



# Sudbury Master Plan Update

## Senior Center Focus Group Summary

As part of the public engagement process of the Master Plan Update, Horsley Witten met with older residents at the Sudbury Senior Center on Thursday, August 8, 2019, from 2 pm to 3 pm. The attendees were invited to join us in a conversation about what makes Sudbury a great place to live and the challenges it will face in the next 10 to 20 years. A total of 14 residents joined us in the conversation. Below is a summary of what was discussed.

### Positives

- ❖ Sewataro purchase: There were mixed feels among the group as to whether it was a worthwhile purchase by the town.
- ❖ The current transportation services are available for seniors:
  - Sudbury Connection (Van Transportation)
  - FISH (Friends in Service Helping)
  - Sudbury Shuttle along Route 20 (pilot project)
- ❖ Senior Center: The activities and coordination they offer for seniors.
- ❖ Town recognizing seniors and their needs as the age demographics shift
- ❖ School system brings people to Town
- ❖ Open space preservation and environmental laws
- ❖ The interest in the Town's history and its preservation
- ❖ Character of the Town
- ❖ Volunteerism

### Challenges

- ❖ Transportation: Traffic increase, lack of continues transportation around Town and access to MBTA
- ❖ Senior mobility needs:
  - Transportation services are critical as senior feels isolated and loss of independence when they lose their driver's license
  - Setting up rides through available services is difficult and confusing for some
  - More thought needs to be put into transportation needs of seniors as housing is built for older residents. Developers have been asked to contribute to costs and in some instances, it has not been adequate to meet the need. Coolidge I and II were brought up as examples.
  - Services are not always offered at times when needed
- ❖ Demographic: the number of older residents is growing. Seniors would like to see greater dedication to services to support them living in town, proportional to that given to schools.
  - There was discussion about who to have towns obligated to address senior needs similar to the obligations to provide public education. This would have to start at the state level, but for the Master Plan, recognizing these important issues of seniors in the plan is important.
- ❖ Families tend to move out once kids graduate from school
- ❖ Housing costs are increasing, which makes it difficult for senior to continue living in town.

- ❖ Condition of the Community Center: more space is needed for all uses in the building: seniors, recreation, etc.
- ❖ Town's budget and finance: Schools are costing too much.