

Economic Development Drivers

- Tourism / Recreation
- Clamming
- Restaurants
- Light industry
- Trades
- Home occupations
- Agriculture
- Retail / antiques
- River / marine related

Town Infrastructure

Positives

- New sewer system
- Water system in good shape, water is good
- Excellent new DPW barn
- Transfer station works well

Challenges

- Town hall and library need extensive repair
- Police / fire / public safety building needs replacing

Public Health & Safety

Positives

- Sewer System = clean river
- Drinking water is good
- Police & fire departments are outstanding

Challenges

- Emergency vehicle access to open space is sometimes limited
- No street lights
- There are a few traffic spots with high accident rates

Transportation

Positives

- Route 133 rebuild
- CATA bus service
- Ipswich-to-Crane's beach bus

Challenges

- Limited nature of CATA service
- Taxis generally unavailable
- No bike lanes
- Pedestrian safety on town streets mediocre
- No parking on Causeway and South Essex area
- Town has no control of state-funded maintenance schedule
- Causeway has numerous environmental issues

Essex Long-Range Planning Committee
Unranked Issues List

River

Positives	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Entertainment• Museum events• Watching Harold• Route 133 rebuild• Public access – marinas, ramp• Conomo Point• Cleanliness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No public landing• Access limited by limited parking• Limited walking / hiking opportunities• No central information center• Need more diversity of activity

Housing (1313 households in 2000)

Positives	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High real estate values• Diverse housing stock• Good services and infrastructure – schools, fire, police, water (sewer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High real estate values• Difficulty of permitting• Scarcity of good housing sites• Lack of affordable housing• High costs exclude youth and age• Zoning discourages density• Zoning discourages multifamily development• Zoning discourages small houses

Tourism / Recreation / Restaurants / Retail

Positives	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Causeway concentration• Museums• History & charm• Other natural resources & open space• River	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Changing habits and tastes• Internet• Lack of “sense of place”• Diminished community culture• State of the national economy• Lack of public dock space• Town aesthetics

Open Space / Resource Protection

Positives	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Land trusts• Private land in conservation• Community Protection Act• Working agriculture (hay, poultry)• Undevelop-able nature of land• Zoning allows mixed use	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High land costs• Outdated zoning controls• Lack of zoning districts

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Opportunities – your most cherished hope for the town

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- A Conomo Point destination – dock / restaurant / hotel
 - Public docking facility on the Causeway
 - Beautified Causeway
 - New Town Offices and Public Safety Building
 - A full-service hotel and conference center on the outskirts of town
 - A community / cultural center in the village center
 - Immediate and aggressive development (recreational & tourism) of the Museum-to-Shea's waterfront area
 - Revitalization of agriculture – community-supported
 - Adopt Essex Reconnaissance Report – see <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/histland/reconReports/essex.pdf>
 - Promote public access to the river, develop infrastructure
 - A comprehensive rewrite of the zoning by-law
 - Develop and beautify the town center – Town Hall to Southern Ave
 - Create an art installation on the River with the whole town