

DRAFT PLAN OPEN HOUSE

TOWN OF ARLINGTON

Public Meeting #3 | March 26, 2026

TOWN OF ARLINGTON MASSACHUSETTS

TOWN OF ARLINGTON
AmpUp!
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Stantec

Tonight's Agenda



Agenda

1. Overview Presentation

2. Open House & Hearing From You

// COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Our Planning Process

Planning Process & Timeline



Phases of Community Engagement

Visioning Forum

Strategies Workshop

Draft Plan Open House

We are here!







In-Person and Online Engagement Opportunities

- Visioning forum in April
- Committee outreach at events like:
  - Farmers' Market
  - National Night Out
  - Summer concerts and beer gardens
- Town Day pop-up
- Focus group discussions
- Project website:
  - Surveys and quick polls
  - Interactive map
  - Project documents





By the Numbers – Great Participation So Far!

160+ Attendees at first two public workshops

957 Contributors online

20+ Committee pop-up events

3,435 Votes on **624** interactive map comments

103 Paper surveys collected

650+ Online survey responses

4,000 Project website visitors

496 Responses to 2 quick polls

How Public Input Has Informed the Process

- Revising the vision and goals
- Identifying and refining strategies
- Raising additional questions and areas of focus
- Building support for implementation



DRAFT PLAN DOCUMENT

Draft Plan Structure

Introduction

Community Engagement

Community Vision

Trends Influencing Arlington

Land Use

Economic Development

Housing

Connectivity

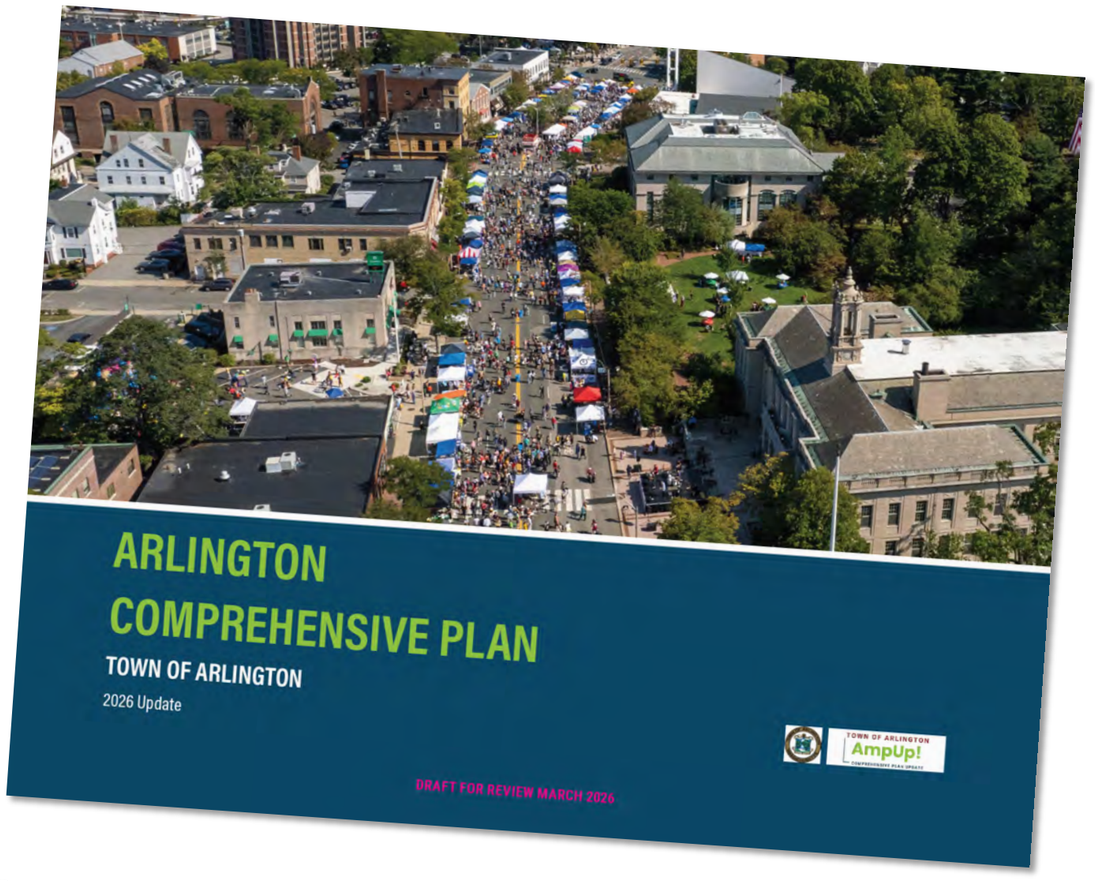
Historic & Cultural Resources

Natural Resources & Open Space

Public Facilities & Services

Implementation

Goals & Strategies



Topic Chapter Structure

Overview

Key Issues & Opportunities

Relation to Other Plan Elements

Strategy Summary

Relation to Plan Themes

Goals & Strategies

Key Existing Conditions

Emphasizes interconnectedness – can't consider one topic separate from others



Plan Themes

Supporting Equity and Diversity

- Welcoming community, quality of life
- Broad lens: physical, programmatic, language access, and more
- Access to resources and services, public spaces, community facilities

Integrating Sustainability and Resilience

- Sustainable building practices, green infrastructure, economic adaptability, social connect
- Proactive planning to better withstand and recover from future changes

Vision Statement

Arlington strives to be a welcoming town that supports a diverse population in a variety of housing options, fosters thriving business districts and vibrant neighborhoods, protects the natural environment, and encourages a strong shared sense of community and civic involvement.

Key features will include:

- A variety of attainable housing options for all income levels and stages of life
- Thriving business districts with a range of job opportunities
- Inviting, safe streets for all users that link neighborhoods
- Healthy ecologies and resilient open spaces
- Stewardship and promotion of our historic heritage
- Cultural, arts, recreational, and educational resources that provide growth and shared experiences
- New development and redevelopment that enhances sustainability and resilience
- A shared interest in civic engagement and the Town’s fiscal health

Strategy Summary

Land Use

- Strategic assessment of redevelopment opportunities to increase commercial and housing
- Bikeway as economic and housing amenity
- Role of Town-owned property to advance community goals
- Review zoning as implementation tool: project review timeline, uses, integrating local-serving businesses near neighborhoods

Summary of recommendations – see draft plan for full list of strategies



Strategy Summary

Economic Development

- Develop a Strategic Economic Development Plan
- Streamline regulatory and permitting processes to support entrepreneurs and businesses
- Improve marketing and communications for local businesses
- Create a Placemaking Plan for business districts

Summary of recommendations – see draft plan for full list of strategies



Strategy Summary

Housing

- Amend zoning to allow greater range of housing types in more locations
- Identify recurring funding to support affordable housing development
- Align housing policy and net zero goals
- Increase development of ADUs

Summary of recommendations – see draft plan for full list of strategies

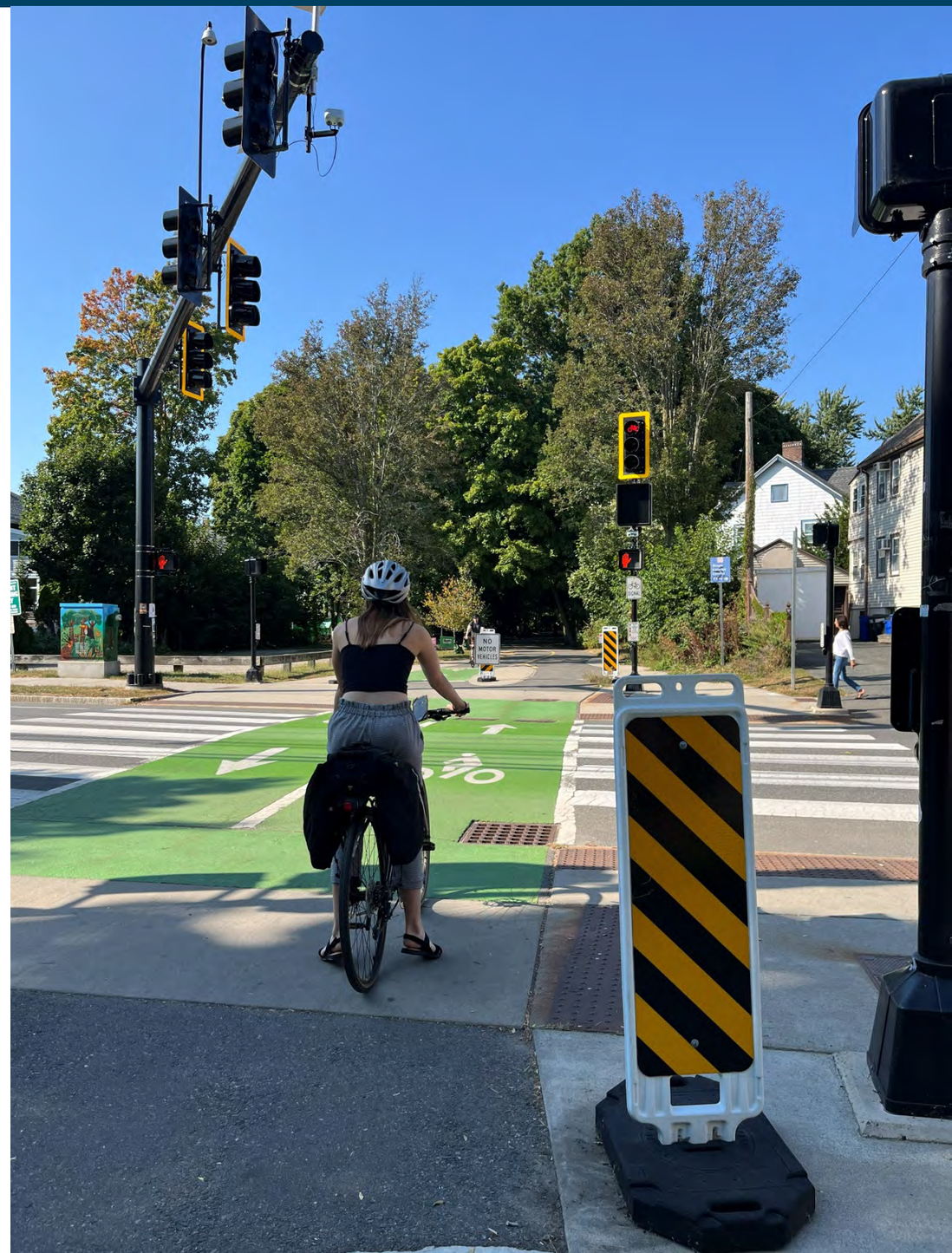


Strategy Summary

Connectivity

- Adopt Vision Zero policy to eliminate pedestrian and bicycle fatalities
- Review overnight parking in relation to housing and economic goals
- Study Mass Ave/Summer St connections for all users – existing and potential new
- Expand parking benefits districts to support streetscape improvements
- Advocate for transit improvements with MBTA

Summary of recommendations – see draft plan for full list of strategies



Strategy Summary

Historic & Cultural Resources

- Update the Arts and Culture Plan
- Create a cohesive marketing and communications approach for local assets
- Preserve historic Town-owned buildings
- Identify public art opportunities in public and private spaces
- Address physical and programmatic barriers to historic and cultural resources

Summary of recommendations – see draft plan for full list of strategies



Strategy Summary

Natural Resources & Open Space

- Continue to be a leader in sustainability and resiliency
- Mitigate urban heat island, localized flooding, and invasive species impacts
- Improve water quality in local water bodies
- Expand tree canopy and native plants

Summary of recommendations – see draft plan for full list of strategies



Strategy Summary

Public Facilities & Services

- Continue progress toward eliminating building-related emissions to meet net zero goals
- Leverage technology for more efficient public services
- Address field usage and maintenance
- Modernize Town-owned spaces and buildings for greater use
- Prepare plans for Town-owned facilities and for progressing toward zero waste

Summary of recommendations – see draft plan for full list of strategies



Implementation Matrix

GOAL/STRATEGY	LEAD	PARTNER(S)*	TIMEFRAME	TOWN MEETING ACTION REQUIRED
Goals:				

Tracking tool for next ten years

- Lead: typically a Town department
- Partner(s): other departments, boards and committees
- Timeframe: subject to change in response to emerging opportunities or issues
- Town Meeting Action Required?: strategies that likely require Town Meeting support

Implementation

Roles

- Town departments
- Town boards and committees
- ARB, Select Board and Town Manager
- Town Meeting



- Near-term priorities – demonstrate progress in next couple years on key strategies
- Zoning as one implementation tool – land use, housing, economic development especially

// HEARING FROM YOU

Hearing from You

Tonight's Open House

- Review the strategy posters around the room
- Provide feedback using the comment form, sticky notes, or the online form
- The online comment form will also be available for those who could not attend tonight

Use your phone's camera for a direct link to the online form

Arlington Draft Plan Comment Form

Hearing from You

Tell your neighbors and friends!

1. Review the draft plan document on the project website
2. Use the online comment form to provide your feedback

   Comment form available through April 12

AmpUp! Arlington Comprehensive Plan project website:

www.ArlingtonMA.gov/CompPlan



THANK YOU!