



SOMERVISION2040

Sustainability • Diversity • Opportunity • Connectivity • Community

What We've Learned So Far

Cortni Desir, Principal Analyst, SomerStat



City of Somerville
Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Outreach Strategy

- Engage diverse perspectives
- Go beyond the public meeting
- Constant feedback incorporation



SomerVision Staff Member Victor Nascimento joins the SomerViva in Portuguese show to discuss the SomerVision 2040 process



Upcoming Forums

- April 10: Businesses & Commercial Property Owners
- April 11: Council on Aging
- TBD: Persons with Disabilities
- TBD: Non-English Speakers
- TBD: Teens



Feedback

- Staff Summit
- Steering Committee Mixer
- Somerville Stories
- SomerSuppers
- Yesterday's Breakout Sessions



Staff Summit

City staff encouraged committee members to keep the following in mind:

- Staff are allies who share your love for Somerville
- Staff also share concerns around equity and the economic changes happening
- The City can't do it all, we need regional partners to advance some work



Committee Mixer

SomerVision Steering Committee members encouraged City staff to keep the following in mind:

- Ensure all voices are part of this process, including non-English speakers
- Don't give up on the 125 acres
- 2030 is a solid foundation: let's update it, not redo it
- Meeting fatigue is real

Something we heard from the Summit and Mixer: Incorporate **climate change, youth, and health**

Somerville Stories

How has living in Somerville impacted you?



somervision2040.com/somerville-stories/

Somerville Stories

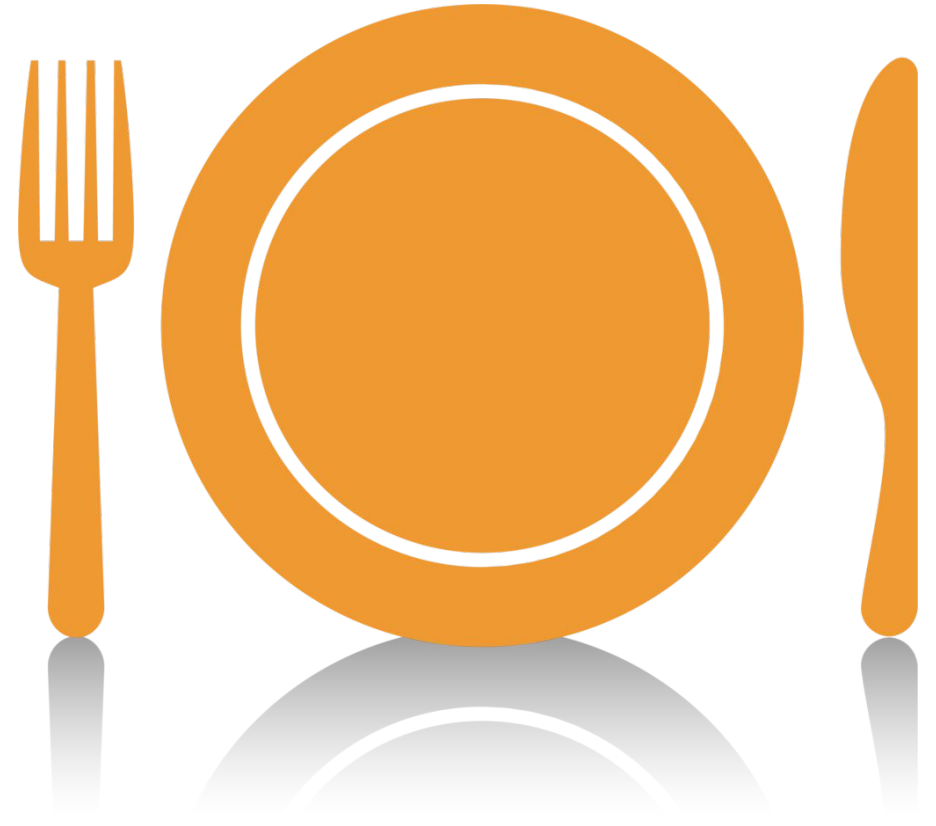
“I like living in Somerville because you can walk in any direction and hit civilization – somewhere to eat, some public place to sit, public transit. I remember one of my first outings with my son, facing inward in a borrowed baby carrier. We walked from our house down to what was then 7-11, now Cumberland Farms. I got one of those Drakes coffee cakes, two to a packet, and was voraciously eating till I noticed I was dropping crumbs on my son’s head. He didn’t seem bothered. **I was so happy to be out and about, feeling safe, with my baby.”**



SomerSuppers

SomerSuppers are conversations about Somerville's past, present, and future hosted by you!

**Please submit all reports by
the end of April**



13 SomerSuppers Held to Date

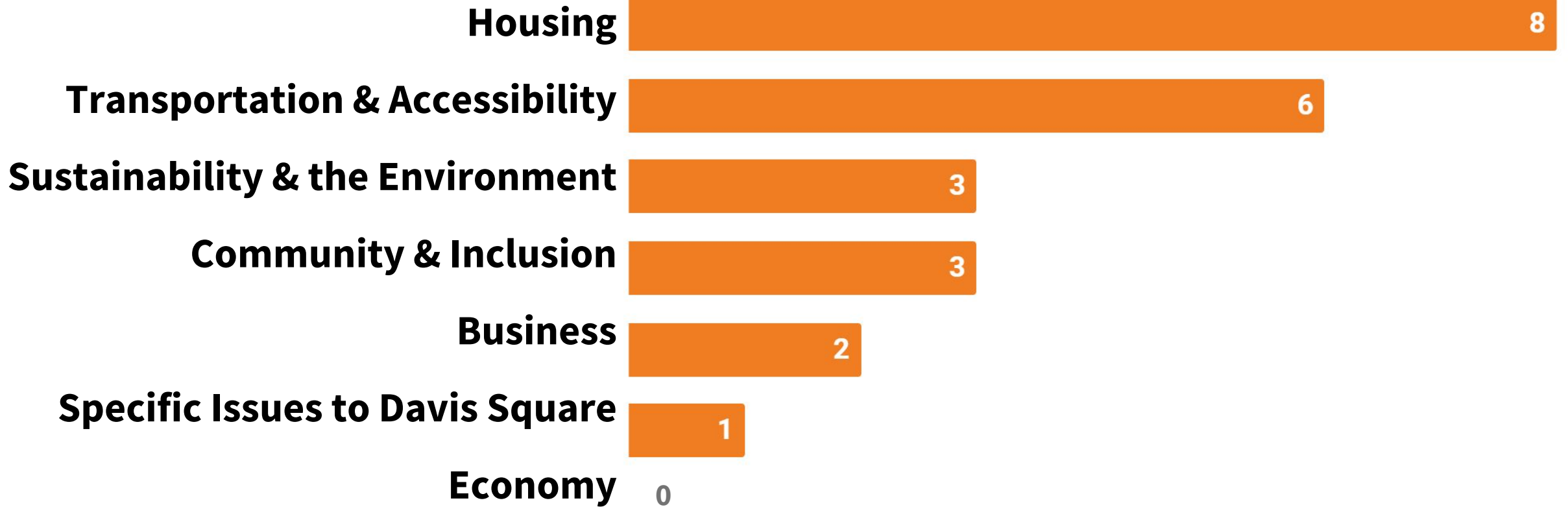
Thank you!

somervision2040.com/somersuppers



City of Somerville
Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

SomerSupper Topics



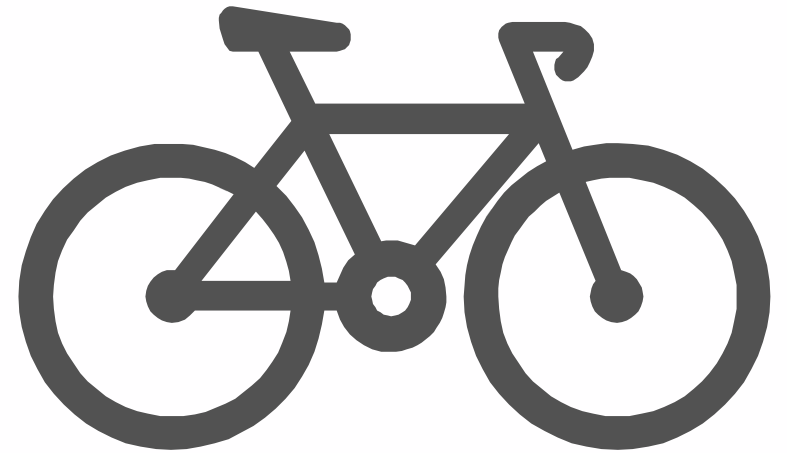
SomerSuppers: Housing Takeaways

- Concerns:
 - Rising costs and displacement
 - Difficulties for families (e.g. unit sizes, discrimination)
 - Increasing housing stock, while maintaining neighborhood character and avoiding traffic/parking problems
- Needs:
 - More information on tenants' rights, including specific outreach for immigrants
 - Increased accountability of landlords
 - Increased inventory of affordable housing
 - Affordability that is accessible to a range of incomes



SomerSuppers: Transportation Takeaways

- Concerns:
 - Bike safety
 - Pedestrian un-friendly sidewalks - especially in winter
 - Lack of connectivity to jobs, across the City, and into Boston
- Needs:
 - More reliable and more frequent transit options, with better arrival information
 - Increased bike lanes, especially protected ones (set a goal!)
 - More ambitious sustainable trips goal, 50% is too low



Breakout Sessions

What makes good open space?

A network!

- Provides equitable access to open space
- Increases sociability
- Increases opportunities for exercise
- Provides for wildlife corridors and patches
- Ecoservice benefits are greater



How we plan capital needs

- Develop long-range forecast
- Review potential projects
- Assess the impact on debt service



City of Somerville
Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone



Session: Putting the 'Fun' in Budget Fundamentals

**WE ARE OVERWHELMED
WITH EVERYTHING
GOING ON IN OUR LIVES.**

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS REPORT
TO ME A MAJOR NEED FOR
ADDITIONAL SUPPORT + MENTAL
HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY
STAFF WHO LOOK LIKE THEM.

We value systematic attention
to social emotional health and
accessible mental health
services.

We value information about
youth opportunities.

**INFORMATION
SEEMS TO BE
CATCH AS CATCH CAN.**

THERE ARE MANY THINGS I
HAPPEN TO HEAR OF AFTER THE
FACT OR WITH LITTLE NOTICE. IT
SEEMS LIKE SOME FAMILIES HAVE
INFO AND OTHERS DON'T. INFO IS
NOT VERY COMPREHENSIVE IN
ONE PLACE.

Community Benefits

Exactions & Fees

- Inclusionary Housing
- Housing Linkage
- Jobs Linkage
- GLX Fees
- Infiltration and Inflow Fee
- Infrastructure Fees
- Area Enhancement Fee

Negotiations for Extras

- Infrastructure
- Site Planning
- Site Programming

(Sometimes, we hire advisors to assess whether a request is financially feasible for the project.)

Community Benefits Agreements

- Union Square Neighborhood Council

A Three-Part Housing Strategy

1

**Assist residents
facing housing
insecurity**

2

**Making the most
of current
housing stock**

3

**Create new
affordable
housing**



Somerville Climate Forward Focus

- **Reduce** Somerville's contribution to climate change and work towards carbon neutrality (mitigation)
- **Prepare** Somerville for the unavoidable impacts of climate change (adaptation)
- **Fairly distribute** the opportunities created by climate action and work to alleviate the unequal burdens of climate change (equity)



Planning for cars vs. planning for people

Bow Street, 2007



Undefined 20' vehicular travel lane

Bow Street, 2018



Single, narrower 11' vehicular travel lane

On-street 5' green bike lane

Business-friendly 45-degree angle parking



Planning for cars vs. planning for people



Bow Street, 2030?



City of Somerville
Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Union Square Neighborhood Plan,
www.somervillebydesign.com

Top 10 Local Planning Priorities

(BASED ON A REGIONALLY REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE OF 47 MUNICIPALITIES' LOCAL PLANS)

1. **Improve multimodal connections** (94)*
2. **Preserve and manage open space** (88)
3. **Invest in facilities/property** (73)
4. **Preserve history** (66)
5. **Efficiently deliver services** (66)
6. **Focus redevelopment** (59)
7. **Produce affordable housing** (53)
8. **Improve transit** (51)
9. **Improve communication and engagement** (50)
10. **Expand housing type diversity** (46)

**Note: indicates the number of rows of entries included for each priority*

Session: Bird's Eye View: What's Going on in your Region



The Wellbeing of
Somerville Report
2017

CHA
Cambridge
Health Alliance



City of Somerville
Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone



City of Somerville
Community
FOOD
System
Assessment
July 2018

To improve equitable food access and
opportunities for all who live, work, play,
and raise families in Somerville



Session: Wellbeing

Recap

- What was something surprising or interesting that you learned yesterday?
- What are you excited to discuss today?

