

# Town of Nantucket Master Plan Update

## Ferry Engagement & Cape Cod 5 Tabling

### *Introduction*

As part of the public engagement effort for the Town of Nantucket’s Master Plan update, project consultants Barrett Planning Group (BPG) traveled to Nantucket on September 11, 2025 for two engagement activities: informal conversations on the Hy-Line Ferry (9:30am and 4:10pm) and a tabling event outside of the Cape Cod 5 bank.

These two engagement opportunities aimed to expand citizen participation in the Master Plan beyond those community members who can and will attend a public meeting. While formal community meetings are an important part of the master planning process, constructive engagement also occurs when people are met where they already are—in this case, traveling to and from the island or going to the bank.

### *Summary of Ferry Engagement*

BPG staff circulated around the morning and evening ferry asking travelers what brought them to Nantucket that day. On the morning ferry, the seats were largely occupied by tour groups. BPG connected with a Cape resident visiting a friend who lives on the Island and an administrator for a mental health service provider. Many travelers were not interested in speaking about the Master Plan or were visiting the island for the first time.

On the return trip, more travelers introduced themselves as workers on the island. However, upon further request to discuss Nantucket, these passengers were either uninterested or were working on the island for a short-term contract as part of the broader work they perform in the region. The table below summarizes the informal conversations with passengers on the ferry; in total, four conversations with a total of eight travelers are summarized. It should be noted that much of the conversation included information about the Master Plan and how their feedback would be incorporated into the final document. Similar to the Cape Cod 5 tabling experience described below, many people were not aware that the Master Plan update was happening.

Topic	Notes
Perceived Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Seasonal traffic and parking issues</li> <li>● Visitors living on the mainland (like the Cape) are coming on the shoulder season</li> <li>● Limitations on voting power for seasonal residents – how does not having primary residence on the Island limit one’s ability to influence government action?</li> <li>● Property owners are losing opportunities for seasonal rental income based on newer policy directed towards supporting year-round housing</li> <li>● Limitations on traveling with a car. A major barrier for full-time housing on the island is the limited access to the mainland</li> <li>● ICE raids earlier this year have changed how some businesses are operating or moving around the island</li> <li>● Nantucket is unable to support a self-contained life on the island</li> <li>● Plane service has decreased</li> <li>● Workforce housing has become a larger part of administrative responsibility for managing businesses on the island</li> <li>● Some regulation makes wayfinding improvements very difficult (current bus stop visibility is very low because of it)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This same regulation impacts night-lighting, working towards ADA compliance in the Downtown on sidepaths and the cobblestone streets</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Impact of bridge maintenance on travelers to Nantucket</li> <li>● Mental health and general health workers cannot afford to live on the island, management works to find housing options for these workers</li> <li>● Tremendous drug use problem (mention of topical headline about the drug testing results of wastewater treatment)</li> <li>● Some workers live on-island for work during the winter months and live in a different city or state for the summer</li> <li>● in-Town parking in the summer is always an issue</li> </ul>
Suggestions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Winter on-demand Micro Transit in development to fill in gaps for what is not covered by bus route (intended for on-island workers)</li> <li>● Continue supporting the WAVE buses</li> <li>● Promote government news and events through the Hy-Line and TV</li> </ul>

### *Summary of Cape Cod 5 Tabling*

The Nantucket Planning Board adopted a vision statement for the Master Plan on August 11, 2025, which outlines several priorities for the Master Plan and for the future of Nantucket. To share these priorities with the public, solicit feedback on them, and begin to develop actions, two representatives from BPG tabled outside of Cape Cod 5 Bank on Pleasant Street from 11:30am-3:00pm. About thirty people stopped to talk about the Master Plan and between ten and fifteen participated in the activity.



*Figure 1: Will Downie of Barrett Planning Group and activity participant*

The tabling activity asked participants to first indicate their support for the different priorities articulated in the vision statement and then to provide ideas of how the town may work towards those priorities. To “Support It,” participants were given “Nan-BUCK-ets” ranging in value from 1 to 3, receiving three 1s, two 2s, and one 3 to distribute across the priorities. If the participant had time and further interest, they could also use a sticky note to add ideas of how the town could make progress on that priority (“Work Towards It”). BPG also had flyers with a QR code for the project website to hand out to people who could not participate due to time constraints or language barriers.

The vision statement priority receiving the most support was “Preserve our precious coastal ecosystems and manage our exceptional conservation areas to maximize ecological benefits and beauty, and clean and protect our harbors, ponds, and drinking water supplies.” All priorities received some support.

Scans of the activity posters with all responses can be found at the end of this summary. The table below summarizes the support for and ideas to make progress on the vision statement’s priorities. Priorities are listed from most support received to the least.

Several community members were unaware that the Town is undertaking a Master Plan update. In addition, some community members were interested in participating but spoke another language besides English. This underscores the importance of continued outreach and making Master Plan materials available in multiple languages.



Figure 2: Tabling activity set up outside of Cape Cod 5

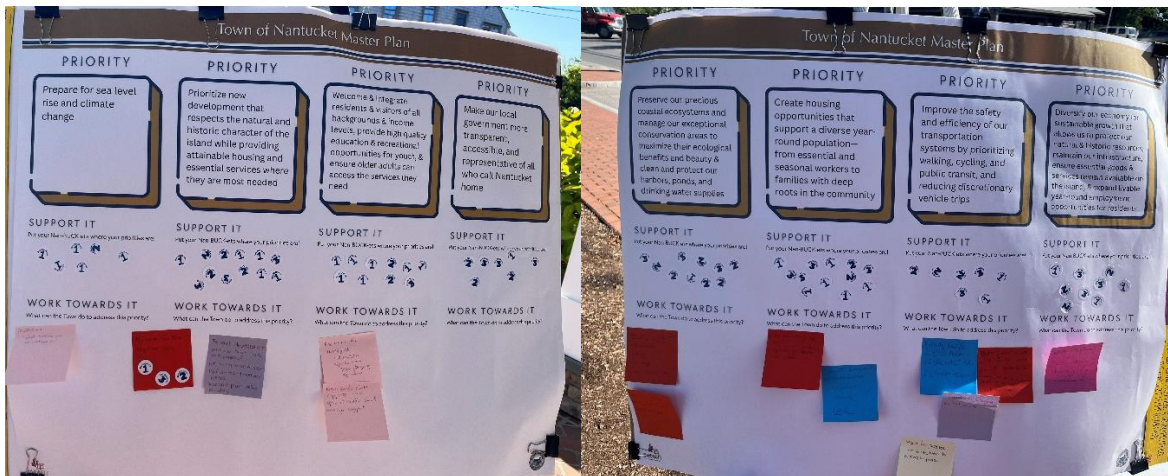


Figure 3: Activity boards with participant responses

PRIORITY	'SUPPORT IT' Tally	'WORK TOWARDS IT' Ideas
Preserve our precious coastal ecosystems and manage our exceptional conservation areas to maximize ecological benefits and beauty. Clean and protect our harbors, ponds, and drinking water supplies	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ensure safety for multi-modal roads/lanes</li> <li>● MAINTAINING                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Infrastructure</li> <li>○ Parking</li> <li>○ Road rage</li> </ul> </li> <li>● People should stay in their lane</li> </ul>
Create housing opportunities that support a diverse year-round population—from essential and seasonal workers to families with deep roots in the community	22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Overcrowding of units</li> <li>● Capacity on parking and waste</li> <li>● Sconset development is overburdensome                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Infrastructure</li> <li>○ Housing</li> </ul> </li> <li>● GO2</li> </ul>
Prioritize new development that respects the natural and historic character of the island while providing attainable housing and essential services where they are needed most	22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No more new development, regulate cars [6 points]</li> <li>● Too much development without how to get there and connect; too much subdivision; half an hour to get anywhere; develop a plan before building</li> </ul>
Diversify our economy for sustainable growth that allows us to protect our natural & historic resources, maintain our infrastructure, ensure essential goods and services remain available on the island, and expand livable year-round employment opportunities for residents	21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Water infrastructure</li> <li>● Power, cables</li> <li>● Balancing power surges</li> </ul>
Make our local government more transparent, accessible, and representative of all who call Nantucket home	17	

<p>Welcome &amp; integrate residents and visitors of all backgrounds and income levels, provide high quality education and recreational opportunities for youth, and ensure older adults can access the services they need</p>	<p>15</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Facilities for teenagers                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Education</li> <li>○ Sports team playing off-island</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Boys and Girls Club supports 0-10. After 10, middle school and up support.</li> </ul>
<p>Improve the safety and efficiency of our transportation systems by prioritizing walking, cycling, and public transit, and reducing discretionary vehicle trips</p>	<p>14</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Really need a bike path on Wauwinet Road. Big safety issue</li> <li>● Bike paths to get bikes off the road</li> <li>● Bartlett x Mike Pond</li> <li>● Walking in downtown!</li> <li>● Limit car use</li> <li>● E-bikes off bike path. Too fast, unsafe</li> <li>● Main in-passable on foot. Need to improve for people</li> </ul>
<p>Prepared for sea level rise and climate change</p>	<p>9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mattachart (sp?)—what timeline are we working on?</li> </ul>



# Town of Nantucket Master Plan

## PRIORITY

Preserve our precious coastal ecosystems and manage our exceptional conservation areas to maximize their ecological benefits and beauty & clean and protect our harbors, ponds, and drinking water supplies

### SUPPORT IT

Put your Nan-BUCK-ets where your priorities are!



### WORK TOWARDS IT

What can the Town do to address this priority?

MAINTAINING +  
improving parking  
and signage  
work

ensure safety  
for multimodal  
travelers



## PRIORITY

Create housing opportunities that support a diverse year-round population—from essential and seasonal workers to families with deep roots in the community

### SUPPORT IT

Put your Nan-BUCK-ets where your priorities are!



### WORK TOWARDS IT

What can the Town do to address this priority?

re-evaluating of  
density on  
and water

improve housing  
opportunities  
for  
low income

## PRIORITY

Improve the safety and efficiency of our transportation systems by prioritizing walking, cycling, and public transit, and reducing discretionary vehicle trips

### SUPPORT IT

Put your Nan-BUCK-ets where your priorities are!



### WORK TOWARDS IT

What can the Town do to address this priority?

re-eval  
bike path  
in winter for  
Bike Safety

Bike paths  
take off the road  
Barrett's bike path

E-bikes are  
too fast, unsafe

Man in-possible  
on foot. Need to  
improve for people.

## PRIORITY

Diversify our economy for sustainable growth that allows us to protect our natural & historic resources, maintain our infrastructure, ensure essential goods & services remain available on the island, & expand livable year-round employment opportunities for residents

### SUPPORT IT

Put your Nan-BUCK-ets where your priorities are!



### WORK TOWARDS IT

What can the Town do to address this priority?

local  
business  
expand  
business  
opportunities



Attachment

• what timeline are we working on?

No more new dev  
regulate cars



To much development  
w/o how to get there  
and connect

To much subdivision  
half an hour to get any-  
where

develop a plan before  
building.

ABOVE: Close up of suggestions to work towards priority "prepare for sea level rise and climate change"

ABOVE: Close up of suggestions to work towards priority "Prioritize new development that respects the natural and historic character of the island while providing attainable housing and essential services where they are needed most"

Facilities for  
teenagers

◦ education

◦ sports. →

Team playing  
off-island

Boys+girls club  
supports 0-10.

After 10, middle school  
and up support.

LEFT: Close up of suggestions to work towards priority "Welcome & integrate residents and visitors of all backgrounds and income levels, provide high quality education and recreational opportunities for youth, and ensure older adults can access the services they need"

MAINTAINING <sup>inf</sup>

- infrastructure
- parking
- road rage
- people should stay

Ensure safety  
for multimodal  
roads/lanes

LEFT: Close up of suggestions to work towards priority "Preserve our precious coastal ecosystems and manage our exceptional conservation areas to maximize ecological benefits and beauty. Clean and protect our harbors, ponds, and drinking water supplies"

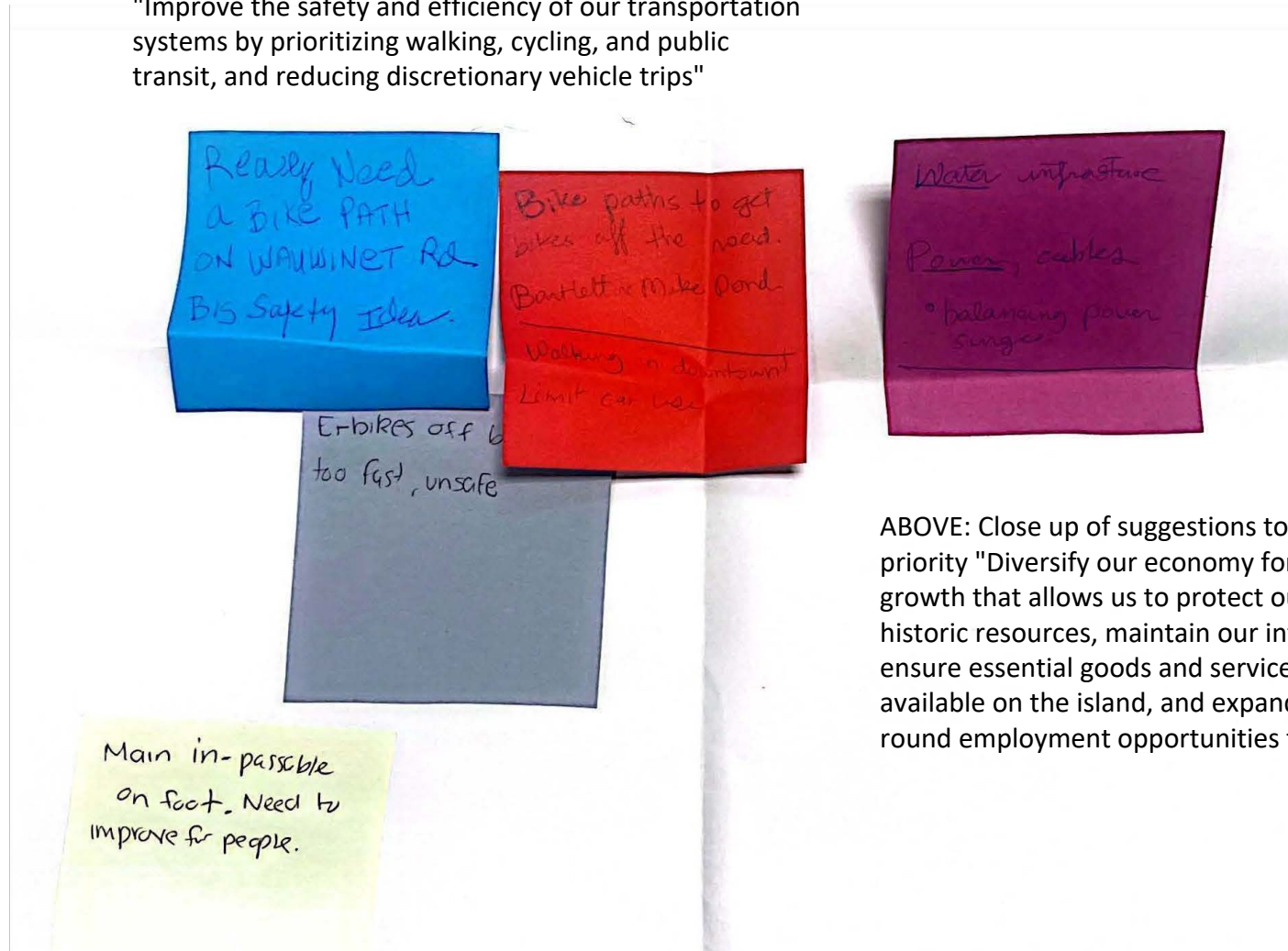
- Overcrowding of  
units
- capacity on <sup>parking</sup> roads  
and waste

Seconett development  
• overburden  
infrastructure  
• housing  
GOZ

ABOVE: Close of suggestion to work towards priority "Create housing opportunities that support a diverse year-round population—from essential and seasonal workers to families with deep roots in the community"



BELOW: Close up of suggestions to work towards priority "Improve the safety and efficiency of our transportation systems by prioritizing walking, cycling, and public transit, and reducing discretionary vehicle trips"



ABOVE: Close up of suggestions to work towards priority "Diversify our economy for sustainable growth that allows us to protect our natural & historic resources, maintain our infrastructure, ensure essential goods and services remain available on the island, and expand livable year-round employment opportunities for residents"