Community Issues (aka Future Initiatives)

Beyond the umbrella of goals to be accomplished, citizen input and the Plan Forum’s discussion led to the identification of several specific issues that must be addressed to protect and enhance the character of the Town in the future. For several of these, the Town is in a position where lack of attention will inevitably lead to lost opportunities; however, immediate attention and commitment to addressing these issues will yield benefits for years to come. These issues address many of the preceding goals and are wide-reaching in their potential impacts on the community.

These Community Issues are:

1. The Urban Corridor Overlay District
2. Housing Diversity & Affordability
3. Settlement Communities
4. The Cultural Core
5. The Mount Pleasant Way
6. Financial Health/Resilience
7. Open Space Network
**Mount Pleasant Way**

Repeated comments about traffic, the inadequacy of local bicycle and pedestrian facilities, divisions between parts of town, and needed recreation opportunities for all ages were pulled together in the concept known as the “Mount Pleasant Way.” This dedicated bicycle/pedestrian facility was conceived to address all these needs by linking the town together with a linear park which connects various points of activity. This flagship project will provide opportunities for residents and businesses throughout the Town and should be a step toward creating a stronger social network for all residents.

**Recommendations**

1. Initiate a Special Area Plan to include a feasibility study and engineering analysis to develop the town-wide network. This study should include a public engagement program, establish a planning and implementation task force, refine the alignment, and identify an engineering level cost estimate to construct the system.

2. Design and build the Mount Pleasant Way as a safe, viable, family-friendly bicycle and pedestrian facility that links citizens and visitors to natural, cultural, recreational, commercial, and historic resources and provides travel, exercise, recreational, and educational opportunities throughout the town.

3. Construct this system as a multi-use path separated from the roadway, wherever possible, for non-motorized bicycle and pedestrian use. Improve the typical sections of the road where the network shares the roadway with autos and other vehicles.

4. Coordinate with other public and private entities to build support for the funding and creation of the Mount Pleasant Way.

5. Require developers of new projects along the route to construct a portion of the system as part of their infrastructure.

6. Plan for continuous pedestrian pass-throughs (over or underpasses) at crossings of Highway 17.

**Draft Comprehensive Plan Page Reference: P. 37 (P. 3-15)**