively fantastic! Something I've yet to see mentioned: the destruction wrought by invasive bittersweet vines that are pervasive and damaging to thousands of trees around town. I don't have a solution, but if left untreated, we will see tremendous loss to our tree canopies as the vines strangle and kill these critical resources.

Am very passionate about the need to protect open spaces. Feel we have plenty of athletic fields around the town. However, was dismayed to see the basketball court at Choate Park be dismantled. It was a good place for people of all ages to shoot some hoops on say a Sunday AM without the formality of a team. Want the open spaces to expand but not take away the existing athletic fields, just be conservative about expanding those.

Biodiversity conservation to improve the ecological health and climate change resilience of Medway's natural areas.

I feel that there should be more repair/reuse of existing buildings (some may be historic) than building new structures if they can be updated.

I think Medway is a unique situation in that there is ample space for commercial, industrial and residential use areas and to have outstanding connected open space, parks and walking trails. With the trails that exist at Idylbrook, Coate/Cassidy, Adams St and the High School there is a great opportunity to build a network of open space and trails that would allow people to move across the entire town from north to south. All while doing little to impact the existing housing. Using the Holliston rail trail as a guide (understanding it would be very difficult to do the exactly same), I'd like to see Medway have its own network of walking and biking trails that are more like the rail trail (ie, the gravel trails around the high school) and less like hiking trails.
I totally agree with this draft vision and goal
I'm not clear how local action can have a big impact on carbon emissions, and I don't (for example) want to see bans on new natural gas installations such as was recently tried (and overruled) in Brookline.
Improve existing playgrounds, rather than build in new locations.
It all sounds good unless you own the property. If you enforce maintaining the exterior then it should be paid for by the town otherwise it is not their home it's the town but they are responsible for the costs. Not fair
Many of the historic places aren't really of much use to the public of Medway. Choate park is nicer bc Thayer house has been restored. But it's a private function hall. I have no idea what goes on at Ide house.
More important than adding EV infrastructure is creating a road system where cars can move smoothly through stoplights timed to a rational speed limit. Making cars stop, idle and start again can increase tailpipe emissions 10x versus crossing the 109 commercial section non-stop at 30 or 35 mph.
Need to balance the desire for open space and trails with our ability to maintain them. I think some of the goals are beyond our capability to accomplish them with respect for the adjacent home owners and to maintain in a reasonable fashion
Private property rights should be protected regardless of what the owner wishes to do with their home, unless it endangers or negatively impacts an abutter or community. It's their property. Government interfering in property rights is over reaching.
Protecting water supply and open space is very important. Active recreation is ALSO important for all members of Medway. First question seems to be leading- I can't think of anyone that doesn't want to protect water supply. Written as if investing in athletic/recreation fields will take away from water protection.
Regarding open space vs more athletic fields... I think there needs to be a balance. When building new facilities, I'd rather see a new facility for a sport or activity in town that currently doesn't have a home, like a pool or ice rink, rather than another turf field.

The historic minded boards should be providing more resources for maintaining & restoring historic homes for older folks living in the homes who cannot afford the maintenance; the new buyer gets blamed for wanting to demo.

There needs to be a balance on preservation. While preservation of history is important, there are some that are not salvageable nor will they meet today's current standards/needs. We cannot just take a blanket approach to "prevent demolition" as each structure needs to be evaluated on its merits.

These are the elements of town that made it what it is....the old time feel of a farming community is what attracted many to Medway. Of course, in such close proximity to Boston, Worcester and Providence, it was inevitable the character of the town would change but again, enough is enough. These goals should be #1 and #1a on any plan looking ahead.

This goal is directly at odds with Oak Grove and should be prioritized over Natural Resource destruction for pointless growth.

we have enough fields in town, need to develop downtown and provide room in existing buildings for small businesses. buy buildings near town hall and renovate, Preserve old fire station behind town hall, which is structurally sound and use as a small museum or office space for town hall. We need to stop throwing away buildings in this town.

We need to rethink the role of the automobile and the amount of space we give to parking and to the materials used for parking. We should be installing permeable surfaces to facilitate aquifer replenishment. If a local mini-bus system were developed, this would result in fewer cars being needed for local trips to destinations within town, lessened air pollution, and much less surface give over to parking.

Architectural awareness and redesign, where feasible, of many existing overscaled commercial buildings would improve the visual appeal of various parts of town and support the feel of community.

Breaking up large masses of asphalt and then buffering them with appropriate landscaping could make a huge difference visually and emotionally.

We need to stop putting the burden of preservation on individual homeowners. The larger landowners and commercial/industrial spaces need to be held to a higher standard. Finding a better way to green-up the commercial spots will have a bigger impact than preventing a single family homeowner from taking down a tree.

### Comments on Core Theme #3: A Caring, Close-Knit Community

Both of the proposed ideas are great. I hope the new community center has a teen space, which would be terrific!

Community Center would be a great asset to the town overall. Lots of interest in a community pool.
Everything is well thought out.
Excellent vision here! We need a community center that offers affordable social and recreational opportunities. Currently, extracurricular opportunities via town sports and community education are financially out of reach for many. We need equitable and accessible opportunities to gather and engage.
Honestly, a community center as presented above is a terrible idea. There is no need for something like this; the various houses of worship can act as such. Youth sports up through high school has allowed for most to congregate, meet and interact with neighbors...those that don't have kids participating in these activities can utilize more robust recreational offerings (the growth of this department has been fantastic!) to meet the goal. The town would surely support additional funds being put to use in the budget for recreation department/staffing to grow. Expansion of the playground at Oakland to include a splash pad is an idea to work on/figure out.
How about investing in the seniors?
However, significant investment in a modern Senior Center is extremely important. Expansion to include recreational activities, more diverse age based programming and other activities such as bingo, exercise classes, billiards etc should be considered. Our facility is nice but as the population ages, it is not built for the future.
I find this to be a top priority in our future. The Hopkinton art center is a great model to look at and would thrive in this town.
I think a big part of this town consists of senior citizens and something should be thought of to get info out to them because a lot of seniors do not deal with computers. Also more senior housing/affordable would be nice. Living on 1500\$ a month is not easy to do in this town. Because of taxes older people are at great risk of losing the houses they have lived in for 70 years or more and it's very difficult. Really wish the old downtown was here, where you could go to one area to do your business... going to 109 is difficult traffic wise in the afternoon. Post office should be elsewhere, maybe where VFW is? The little post office on village is great but if handicapped difficult to get in and out of. Like the pizza place and store next to the pizza place, not handicapped accessible. Town needs to check businesses that are not handicapped accessible. such as no ramps and heavy doors to get in the store. steps to get to store, town needs ADA board
I think investing in arts in tiny communities like Medway is silly. I have no problems with the arts, but programs belong at the federal and state level. I also have no interest in locally-based arts groups.
I think it's important to commingle all ages and genders. Everyone brings something and everyone needs a diverse group of people to shed light on all perspective and to ensure that all ages put a face to the young, teenagers and adults all the way to seniors. That way people build a respect for each other by forming bonds or friendships. That's a true community that starts caring for each other- meet your neighbors!

I think the spaces we currently have should be used for multiple purposes rather than building more spaces
I think we already have a lot of great community spaces. There are other priorities and places where we should be spending our tax dollars.
I've heard that the police has allocated resources for mental health situations; lets hear more about this! How else has the town promoted social justice and/or mental issues? Lets celebrate it if its happening.
It seems like sports is the only “culture” Medway has, alienating many residents. It has been the only area where Medway’s been willing to spend money. Offering residents more cultural, academic, and artistic opportunities is a way to be more inclusive to all members of our community.
The "idea" of a community space seems nice but I think it would be under utilized and a waste of taxpayers money. Residents have their core groups of friends for socializing. We have the senior center, and the schools provide several outlets for community events as well as activities at Choate Park.
The goal is admirable, but also may be a bit too high to reach. Most people don't have a reason to build community, and that's not necessarily a Medway specific problem.
The Main St shopping district from Holliston St to Pond St needs redevelopment. I understand these lots are privately owned but we need to find ways to encourage owners to build multi-use properties. For example, retail on the ground floor and apartments/housing on the second floor. These can be built to fit in with the size/style of the town while providing a more residential feel to our Main St. A more pedestrian friendly area that would encourage people to spend more time on the streets would make Medway feel like more than just a place you 'drive to run an errand'.
These are important but existing structures should be used or enhance features with in them to provide these needs, schools, outdoor venues, churches, public spaces and other town owned properties
These are strong aspirational goals but to fully achieve them, there needs to be a commitment to ensure that they are accessible to the community when the community wants them. Example - the Library hours are not aligned to when the working population can come to the Library.
We have a long way to go with this. With limited support for the library it has limited hours and there is almost no other cultural activities offered
We have performance space in the schools that could be used for the community rather than create some new space. the taxpayers pay for the schools and should be able to use the facilities for the creative arts. and that would also get young and old engaging together
We need to add a space dedicated to and targeted for teenagers, not sports field but a place to gather and play cards, games or socialize. This will allow them to avoid the toddler and younger children’s parks, or gather in unsafe areas

Would like update on school buildings
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### Comments on Core Theme #4: Safe and Connected Mobility Options

1. Focus on sidewalks. We need them on all main roads, including scenic ways like Adams and Lovering Streets that are important connectors... even though putting sidewalks there would be a challenge. We need to make this whole town WALKABLE!
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2. I'm OK with bicycles to the extent that it involves DEDICATED bike paths. I find sharing the normal travel lanes with bicyclists to be overly dangerous and frankly a pain.
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3. I'm OK with encouraging EVs with charging stations, but only to the extent that it's ENCOURAGING and nothing that forces it.
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4. I don't see public transportation to be overly relevant in Medway, other than for the elderly. I have no problem with cars being the primary mode of transportation.
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A shuttle to surrounding communities is something desirable for the aging population and expansion of that should be looked at through the Senior Center/Council on Aging. For those not of age for that use, less desirable as doing so would make Medway feel more like a city. This would certainly continue the unfortunate trend to make Medway less of a country/farming type community.
--

Bring back bus service, this town is a lot of low income seniors, that can't or shouldn't be driving. Or 24 hour shuttle service. town needs someone to pay attention to handicap access to businesses. Even to step up onto the sidewalk at the plaza is difficult for a lot of citizens. ADA issues have not been addressed for years in this town, as stated before most elderly don't use social media. Communication needs to be addressed in the town. Need to work on what is missing in town currently. Today's vision.
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Electric chargers get power from somewhere and it costs money; it's not free. theoretically a nice idea; at this time, not practical.
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Help Sanford Mills get electric plug in for vehicles. Make it a place that others follow.
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How about remembering West Medway? Safety on Rte 109, sidewalks, speed of vehicles traveling thru the area, vehicles passing in no passing zones on narrow portions of Rte 109.
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I disagree that more affordable housing should be added in Medway.
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I find cyclists to be the largest hazards to pedestrians and new or older drivers, they disobey stop signs, yield signs and traffic signals. We need safer sidewalks for walkers, fewer cyclists in proximity to pedestrians and cars. 109 needs a major rebuild from the town center to I495. It needs to be widened to 4 lanes to allow smooth traffic flow at peak times, and sidewalks are needed all along 109 from everywhere west of Community Church and the 126 intersection. We compel the utilities to allow the placement of pedestrian and bike paths in their rights of way on the major power transmission lines to make it easier to walk or cycle from West Medway to the High School and town center
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I like the supporting clean vehicle access. However, recently the fees that have been added don't make sense. Specifically, the \$1.20 session fee that's been added to 8 CP chargers around town (on top of the 30c/kWh). That session fee almost guarantees that charging your electric car will cost more than adding gas to a car, which means no local EV owners will use them (they pay about 23c/kWh at home with no session fee). And it's not worth it for other EV owners unless they're charging for many hours, which don't really make sense where they're located. Because this pricing is so skewed toward only being beneficial for 4hr+ parking, they should be located near apartments where people may want an EV but can't install charging themselves.
I think all of these suggestions/visions are leading us in the right direction.
I think Holliston Street needs sidewalks on both sides at least past VFW if not to Parish Center as well as some traffic mitigation at Holliston/Lovering intersection, which has seen increased traffic and increased problems.
I would like to see more sidewalks. Right now, it seems like where there are sidewalks, they end after a certain distance....so you are left walking on the side of the road. Also, any thoughts about having electric bike rentals anywhere? Not sure if they would be used in this current area, but maybe in the future?
I'd like to see the town create ways to encourage more biking and walking. Bikes lanes on streets (other than Main St) such as Holliston St, Winthrop St etc would make it safer for people to bike downtown. Currently there are few safe streets to bike on, Sidewalks on Holliston St are in poor condition and they are non-existent on Winthrop St. The town should buy electric vehicles for the various departments that need them and install solar on town property. Solar/electric is the future and if we are planning for the future we should not continue dependence on gas powered vehicles.
In "downtown" areas we should consider widening sidewalks or require/encourage developers to do so when undertaking construction projects in the area. This would allow for more space to walk/bike, outdoor programming and dining.
It is not easy to walk in Medway. Sidewalks should be expanded all new construction should include a plan for access/sidewalks
Medway is a thru-town. People leave for work, or pass thru to get to work. 109 and just about every intersection on it has become a mess as a result. While it's good to have the renovated main street with new lights, sidewalks, etc. it has become a little stifling. I regularly choose to go to other towns for services because of this.
More public access to electric vehicle chargers is a goal that should be monitored in conjunction with any state and federal mandates - requiring commercial development to include these is great but putting additional tax revenue to do so is not desirable.
sidewalks on all town public ways
Strongly support goal #1

The town Should consider the construction of Modern Roundabouts at busy intersections such as at the Village St./ Franklin St, 109/126, and Lovering St./Pond St./ Maple St. Intersections, along with other busy intersections in town.

The town should not bear the burden of individuals converting to electric vehicles, we don't offer free gas why free electricity? As far as reducing parking and public streets, the focus should be on reclamation and stormwater direction.

There are many cars there and it's probably the largest residence in Medway

Try a pilot program of scooters or bikes along Holliston Street. I see a lot of walkers with grocery bags. I'm assuming that is to and from Cassidy apts or the shelter.

We need to focus on people -- what they need, how they will use the infrastructure -- NOT on the cars. People and their activities and needs create community. Cars do not. Cars and other means of transportation are supportive tools for people!

While the goal to shift to more electric vehicles may be the correct one overall, there is still a long road till the reality occurs. There may be roadblocks that occur (for example the batteries in EVs are notoriously difficult to recycle and may be a potentially worse environmental hazard) and the town needs to ensure that any plans that are begun have the ability to pivot quickly to not have a cost that is sunk that cannot be recovered or redirected if needed.