

Acton 2020 Recommended Implementation Program

Strategy	Action Steps	Responsibility	Timing/Priority
GOAL 5: Support Inclusion and Diversity			
Objective 5.1: Support all ages			
Support seniors by providing easier access to housing, transportation, and connecting with the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the provision of housing that is appropriate to seniors (e.g. smaller units, located within walking distance of goods and services) (See also Objective 1.1 and 1.2) 	Planning, PIBd/BoS (in development review), ACHC	Highest
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide more transportation service for seniors. (See also Objective 3.2) 	CoA	2 nd Highest
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the development of a new building that can accommodate the Senior Center and the larger community. 	See Objective 4.1	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide resources to promote health, fitness/wellness (including strategic infrastructure like sidewalks providing access to educational resources/classes) 	See Objective 3.1 and 4.2.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create opportunities for inter-generational interaction and learning in a new Senior Center and through community programs and volunteer activities. 	Senior Center Expansion Committee, CoA, Schools	2 nd Highest
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct outreach to seniors (including newly arrived seniors who may speak languages other than English). 	CoA	2 nd Highest
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer more paid part-time positions at Town Hall and tax exemptions for seniors. 	BoS	
Integrate teens in the community by providing services, easier mobility, and activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a first step in planning to address youth needs, conduct outreach to youth, listen and take seriously their input regarding their needs. 	Recreation	Highest
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide more activities for teenagers that are accessible without an automobile. (See also Objective 3.2) 	Recreation	2 nd Highest
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a club, park, or other gathering place for teens. 	Recreation, Open Space Committee	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extend sidewalks and increase access to public transportation to help teens get around. 	See Objectives 3.1 and 3.2	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Involve youth in town governance by providing teen part time work and volunteer opportunities in town services including creating a “student representative” to town government. Explore possibilities for providing school and/or community service credit for these activities. 	BoS, Schools	2 nd Highest
Objective 5.2: Support households of all income levels.			
Develop a comprehensive and proactive affordable housing strategy that supports the provision of a wide range of housing types including for people of limited means, and also allows Acton satisfy state 40B regulations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide incentives for the development of housing that is “affordable¹” (meeting state standards) and/or simply “inexpensive” (within the means of people and families with low and moderate incomes, such as empty nesters, town staff, and young families) at small scattered sites especially in proximity to village centers. (See also Objectives 1.1 and 1.2) 	Planning, ACHC, BoS	Highest
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prepare a Housing Production Plan and submit it to the MA Dept of Housing and Community Development for approval. This plan should strive to make rental and owner housing available at prices that Acton families of low and moderate income can afford and at the same time provide a means to meet the 10% state requirement that frees Acton from 40B development. 	Planning, ACHC, BoS	Highest
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Explore ways to continue and expand the conversion of existing inexpensive housing units to affordable units through purchase of deed restrictions. 	Planning, ACHC, BoS	2 nd Highest
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support and expand the ability of residents who wish to subdivide their homes (and property) for economical housing (e.g., “in-law apartments”) by increasing the number of houses that qualify under the Zoning Bylaw² and providing regulations that permit subdivision of a single residential lot for affordable housing purposes. 	Planning, PlBd, BoS	Highest

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a comprehensive approach to address 40B. (See also Objective 1.1) 	Planning, BoS, ACHC	
Provide social support and economic opportunities for residents of low and moderate income.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase volunteer and community connections by working with the school system and the Town to identify those in need and match them with volunteers and agencies. 	Community Services Coordinator, Schools, Volunteer Coordinating Cmte	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to support agencies working to serve the needs of the Town’s low and moderate income residents. 	Community Services Coordinator, United Way and other charitable and religious organizations	
Objective 5.3: Embrace cultural diversity.			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support and provide Town space for celebration and cultural activities. 	Community Education, Libraries, Recreation	2 nd Highest
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide welcome guides to new residents which include contact people, welcome committee, reference guide to existing resources (such as ESL instruction), etc.³ 	Community Education	2 nd Highest
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase access to public transportation. 	See Objective 3.2	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide recognition of cultural holidays in the schools. 	Schools	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hire and provide multi-lingual staff and materials at Town Hall and Memorial Library 	Memorial Library, BoS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Explore and evaluate the possibility of providing the opportunity to non-citizen residents of Acton to vote on town-wide issues (such as overrides, etc.) 	BoS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage the schools to include Indian languages and Portuguese and Russian as foreign language options as well as the current Chinese language offerings. 	Schools	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expand the telling of Acton’s history to include a wider time period and events including Native American history as well as European history of the town, (for example, the ‘Trail Through Time’ in North Acton). 	AHC, ABCC	

Strategy	Action Steps	Responsibility	Timing/Priority
Objective 5.4: Support citizens with disabilities in participating fully in the life of the community			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Apply Universal Design principles in new Town facilities and development guidelines and review to provide physical access benefits to all.⁴ 	Planning, Engineering, Municipal Facilities, Comm on Disabilities	2 nd Highest
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide more transportation options for the disabled community by ensuring that shuttle vehicles are wheelchair accessible and drivers are properly trained.⁵ (See also Objective 3,2) 	Comm on Disabilities, TAC	2 nd Highest
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support job training and career counseling opportunities for disabled individuals. 	Comm on Disabilities	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage the inclusion of units for people with disabilities in both affordable and market housing through development guidelines and review. (See also Objectives 1.1 and 1.2) 	Planning, PIBd and/or BoS in development review, ACHC	2 nd Highest
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Complete accessibility improvements to the remaining town buildings that still need additional improvements to fully accommodate people with disabilities. 	Municipal Facilities	2 nd Highest
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Explore the potential of making selected open space paths wheelchair accessible. 	See Objective 3.1	

Blue type indicates a reference to a strategy/action described under another objective.

¹ “Affordable” housing is defined by the MA Dept of Housing and Community Development in terms of its cost and deed restrictions that maintain affordable cost over time. This definition is used by MGL Chapter 40B, which allows developers to override local zoning if a minimum proportion of units meet the state affordability requirements.

² [add Zoning citation]

³ Increase the dialogue between multi-cultural groups by providing easily accessible contact information for various ethnic and cultural communities (including Brazilian, Chinese, Latino, Russian, and Indian communities).

⁴ Universal Design refers to design principles that accommodate people with and without disabilities in the same way, e.g., curb ramps that provide access for strollers and shopping carts as well as wheelchairs.

⁵ The ADA requires this for fixed route bus systems.