

Below are the ideas generated in the public input sessions for the update of Hamden's Plan of Conservation + Development, 2015. These ideas are listed in the order in which they were received. Every effort has been made to record what each participant intended to relay. Any errors in such reporting should be sent to lcreane@hamden.com.

If you would like to add your ideas to this list please email Leslie Creane, Town Planner at the above email address. The first phase of public input is under way. A series of online surveys will be launched toward the end of October. The surveys can be accessed via the Town website at www.hamden.org.

Ideas generated from public input session:

9-9-2014

- Develop a great downtown
- Create diversity of:
 - Architecture
 - Public / Civic spaces and facilities
 - People
- Create a vibrant downtown
- Eliminate the strip malls of the Magic Mile and replace them with a mixed-use village like Blue Back Square
- Eliminate vast seas of parking and asphalt
- Add structured parking
- Use West Hartford as a model
- Concentrate development where there is existing infrastructure
- Revitalize Dixwell Avenue, particularly south of the Parkway
- Reconfigure Dixwell Avenue into a boulevard design
- Invest in streetscape improvements
 - Create boulevards
 - Add street trees
 - Add sidewalks
- Create a sense of place
- Create safe streets for all users - walkers, bikers, automobiles and mass transit
- Get off the UI grid and sell electricity back to electric company
 - Generate our own electricity
 - Use "distributed energy" and "co-gen plants"
- Become an energy leader
- Become a Green Town
- Have well maintained parks
- More open space throughout the town
- Link open spaces with sidewalks so that parks are accessible to people of all abilities
- Invest in a public swimming pool
- Create elderly-friendly housing in downtown Hamden
- Provide housing options for all levels of income
- Encourage job creation, especially for jobs that do not necessarily require a college education

- Invest in the trades
- Attract smaller manufacturing
- Maintain the strength of local businesses and restaurants
- Longer library hours
- Strengthen neighborhood nodes with appropriate economic development
- Develop economic nodes where they don't yet exist
- Keep neighborhood economic nodes small
- Investigate the possibility of creating a small economic node at the four corners of a single intersection in the Dunbar Hill and Hamden Plains areas
- Strive for highly rated schools - an A+ education system
- Make Town feel safe, look safe, be safe
- Work with adjacent towns to make borders safe for everyone
- Arts: Create an arts venue
 - Organize non-governmental organizations to promote arts programs and include places of worship
 - Invest in public art in a variety of places
 - Encourage area colleges and universities to help with promoting the arts in Town
- Connect town with a monorail
- Create linkages between all neighborhoods using:
 - a shuttle bus,
 - a trolley-on-wheels,
 - sidewalks,
 - bike lanes,
 - walking trails
- Add affordable mass transit
- Invest in technology - terabytes
 - to be used by the Town
 - to be accessible to the public
 - attract tech businesses to town
- Solicit Eds and Meds
- Solicit pharmaceutical companies / services
- Market southern Hamden for development
- Old Stop + Shop site:
 - develop space for kids
 - create a mixed use village
 - solicit small manufacturing, like a 3D printer shop
 - Don't put a Walmart at this site
- Enable pharmacies to locate in neighborhood economic nodes
- Construct sidewalks to allow the elderly and disabled access about town
- Pave and maintain streets
- Get QU students out of residential neighborhoods
- Encourage the development of a college-town near Quinnipiac between Whitney Avenue and New Road
 - Include an arts center
 - Reconfigure Whitney Avenue into a boulevard design
 - Consider using UConn-Storrs village as a model
 - Encourage local businesses to be the first to option retail and commercial space

- Keep the “sense of place” local, not driven by chain retail
- Accomodate existing local businesses
- Conduct a workshop with local businesses to determine how they have survived with larger competitors around the corner. Include:
 - Spring Glen Hardware
 - Whitney Doughnut
 - Glenwood
 - Flirt
 - Whitney Grocer
 - Others
- Develop the Walgreen’s parking lot in Spring Glen with appropriate 2-3 story uses
- Keep new buildings in the three-story range
- Make Hamden the Paris of CT
- How do we encourage businesses that we want?
- Create a gateway to Sherman Avenue Industrial Park
- Revisit the zone designation at the intersection of Cannon and Whitney Avenue
- Maintain a rural transition to Cheshire
- “Make It Pretty”
- Investigate ways to use the Quinnipiac Riverfront for recreation and wildlife observation while balancing the need to preserve and protect the riparian ecology
- Create a critical mass for retail, recreation, commercial and residential development
- Create a market for small businesses
- Get a railroad station in Hamden and build a Transit-Oriented Development in close proximity
- Why do people live in Hamden?
- Create a mass transit loop from New Haven, up Dixwell Avenue to State Street and back to New Haven
- Exploit access to I-91 via Route 40 for economic development
- Create “The Hamden Experience”
- All businesses need a critical mass to survive
- Need an angle; How to brand Hamden?
- How do we build on what we have:
 - Human resources
 - proximity to hospitals and universities
 - bring in the creative class, the makers
 - Town Center Park
- How do you make one move accomplish three goals
- Revisit the historic “worker housing” concept
- Integrate the Mix Avenue apartments into the Magic Mile and the rest of downtown by installing a tram/funicular
- Establish a world class culinary school that incorporates a restaurant, agricultural space, etc.
- Integrate the Town and:
 - Paier School of Art
 - Eli Whitney Tech
 - Quinnipiac University
 - Albertus Magnus
 - Yale University
 - Southern Connecticut State University

- Create a joint Council for Town / Gown relations
- Hamden needs a Public Relations person
- Integrate the BOE and the Town
 - Services
 - Purchasing
 - Educational and job training opportunities
- Find ways to celebrate Hamden
- Collaborate with area towns and find as many ways to help each other
- Get a Trader Joe's in town
- Aspire to getting a Whole Foods
- Excite residents of Hamden about Hamden
- Need good, unique retail
- Quality and attractive urbanism in southern Hamden
- Celebrating diversity and neighborhoods
- Use schools as community builders
- Use schools as community centers
- Post historic markers around town, or concentrate them as plaques in a sidewalk at a specific site
- Celebrate locals with public art
- Create an historically based walking trail (like the Freedom Trail in Boston)
- Have grade school kids make glazed ceramic tiles and affix to highway underpass piers
- Create attractive gateways into Hamden
 - arches
 - signs
- Get crime under control
 - block watches
 - block parties
- Community policing with beat cops
- Get neighbors to talk to each other
- Look at alternate forms of communicating
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Ideas generated from public input session:

9-30-2014

- Develop creative ideas for re-occupying vacant buildings
- Demolish severely blighted buildings
- Need a more robust program to repair and replace damaged sidewalks
- Create a happy & safe environment
- Police should be more visible
- Compile data regarding traffic complaints on Woodin Street and address appropriately
- Region needs more jobs - need to look at bigger area than just Hamden
- Include a sidewalk policy in the Plan of Conservation & Development
- Re-visit the zoning designation between James Street and the Route 40 Connector

- Create a “Hamden Dollars” currency that can work a local barter system
- Establish more bike lanes
- Keep existing street trees
- Revisit the goals from the 2004 POCD and evaluate their relevance. If they are still needed, include in the 2015 POCD
- Address the issue of power outages
- Communication - How do neighbors communicate with each other?
- Develop a directory of volunteer organizations
- Create an online community “bulletin board”
- Work with CT DOT to address traffic and circulation issues on state highways
- Work with the Hamden Traffic Authority to address the issue of trucks on residential streets, particularly Putnam Avenue
- Create loading zones for businesses on streets with heavy traffic
- Establish time constraints for loading zones for businesses on streets with heavy traffic
- Use a structure similar to online “Meet-Ups” to engage others in a variety of interests (Open Meeting structure is another structure that can be looked at)
- Protect and/or replace street trees with appropriate species when installing new sidewalks or repairing existing sidewalks
- Upgrade the Town Website
- Grind the stumps of street trees that have been taken down
- Southern Hamden needs better moral
- Protect the residential character of Spring Glen
- Don’t demolish houses along Whitney Avenue in Spring Glen
- Ask State Legislative Delegation to review speeding ticket revenue stream
- Forge a more cooperative relationship with United Illuminating
- Re-activate the Neighborhood Alliance Group (Association of Civic/Neighborhood Associations)
- Cultivate more projects like the citizen’s initiative that built the Brooksvale Barn
- Construct more sidewalks along northern Whitney Avenue
- Maintain Hamden’s rural character north of West Woods Road
- Encourage an atmosphere about town that respects the economic, cultural and demographic diversity of Hamden
- Limit the number of buildings left vacant due to bankruptcies and foreclosures
- Establish a marketing plan that will attract citizens of all ages to Hamden’s variety of house sizes
- Be strategic about what businesses the Town markets Hamden to
- Maintain Hamden’s great park system
- Establish rapid and creative ways to deal with blighted properties
- Eliminate the sea of asphalt on Dixwell Avenue, particularly between Putnam Avenue and Skiff Street
- Build mixed-use buildings along Dixwell Avenue
- How can projects that are approved by the Planning + Zoning Commission be made more financially viable and actually get built.
- Create an economic market for empty store fronts
- Economic Development should target Centerville, Southern Dixwell, Whitney Avenue between the Rout 40 Connector and West Woods Road, State Street
- Subsidize artists and “makers” (those who make things) with residential and studio space

- Attract higher level retail
- Improve school system, public safety, streets, cultural offerings
- Increase library hours and activities at the libraries
- Build cultural centers throughout town
- Create a robust town website
- See Quinnipiac University as an asset (students are our future) and address the challenges that living with a university in the town brings to surrounding residential areas
- Enhance streetscapes
- Make the town look like a place where people want to be
- Maintain and enhance all neighborhoods
- Get university students out of neighborhoods
- Look at incrementally putting utility lines underground, especially between the Parkway and Putnam Avenue
- Look at all of the Town Commissions and Committees as a resource; Encourage work plan development for these committees and commissions (especially the ones that are non-regulatory)
- Extend traffic calming efforts closer to schools on Whitney Avenue
- Make southern Hamden a place to be proud of, especially the area south of Putnam Avenue to the New Haven border on Dixwell Avenue
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