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Agenda

- Purpose
- Background
- Role for Town Boards
- Vision Statement
- Priority Objectives-Elements
- Tying It All Together
- Next Steps

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Purpose



The purpose of this presentation is to:

- Communicate the status of MPAC efforts
- Validate selection of priority action items
- Solicit feedback

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Background

- Last Master Plan: 1991
- Commonwealth has encouraged master planning as of the late 1990s
- 2003- Reading engaged a master plan consultant using State funding
- 2005- MPAC developed the master plan for final adoption

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Role for Town Boards

- This Master Plan will be used by Town Boards and administration to guide land use and direct priorities
 - MGL Chapter 41, Section 81D:

“Such plan shall be a statement, through text, maps, illustrations or other forms of communication, that is designed to provide a basis for decision making regarding the long-term physical development of the municipality...”

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Vision Statement

- Top Level Themes
 - Sense of Community
 - Provide and maintain natural resources and open space
 - Housing for diversity
 - Business-friendly atmosphere - vibrant downtown
 - Regional interstate/highway connections & public transportation
 - Safety and access of open/natural spaces.
 - School System excellence

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Character & Identity

- Protect the Town's historical village pattern: its buildings, streets and natural elements



- Guide development so it blends in with its surroundings

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Housing

- Explore organizational and funding options for various types of housing
- Encourage buildings consistent with the Town's character and identity that also meet state-mandated affordable housing goals



- Introduce mixed-use development in the Downtown area and around the depot

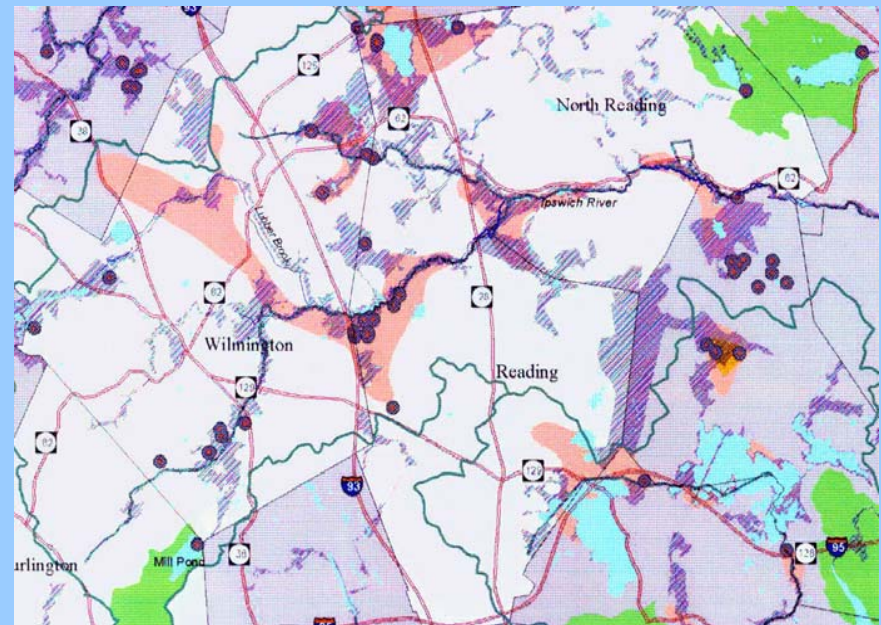
Economic Development

- Establish an Economic Development Commission
- Pursue grants and zoning options to encourage streetscape improvements along Main street



Natural, Cultural & Historic Resources

- Preserve the Town Forest and other wooded areas
- Protect regional watersheds
 - Aberjona
 - Saugus
 - Ipswich
- Protect well fields and water recharge areas, and strengthen enforcement of the Aquifer Protection Zoning By-Law
- Maintain and add to the Town's inventory of historical and architecturally significant buildings



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Open Space and Recreation

- Create path systems connecting schools, open space and neighborhoods
- Acquire more land for playing fields, family picnic areas and pocket parks
- Reconsider the Community Preservation Act
- Develop new sources of recreation funding

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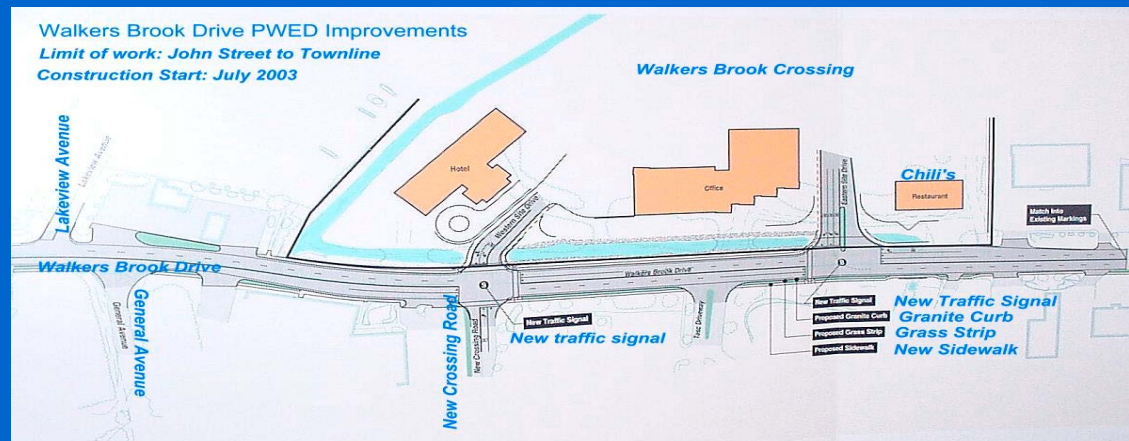
Services and Facilities

- Follow the Town's 10-year Capital Plan.



Transportation

- Develop a Town-wide parking plan
- Improve safety by providing and maintaining sidewalks



- Address increased transportation needs

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Tying it all together

- Character of the Town and the identity of the community a common theme
- Housing as the dominant land use element
- Connection of housing to other uses, e.g. commercial, open space, transportation, etc.
- Regional considerations

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Next Steps

- Complete Master Plan
 - Survey community to validate objectives
 - Present to civic organizations, Town boards, committees and staff
- Adopt Master Plan
 - CPDC to present MP to Selectmen & Town Meeting
 - CPDC to officially adopt Master Plan
- Implementation
 - Assigned actions executed by responsible parties
 - CPDC to report on action item status (semi-annually)