



**Meeting Minutes**  
May 26th, 2021

**Presenters & Moderators**

Amber Logue, Committee Chair  
Sarah Marchant, Community Development Director  
Taskina Tareen, Utile  
Will Cohen, Utile

**Imagine Nashua Citywide Master Plan**  
Steering Committee Meeting #5

**Meeting Agenda**

- Timeline and Overview
- Priority Goals and Draft Actions
- Next Steps

**Meeting Date, Time, and Location**

- May 26th, 2021
- Convened: 6:00 pm
- Adjourned: 7:30 pm
- Zoom web conference

**Actions**

- No voting occurred at this meeting

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**Attendance**

The following Imagine Nashua team including City staff, consultants and steering committee members were present at the start of the meeting:

- Sarah Marchant, Community Development Director
- Julie Chizmas, Transportation Planner
- Matthew Sullivan, Planning Manager
- Will Cohen, Project Manager, Utile
- Taskina Tareen, Utile
- Elizabeth Van der Els, Utile
- Andrea Baena, Utile
- Amber Logue, Chair of Masterplan Committee
- Adam Varley, Planning Board Member
- Gene Porter, Ward 3 Resident
- Paul Shea, GAD Executive Director
- John Jurczyk, President of St. Joseph Hospital
- Peter Schaefer, Ward 7 Resident
- Scott Cote, Designee from SHNMC
- Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett, Ward 1 Resident
- Mary Ann Melizzi Golja, Ward 8 Resident
- Homa Jaferey, Ward 9 Resident

**Timeline and Overview**

Utile gave an overview of where the Master Plan process is in the timeline:

- Noting that the master plan is in the first part of the Plan Implementation phase that will consist of prioritizing actions and recommendations for the plan's vision and goals.
- After which, work on creating draft plan document will begin

Upcoming Events and Engagement:

- Throughout the month of June, the planning team will hold five *Draft Actions* Discussion groups for each topic area via Zoom and one in-person meeting on Saturday, June 5th at the Library Plaza
- Draft actions will be posted online for prioritization/ranking ahead of time

Goal Action Recap:

Utile gave a brief summary recap of the planning framework, noting that the planning team took a first stab at prioritizing top goals for Nashua and drafting action items and recommendations for these goals. Tonight's meeting will involve getting feedback from Committee members on the top goals and prioritizing action items.

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**Priority Goals and Draft Actions**

Utile presented the core values/guiding principles of the Master Plan: Equity, Resilience and Climate Protection, reiterating that the draft goals and actions all cut across each of these values.

Utile shared draft top goals for the city listed below in no particular order:

- *Promote redevelopment that is mixed-use, multimodal, and sustainable in targeted areas with access to transit, infrastructure and amenities.*
- *Ensure Nashua workers have access to opportunities in the city and regionally through*

*workforce training, career development, and quality education*

- *Promote and support local businesses that reflect the unique character of Nashua, and foster opportunities for cultural tourism in the city*
- *Ensure access to a range of transportation options that meet the current and future mobility needs of residents, workers, and visitors of all ages, incomes and abilities.*
- *Create a greater mix of housing types that are accessible to Nashua residents at all life stages, household compositions, physical abilities, and socioeconomic levels*
- *Enhance access to and better connect Nashua's existing open space network for citizens of all ages, abilities, and incomes.*
- *Advance carbon-free transportation and building design to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.*
- *Mitigate the impacts of climate change on the community and encourage public health.*
- *Celebrate and integrate the diversity of cultures, religions, languages within our communities and support this diversity in city policies and programs.*
- *Prioritize arts and culture as an important aspect of inclusive economic development and strengthening placemaking in the community.*

Utile presented draft actions for each of the top goals, including examples of scenario areas with specific recommendations for development.

Please visit the Imagine Nashua website to review a full set of draft actions and recommendations and take a survey to share your thoughts: <https://imagine.nashuanh.gov/goals-and-recommendations/>

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## Next Steps

### Compile Draft List

- Full draft actions and recommendations posted to website by end of week

### Action Prioritization

- Topic Meetings throughout June
- Outdoor Event - All Topic actions & recommendations
- Online Polling - All Topic actions & recommendations

### Draft Plan

- Coalesce existing conditions, vision and goals, issues and opportunities, scenario development, and recommendations into a clear, cohesive, and accessible document for review

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## Comment/Questions & Answers

- Jon Spira: Particularly delighted to see how themes are woven throughout. Are you looking for specific input after this or deliberates in next meetings?
  - Will: both important, additional actions are welcome (maybe not additional goals)
- Gene Porter: follow through observation that the city should be buying more electric vehicles and taking action to reduce carbon emission. City should not allow new gas stations without electric charging stations.
  - Will: that is a great example
- Scott LeClair (planning chair): The plan is going to provide direction, but a lot of the implementation will end up as re-worked land use codes.
  - Will: Master plan is the most powerful tool that the city government has available to be at its strongest in making that rule. Is essential that desire of city and community be here
- Peter Schaefer: this plan is very encouraging. I see it as a plan that tries to integrate more. It is good to have identity and communities, but if you integrate them all with buses. I think it is helpful.
  - Re: electric, it is very expensive. There is some work to figure out how to do that. Some people can't afford electric cars to begin with and don't have a parking space to park
  - \*include piping might not have to have electric
  - Will: it is not the most economically viable today. Be prepared once it is market ready. Electric car prices are approaching the price of a normal car. City should require that basic wiring be put in place in new developments (less expensive than adding them later). Regulatory steps to pave the way (ex. Triple decker)
- Paul Shea: Has earlier feedback been taken into consideration?

- Elizabeth: when we were developing the recommendations, all the feedback has been taken into consideration
- Paul: East-west light rail piece to solve the last mile between Crown St and Downtown. I think it has tourism potential to drive people to downtown. Potentially costly, but could be a great benefit
- Elizabeth: we do have a last mile recommendation, but can add some of these specific ideas
- Amber: Action item- connecting last mile Crown St to Downtown
- Scott LeClair: autonomous buses for last mile
- Amber: if we had an action item of starting to migrate all of our utility lines to be underground, which specific discussion would I like to come to to have that conversation
  - Sarah: economic growth
  - Peter Schaefer: underground wires are more resilient than above-ground. You are not as likely to lose power with trees
  - Will: it can tie into all the public realm improvements. It would make sense if you are digging up
  - Elizabeth: asset management. What assets will be impacted by future climate
  - Scott: current land use code to require underground utilities.. Some waivers
  - Will: the master plan is an excellent time to find where the most common waivers are.. Have the city announce an intended shift
- Gene Porter: only certain things that the city can do because the State has laws about a lot of things. Could the city in the Master Plan get more authority (ex. environmental rules)
  - Will: A more likely outcome is to think of the master plan as the court of public opinion. Ex: social cost of carbon. Federal government places price in future damage emitted in carbon
- Sarah: let us know if you have any red flags before we put it out on Friday
  - Mary Ann: Finalized draft will go this Friday. I was overwhelmed by the information presented tonight. I like the way it is organized according to the pillars. Would have preferred having it last night. Don't feel like I can make meaningful comments
  - Scott Cote: not a waste of time
  - Will: would it be helpful if we send the presentation tonight?
    - Mary Ann: it would be helpful for me
    - Scotts: yes, helpful
- Peter Schaefer: final document, worthwhile to mention actions that may not seem realistic today, but are 5 years from now
- Peter Schaefer: people coming in and going out...
- Elizabeth: ideas of that baked into the housing recommendations, make sure there are affordable options for new people coming in. Also in terms of welcoming new people into the city, recommendations of way-finding and signage
- Mary Ann: housing is great, but you need to have a reason to stay. People are coming from other countries with varied levels of professional development (some obstacles: licenses from other countries, languages). It also ties into the whole education. Important to recognize the level of what they bring. We need to find a way to make people have a reason to stay here
- Jon Spira: plan imagines building a social capital, interconnections within the community that help people find pathways, root people and opportunities
- Sarah: we do have in Economic development equality education

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This memorandum represents our understanding of the events which transpired and the actions which were taken. If they do not conform to a recipient's understanding, prompt written notice must be communicated to the writer. If no corrections or objections are made, this memorandum will be relied upon as a factual interpretation of this meeting.