



Sudbury Master Plan Update Community Conversation Summary *Transportation, Mobility, and Connectivity*

As part of its Master Plan update process, the Town of Sudbury hosted a series of **community conversations** throughout October 2019. These individual meetings allowed participants to dig deeper into issues that shape the quality of life in town. A total of five meetings were held at the Lower Meeting Room of Town Hall and focused on the following topics:

- Transportation, Mobility, and Connectivity (Including Complete Streets Projects): October 10
- Economic Resilience, Town Services, and Infrastructure: October 15
- Public Health, Housing, and Equity: October 24
- Historic and Cultural Assets: October 28
- Natural Environment, Open Space, and Recreation: October 29

The conversations were organized around small group discussions. After a brief presentation on the Master Plan update, overview of the topic, and what issues in Sudbury were heard to date from prior public input opportunities, participants dove into their conversations. The objectives of these discussions were to understand the full spectrum of issues and needs in Sudbury, gain a better understanding of what direction residents felt the town should be headed, and what types of projects, policies, or initiatives they supported moving forward.

At the tables were topic “primers,” highlighting facts and stats in Sudbury, maps, and other information to inform participants about the issues. Discussions were recorded on flipcharts and personal worksheets, if participants chose to use them.

Transportation, Mobility, and Connectivity

Approximately 50 people attended the Transportation, Mobility, and Connectivity Community Conversation meeting. **The purpose of this summary is to document what was discussed at the Community Conversations meetings. Below are comments and discussion from those that attended the meetings and should not be taken as the opinions of the Town or new town policies or actions.**

1) What are the current and future issues around transportation, mobility, and connectivity in Sudbury?

Traffic: Addressing traffic congestion is a priority, particularly along Routes 20 and 117 as well as Union Avenue. Participants felt that traffic comes from people traveling through town to reach destinations outside of Sudbury. New commercial and residential development in neighboring communities along town lines may increase traffic locally in the future.

Biking: Biking safety is a concern because local roads are narrow and winding with limited space for cyclists. The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) and the Mass Central Rail Trail are great opportunities to expand biking. There needs to be a push to complete the BFRT.

Walkways: Walkways are a great amenity, but they are missing in some parts of town, particularly around some schools. If walkways were improved and made safer, children could walk to school, which would decrease the presence of school buses on the roads and parents from dropping their children off. Because some walkways do not meet ADA standards, particularly at crossings, accessibility is also a concern for residents with disabilities or limited mobility.

Transportation Services for Seniors: The Senior Center offers transportation services door-to-door van service, which is a great asset. However, it is in high demand and the bus can be overcrowded at times. Some older residents have difficulty coordinating rides, which must be requested 48 hours in advance. Demand is going to increase.

Connecting to Regional Commuter Rail and T Stations: Participants noted challenges with connecting to regional commuter and T stations. Because lots are small at the commuter rail stations in Concord and West Concord, parking is a challenge.

Funding and Resources: Participants noted that there is a lack of a sustainable funding sources to address maintenance and upkeep of local roadways, walkways, and other transportation infrastructure.

2) What local initiatives/projects (public and private) or policies are having a positive impact on transportation, mobility, and connectivity in Sudbury? What has not been so successful and what could be changed?

Route 20 Shuttle Service for Seniors: The Sudbury Shuttle for seniors runs two days a week. It connects senior housing with shopping in Sudbury and Wayland. Participants noted that it is very popular and can be overcrowded. The Town should consider adding drivers and when it is offered (additional days of the week).

Route 20 Commuter Shuttle: The Route 20 Commuter Shuttle is a pilot project that runs through Sudbury, connecting the Target in Marlborough to the Riverside T station in Newton. It uses a “flag down” system, and participants noted it is difficult to flag down because there’s no designated stop. The schedule also doesn’t quite align with local commuters, particularly during the evening commute. Participants want to improve the system by adding a designated stop, more frequently times, and additional destinations for the shuttle to Riverside.

BFRT: Participants felt the BFRT would be a great asset to Sudbury and needs to continue to move forward. It would allow residents to have other modes of transportation around towns such as walking and cycling.

Traffic Signals for Pedestrians/Accessibility: The town lacks accessible pedestrian crossings; however, improvements are being made. Participants highlighted the audible traffic signal proposed at Union and Landham roads and improvements already made at the Meadow Walk development. They would like to see more of similar signals in town.

2005 Town Center Project: Participants asked about traffic improvements made at Town Center and if there were further improvements needs to make walking safer. Some would like to see more done in the area.

School Buses: Participants noted that Sudbury Public Schools requires residents who live within two miles of schools to pay for school bus services for students. They felt this cost deters many families from using the service and they will opt to drive their children to school. The result is traffic congestion during school drop-off and pick-up. Some suggested improving walkways around schools and connecting to neighborhoods to improve safety and encourage more students to walk or ride bikes to school.

3) What are some new strategies/projects the town should consider addressing current and future issues around transportation, mobility, and connectivity?

Route 20 Traffic Congestion: Participants suggested short and long-term solutions to reduce the impact of traffic on residents. Roadways could be more efficient with the use of newer technology. Coordinating the timing of the signals along Route 20 may help move traffic through the area. Connecting businesses with safe pedestrian walkways can encourage people to park once and walk to different places. Creating a secondary or back road that connects shopping areas was also suggested.

Pedestrian Safety and Accessibility: Overall, walkways along with pedestrian crossings or signals should be accessible. Specifically, new pedestrian signals and crosswalks were suggested at Union Avenue and Route 20, as well as at Maynard and Hudson roads. Participants also suggested there might be appropriate areas to use speed bumps to slow traffic.

Walking and Biking Connectivity: Participants supported the idea of creating safer walking and biking connections between shopping centers, schools, open space, and the proposed BFRT. Crossings at the proposed BFRT should be enhanced to slow traffic and allow safe crossing for walkers and cyclists. A town-wide network would encourage residents to walk or bike to these destinations rather than drive.

Public Transportation: Participants stressed the need for more transportation options. As discussed above, suggestions were to increase the frequency of the Sudbury Shuttle for seniors as well as the Route 20 commuter shuttle, including availability later in the evening and on weekends. Participants also suggest incorporating public transportation into housing developments, particularly those with units for low income or age-restricted households who are more likely to need other options. The feasibility of a local Sudbury shuttle or bus (not just for seniors or commuters) was also proposed to connect residents with local destinations.

Design: Participants felt that better development design can improve mobility and connectivity. For example, putting parking behind retail allows the front of buildings to face the street and improves access for pedestrians. Commercial development should have internal connections with neighboring businesses for pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles to promote customers to park once and walk.

Communication: Participants want to enhance the Town’s communication with residents about transportation projects, including the benefits to the community, schedule, progress made, etc. They also would like information on what options are available in town for people who do not have access to cars.

Future of Transportation: Participants also talked about planning for driverless cars as well as supporting electronic vehicles with charging stations.

Measuring and Achieving Success: Participants stressed the importance of measuring success. Targets such as traffic volumes, accidents, or other measurements should be identified. This may require increasing staff capacity to meet local and future needs but also support monitoring and documenting progress.

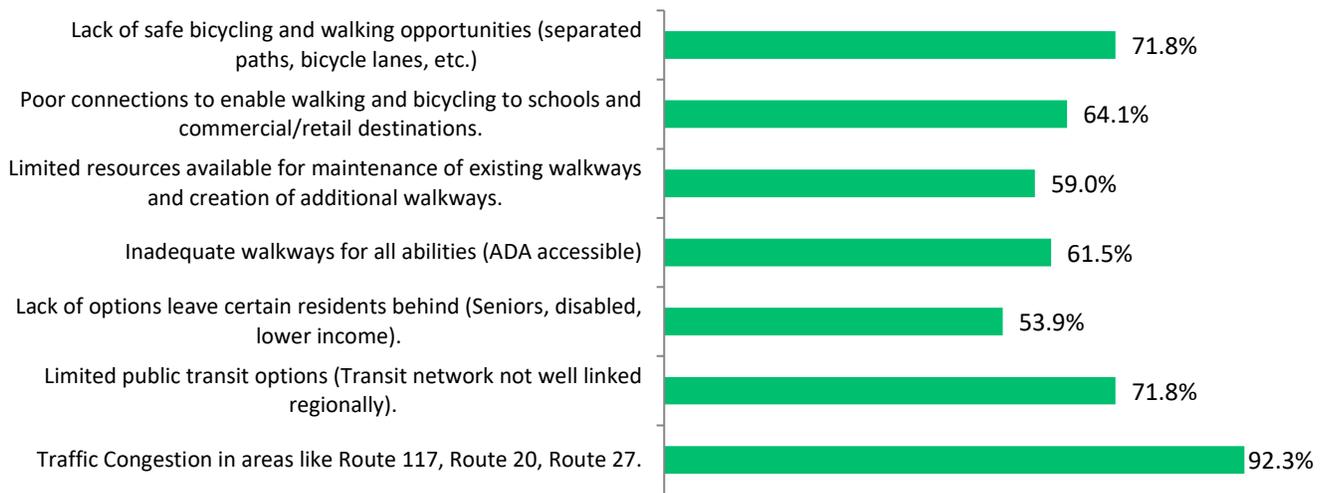
Follow-up Survey

Following the transportation, mobility, and connectivity community conversation on October 10, 2019, the Town administered an online survey to provide an opportunity for those who could not attend the meeting to give input on the questions asked during small group discussions. Similar to the community conversation, the goal of the survey is to understand issues that are important to residents, what is working to address the issues and ideas on how the Town should move forward. The survey was available from October 15-31, 2019, and 39 people responded.

The purpose of this summary is to document comments and feedback through the survey. Below are comments and discussion from those that took the survey and should not be taken as the opinions of the Town and new town policies or actions.

1.) The following issues were identified at the public meeting. Select issues with which you agree.

(Answered: 39, Skipped: 0)



Other issues are we missing?

(Answered: 13, Skipped: 26)

lack of parking space for commuters taking the buses	Inadequate walkways and roads for kids and people with disabilities	Bypass around commercial areas on Rte. 20	The amount of time it takes to get projects done
lack of enforcement of crosswalks and speeding in town	Lack of economic development	Overpass to get around tough traffic lights. Widen 20 and 117 to 5 lanes	Disabled people can't get around.

2.) What are we doing that's working or what could be better?

(Answered: 20, Skipped: 19)

Providing Uber/Lyft for medical appointments	Incentivize Mass transit for commuters, school buses to get cars off the road	Don't see much happening	Route 20 transit bus to Boston/Cambridge
Improve Town center pedestrian crosswalk and walkways	Bicycle lock locations to increase bike usage	Eliminate lights and curb cuts	Build by pass around Rte. 20 shopping area
Recreational areas and trail purchase	Develop parking areas to enhance park-and-ride initiatives	Complete street initiatives and Bruce Freeman Trail	Improving transportation options for seniors

3.) What are some new ideas we should be thinking about? (include specific locations, if applicable.)

(Answered: 27, Skipped: 12)

Add bus stops on Route 20 for new bus. Cross Town bus for residents.	Provide warning signage to alert cyclists of too narrow roads where sharp turns are a hazard	sidewalks that will connect schools, recreation areas, businesses and the north-south rail trail.	Feasible Commuter shuttle.
Establish bicycle lanes on roads wide enough to accommodate them.	Safe crossings for kids, and all ages.	Restrict certain vehicle like trucks during peak hours.	Regional collaboration. More public information from MAGIC.
Synchronized traffic lights to enhance traffic flow.	Create rotaries	Signalization of intersection of Rte 27 and Hudson Road, Hudson Road and Fairbank Road.	Work with state representative to address traffic issues.

Respondents' Profile

Comparing the demographics of survey respondents to the overall town population can help understand if responses are representative of the community and if we are reaching all residents.

How long have you lived in Sudbury?

(Answered 36, Skipped 3)

Less than 2 years	0.0%
2-5 years	13.9%
6-10 years	2.8%
More than 10 years	83.3%
Not a resident	0.0%

Which geographic area in Sudbury most closely represents the area you reside?

(Answered 36, Skipped 3)

North Sudbury	33.3%
Central Sudbury	22.2%
South Sudbury	36.1%
Other (please specify)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • west • I live near the middle school • Near Hudson 	8.3%

What is your race/ethnicity? (Answered 36, Skipped 3)

American Indian or Alaska Native	0%
Asian	0%
Black or African American	0%
Hispanic or Latino	0%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0%
White	56%
I prefer not to answer.	39%
Other (please specify)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any other • Hibernian 	6%

How old are you? (Answered 35, Skipped 4)

Under 18	0.0%	36-45	5.7%
18-25	2.9%	46-65	48.6%
26-35	5.7%	Over 65	37.1%

ATTACHMENT

Participant Worksheets from Community Conversation Meeting

During the Community Conversation meeting, participants were encouraged to answer the questions on the Participant Worksheets. **The following are transcribed from the worksheets and should not be taken as the opinions of the Town or new town policies or actions.**

1. What current and future issues around transportation, mobility, and connectivity were missing from the opening presentation?

- Use the railroad to route 20 to provide commuter bus/bike/ and pedestrian travel.
- Better connect public transportation to contiguous towns
- Public transportation after hours.
- In 58 years of living in town, the traffic has gotten worse and there has been many surveys and not much done! Need more
- Senior van availability
- Traffic lights for disable
- What is happening more
- Communication
- Aging population
- Expand walkways especially Willis road from Mossman to Ford. Add walkways across Sudbury
- School transportation issues: too many drivers- cost of transportation too high
- Lights at Landham and at Maynard/Hudson should be the only lights added
- Shuttle doesn't work
- Driverless cars
- Charging stations- done private
- Can't get to Boston no matter what time you leave.
- Electric like mile along Route 20 from Sudbury to the commuter rail (Brinders/Roberts or Kendal Green or Waltham)
- Traffic volume; safety; walkability
- Connect to school, open space, rail trail, town meeting spaces
- Minimizing new development
- KPI – Volume, speed limit adherence – time at intersections
- Regional and local traffic light timing improves
- Curb cuts at commercial intersections
- Measurable progress in: time to cross Rte. 20, average car miles minus per person, per day, % of commuters to Boston taking train, # of car trips segments per errand trip.
- Senior over- over subscribed
- Build Sudbury bypass dump-Wayside Inn
- Eliminate traffic lights at Rte. 117 and Dakin
- Restore rotaries- Rte. 117 and 27- and 9-acres Comer
- Widen Rte. 117 to 4 lane, new construction
- Sudbury Center- Add ramps and over pass and bypass in traffic morning and afternoon. Worse in afternoon

- Landham Rd.- no traffic light overpass better
- Increase speed limits, 25mph- when kids traveling, 40mph at night
- Communicating via train difficult
- Support central rail trail as link to Boston
- Newtonization of Sudbury

2. What local initiatives/projects (public and private) or policies are having a positive impact on transportation, mobility, and connectivity in Sudbury? What are the positive impacts?

- Selectman Listens- Bob Shineldon come to Coolidge
- Light coming to Landham Rd. with accessible signal
- Heard they will also put accessible signal at Union Rd
- Shuttle- Senior bus that runs Tuesdays and Thursdays on Route 20.
- There are 3 pilot projects for public transit or ride-share options, good to try but need to do better
- COA Van transportation to get people around town
- Nothing to alleviate traffic
- Availability of senior vans
- Van to town meetings
- Service center access
- I am not aware of any initiatives or projects
- Rail trail will have a positive impact if connections are made to various local and other walkways
- 2015 Town Center- Safe to Walk
- Town adopting complete streets
- Progress on BFRT
- Route 20 shuttle
- Rail trail and conservation restrictions would seem to be competing for the old strips of land under control of utilities. Great if it can happen that these competing uses can all be accommodated.
- Coolidge to have bused has been provided in permit applications. These committed projected are not being enforced.

3. What initiatives/projects/policies have not had the outcome anticipated and need to be revisited? Why have they not been successful, and what could be changed?

- Route 20 Shuttle. The flag down doesn't work
- Need designated stops for route 20 commuter shuttle. Flagging has failed for me
- PR to roll out pilots has not been effective
- Right turn: Add more lanes to keep traffic moving, such right turns
- Van services
- I am not aware of any initiative or projects so I cannot comment on whether they are effective.
- Shuttle to riverside- needs to run more frequently, later at night, and additional destinations (Lincoln and Natick commuter rail)
- Traffic lights at Maynard/ Rte. 27
- Why do so many parents drive kids to school?
- Lots of development that has not been linked locally or viewed regionally (e.g. rte. 117 traffic Maynard to Lincoln. Not just Sudbury issue.

- Shuttle system not aligned w/ timing of train or need to adjust schedule.
- Walking to school is critical issue
 - o Route from Plymouth to Concord to Nixon is dangerous, yet these students are required to walk or be dropped off <- priority for complete street initiative.

4. To move forward, what are some new strategies/projects the town should consider to address current and future issues around transportation, mobility, and connectivity?

- Invest more in our existing walkways to make them truly accessible
 - o Keep them clear of weeds and snow and ice
- Connect many ways to the upcoming bike ways
- Negotiate w/ historic commission scenic roadways to accommodate modern conditions
- This old town has to change with ages
- Better communication
- Increased walkways in Sudbury
- A comprehensive traffic plan for 117, as we build the development off 117 the traffic will increase. 117 is already one of the busiest in town.
- Need to plan ahead for increased traffic from new large multi-family development in adjacent communities
- Commercial and large development zoning requirement (e.g. require linkage to walkways among different parking lots)
- Coordinate curb cuts in ½ mile stretches (e.g. limit and link lots)
- Form based codes for development along route 20
- Light rail or other transit
- Bike trail to allow connections by bike from town to strain stations
- Connectivity among route 20 commercial and make development w/ less huge parking lots.