



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
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MAYOR

After three years of community outreach, including the work of a dedicated 65-person committee, in 2012 the City Council endorsed and the Planning Board adopted SomerVision; our City's first comprehensive plan. SomerVision set us on a path forward towards achieving common goals.

Best practice is for a plan to be updated every 5-10 years. So much had changed since the adoption of SomerVision that the City embarked on updating that plan with a public kickoff in January 2019. City staff worked with a 60-person committee called the SomerVision Committee but also used new strategies like SomerSuppers and tabling at City wide events to reach people who may not attend standard public meetings.

The plan update, SomerVision 2040, was released in January 2020 with presentations to both the Planning Board and City Council. After the comment period, Staff was preparing a revised version incorporating comments when our world changed suddenly.

In some ways, this document is exactly what Somerville needs to lead us moving forward. The comprehensive plan update puts equity and displacement at its forefront, two issues which have only grown in importance this year. The community's willingness to work on the SomerVision update together is exactly what we'll need in covid recovery too.

In other ways, we are preparing to adapt the plan to acknowledge that COVID-19 has changed everyone's circumstances as individuals and as a community. However, our strengths, challenges and opportunities, and goals and takeaways laid out in each chapter remain largely unchanged.

In addition, we will add some guidance on implementation. This will not be an exhaustive blueprint for achieving every task, but how we plan to work with the community, our peers, and elected officials moving forward. Lastly, we will be editing to incorporate resounding comments for the open comment period including adding a sidebar to call attention to AARP Aging Cities and that Somerville is a community for everyone.

Because we need 30 days to make these edits and confer with the SomerVision Committee on the changes to the document, we would like to present a plan for endorsement at the November 19, 2020 meeting. For an update on SV2040, and as requested, an update on the progress towards the SomerVision Numbers as adopted in the 2030 plan, check out SomerVision2040.com.