

Concord's Long Range Plan: Envision Concord – Bridge to 2030

How Will Concord Engage in Responsible Regionalism in the Future?

Concord's destiny is influenced by priorities of its citizens, the actions of local government and by the plans and policies of adjacent jurisdictions including the State and Federal governments. Examples of regional influences include Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination (MAGIC), the MA Department of Transportation's expansion of Route 2, MBTA, Minuteman National Park, Massport at Hanscom Field, MA Department of Corrections and our neighboring towns.

The Comprehensive Long Range Planning Committee is considering aspects of regional planning, as part of the Long Range Plan: Envision Concord-Bridge to 2030. Based on the American Planning Association's Responsible Regionalism Principle, the Committee did a Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, and Threat (SWOT) analysis. The analysis focused on ensuring that local proposals account for, connect with, and support the plans of adjacent jurisdictions and the surrounding region. The Committee's analysis resulted in the following summary:

- Concord has regional connections to public and private transportation systems and has the opportunity to participate regionally to broaden services to improve the daily transportation needs of its residents and visitors.
- Concord maintains a Housing Production Plan, participating with neighboring towns to support the Regional Housing Services Office to administer affordable housing in several towns.
- Concord actively registers conservation and agricultural land and collaborates with regional conservation organizations to maintain and expand open spaces and green corridors across the Town's borders, and to provide river stewardship.
- The housing, transportation, health and economic needs of Concord's aging population may benefit from robust regional systems and developments with increased density adjacent to public transportation.
- Regional sharing of resources occurs with the CCRHS and Minuteman Regional High School, the Minuteman Library System, Emergency Medical Services and disaster cooperation between towns, and the Board of Health and Building Department. Participation in the Green Communities Program and Community Preservation Act has provided statewide economic resources to Concord. Opportunities for increased regional cooperation exist through MAPC and MAGIC grants.

- Limited transportation connectivity to regional destinations maintains Concord's reliance on the automobile. Enhancing public transportation connections to neighboring towns and employment centers will diminish the impact of traffic on our roadways.
- Evaluating benefits from opportunities to share costs regionally may require a systems approach including identifying regional opportunities for resource sharing arrangements for infrastructure system improvements such as district heating systems.
- Cleaning up Brownfields with EPA, shared regional infrastructure priorities with MA DOT, and other regional public private partnerships require multi-year financial plans coordinated with the Town's annual budget cycle.
- Concord must be alert to changes in regional visions of state and federal agencies that control land in the Town that may be beneficial or detrimental to the Town's goals.

We ask citizens to please consider these points and other issues associated with Responsible Regionalism themes for Concord's future and to send your thoughts to the Envision Concord 2030 website – www.EnvisionConcord.org. A great plan depends on you!