

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

### **How will Concord Establish Interwoven Equity in the Future?**

Concord's Comprehensive Long Range Plan: Envision Concord - Bridge to 2030, will seek to ensure fairness and equity in providing for the housing, services, health, safety and livelihood needs of all citizens and groups. Based on the American Planning Association's Interwoven Equity Principle, the Committee did a Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, and Threat (SWOT) analysis, resulting in the following summary:

- Providing a range of housing types to accommodate varying lifestyle choices and affordability needs makes it possible for households of different sizes and income levels to live in close proximity. Concord has successfully met its state-mandated 10% affordable housing index but continues to face challenges over maintaining flexibility of housing options for residents of all generations.
- Due to its amenities and services, Concord is a desirable town in which to live. High property values and zoning remain barriers to diversifying housing. Increasing the Town's economic and demographic diversity will depend on providing flexible housing choices for people who work in town and who hope to remain here.
- Concord is well served by the Regional Housing Services Office that coordinates the administration needs of affordable housing for several towns. Additionally, the neighborhoods in Concord have equal access to town services and resources thereby decreasing factors that may lead to disinvestment and physical deterioration.
- Concord's social services are available to all residents. Hugh Cargill Trust, Tax Relief funding, Tax exemption programs, Council on Aging services and support for MinuteMan ARC are indications of a caring community. Improved access to transportation and safety for at-risk residents will enhance our Healthy Community.
- Transportation linkages to village centers and community services provide an opportunity for improvements to benefit all residents. Concord benefits from the proactive services of the Public Works Department and Light Plant to maintain safe roadways, adequate and secure water and wastewater treatment facilities, and electric power. Potential for infrastructure development, and planning for drought, severe storms, and cyber security as well as energy challenges is an opportunity.
- Given Concord's relative homogeneous population with a relative lack of economic diversity, future planning may provide workforce diversity and development by targeting business segments attractive to millennials, expanding vocational training opportunities

and considering zoning opportunities to incentivize business development.

- Concord's emergency response system is strong and has been tested. Additional connections between neighborhoods, a strengthened Council on Aging as well as resiliency planning for natural disasters will be beneficial.
- Concord has taken a proactive approach to remediating brownfield sites and removing environmental degradation. Redevelopment opportunities for sites such as 2229 Main Street could further strengthen environmental justice.

We ask citizens to please consider these points and other issues associated with Interwoven Equity themes for Concord's future and to send your thoughts to the Envision Concord 2030 website – [www.EnvisionConcord.org](http://www.EnvisionConcord.org). A great plan depends on you!