



Hudson Master Plan Public Forum Energy and Transportation Summary Report

On Monday, March 4, 2013, the Town of Hudson convened a public forum to discuss the topics of energy and transportation for the 2013 Master Plan Update project. Approximately 40 people attended the forum, which was held at Town Hall from 7:00 PM until 9:30 PM. In addition to members of the public, the forum was attended by Michelle Ciccolo, Community Development Director; Kerin Shea, Community and Economic Development Assistant; Brian Choquette - Assistant General Manager of Hudson Light and Power; members of the Master Plan Steering Committee; and representatives from the consulting team (Ralph Willmer, FAICP; Rob Nagi, and Kari Hewitt). The following sections provide the results from the interactive group survey during the presentation and the results of the break out group discussions.

ENERGY SURVEY QUESTIONS

The first set of questions asked was designed to ascertain the audience's knowledge of Hudson Light and Power programs for energy efficiency and alternative energy.

1. Have you ever received an energy audit at your home or business?

1. Yes (41%)
2. No (56%)
3. I wanted to, but didn't know how/was too expensive (4%)

2. Have you ever received a rebate for the purchase of an energy-efficient appliance?

1. Have purchased and received a rebate from product company (37%)
2. Have purchased and received rebate from utility (37%)
3. Have purchased without rebate (15%)
4. Have never purchased an energy-efficient appliance (15%)

3. Have you ever installed energy conservation or renewable energy technology at your home or business?

1. Yes, renewable energy (15%)
2. Yes, energy conservation/efficiency measures (37%)
3. No (48%)

4. What do you think is the single most important thing the Town can do with regard to energy?

1. Efficiency in municipal buildings (29%)
2. Renewables on municipal property (7%)
3. Green building/energy efficient building codes (36%)
4. Education and outreach to businesses/residents (29%)
5. Improve efficiency of vehicle fleet (0%)

COMMENTS ON ENERGY ISSUES FACING HUDSON

- Require that service/utility lines be buried for new projects
- Stability, price and reliability of electric service are benefits to business
- Develop infrastructure for use of hybrid and electric cars – electric charging stations
- Set best practice goals
- Solar carports and inclusive use of existing land for solar
- Solar farms – Chestnut St. wells and Berlin landfill
- What are energy cost impacts of not having Intel?
- Streetlight efficiency and “dark sky” issues – Town has no lighting standards
- Smaller scale hydroelectric generation
- New forms of outreach/educational materials – distribute at community festivals
- Partner with hardware and appliance stores
- Green roofs
- Rate structure changes to encourage conservation

TRANSPORTATION SURVEY QUESTIONS

1. What is your primary mode of transportation?

1. Car (100%)
2. Bus
3. Bike
4. Feet
5. Other

2. What is your secondary mode of transportation?

1. Car (5%)
2. Bus (0%)
3. Bike (0%)
4. Feet (95%)
5. Other (0%)

- 3. What are your reasons for walking places when you do so? Choose all that apply.**
1. To run an errand (19%)
 2. For recreation/exercise (48%)
 3. To go to school or work (5%)
 4. To lower your carbon footprint (9%)
 5. All of the above (14%)
 6. Other (5%)
- 4. Should the Town regularly allocate money to maintain and improve bicycle and pedestrian facilities?**
1. Yes (76%)
 2. No (14%)
 3. Not sure (10%)
- 5. Do you use the MBTA, WRTA, or MWRTA services on a regular basis?**
1. Daily (0%)
 2. Once a week (4%)
 3. Once a month (4%)
 4. A few times a year (39%)
 5. Never (52%)
- 6. Should the Town do more to provide transit services?**
1. Yes and it should be paid for out of the Town's operating budget (27%)
 2. Yes, but the Town should find some other source of revenue (55%)
 3. No (18%)
- 7. Acknowledging the fiscal realities of today's society, do you feel that the town is doing enough to address the transportation challenges you face on a daily basis?**
1. Strongly agree (14%)
 2. Somewhat agree (5%)
 3. Neutral (32%)
 4. Somewhat disagree (27%)
 5. Strongly disagree (23%)
- 8. Should more focus be spent on alternative forms of transportation infrastructure (such as sidewalks, bicycle accommodations, transit services)?**
1. Strongly agree (57%)
 2. Somewhat agree (17%)
 3. Neutral (4%)
 4. Somewhat disagree (17%)
 5. Strongly disagree (4%)

9. **Is the condition of the Town's roadways bad enough to borrow money to fix them?**

1. Yes, it is important to maintain the Town's roadways (36%)
2. No, it is unwise to bond for road repair (32%)
3. Not sure (32%)

COMMENTS ON TRANSPORTATION ISSUES FACING HUDSON

What do you believe should be the priorities for the community when it comes to transportation investment?

- Joining a regional transit authority
- Access to transit for all segments of society
- Fix deteriorated sidewalks
- Complete streets
- Address next round of bridge repairs
- Traffic flow on lower Main St.
- Infrastructure for electric vehicles

After the Washington Street Bridge project, where should the Town consider focusing their resources?

- Address traffic congestion downtown
- Parking structure downtown?
- Has rotary outlived its usefulness?

Can you think of any short-term projects that would be relatively simple to accomplish, but might result in tangible results?

- Signage
- Lowell/Main intersection needs to be rebuilt