

Savage-Dunham, Mary

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2019 11:06 AM
To: Planning
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Master Plan Comments

Master Plan Comments

The Planning Board initiated the update of the Comprehensive Master Plan to help our town identify needs and priorities as we prepare for the next decade. The guidance from our fellow citizens is essential to the Planning Board as we address current and future challenges that come before us. The last time our town adopted a Master Plan was in 2001. Much has changed over the past seventeen plus years, and the pace of change seems only to accelerate. Town Meeting 2019 voted to authorize the funds for the update of the Comprehensive Master Plan and to establish a Master Plan Committee with the approval of Article 36.

The Master Plan Committee (MPC) will play an advisory role to the Planning Board in the development of the Plan, and welcomes your thoughts and comments during the process. The MPC encourages your participation at the many public meetings and events that will be scheduled and also offers this on-line form for you to share your thoughts as well.

Note: Any comments made are public and will be provided to the Master Plan Committee (MPC) and may be posted on the website with other public comments. The MPC will not be responding directly to comments submitted here but will read them all.

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Comments or Questions	The Hingham Master Plan updated in March 2014 by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) included goal H.1.2 that stated "Improve bicycle and pedestrian access to the commuter boat terminal and commuter rail stations". As anyone who has ever attempted to bicycle to the commuter boat or commuter rail, this goal has not been met. The Comprehensive Master Plan needs to promote the goal of having connected, well-maintained, and extensive trails, bike lanes, and sidewalks to encourage active transportation, health, and recreation in the town of Hingham. In addition the

Master Plan Committee should work with the South Shore Coalition (SSC) of the MAPC to connect existing bike paths and enable safe travel to Boston and various transportation hubs.

As everyone knows traffic has gotten much worse in Hingham. To bike from say the High School to the shipyard entails navigating very dangerous state routes and aggressive drivers who sometimes openly disdain cyclist. Outside of Wompatuck State Park, a small section along the harbor and Route 228, the town of Hingham has few protected bike lanes. Protected bike lanes that connect the shipyard, commuter rail stations and downtown Hingham will greatly enhance the livability of the town both for families and commuters. Vast sums of money are spent repaving, building and maintaining roads dedicated to cars. Protected bike paths need to be prioritized, funded and built to enhance the quality of life and safety of residences.

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