

**From:** [Margaret Woolley Busse](#)  
**To:** [Kristin Alexander](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Acton 2020: \$250 increase in taxes for next 10 years?  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 09, 2011 6:49:03 PM  
**Attachments:** [Acton-trans-forum-comments-sent-to-mary-3-9-11.doc](#)  
[ATT00001.htm](#)  
[Visio-outer-ring-2011b.pdf](#)  
[ATT00002.htm](#)  
[Some additional comments-acton-trans-mtg-3-9-11.doc](#)  
[ATT00003.htm](#)

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Kurt Marden <[kurtm22@gmail.com](mailto:kurtm22@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** March 9, 2011 5:40:45 PM EST  
**To:** Margaret Woolley Busse <[bussehome@comcast.net](mailto:bussehome@comcast.net)>  
**Subject: Re: Acton 2020: \$250 increase in taxes for next 10 years?**

Hi Margaret,

Please see my attached comments and proposed transit map for discussion. With strong leadership, this would be a boon to the whole Metrowest subregion - economically and socially!

Regards,  
Kurt Marden  
Acton

h.978-263-9220  
c.617-755-9734

On Tue, Mar 8, 2011 at 2:18 PM, Margaret Woolley Busse <[bussehome@comcast.net](mailto:bussehome@comcast.net)> wrote:

Hi Kurt—

I'm glad to hear that you are interested in this issue. Yes, you can certainly send in written feedback that can be incorporated into the meeting. Just send it straight to me.

Thanks,  
Margaret

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**From:** Kurt Marden [mailto:[kurtm22@gmail.com](mailto:kurtm22@gmail.com)]

**Sent:** Monday, March 07, 2011 9:24 AM  
**To:** Margaret Woolley Busse  
**Subject:** Re: Acton 2020: \$250 increase in taxes for next 10 years?

Hello Margaret,

I am very interested in the transportation discussion (it is a "burning issue" for me) but unfortunately will not be able to attend on Wednesday

night. Is it possible that I may send in written comments that can be read by a leader of a discussion group? I plan on addressing the ideas

brought up in the agenda link below and proposing some practical, non-road based solutions.

Also, this meeting does not appear to be on the town calendar website.

Regards,

Kurt Marden

Arlington St.

617-755-9734

On Fri, Mar 4, 2011 at 5:00 PM, Margaret Woolley Busse <[bussehome@comcast.net](mailto:bussehome@comcast.net)> wrote:

**Have you heard?**

*To go beyond recent initiatives in sidewalks, rail trails, and bus shuttles, the Town is proposing an increase in local property taxes-- \$250 on average for every Acton household over a 10-year period -- to pay for investments in transportation facilities and services in the form of a special override.*

*Funds would be used to:*

- *double the extent of current sidewalks*
- *implement an on-road bicycle route network*
- *substantially expand the MinuteVan service*

- *implement traffic calming projects throughout the Town*
- *repair, reconstruct, and maintain Town-owned roads, sidewalks, trail infrastructure, and associated stormwater drainage.*

*Some of the Town's paths would be upgraded in order to make them more accessible to persons with disabilities and others who could then use them. In order to complete the sidewalk network the Town will have to obtain temporary and permanent easements from property owners who abut the sidewalks. Some residents are likely to deny requests for construction easements and the Town may need to explore eminent domain as an alternative strategy.*

Once again, this is a **HYPOTHETICAL** scenario. But how did it strike you? How important is improving the connectivity of Acton to you? Are you willing to pay for it? Or do you think there is no need to do any circulation improvement? We had a great discussion on Economic Development in Acton on Thursday night. Now we're ready to tackle traffic & circulation. Come join the discussion on [getting around Acton on Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Acton Town Hall](#). We'll be discussing the hypothetical scenario above and then do a mapping exercise where we will actually provide recommendations on where we might want bike paths, sidewalks, etc.

**Find the agenda for the meeting, the full scenario write-up, and other materials for the meeting [here](#).**

**Please note:** Transportation to and from the Wednesday, March 9th meeting is available for \$2.00 a ride one way (\$4.00 round trip) for anyone living in Acton through the MinuteVan Dial-A-Ride service. Book the trip by Monday, March 7th at: 978-844-6809  
begin\_of\_the\_skype\_highlighting end\_of\_the\_skype\_highlighting or [www.minutevan.net](http://www.minutevan.net).

And we have two more burning issues on our blog for you:

**[Does work "work" in Acton?](#)** Do you work in town? How important is it to you to work in town/work in a place with a short commute? What is a short commute worth to you in terms of what you may be willing to give up (e.g., pay, job fulfillment)? Are you someone that would advocate for Acton attracting more high-skill jobs, even if it means making some trade-offs in terms of less open space, more traffic, etc?

**[Taxes, taxes, and more taxes...](#)** How do Acton residents feel about our property taxes? What can we do today or in the future to supplement the town's tax revenue without negatively impacting the town character and our

precious schools? How do we address the concerns of the low income or elderly population who may feel more of the tax burden weight? How do we maintain and modernize the town's infrastructure? Raising the property taxes even more is out of the question, or is it?

Finally, a reminder about our final March public meeting where we'll be discussing [housing on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 2-4:30pm](#). **Free Childcare will be provided for this Saturday afternoon meeting.**

Regards,

Acton 2020 Committee

Margaret Woolley Busse, Chair