



SOMERVISION 2040

January 9, 2020

A graphic representing the cover of the Somerville Vision 2040 report. It features a white background with a blue title, a subtitle, a collage of three photos (a park path, a rainbow, and a house), the city seal, and the mayor's name and website. The graphic is decorated with orange brushstroke-like shapes.

Somerville Vision 2040
Comprehensive Plan Update | 2010 - 2040
City of Somerville, Massachusetts

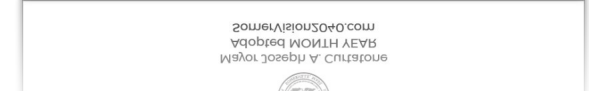
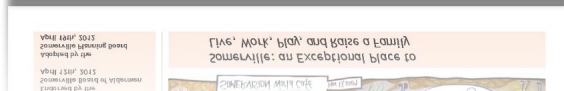
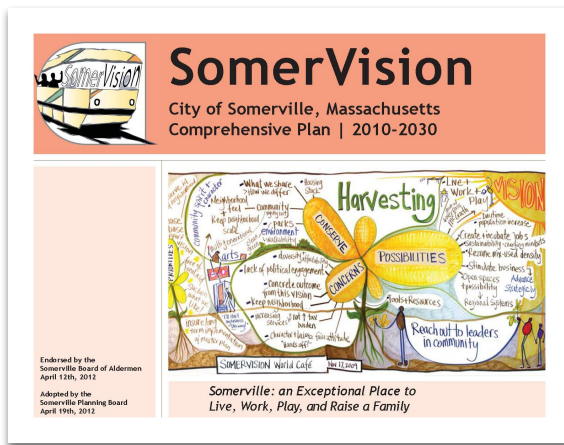


Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone
Adopted MONTH YEAR
SomervilleVision2040.com

SomervilleVision2040.com

Why Update?

- Professional practices recommends updating every 5-10 years.
- Circumstances have changed significantly from 2010-2020.

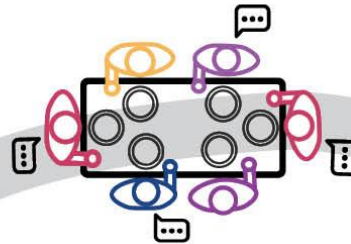


SomerVision Outreach Strategies



SomerVision Card Game

Participants read through possible SomerVision Numbers and picked the eight that were the most important to them. 420 individuals played the game in 4 languages at 10 public events and online throughout Summer 2019.



SomerSuppers

Participants hosted their own conversations at their homes, community organizations, and restaurants about life in Somerville. Organizers shared in-depth feedback through report-out forms. 23 SomerSuppers were hosted through Spring 2019.



SomerStories and Qualitative Survey

Individuals filled out a survey and submitted their text or video stories online. These methods of outreach were fairly open-ended, and let participants share what was important to them about Somerville. Submissions came throughout Spring 2019.



SomerVision Public Meetings

These large meetings featured Staff presentations while small group activities or stations solicited feedback. We hosted three meetings in January, April, and October 2019.



SomerVision Forums

Our nine forums, which were hosted in a variety of languages and typically focused on a specific topic or group, enabled Staff to collect feedback from in-depth conversations. These were hosted throughout Spring/Summer 2019.

SomerVision Outreach



Key Themes from SomerVision 2040

Values at the Forefront

- 1 Protect and foster the **DIVERSITY** of our people, culture, housing and economy.
- 2 Celebrate the unique character of our neighborhoods and the strength of our **COMMUNITY** as expressed in our history, cultures and vibrant civic engagement.
- 3 Invest in the **GROWTH** of a resilient economic base that is centered around transit, generates a wide variety of job opportunities, creates an active daytime population, supports independent local businesses, and secures fiscal self-sufficiency.
- 4 Promote a dynamic urban streetscape that embraces public transportation, reduces car dependence, and is **ACCESSIBLE**, inviting and safe for all pedestrians, bicyclists and transit riders.
- 5 Build a **SUSTAINABLE** future through climate leadership, balanced transportation, engaging civic spaces, exceptional educational opportunities, improved health, varied and affordable housing options, and the responsible use of our natural resources.
- 6 Affirm our responsibility to current and future generations through continued **INNOVATION** in business, technology, education, arts and government.



Key Themes from SomerVision 2040

Equity Lens in All We Do

- The SomerVision Committee considered the importance of equity in each of the topic chapters and identified equity goals.
- In our implementation, we need to consider how policies and actions affect equity in our community.



Equality

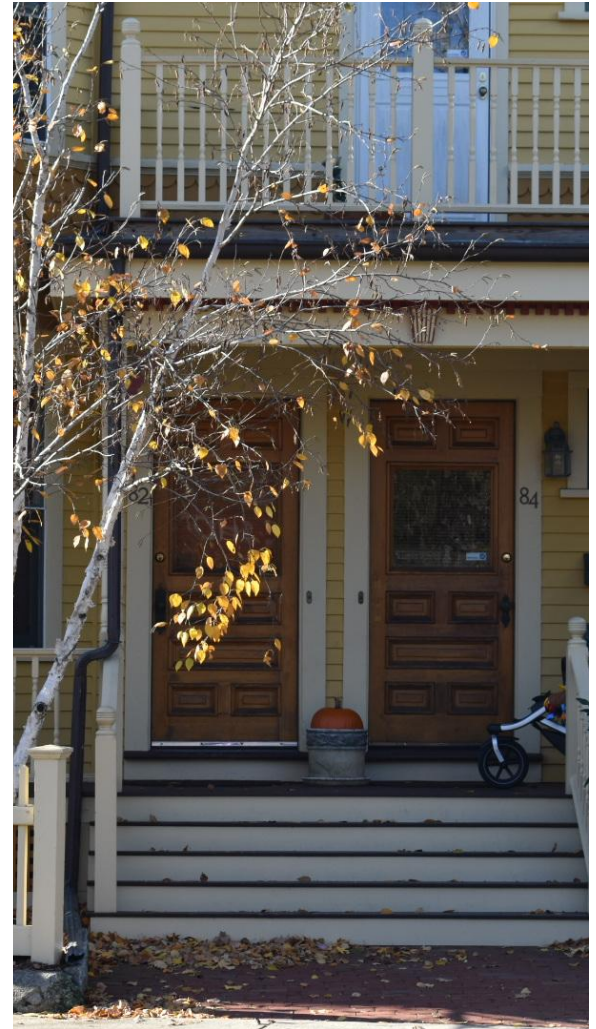


Equity

Key Themes from SomerVision 2040

Minimize Displacement

- Households are being displaced from Somerville as a result of high housing costs.
- This has a ripple effect on our institutions and community members.
- We need to continue to assess how our community can minimize and mitigate displacement.

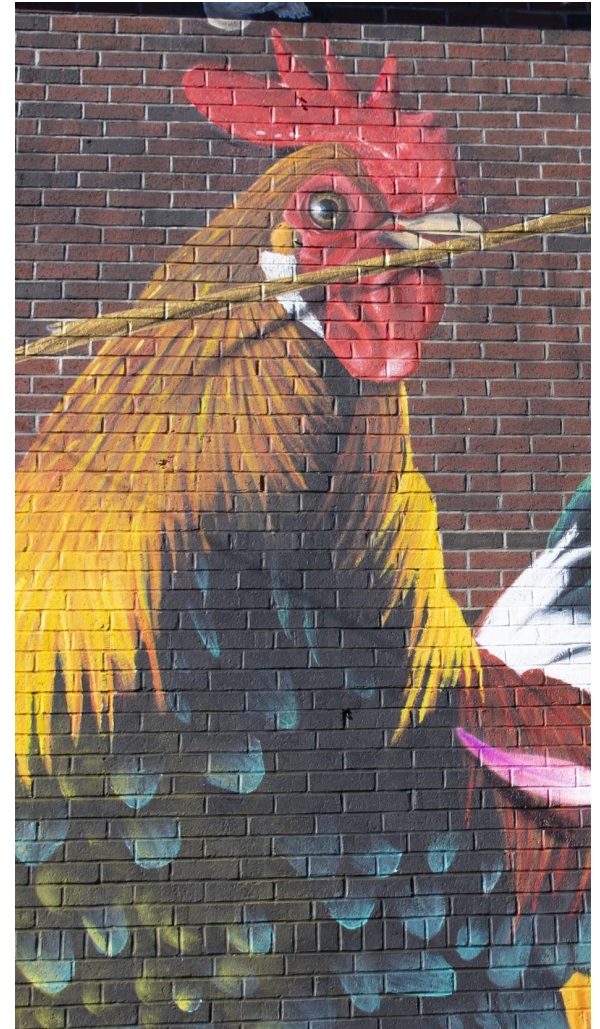


A group of people, including a woman with glasses, a young boy in a blue shirt, and a woman in a white shirt, are gathered around a table covered with a red and white checkered tablecloth. They are eating large slices of watermelon. The scene is outdoors, with other people visible in the background. The text "TOPIC CHAPTERS" is overlaid in the center of the image.

TOPIC CHAPTERS

SomerVision 2040 Numbers

- The Numbers need to be kept in context with the rest of the plan.
- An action or policy's effect on equity and our values is equally important as whether it meets a SomerVision Number.
- Although Numbers are set and will be reported, they will be accompanied by other contextualizing data and are located within their topic chapters.



Climate & Sustainability

Topic Chapter Highlights

- Develop policy incentives to **ENCOURAGE SUSTAINABLE BEHAVIOR** relating to consumer awareness.
- Educate Somerville residents and businesses on **CLIMATE ISSUES AND AVAILABLE ACTIONS**, to build a citywide culture of engagement and awareness

80%

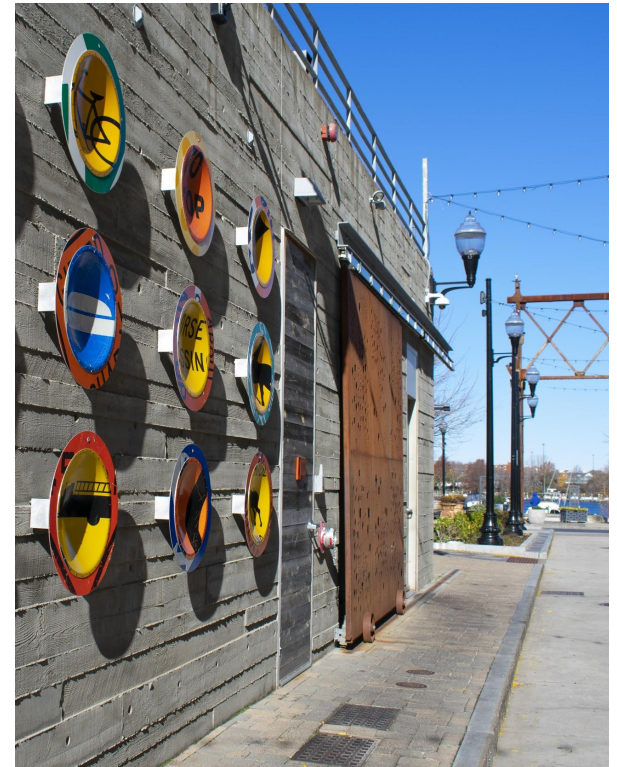
DECREASE IN CARBON EMISSIONS
from 2014 levels by 2040



Commercial Development, Business, and Arts

Topic Chapter Highlights

- Work on **ZONING AMENDMENTS** to support the goals of SomerVision, especially commercial development and housing.
- Reuse at least one municipal building for **SUPPORT OF THE LOCAL ARTS** and artists.



Community & Governance

Topic Chapter Highlights

- **INCORPORATE EQUITY GOALS** into new neighborhood plans and development proposals to embed the needs of marginalized communities into the planning process.
- Study and implement ways to **EXPAND THE ACCESSIBILITY OF CRITICAL CITY MEETINGS.**
- Create a **CENTRALIZED SOURCE OF INFORMATION** about all public processes and initiatives.

Voter turnout, share of City workers who are minorities, share of board and commission members who are minorities

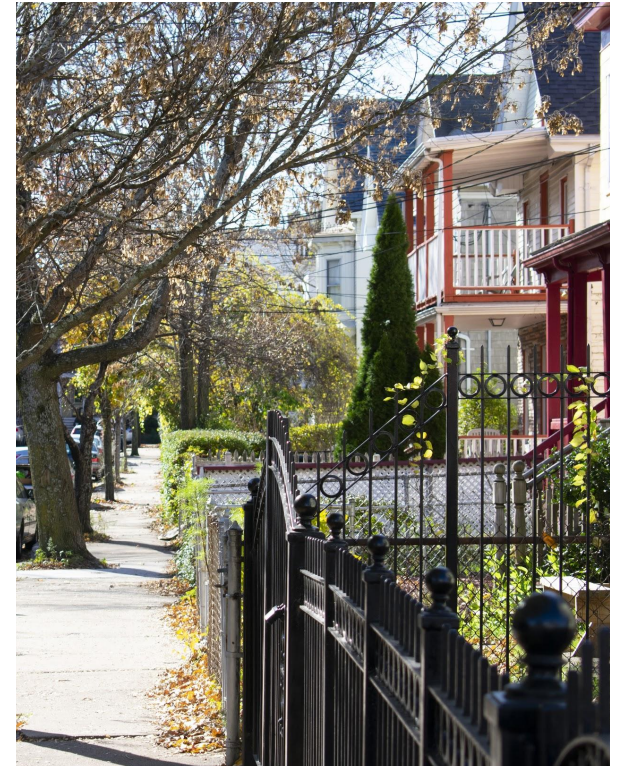


Housing

Topic Chapter Highlights

- Establish a task force with sufficient resources and expertise to **MEET OUR TARGET LEVEL OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING** and tools to enable both market and non-market developers to generate that target.
- Work on **ZONING AMENDMENTS** to support the goals of SomerVision, especially commercial development and housing.

20%
OF HOUSING STOCK AFFORDABLE
in perpetuity by 2040



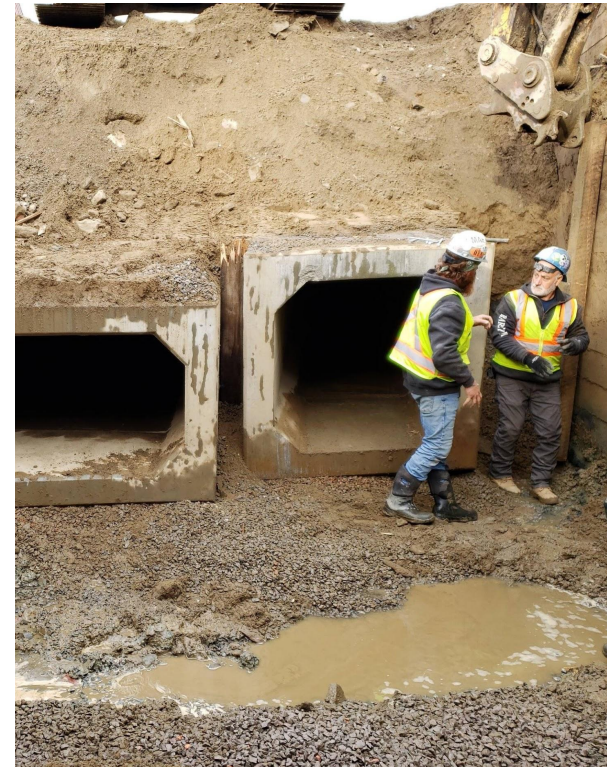
Infrastructure

Topic Chapter Highlights

- Implement a **TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACH TO ADDRESSING INFRASTRUCTURE** with a focus on greater investment into building resiliency into our water and sewage systems as opposed to a more reactive approach to repairs.

50

MILES OF WATER & SEWER PIPE UPGRADED
by 2040



Mobility

Topic Chapter Highlights

- **REDUCE AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED (VMT) in Somerville.**

75%
OF WORK COMMUTES VIA NON-CAR MODE
by 2040

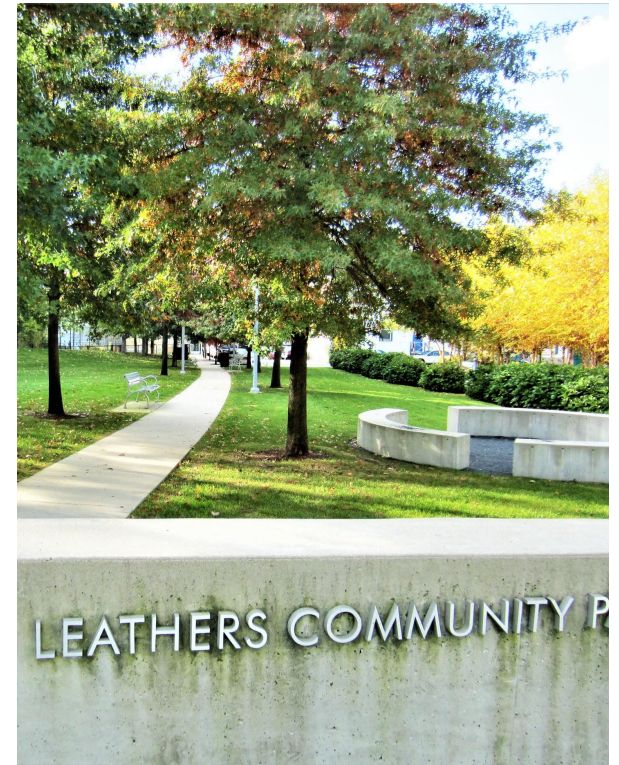


Public Space and the Natural Environment

Topic Chapter Highlights

- Create an **OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION STRATEGY** that identifies target parcels.
- Study our open spaces to ensure they are accessible to pedestrians and do not have significant barriers. Use “**SAFE ROUTES TO PARKS**” as a model for park access.

105
NEW ACRES OF OPEN SPACE
by 2040



Youth and Education

Topic Chapter Highlights

- Explore opportunities to create **NEW GATHERING SPACES FOR YOUTH** in the City.
- Explore how to provide **AFFORDABLE EARLY LEARNING AND CARE PROGRAMS** to all Somerville families.
- Ensure all **SPS SCHOOLS ARE TRUE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS** with integrated academic, health and social services, youth development, and community supports.

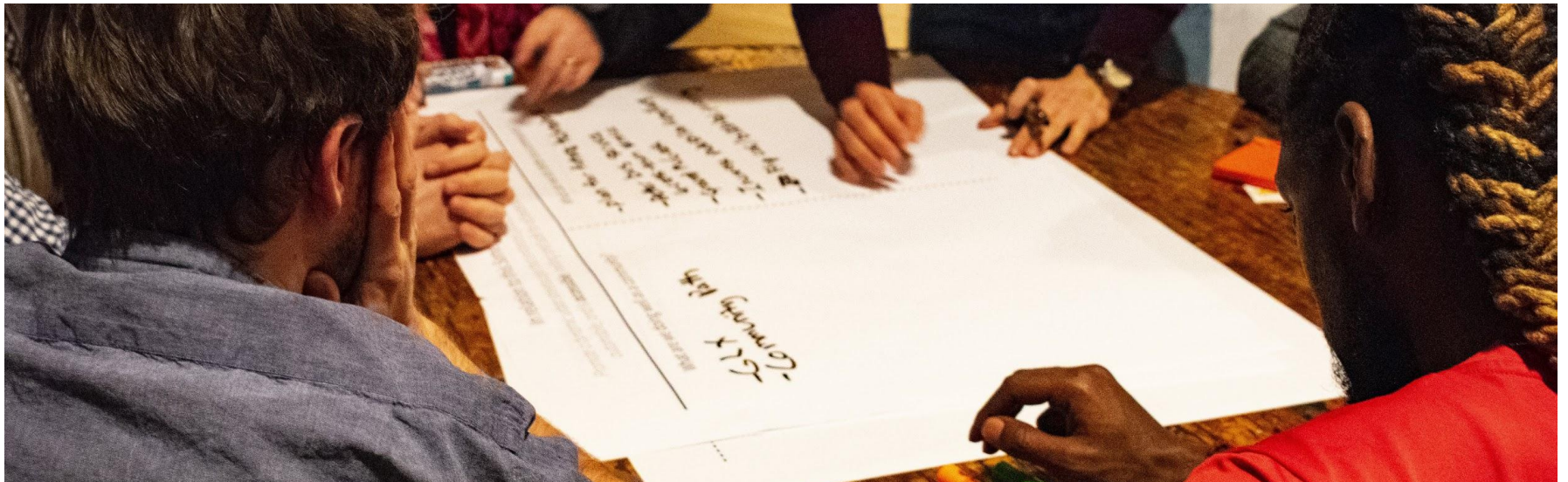
100%
OF YOUTH ON A PATH TO COLLEGE, CAREER,
LIFE by 2040



A Call to Action

Implementation will Require Cooperation

- Our plans are not just blueprints for City staff, but the whole community.
- Successful implementation will require work with City Council, boards and commissions, community advocates, non-profits, city residents, and more.



Next Steps

Adopting the Plan

- Period of public comment through Planning Board
- City Council endorsement
- Planning Board adoption

Finalize Web Version

- Update SomerVision2040.com
- Translate elements of the plan to make more accessible
- Promote when complete

Implementation

- Determine reporting methodology
- Coordinating amongst City staff, Boards, Commissions, and non-profit partners
- Building a community feedback loop for implementation



SomerVision 2040

Thank You!