

The new Uxbridge Master Plan will address the requirements of M.G.L. c.41, s. 81D, which directs planning boards to prepare a master plan that includes nine elements: Goals & Policies, Land Use, Housing, Economic Development, Open Space and Recreation, Natural and Cultural Resources, Community Facilities and Services, Transportation, and Implementation. Although the Town of Uxbridge's last official master plan was prepared in 1964 (Atwood and Blackwell), the Town received a grant from the E.O. 418 Inter-Agency Work Group and completed a Community Development Plan in June 2004 (Van Orman et al). Accordingly, the Town is poised to make efficient use of an \$80,000 allocation from the Chapter 43D Interagency Permitting Board to complete the following Master Plan elements:

Priority Elements

Goals and Policies. This element will update and supplement the goals presented in Uxbridge's Community Development Plan, which covers portions of five of the master plan elements required under M.G.L. c.41, s. 81D. Specifically, the Community Development Plan omits a Community Facilities and Services component because this topic exceeded the scope of E.O. 418. The Master Plan process will revisit, reaffirm or modify, update and expand upon the Community Development Plan goals for the Economic Development, Housing, Open Space & Recreation, Natural and Cultural Resources and Transportation Elements, and provide a mechanism for preparing original goals for the Community Facilities and Services and Implementation elements.

Land Use. This element will identify and analyze the Town's present land use pattern, evaluate alternative future land use options, and designate a proposed distribution of public and private land uses, including the desired arrangement of density and intensity of use. In addition, the land use element will provide a zoning diagnostic that evaluates the relationship between the Town's present zoning policies and its desired future land use plan. A GIS land use plan shall be included.

Economic Development. The economic development element will provide a complete economic profile of the Town, place Uxbridge in the context of the regional economy, and identify barriers and opportunities for achieving Uxbridge's economic development goals as well as the state's economic development priorities for the Worcester County area. This element will draw in part upon information collected and analyzed as part of the review of Uxbridge's 43D project. Toward these ends, the master plan will present policies and strategies to expand the local economic base and promote employment, and outline realistic actions the Town can take, considering both local and regional opportunities. A GIS economic development map will be included.

Community Facilities and Services. The community facilities and services element will provide a comprehensive look at Uxbridge's municipal facilities and public utilities, focusing on readiness to attract, support and retain a vital economic base while meeting the needs of the Town's resident population. This element will

Implementation. This element will define and schedule the specific actions necessary to achieve the goals and policies of each element of the master plan. Further, the implementation element will outline the schedule, anticipated costs and revenues, and funding sources or strategies associated with each action item.

Additional Elements

The following elements will be included in the new Uxbridge Master Plan, drawing primarily from existing sources such as the E.O. 418 Community Development Plan, the Uxbridge Open Space and Recreation Plan, the SCORP, the Regional Transportation Plan, statewide housing plans such as the Five-Year Consolidated Plan, and MassGIS, the state GIS library located within the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs.

Transportation and Circulation. This element will include an inventory of Uxbridge's existing and proposed circulation and transportation system; identify inadequacies in the present system and determine the changes needed to support the preferred future land use pattern (see Land Use element); and provide an analysis of alternative transportation opportunities. The Town's E.O. 418 Community Development Plan and the Regional Transportation Plan will serve as key sources of information for this element.

Housing. The housing element will update and refine the E.O. 418 housing component by focusing on explicit connections between housing policy and the Town's economic development goals. This element will discuss workforce housing needs, the preservation or improvement of existing housing and development of new housing, and strategies to provide a balanced mix of housing in a manner consistent with the Town's economic development, housing and land use goals.

Natural and Cultural Resources. This element will include a comprehensive inventory of Uxbridge's environmental and cultural resources by synthesizing existing information in the Uxbridge Open Space and Recreation Plan, and drawing upon other sources such as the MassGIS library, the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP), and the Department of Environmental Protection. It will identify and map areas that are high priorities for conservation and provide existing parcel-level data that describes surface water resources, ground water resources and ecological/landscape/open space resources.

Open Space and Recreation. This element will synthesize and update Uxbridge's Open Space and Recreation Plan; discuss policies and strategies for managing and protecting open space resources; and identify additional locations for active and passive recreation facilities.