

Started with Baseline Report

- Jeff Davis (consultant) performed a presentation.
- Began by reminding us of what a Baseline Report is and the three different volumes
- After the baseline discussion, we'll talk about rolling out the roll out of the public engagement process.
- Reminder that April 15 is the first public forum.
- Population Growth
 - Slow but steady since 2000
 - Manageable
- Age
 - Chicopee is a rare case where average age has gone down (just slightly)
 - 20-34 cohort is growing
- Race/Ethnicity
 - Increasing diversity
- Education
 - Low education levels compared with rest of the state
 - Positive trends especially in high school graduation
- Households
 - Children declining slightly
 - Married with children is low
- Income and Poverty
 - Incomes up, but spending power has decreased significantly
 - Poverty levels higher (20%)
- Veterans
 - Almost 10% of adults are veterans
 - Veterans fair better than non-veterans except in the area of disability
- Disability
 - Higher than state average in all age groups
- Environmental Justice
 - Relates to Equity as a concept
 - Where are there high concentrations of people of color, low income, etc.
 - These groups are impacted disproportionately impacted by bad environmental conditions
- Land Use
 - Largely built out
 - HW is doing a build out analysis
 - All the other plan elements feed into the land use discussion
- Housing
 - Property values are lower
 - In the last year or so, we've achieved pre-recession levels
 - Data indicate high demand for rental
- Housing Affordability
 - Over 10% but losing over 800 units in less than 30 years

- Homelessness
 - 21 individuals recorded
 - Zero shelters
- Labor Force
 - 2.5 residents per job
 - Slower job growth
 - Unemployment higher than state, but similar to others in the region
 - People commuting in and out for jobs. Mismatch.
- Employment
 - Retail and manufacturing
 - Despite loss of manufacturing jobs, still strong
- Commercial
 - Very low vacancies
- Leakage Analysis
- Transportation
 - 90% drive alone to work
 - Nobody on bikes
 - 30% over 55, so alternatives matter
 - Map of crash site
 - Good plans exist for bike network
 - Very low sidewalk occurrence
 - CT River and Chicopee River walks
- Parking
 - Study shows low utilization
- Transit
 - 1% utilization
 - Expand rail service
 - Tie in all of the senior transit service from the senior center.
- Natural Resources
 - 1261 acres of conservation land
 - Floodplain will be a priority
- OS
 - 22% of land area
 - A lot is unprotected
- Historic
 - 4 districts
 - 9 registered structures
 - Better coordination and assistance required
- Climate Change
- Vulnerability/Resilience
- Food Insecurity/Food Alternatives
- Energy
 - Green Community certification

- Public Health Conditions
 - Bay State Hospital Community Assessment
 - Cancer Rate
 - Asthma rates childhood versus adult
- Public Services
 - List of questions
 - Town and school merged IT and custodial. Looking at HR as well.

Can we laminate posters?

March 11 Joint meeting between Council and School Committee. Has this agenda been set?

Check with the Mayor. Shane Brooks

MassHire (Workforce Board)

Youth Council of Hamden County has a meeting on March 10.

April 15

Entertainment for the Forum

Better craft kit for kids