

DRAFT VISION STATEMENT:

Windsor is committed to building a thriving, inclusive community that blends its rich history with sustainable growth. It is a vibrant town that supports local businesses, celebrates arts and culture, and fosters a strong sense of community. By preserving historic charm and balancing economic growth with good environmental stewardship, Windsor will remain a welcoming place where residents of all ages can live, work, and thrive.

DRAFT GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

PROMOTE OUR HISTORY AND IDENTITY

Preserve Windsor's historic character, cultural heritage, and small-town charm while welcoming thoughtful innovation and change.

STRENGTHEN NEIGHBORHOODS AND HOUSING CHOICE

Expand affordable housing options for all generations, elevate housing quality, and promote energy-efficient, sustainable development.

PROMOTE A STRONG LOCAL AND REGIONAL ECONOMY

Support small businesses, attract innovative industries, and encourage vibrant villages and corridors that reflect Windsor's identity.

CONNECT PEOPLE AND PLACES

Enhance sidewalks, bike paths, trails, and public transit to make Windsor safer, more accessible, and regionally connected.

CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Celebrate cultural diversity, arts, and community events; invest in schools, services, and recreation to ensure Windsor remains a welcoming and engaging place to live.

OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Balance conservation and development by protecting environmental resources, supporting farms and open space, and promoting energy-efficient, climate-resilient infrastructure.

DRAFT GOAL:

Guide investment to Day Hill Corridor, Windsor Center, Wilson, and Poquonock Village to deliver distinctive, walkable districts with high-quality design, strong local businesses, housing near jobs and transit, resilient infrastructure, and memorable public spaces.

DAY HILL CORRIDOR

VISION: A regional employment center, incorporating new housing, recreational and mixed-use opportunities to augment traditional industrial, office and hospitality uses.

STRATEGIES:

1. Land Use and Development Framework
2. Walkability, Access Management, and Network Connectivity
3. Blue-Green Infrastructure, Identity, and Placemaking

WILSON

VISION: A vibrant neighborhood business district with safe streets, everyday services, a range of housing choices, and attractive public spaces.

STRATEGIES:

1. Enhance Neighborhood Business District
2. Pursue Park Development and Connectivity Projects
3. Develop Plans for Key Properties along Rail Line
4. Support Quality Services at Neighborhood Anchors

WINDSOR CENTER

VISION: A lively, walkable, historic town center with more residents, destination retail, dining, arts and culture, strong transit, and attractive public spaces.

STRATEGIES:

1. Implement Recommendations from the Windsor Center Transit Oriented Development Master Plan
2. Enhance Windsor Center Gateways
3. Enhance Center Business District

POQUONOCK VILLAGE

VISION: A village with historic charm, small-scale mixed-use, a nod to its farming heritage, and connection to the Farmington River.

STRATEGIES:

1. Enhance the village district

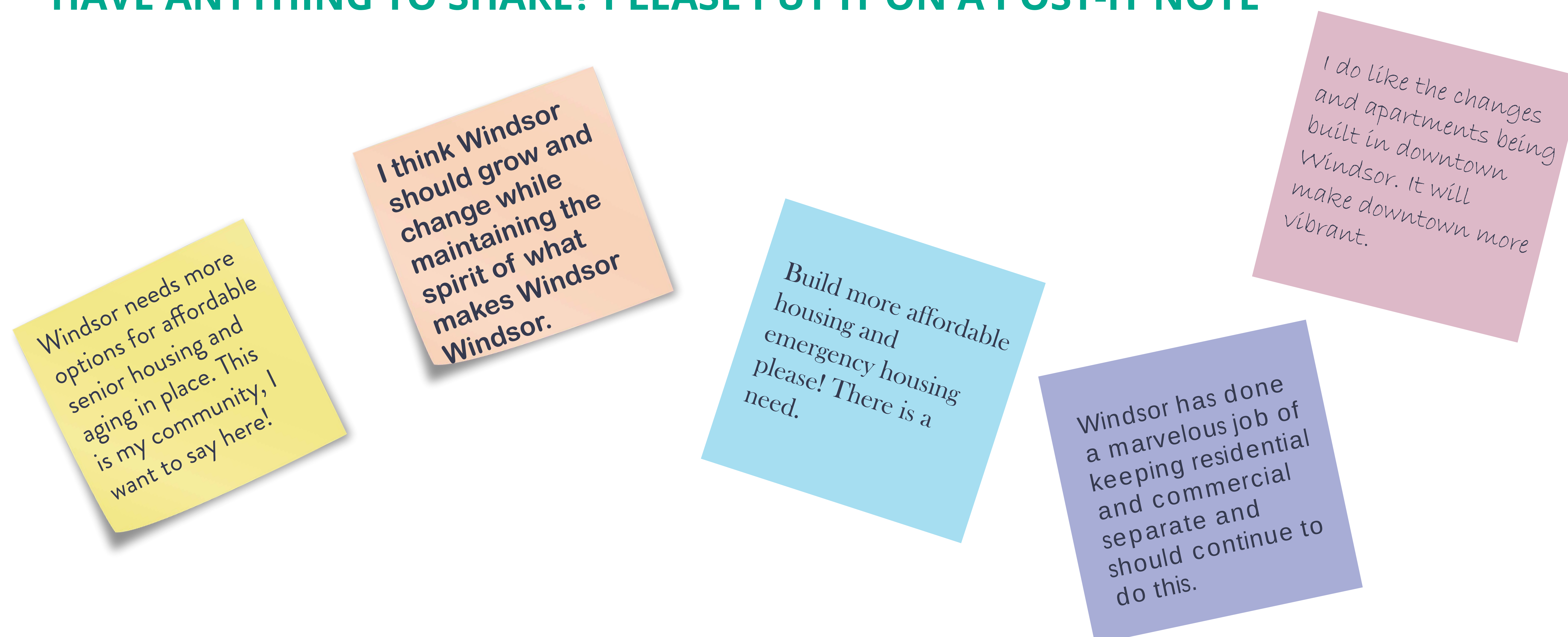
DRAFT GOAL:

Ensure that Windsor offers a diverse, affordable, and sustainable range of housing options that meet the needs of all residents including seniors, young adults, families, and those experiencing housing insecurity, while preserving neighborhood character.

DRAFT STRATEGIES:

1. Expand Housing Options for All Ages and Incomes.
2. Modernize and Sustain the Existing Housing Stock.
3. Encourage Mixed-Use and Innovative Housing Models.
4. Support “aging in place” for older residents.

HAVE ANYTHING TO SHARE? PLEASE PUT IT ON A POST-IT NOTE



WHAT WE'VE HEARD AND LEARNED:

AFFORDABILITY

- Housing costs, combined with energy expenses, particularly in older homes, create financial strain.
- High construction costs constrain new housing development.
- Lower-income households face barriers transitioning from renting to homeownership.
- Townwide energy-efficiency programs could help reduce overall housing costs.

HOUSING OPTIONS AND GAPS

- Shortage of smaller units (studios, 1-bedrooms) and larger multi-bedroom homes for families.
- Limited downsizing options for seniors and small households.
- High demand exists for supportive or transitional housing, with long waitlists at the Housing Authority.

DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE

- Preference for infill, adaptive reuse, and redevelopment rather than new greenfield construction.
- Higher-density, mixed-use housing near transit corridors and village centers is desirable.

MAINTENANCE AND REHABILITATION

- Aging housing stock requires repairs and maintenance support for homeowners.
- Rehabilitation programs can preserve neighborhood quality and existing housing.

COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS

- Growing need for accessible and supportive housing for seniors.
- Increase in residents with special needs or mental health challenges.
- Strong community desire for aging in place.

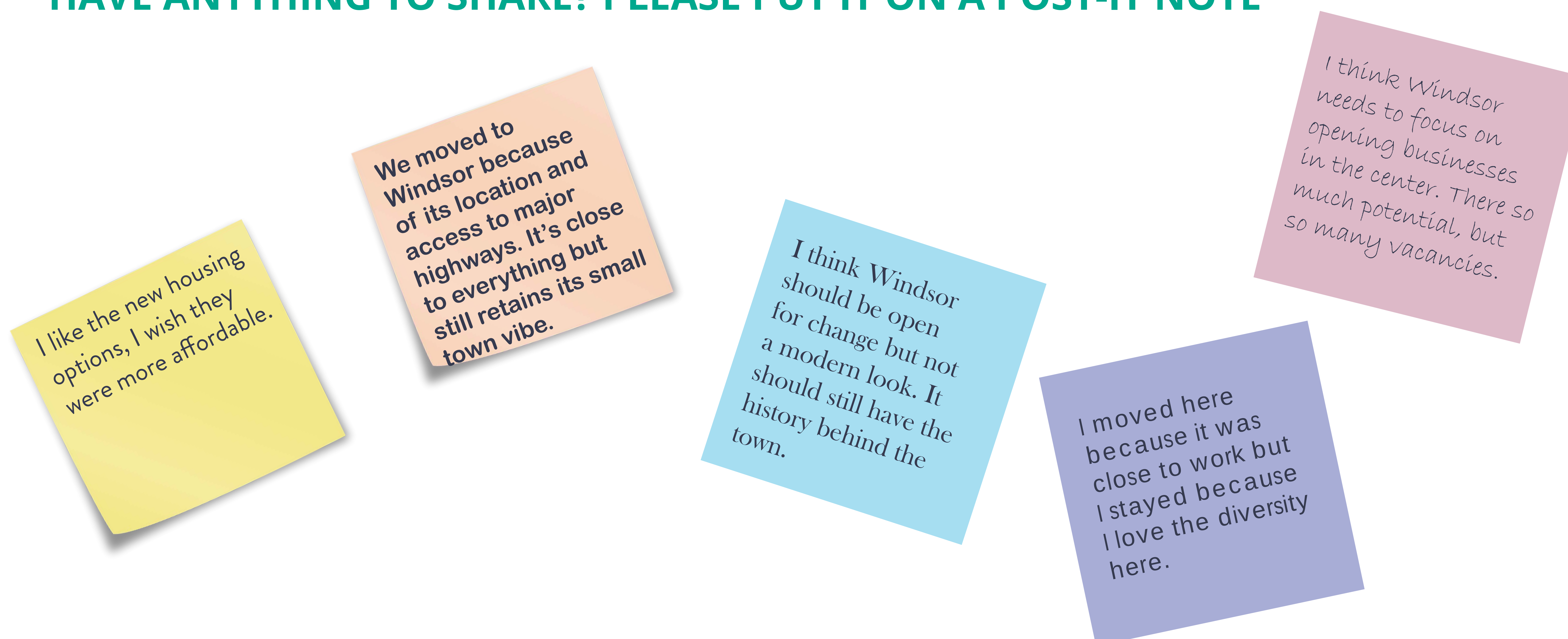
DRAFT GOAL:

Promote balanced growth and development that fosters a livable community, enhances economic vitality, and supports healthy, active lifestyles while preserving Windsor's small-town character and safeguarding its natural resources.

DRAFT STRATEGIES:

1. Encourage a mix of land uses that promote sustainable land use practices and walkable neighborhoods utilizing the 20 minute suburb model.
2. Review the zoning and subdivision regulations to increase its usefulness and understandability.

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WHAT WE'VE HEARD AND LEARNED:

LAND USE AND ZONING PRIORITIES

- Strong support for preserving farmland, open space, and natural resources.
- Desire to direct new growth to areas with existing infrastructure and services.
- Emphasis on using zoning tools to guide sustainable and efficient development.

REVITALIZATION OF WINDSOR CENTER

- Identified as a top priority for community reinvestment
- Calls to fill vacant buildings and encourage mixed-use development.
- Interest in creating a more active, walkable, and vibrant downtown.

HOUSING DIVERSITY AND AFFORDABILITY

- Need for more affordable housing options across income levels.
- Support for senior-friendly housing to allow aging in place
- Interest in expanding housing types to reflect changing demographics and household needs.

BALANCING PRESERVATION AND GROWTH

- Community values protecting Windsor's rural landscapes and open spaces.
- Recognition that reinvestment and targeted growth can strengthen existing areas.
- Overall goal to achieve a sustainable balance between conservation and development.

DRAFT GOAL:

Promote sustainable economic growth by creating high-quality jobs, enhancing underutilized commercial areas, and building vibrant, mixed-use places that honor Windsor’s historic character and natural assets.

DRAFT STRATEGIES:

- 1. Promote Economic Growth in Industrial Zoned Areas.
- 2. Align Job Growth with Local Workforce Strengths.
- 3. Prioritize Smart, Infill-Based Development.
- 4. Support Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

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WHAT WE’VE HEARD AND LEARNED:

OVERALL ECONOMIC CLIMATE

- Windsor has a strong economic base and opportunities to grow with emerging industries.
- Windsor serves as a regional employment hub, providing a foundation to expand local opportunities.
- The Town benefits from a highly educated population, supporting innovation and workforce development.

DOWNTOWN AND COMMERCIAL AREAS

- Vacant storefronts and offices reduce vitality. Desire for redevelopment in Windsor Center.
- Historic properties can be costly to maintain and reuse.

FUTURE GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

- Interest in biotech, clean energy, and mixed-use redevelopment. Concerns were raised about data centers.
- Infrastructure needs include EV charging, traffic management, and renewable energy.
- Suggestions include business incubators, Wi-Fi access, and local hiring/fair wage policies.

TOURISM, CULTURE, AND AMENITIES

- Parks, festivals, and historic sites are strong attractions that draw visitors from across the region.
- Opportunities exist to enhance dining, entertainment, and visitor services to maximize tourism’s impact.
- Coordinated marketing and promotion can further showcase Windsor’s cultural and natural assets.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

- Diversify economy to reduce reliance on residential taxpayers.
- Align growth with community character and quality of life.
- Update zoning and infrastructure as needed to support sustainable development.

DRAFT GOAL:

Expand transportation options and infrastructure to improve mobility and accessibility for all residents. Prioritize upgrades to transportation networks, utilities, and public facilities to create a resilient, sustainable community capable of meeting both current and future needs.

DRAFT STRATEGIES:

1. Encourage transportation infrastructure improvements that improve the accessibility and safety for all users and enhance transportation sustainability.
2. Support the expansion and improvement of transit services across Windsor and the region.
3. Promote Low-Carbon Transportation Alternatives.
4. Maintain and Enhance Utility Infrastructure.

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WHAT WE'VE HEARD AND LEARNED:

MOBILITY, SAFETY, AND ACCESSIBILITY

- Pedestrian and cyclist safety are major concerns
- Traffic calming and improved crossings are needed, particularly in village and commercial areas.
- Transit service is limited and infrequent, with poor connections to key destinations.
- Shuttles to employment hubs and senior facilities, and a Windsor CTfastrak spur, were suggested.
- Getting around without a car is difficult.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND MAINTENANCE

- Roads are generally well maintained, but sidewalks and bridges need upgrades.
- Stormwater and flooding issues persist in areas like Hayden Station Road, Pond Road, Island Road, and the Loomis campus.
- Aging utilities and school facilities require reinvestment, while police and fire stations are in better condition.

TRAFFIC, TRUCKS, AND INDUSTRIAL IMPACTS

- Heavy truck traffic on Bloomfield Ave and near Day Hill creates noise, safety, and quality-of-life issues.
- Trucks cut through residential areas and park on ramps; better enforcement and buffering are needed.
- Warehouses should provide adequate on-site truck parking and screening.

SUSTAINABILITY AND FUTURE MOBILITY

- Few public EV charging stations.
- Bike sharing and other green modes are supported but depend on safer bike infrastructure.
- Mobility improvements as essential to attracting younger residents and improving overall livability.

DRAFT GOAL:

Deliver high-quality, fiscally responsible services and facilities that adapt to the evolving needs of residents at every stage of life, while fostering a vibrant community and promoting civic pride.

DRAFT STRATEGIES:

1. Provide excellent services to residents, property owners, and businesses.
2. Promote events and activities that contribute to community pride and spirit.
3. Prioritize improvements to the Town’s facilities to meet diverse program needs.
4. Advance sustainability and resilience.

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WHAT WE'VE HEARD AND LEARNED:

COMMUNITY IDENTITY

- Strong consensus that Windsor Center is the community hub and should be enhanced to support residents, businesses, and visitors.
- Preservation of historic architecture and town charm is viewed as critical to maintaining identity.

HOUSING

- Demand for affordable senior housing to meet the needs of aging residents.
- Housing and service availability linked to overall quality of life and community retention.

PUBLIC SERVICES AND YOUTH RESOURCES

- Town services such as library, EMS, and schools are highly valued.
- Support for promoting school district strengths to residents and newcomers.
- Identified gap in youth-focused resources: employment, programs, and dedicated facilities.
- Evaluation of community spaces needed to guide improvements and new amenities.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND AMENITIES

- Desire for more public events and activities.
- Residents see active civic engagement as key to strengthening community connections and pride.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ACCESSIBILITY

- Priorities include town-wide Wi-Fi, increased parking at public facilities, and a more user-friendly Town website.
- Accessibility and convenience improvements seen as essential to ensure residents can easily access information, services, and amenities.

DRAFT GOAL:

Protect and enhance Windsor’s open spaces and natural resources to support a healthy environment and promote sustainability. Expand greenways, conserve farmland, and encourage environmental stewardship.

DRAFT STRATEGIES:

1. Conserve Sensitive Lands, Greenways and Public Access.
2. Resilient Facilities & Clean Energy.
3. Stormwater, Flooding and Water Quality.
4. Working Farms and Farmland Preservation.

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WHAT WE’VE HEARD AND LEARNED:

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

- Palisado and Broad Street Greens have been communal spaces since the 1630s.
- Town Greens foster civic engagement and connect Windsor to its heritage.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION

- Protect rivers, streams, wetlands, and Class A farmland.
- Preserve wildlife corridors.
- Support working farms to maintain landscapes and local food production

CONNECTIVITY, ACCESS, AND RECREATION

- Expand trails, sidewalks, and bike paths to link open spaces and neighborhoods.
- Improve access to Farmington River and underutilized facilities.

SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

- Promote electrification, green infrastructure, and sustainable practices.
- Plan for impervious surface reduction, flood resilience, and climate impacts.
- Balance growth with preservation through infill development and conservation.

SUCCESS STORIES

- Mill Brook Open Space: protected habitat and enhanced public access.
- Brown’s Farm: farmland preserved via conservation easement and local farming.

DRAFT GOAL:

Safeguard, promote, and celebrate Windsor’s cultural and historic resources for future generations by encouraging the preservation of historic landmarks and properties and supporting the growth of cultural assets within the community.

DRAFT STRATEGIES:

1. Promote the preservation of Windsor’s historically and architecturally significant resources.
2. Support and promote arts, entertainment, and cultural organizations.
3. Continue to educate residents and visitors about Windsor’s importance as a historic community.
4. Continue to promote Windsor’s historic and cultural resources as tourism destinations.

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WHAT WE’VE HEARD AND LEARNED:

COMMUNITY IDENTITY & HERITAGE

- Cultural resources foster community connections and a distinct sense of place.
- Historic milestones, like the 400-year anniversary, offer engagement and learning opportunities.
- Popular events (Shad Derby, concerts, farmers markets) need better promotion.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

- Belief that some historic sites are at risk.
- Consider stronger Historic Distric Guidelines
- Recommendations include expanding the length of the demolition delay ordinance and increased volunteer/ youth involvement.

ARTS & PROGRAMMING

- Demand exists for more live events, social activities, and arts education.
- Windsor Arts Center is key but needs improved outreach.
- Family-friendly events help boost participation.

COLLABORATION & OUTREACH

- Better coordination among local organizations can increase engagement.
- Improved promotion through community calendars and regional networks is needed.

CULTURAL TOURISM & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

- Highlight local history, expand walking tours, and connect to nearby cities via rail.
- Enhance amenities (restaurants, river access) to attract visitors and strengthen Windsor’s cultural profile.