

# Lynn City Summit Summary Report

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

January 15, 2020



**Lynn City Summit**

**Saturday, November 16**

North Shore Community College | 300 Broad Street, Lynn

Learn about, weigh in, and take action on important issues facing Lynn.

**Community Conversations Workshop**  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
RSVPs encouraged. Lunch served for participants.

**Open House Exhibit & Resource Fair**  
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
Free raffle! Drop in anytime.

Childcare available upon request.  
Interpretation available upon request.  
Email [lynns Summit@mapc.org](mailto:lynns Summit@mapc.org) or call 617-933-0769 to RSVP.

[www.lynnma.gov](http://www.lynnma.gov)

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Paul Morris, Flickr—Commuter Rail Train;  
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## Introduction to the Lynn City Summit

The Lynn City Summit was held on Saturday November 16, 2019 from 10am to 3pm at the North Shore Community College campus in Lynn, MA. The summit was funded and supported by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, the City of Lynn as well as Impact Lynn and the Lynn Business Partnership. The purpose of the summit was to bring community members, advocates, city departments, non-profits, the business community, and residents together for a fruitful discussion on the most pressing issues that are affecting Lynn today.

Over 240 participated in the all-day event that featured morning workshops on different topics including housing, economic development, transportation, education, arts and culture, and public health and safety. Over lunch the participants heard the key takeaways from the morning breakout sessions. In the afternoon participants were able to attend a community resource fair that was a deeper dive into projects and programs the presenters offered. This gave people an opportunity to connect one on one with city departments and organizations working to improve and enhance community development in the city.

The summit hosted 21 presenters, 7 facilitators and 8 general volunteers to support and guide participants throughout the day. Eight MAPC staff were instrumental to making the summit possible. Childcare was provided by Camp Fire North Shore and there were 9 children that participated in the childcare activities. Translation and interpretation was used for the event. Almost \$3,000 were spent on Spanish and Khmer translation of summit documents and handouts and almost \$1,500 was spent on interpretation for the day-long event.

## Goals for the Lynn City Summit

- Participation in the workshops from a variety of demographics including age, race, ethnicity that reflect the Lynn community. (example: Get participation from people who are new residents/ long-time residents, get participation from youth and other young people, parents with kids that need to leave them in childcare throughout the day, Spanish-speaking residents, those with a lot/ little planning knowledge, but all having deep lived experience)
- Provide a platform for community leaders to share current work and share information with community members
- Create and maintain strong partnerships among city departments, organizations, organizers and individuals to create a more vibrant Lynn
- Provide clear next steps post summit and ways for people to act and become more civically engaged in the city

## Lynn City Summit agenda

- Welcome/Intros – Gymnasium (40 minutes) – 10:00 am-10:40 am
- Workshops – Various classrooms (2 hours) 10:40 am -12:40 pm
- Report back and lunch – (20 minutes) 12:40 – 1:30 pm
- Open House and Resource fair (1 hour, 50 minutes) 1:00-2:50 pm
- Wrap-up and closing remarks (10 minutes) 2:50-3:00 pm

## Below is a summary of the workshop content that was covered

- **Transportation:** Give your input on current and future transportation projects in Lynn, including: the Lynn Transit action plan, the Oxford Street at Central Avenue Complete Streets project; rehabilitation of Western Avenue; rehabilitation of Essex Street, intersection improvements of Euclid Avenue and Jenness Street, and Northern Strand Community Path.
- **Arts and Culture:** How can an inclusive approach to creative placemaking support local arts, culture, and creativity in Lynn? MAPC and the Downtown Lynn Cultural District will discuss their work using arts and culture to foster engagement and dialogue, to develop an approach to public art that celebrates Lynn's past, supports Lynn's local artists and residents, and infuses the city's public places and spaces with creative energy. Participate in a conversation about what is wonderful and challenging about arts and culture in Lynn today, and find out how you can be a part of it all.

- **Economic Development:** Discussion with representatives from the Economic Development and Industrial Corporation of Lynn (EDIC) the Lynn Department of Community Development and Gateway Cities Innovation Institute at Mass Inc.
- **Housing:** Discuss strengths and challenges related to housing in the City. In 2020, the City of Lynn, working with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, will kick off Housing Lynn: A plan for inclusive growth. This community-driven effort will consider market-rate and Affordable Housing need and establish housing goals. The final plan will recommend actions the City and its partners can take to increase housing security for Lynn residents and proactively guide the type, amount, and location of future housing.
- **Public Health:** Discuss public health in Lynn with representatives from the Lynn Community Health Center, North Shore Medical Center, and Lynn Public Health Department.
- **Public Safety:** The fire department will be covering the evolution of the modern fire service and taking an All-Hazards approach to protecting the community. They distributed handouts and discussed the merits of the RAVE Mobile system (similar to the old Reverse 9-1-1 calling system), and also demonstrated some firefighting gear to familiarize people with fire equipment. Police department will be sharing about the behavioral health unit, online reporting system, bike patrol, crime rates, community policing program, citizen's police academy, teen drop in center and youth at risk programs
- **Education:** Discussion of the Lynn Public Schools Strategic Plan, a comprehensive district-wide plan focused on developing an inclusive learning environment that allows each student to meet their full potential. The North Shore Community College will also speak about Career Pathways!



## Presenters for Workshops

Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andrew (Andy) Hall, P.E. Commissioner, Lynn Department of Public Works</li> <li>• Bill Mertz, PE Vice President, World Tech Engineering</li> <li>• Alexandra Markiewicz, Transportation Planner at Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MBTA)</li> <li>• Imogene Hatch, Senior Associate, Brown Richardson and Row Inc.</li> <li>• Joe Sacchi, Regional Land use planner II, Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)</li> </ul>
Arts and Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carolyn Cole, director, Lynn Cultural District</li> <li>• Dan Koff, Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)</li> </ul>
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• James (Jim) M Cowdell, Executive Director, Economic Development &amp; Industrial Corporation of Lynn (EDIC)</li> <li>• Dr. Tracy A. Corley, Transit-Oriented Development Fellow, Gateway Cities Innovation Institute at MassINC</li> <li>• Don Walker, Operations Manager, Department of Community Development, City of Lynn</li> </ul>
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Karina Milchman, Chief of Housing and Neighborhood Development, Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)</li> <li>• John McCartin, Regional Housing and Land Use Planner, Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)</li> <li>• Jeff Weeden, Planning and Development Specialist, Lynn Housing Authority and Neighborhood Development, (LHAND)</li> </ul>
Public Health & Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Clark Van Den Berghe, Lynn Community Health Center</li> <li>• Michele Desmarais, Public Health Director, City of Lynn</li> <li>• Tina Mcloughlin, Community Benefits Manager – North shore medical center</li> <li>• Chief Stephen L. Archer, Lynn Fire Department, City of Lynn</li> <li>• Chief Michael Mageary, Police department, City of Lynn</li> </ul>
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patrick Tutwiler, PhD, Superintendent of School at Lynn Public Schools</li> <li>• LeeAnn Soucy from North Shore Community College Career Pathways/Early Education</li> </ul>



### Format of the workshops

Below is the format for each of the workshops. Although the topics were different in each workshop, each workshop had the same format. Some workshops did not get to the dot voting so that has been omitted from this information as it was not completed by all workshop participants. In the notes (\*) represent multiple comments that were the same.

**Welcome and Introductions! – (10 minutes) - 10:40 am -10:50 am**

- Review the agenda for the day
- Introductions: We will now have everyone in the room introduce themselves
- Review group agreements: -These will be on a poster for you to refer to.

**Presentations and Q & A (30 minutes) 10:50 am -11:20 am**

- Presentations from all partners – (20 minutes)
  - Introduce the presenters
  - The order of the presenters is:
- People ask general questions about the information presented – (10 min with Q and A)

**Group discussion on strengths and challenges in Lynn (30 minutes) – 11:20 am -12:10 am**

- Introduction to strengths and challenges: (5 min)
- What strengths do we need to preserve? What challenges do we need to address? Give people 10 minutes to fill out the sticky note. One idea per sticky note- (10 min)
- Share back sticky notes – (15min)

**BIG Idea sheet and activity (30 minutes) – 12:10 -12:40 pm**

- Introduction of BIG idea sheet: We will now think about what solutions we think can work well for some of the challenges we have identified. Start first on the prioritized challenges we want to address then think about other challenges we discussed. Review what is on the sheet.
  - Distribute handout: Have participants fill out a BIG idea sheet. – (10 min)
  - Have people share in groups (4 people approx..) their big ideas. – (20 min)



### **Afternoon Open House Exhibit and Resource Fair**

The purpose of the Open House Exhibit and Resource Fair was to showcase all the boards from the workshops in the mornings and display ways for people who are unable to attend the full workshop to participate and talk to people in person. It was also an opportunity for people who participated in one morning workshop to give input to other topic areas.

- Resources included the following:
  - City Clerk’s office provided information on the 2020 US Census
  - Mayor’s Office had applications for Boards and Commission appointments
  - Department of Public Works area included visuals on the Northern Strand Community Path, Complete Streets and state-funded projects. They also provided a number of City resources including recycling calendars, and info on the tree planting program.
  - MassDOT Lynn Transit Action Plan information
  - Community Development CDBG funding applications, lists of upcoming shows at the Auditorium
  - Lynn Cultural District activities and creative art
  - EDIC lending applications, Opportunity Zone maps, and information on newly updated Open Space, Waterfront, and Municipal Harbor Plans
  - Lynn Housing Authority had information on a number of their programs including first-time homebuyers and lead paint removal program
  - Department of Public Health provided on the spot flu shots
  - Fire Department assisted in signing up for “Lynn Alerts” and put on safety demonstrations
  - Police Department had opportunity to learn more about their Behavioral Health Unit and the process for taking the civil service exam.
  - Lynn Public Schools parent engagement opportunities and learn more about the district’s strategic plan
  - Lastly, our Summit Partners had tables that provided information on the projects and programs their respective agencies offer: MAPC, MassINC, North Shore Community College, Lynn Community Health Center, and North Shore Medical Center

### **News articles from the Lynn City Summit**

- Lynn Daily Item:
  - <https://www.itemlive.com/2019/11/17/residents-are-heard-loud-and-clear-at-lynn-city-summit/>
- Lynn Journal:
  - <https://lynnjournal.com/2019/11/14/mayor-urges-residents-to-attend-the-lynn-city-summit/>
- Boston Globe:
  - <https://www2.bostonglobe.com/metro/globalocal/2019/11/06/lynn-residents-businesses-invited-city-summit/PdahO8otOF48CoyOICR6VM/story.html>
- HPP article in the Lynn Item:
  - <https://www.itemlive.com/2019/11/19/lynn-plan-would-look-at-ways-to-increase-affordable-housing/>



# Detailed summary notes

Below are detailed summaries of all the notes that were taken during the workshop section of the summit

1. Spanish workshop
2. Public Health and Safety workshop
3. Arts and Culture workshop
4. Education workshop
5. Economic Development workshop
6. Transportation workshop
7. Housing workshop

## How the notes are organized

1. **Strengths and challenges by theme:** Participants were asked to write down Lynn strengths and challenges on sticky notes. MAPC staff collected those notes and organized them according to broad themes. Collectively the group produced hundreds of individual strength and challenge notes, with many more challenge notes than strength notes. The lists below show broad themes identified by MAPC staff, with sub-themes. These themes were drawn from the discussion, as well as ideas that were written down but not discussed on the day of the summit. Many of these issues are deeply related with one another.
2. **Big Ideas:** Participants were also given worksheets to share their “big ideas” to address specific challenges and preserve specific strengths. In groups of four and five, participants discussed these ideas with one another. In the last few minutes of the session, one participant from each small group reported on the discussion to all workshop participants. This list summarizes the ideas discussed in the workshop, as well as those shared via the collected worksheets of all participants. Participants proposed many of the same ideas, though they often targeted different strengths or challenges. This list, therefore, does not group ideas by the strength or challenge they were meant to address, but rather by buckets pertaining to the ideas themselves.
3. **Asterisks:** \* Asterisk references comments that were mentioned more than one time throughout the summary of notes. Multiple asterisks denote how many more times the comment was mentioned.
4. **Summary only:** The information provided below is a summary of what was shared at the summit and does not necessary reflect the position of the city.

### Strengths in Lynn

“Not much else to add, too much of a bleak picture right now”

### Challenges in Lynn

#### Equity

- Discrimination based on language or race

#### Housing

- There’s need for more clarity in the process for public housing waiting lists. Some seem to get housing faster than others\*
- Chronic lack of housing options.
- “If a Spanish speaking individual reaches public office, they must represent all and not just those of his/her own national origin.
- Housing Authority officers acting aggressively towards minority residents and there’s no Spanish speaking employees.
- Rent control is needed because landlords summarily raise the rent and deny services.
- Rent is raised, sometimes as soon as 3 months after moving in or before the first year contract ends, and facing authorities (because the landlord is trying to evict you) is another challenge because they seem to consistently side with landlords and quickly rule on their behalf. Contracts are not been respected.
- A resident suffered a stroke and was given emergency housing next to the dump and the rent was raised threefold overnight but his spouse (another senior citizen) income shouldn’t be the only factor that decides the rent price.
- Better clarification and outreach (now mostly nonexistent) so the residents know where to go when they have housing issues or any other factor. Is it City Hall, or where do they go for any specific grievance?

#### Public Health

- Worry regarding an approved program where high school students will receive birth control pills. Lack of understanding and awareness over what this means. Leaves feelings of powerlessness similar to the new marihuana legalization laws.
- New and enforced laws prohibiting pot smoking in public (often witnessed at bus stops)
- Public reps do not represent non-English speaking residents.

#### Transportation

- More comprehensive public transportation, including services for handicapped residents (mostly nonexistent now)
- Use of public funds to improve the roads

### Big Ideas for Lynn

#### Equity:

- Having someone in charge of supporting people with disabilities
- More access to resources
- Representation of all Hispanic/Latinx identifying people, not only certain groups
- Respect shown towards Hispanic/Latinx employees and residents
- Consistent forums with the Hispanic/Latinx Community

#### Housing

- Rent control

#### Leisure

- New recreation centers for the youth and small kids.

- Multi-sport facilities.

#### Governance

- A new position at City Hall that ensures the proper location and public services for people living in public housing and the follow-up that it requires.
- Ensure that public works are done in a comprehensive yet faster manner. Many projects take too long to be finalized.
- Name local residents as de facto ombudsmen that coordinate community needs via local feedback and then get together and present those findings to City Hall. There is a need to provide long term motivation to residents to remain engaged with local needs via regular city-wide conversations to this end. Use Lancaster, PA as a model to follow for how residents can be in charge of local needs and resources.

#### Programs and Activities

- More family-oriented activities at local parks, and better coordination with residents during the planning process.
- Job training
- More ESL programs for kids and young residents.
- Expand the existing services for youth and school age kids.
- have the city itself provide scholarships to students that have shown potential and good grades. This can be an incentive for other kids to excel at school. By scholarships, they mean IT programs, ESL, trade certificates.
- Have someone at City Hall that can be a to-go person for any given issue that can provide referrals and steer you towards the proper department or officer

#### Safety

- Better illumination at city parks to discourage drug usage (many needles found at public parks).
- Better patrolling at known as drug use gathering places in public areas and parks.
- More police patrolling and more minority cops.

#### Language

- More access to education and resources in other languages at City Hall and other places around the city.
- More awareness program for public servants regarding providing information and services beyond English only.

#### Better ways to reach residents:

- Local OTE newspapers,
- community centers,
- well known residents that are involved with community outreach and community organizing,
- the Lynn public access channel, el mundo, la voz & in public schools

#### Workforce Development:

- Better support for folks going through hiring process

#### Miscellaneous:

- Signs that indicate when one is leaving or entering the city (i.e. “Welcome to the City of Lynn”)
- Looking into Lancaster PA’s approach to community communication

#### Important Topics:

- Integrating the Hispanic/LatinX community
- Housing
- Training for work/workforce development
- Security & Equity:
  - More police officers who reflect the diversity in Lynn (for example, more Spanish-speaking, LatinX officers)
- Education

- More programs to learn English for youth and children
- Violence
- Trash and Public Health
- Local Politics
- Access to information and resources
- Transportation

**Overview and Presentation:**

Presenters summarized their work and organizational properties.

**Question and Answer:**

- Question—How many active Tuberculosis cases do you have? Answer—7
  - Lynn Community health center: Try to treat a lot of people with latent TB so they don't become active cases.
- Question—What is the average stay at recuperative care center?
  - Lynn Community health center: About three months. Usually two weeks at minimum. Have been able to move majority of RCC patients into housing. 122 patients cared for in the first eighteen months of operation.
- Question—How do you feel about taser coming into play with Lynn Police Department/Corrections?
  - Chief Mageary: Pleased. Out less than a month. Well received by officers, have been asking for a while. Another less lethal force option that helps protect our officers and citizens.  
Sheriff Coppinger: Not using at correctional level yet, but hoping to have as tool. Officers receive de-escalation training. 48% of inmates at Middleton HOC are being treated for some sort of mental illness?
- Question—Does Lynn Fire Department receive training on dealing with threatening situations?
  - Chief Archer: We wait for Lynn Police Department, stand by and wait if scene is not safe to go in.
- Question—Is mental health training part of police academy work?
  - Chief Mageary: Yes.
- Question—Gun violence down 25% per Chief, but perception is different within the community. Any chance for community policing?
  - Chief Mageary: Community policing unit should be out in Spring, starting in the downtown area and then going mobile where services are needed.
- Question—How do you obtain data for community needs assessment (North Shore Medical Center —Partners Healthcare)? Concerned with Census coming about not getting accurate data from the Spanish speaking community.
  - North Shore Medical Center: Health Resources in Action compiled demographic info, census data. All information is on the North Shore Medical Center /Partners Healthcare website and includes sources of all information?
- Question—How do we address lack of representation of people of color (Latino/Khmer) within the Lynn Police Department? How do we collaborate with communities of color?
  - Chief Mageary: Recruitment a major problem. Lynn Police Department funded program to recruit candidates of color, but wasn't well received, especially after potential candidates learned all requirements of being a police officer. Only 100 people in city of 100K taking police exam. Major concern about "anti-police" sentiment, violence, prevalence of social media. Lots of outreach to Spanish speaking community (businesses and churches). Losing ground recruiting.
- Question—Was this program based on what other departments have done?
  - Chief Mageary: it was developed in house. Comment: Valuable source of conversation. . .Nonprofits in the city who have made strides with recruiting and engaging communities of color. (Kathleen McDonald)
- Question—Is there a problem with gang violence? Is there a community oversight board for the Lynn Police Department?
  - Chief Mageary: No on the oversight board, though there is considerable engagement with community groups. There is a problem with gang violence. Unit is short staffed, does good work. Has

not been a problem for several years but two groups have emerged which are exacerbating the problem.

- Question—Are there volunteer opportunities within the police department?
  - Chief Mageary: No. Lots of issues with confidentiality, CORI, etc. Citizens Police Academy is an opportunity for citizens to engage with Lynn Police Department.
- Question—Have there been measurable impacts of community impact of Union Hospital closing?
  - Chief Archer: Too early to tell (two weeks since closing), Lynn Fire Department is obviously very concerned as a provider of EMS services. North Shore Medical Center Salem says they will be able to handle Union volume. Looking at a number of options including paramedic engine, community paramedicine, FF-Paramedics who follow up after hospital stay. In some formats insurance will pay for this follow up care. Community paramedicine reduces the number of subsequent trips.
  - North Shore Medical Center: The hospital is monitoring. New Salem Emergency room has been sized to accommodate Union volume. Very preliminary data shows people showing up at Salem for non-emergency reasons, instead of going to Union/ Lynn Community Health Center urgent care. All community partners have been “terrific” in getting info out on Union Hospital closing.
  - Director Desmarais: People need to consider other options before heading to the emergency room. Praised Lynn Community Health Center urgent care. Concurred with Chief Archer on the need for more statistics on impact of Union emergency room closure and transition of emergency services to Salem Hospital, as well as more education on when and when you don’t need to go to Emergency room.
- Question—Did we try and establish contracts with other ambulance companies? Have we done enough to engage communities of color/different languages to let them know of changes as Union Hospital?
  - Chief Archer: Establishing with another company would not solve the problem. Cataldo/Atlantic not the issue. The travel time is the real issue (Point A to Point B, cleaning vehicle etc.).
  - North Shore Medical Center: Great feedback. Sent a mailing in every household in English and Spanish, plus explanation in other languages on how to get additional information. Asked for group’s help in getting the word out.
  - Director Desmarais: Item article described the when and why of going to urgent care vs. ER.
  - Lynn Community Health Center: Better for patients to go to LCHC (cost, low wait time, strong care).
- Question—Is someone is experiencing domestic violence, where do you go? Where would you get that information?
  - LCHC: In every health setting, we advertise those services but it is difficult to get victims to reach out because they don’t feel safe.
  - Carly McClain: Works for Housing. Did city-wide training on how employees can help a person experiencing domestic violence. Also active with HAWC (Healing Abuse, Working for Change). Lynn Police Department acts professionally and with sensitivity, particularly citing a recent case where the LPD helped a woman escape a dangerous and violent home.
  - Chief Mageary: LPD has very strong domestic violence/sexual assault unit. We encourage people to report. Our concern is your safety, not your status. It does not matter to LPD.
  - Kathleen McDonald: Reiterated praise for Lynn Police Department in addressing situations of assault/domestic violence.

### **Strengths of Public Health in Lynn**

The people of Lynn

- Our strength is our diversity please help keep it!\*\*
- Room for growth
- Our strength is our creativity and ability to pull together
- How much Lynners love Lynn!
- Collaboration is a strength
- A lot of support programs and people willing to help
- Vibe is great There are nice people

- Strengths, families knowing people around town
- Our warmness; being able to talk to each other as equals. Please help us keep that

#### Safety

- Engaged and proactive Lynn police department and Lynn fire department
- There is a shortage police and there is still a reduction of violence
- Prioritization of safety over status
- Good work in department of domestic abuse and sexual assault
- Police fire and EMS are always quick to respond to emergencies
- The police department is doing a great job with the limited resources they have
- First time hearing about the citizen police academy which seems to be an important and good action step

#### Addressing health issues

- Lynn community health center is doing a great job with the health of the community Mayors quick responsiveness to inquiries and Department of Public works issues
- Recognition of importance of addressing behavioral health issues
- Continued work on reducing opioid overdoses
- Behavioral health unit is so good!
- Incredibly proactive public health community
- Coordinated efforts around opioid abuse
- LCHC great at working with community on health issues.

#### Built environment

- Great geography and options to create and build healthy paths and bike paths
- Amount of public park space
- Churches
- Library it's a place people like to have out

#### Programmatic

- Free movies
- Summer free fun Fridays
- Willingness to lean and adapt policies and systems
- Strong city / service sector and partnerships

### **Challenges of Public Health in Lynn**

#### Communication

- We need a better way of spreading the word in different languages . For example the hospital closing\*
- Better lines of communication are needed.
- Getting information out to residents.
- Creating an environment of trust with residents.
- We need to spread the word about HIP and other programs
- There is a need to be an environment of trust
- We need to get information out to residents in their own language
- Work to develop trusted sources to communicate effectively with residents
- Engage neighborhoods
- Volunteer social media ambassadors' videos as well as flyers
- RAVE alert
- Engage community to address issues of isolation/loneliness encountered by growing senior population.
- Involving new immigrants from all countries and help them to learn about the system and city processes
- Communication about where residents can go when they need help!

- Do another summit with warmer weather
- Send Information to kids at schools and churches
- Welcome letter to new residents
- Connecting people to resources
- Summit reach to youth also more summits!
- Encourage people to ask questions online, city hall etc.

#### Food access

- Better access to food. Lots of food deserts in Lynn.
- We need more grocery stores. The number is not enough
- We have rat and mice infestations

#### Workforce

- Jobs are needed above minimum wage
- We need more trauma trained mental health professionals

#### Programming ideas

- Education of health conditions and symptoms
- Counter health advisors' program – Somerville
- Ward block party
- Specialized education – community training and workshops

#### Addressing community needs such as

- We need to find a way to address child trauma, immigrant trauma, and poverty-related trauma
- There is a stigma on harm reduction
- Isolation and loneliness encountered by an aging population
- Recognition or treatment of behavioral health

#### Health Services

- Lack of 24-hour urgent care services
- Emergency preparedness – there needs to be information distribution to all community members
- Access points to care
- Grow after-school programs
- Social media page for all ward councilors and more ward councilor events
- Mobile units on public health

#### Other

- We need more nature, trees, parks and fire escapes
- Traffic safety is an issue. For example the traffic lights at the intersection of Boston St. and Leeslar Ave.
- We are inundated! We keep looking for solutions very complicated problems

#### **Big Ideas for Public Health in Lynn**

- Communicate Union ER closure in schools, churches, and civic orgs.
- Volunteer Health Advisor program, modeled on Cambridge Health Alliance model.
- Community members should be encouraged to ask more questions (online, City Hall etc.)
- More after school programming for youth.
- Recognition of need for behavioral health treatment in our community.
- Establish mobile units (flu shots etc).
- Continued collaboration between city/state agencies.
- More specialized education (i.e. Mental Health first aid course)
- More public outreach to schools, churches, other civic organizations.
- Welcome letter to new residents outlining resources (Reading does this.)

- Create volunteer team of social media ambassadors.

### **Strengths of Public Safety in Lynn**

- Active and engaged LFD/LPD.
- Citizens Police Academy.
- Return of community policing.
- LPD doing great job with limited resources.

### **Challenges of Public Safety in Lynn**

- We need to increase the size of the police force\*
- Lack of bike lanes\*
- Traffic safety
- More info and outreach around community preparedness. Do something like the summit, but do it when it is warmer.
- Need for more after school programs.
- Rats are an issue!
- Have a method of communication to inform the whole community of the need to have new candidates to come police officers
- Communication about where residents can go when they need help!
- We need a better way of addressing gang violence
- We need a better police image
- We need more police community education
- We need more cultural sensitivity
- We need to build more trust with the public and do more outreach

### **Big Ideas for Public Safety in Lynn**

#### Communications

- Social media pages for all ward councilors (Rick Starbard's Ward 2 app cited)
- Create volunteer team of social media ambassadors.
- Broaden communication on how citizens can access resources.
- Connected people to resources and service hub
- Video announcements get seen more online and address lack of loitering in Spanish
- Videos as well as flyers

#### Safety measures

- Street Cameras to help discourage violence.
- More robust Neighborhood Watch program. (LPD very pro-watch programs)
- Education and inspection on fire safety
- RAVE alert

#### Community engagement

- Create a Community Advisory Board for the Lynn Police Department\*
- Train citizens to use them in their neighborhoods
- More ward-specific meetings on issues led by ward councilors.
- More community engagement/outreach between citizens and LPD to remove "stigma" that exists. (i.e. build

#### Partnership

- Continued collaboration between city/state agencies.
- Collaboration with Workforce Investment Board/Career Centers on police/fire hiring.
- relationships with high school students through classroom visits) helping them feel included in the community. (Create resource hub)
- Police chief and mayor make a public request to businesses and nonprofits serving public to learn Narcan and keep it in their first aid kits

- Partnering with DACA
- Continued collaboration with city agencies

#### Programmatic

- Events at schools plus\*\*\*
- Welcome hour to new residents. We need to do a better job!\*
- Block parties within wards, initiated by councilors.
- More events like the City Summit to bring people together and work through community issues.
- More after school programs for children. This will help keep them off the streets
- Mobile units of public safety
- Summits = reach to youth especially

#### Policy

- Pathway to citizenship, especially for DACA residents.

#### Open Space

- More parks and playgrounds.

### Introductions and Presentation

- Carolyn Cole – Cultural District Director
  - GAR (Grand Armory of the Republic) – endangered historic resource
  - City All – art in the halls of City hall
  - City Hall as community Center
  - Public Healing Room transformed site of Community Art Gallery
  - Aims to branch out: Canvas the City Grant Program for local artists to spread the message throughout the city
    - Big partner: Public Arts Commission
    - Keep it about us & celebrate us
- Dan Koff – MAPC
  - There is a call for signature piece of Public Art at the station Mt. Vernon Street Plaza, \$75,000
    - It is permanent
    - Will this affect the farmers market?
      - a. They are a partner and will have some functioning space
      - b. Perhaps the art piece will incorporate the market in some way
- Tia Cole
  - i. Will focus on money → Lynn awarded of 70K from State Legislature for CC grants
    1. Currently this money should go to improve Lynn with a good idea
    2. Would love more people to participate
  - ii. Faces of Lynn Land Party – is able to get funding up front rather than reimbursed later
  - iii. The money is the community's money (not the city's money – reach out!)
  - iv. LPAC is committed to helping other ideas happen by connecting you to partners/resources

### Question and Answer:

- Does LPAC & CCC have similar people on them?
  - Yes, the city is looking to merge the two at some point, but they do have different resources to offer. Now they are working on an amendment to have two full commissions and get more people in the community involved
- What happened to the Jet Empire Mat that was going to go in that spot?
  - Logistics & safety became an issue & the Smithsonian said it couldn't be outside
  - Check the history of the GE Exhibit on the fourth floor of City Hall

### Strengths of Arts and Culture in Lynn

#### Arts Awareness

- We are a central location\*\*\*
- We are a cultural hub. Public visibility to people coming in\*
- Artists are willing to work within the business model which is helping us sell art! This is so we can stay in business
- Arts improving the mental health of individuals, creating a sense of belonging within our community and increasing connections and that sense of being in it together
- Art scene has grown to be more established since the initial desire for this in early 2005
- Arts are experiencing an expanded public awareness. There are highly visible initiatives\*\*
- We have an established arts and culture scene. It is no longer just a concept

- Many places & venues fostering art (Raw Art, Art Café)\*\*

#### A creative and diverse people

- All artists in the city are a strength. There are many artists moving into the city and wanting to get involved\*\*\*\*
- Diversity in our community\*\*\*
- We have a wealth of talent and large creative community\*
- Multilingual and multicultural community\*
- A lot of social awareness, organizations coming out to bring issues to light\*
- Lots of people who really are about the way arts can improve the look and feel of Lynn\*
- Great knowledgeable and energized local arts leaders \*
- Fairly new surge in energy that is building on past efforts
- Subset of residents who think that Lynn can and will improve
- The passion in our community
- New artists moving here since they've been displaced from Boston. These artists are willing to work with the Lynn business model (GALA)

#### Collaboration

- Being able to work with other programs\*
- People working together/collaborative spirit\*\*
- Working together with the surrounding communities\*
- People in Lynn are trying to do work in bringing people together
- We have a collaborative spirit
- Coming together as a community
- Sharing ideas
- Community has come together and attendance is up at Gala opening receptions
- Partners and partnerships. There is more strength in numbers

#### Youth

- Abundance of young artists
- Engaged youth that are part of schools and raw arts
- Empowered younger generation

#### Programing

- We have excellent events\*
- Performances at Lynn City Hall Auditorium
- Outdoor Festivals and performances
- Summertime like theatre performances
- Good arts leadership
- We have places that inspire: Lynn Shore Drive, Lynn Woods. These also offer opportunities for great outdoor performances\*\*

#### Built Environment

- Cultural Locations → feels like a hub (both metropolitan but also suburban) in the North Shore, ideal for tourism and includes a rich history of actors\*\*
- Lydia Pyncham building studios\*\*
- Lynn historical museum\*
- GALA
- Long history (civil war museum)\*
- The historic place we have in Lynn\*
- Having that support system for those who want to be involved

- Students in Lynn public schools challenged to make a fire safety poster that was put on a billboard downtown!
- Marshall Middle School – beyond walls presented to 400 students and took some on a tour, was great to see the meaning behind the art and reaching out to schools is important

#### Governance

- Good support from city hall for arts and culture especially as evidenced by the \$75k public art project and support for cultural district
- Cooperation by the city has improved dramatically
- Community police presence
- Lynn government is working to build the housing capacity in Lynn. They are connecting with new residents
- The effort to involve the community and receive their input/ ideas for example , the public arts interests survey
- Improved community policy

#### Promotion

- Efforts to display and showcase Lynn artists of all ages
- Lynn community TV
- We have increased media attention from the murals
- Deva Dance Academy gets 3-4 awards, they say they are from Lynn, not Boston (promoting Lynn’s arts)
- More attention from local media outside the city, external attention can bring resources

#### Organizations

- There are a good number of arts organizations in Lynn
- Beyond walls collaboration with the Marshall middle school walk/tour discussed the meaning of some of the murals
- There are many places fostering art like Walnut St. Café, Raw arts, and the museum

#### Other

- Lynn shore drive oceanfront, Lynn Woods are places that inspire
- We have relative proximity to major arts institutions
- Vibrant and expansive history to pull from
  - Arts improve mental health and sense of being in it together

### **Challenges of Arts and Culture in Lynn**

#### Art for all

- All ages / all backgrounds encouraging everyone to pursue art – Involving people who would like to be involved but don’t feel like an “artist”
- Including more Lynn youth in public arts like Raw arts and school art classes\*
- Disconnect with intergenerational art/ culture exposure
- Senior especially underserved
- I want more people of color as viewers artists and models for my drawing groups
- I’ve been trying to find a focal point for the LGBTQ resources in Lynn and haven’t found it. LGBTQ visibility is needed\*
- Spreading art all throughout Lynn from west and east to give life to areas
- Despite how great historic buildings are → they need to be more accessible
- We are all artists, when you see someone singing or a child drawing – go up to them and say great job! Encourage people to feel comfortable and not just say “I’m not an artist but.....”
- Largest Cambodian Population in USA but lack of visibility of community – have had Cambodian Exhibits that have been well attended

- A lot of events include only people with access to social media, not older people in diaspora community – they’re not being taken care of by the community. We live in a culture where people are overworked and underpaid, that’s taking people’s time from going to events → this is a privilege that we have, but others coming from non-traditional cultures don’t have that ability

#### Representation

- Post office – mural of all those white people is not representative, there is so much more diversity that is not represented
- More Lynn representation in public art ex: murals. I heard most of the murals made were not from people in Lynn
- Being able to see more people of color to represent culture\*
- We want to see POC in leadership positions to get over the intimidation that comes from the lack of representation. We need more conversations so people can feel comfortable going to: City Hall, museums, other events. It is about time that we have more representation in artwork, but also make people feel welcome\*\*

#### Funding

- Funding of the arts departments in schools
- Lack of available funding\*\*
- Needing dedicated funding streams\*
- Everyone is fighting for the same money/grant/funding – there is real tension, this is a real issue\*\*

#### Space

- We need a smaller venue to compliment the auditorium – lack of small music venues for emerging artists (local and national)
- Litter, parking, way finding
- lack of spaces and events

#### Lynn Reputation

- Overcoming held feelings on the city
- Larger more vocal subset of residents who think Lynn will not get past its reputation

#### Governance

- No city planner or capacity to develop a cultural plan citywide\*\*\*
- How do we diversify our leadership? It is not representative of our community (Queer, trans, people of color)
- Lack of opportunities for young people to take on leadership roles in the city
- People are overlooked and we don’t have care

#### Historic

- Lynn needs to change Columbus Day to Indigenous people’s day. Other communities have done this, like Marblehead, we should do that
- Intersectionality of art/culture in politic/trauma in diaspora communities \*\*\*
- Make space for people of color with trauma

#### Partnership

- Work with different organizations supporting each other\*
- Connect more with new communities in Lynn – Immigrant, retiree condo residents etc.
- Finding ways to establish places where art can exist, while respecting this space of other establishments, like the farmers market in the plaza for example

- How do you spread Art all throughout Lynn and how to do it in collaboration with what's existing
- I'd like to see more literary events in Lynn
- Finding and getting more volunteers. It is a privilege to have time to volunteer

#### Communication

- Education of what public art is and the benefits of art. People don't understand what it is or why we do it, they make fun of it and call it graffiti, but it is not, it's art
- Sometimes it's difficult to promote events and projects to everyone – still struggling to get the word out to diversity attendance and getting many different areas of the city to participate\*
  - People in certain parts of the city won't even come food shopping in Downtown Lynn
- Making community issues aware through art – gentrification
- Perception or reality that placemaking /public art results in gentrification /displacement. We need to get in front of this
- We made signs in different languages, but if those people came in we still wouldn't be able to communicate with them
- It's STEAM, not STEM – we need to combine
  - Easier to market to people outside of Lynn, to get people to come. How hard should we try to market to Lynn people? People will come from Cambridge but not from down the street

#### Programmatic

- Public art education
- Need to build in literary experiences
- Getting volunteers – getting people involved
- Expand out more and not focus only on the downtown Lynn
- We need to focus on how art can heal
- Economic diversity – 'afterwork' events is not actually after work for people working multiple jobs/off hour jobs

#### Diversity

- representation of the arts departments in schools
- How do you diversify the leadership

#### Youth Engagement

- Lack of opportunity for youth to take leadership positions. Some people need to take some seats to let others come up, we are hungry

### **Big Ideas for Arts & Culture in Lynn**

#### Partnership development

- Continue to foster relationships between the city leadership, cultural district, families/community & public school education programs
- Lynn Cultural Coalition (following Worcester's model) could spark city's involvement
- City needs to elevate all voices: having a board of POC advisers + a liaison to the mayor for POC and LGBTQ
- Building stronger collaboration with schools as a way to build diversity and representation in the arts through arts programming for students. Creating partnerships between local organizations and teachers;
- GALA would love to host any follow up meetings for this group, let us know!
- Form a Lynn Cultural Coalition (Worcester model) where all Cultural organizations, the city and the business community can located shared resources. With existing collaborative spirit and general support from the city, forming a public/private partnership would build strengths of both sector

#### Access and Inclusion

- “I would like to see a new city supported senior center that offers a vibrant cultural experience for our very diverse senior community. Elders should be cherished, and diversity celebrated. A senior center can be the heart of a community passing on traditions of art, music, dance, literature to the youth of our city. Cross-cultural and cross-generational programs would strengthen our community.” – Anne Brown
- I think once we created transparent space for community to be part of the decision-making process at the city level, we can work towards policies, programs, etc.

#### Representation

- Art from different countries

#### Governance

- A city planner that is a QTPOC
- Creating a teen council to engage young people at the city level;
- I think the city needs to appoint a council of community members to advise the city on its community-related projects/revitalization efforts. The council should include residents, business owners, immigrants, ethnically diverse, LGBTQ, etc. to try and capture our present community to the best of our abilities.
- Can leadership actively seek QTPOC community for boards and mentor up and coming leaders

#### Funding

- Dedicated revenue stream from % of construction and/or public infrastructure to support arts/culture staffing, public art, programming
- Work with MA on funding from the state

#### Programmatic

- A work study program
- Need a graffiti wall, a successful one is in Beverly (if they can do it, we can too)
- Can we build a welcome center where newcomers, tourists, people of Lynn can go to get info of interest (pamphlets dedicated to LGBTQ community, women, Latinos, etc.) and where people from Lynn can promote their work too.

#### Language Access

- People don't speak just two languages, language is a barrier but can also help people relate. Arts can help with this

#### Communication

- Create a centralized place for information\*
- Leverage Cultural District networks to promote arts education throughout the Greater Lynn Community
- Present youth with resources the city has for exploring
- Opportunities for open & honest conversations within groups
- Welcome center to send out monthly newsletter

#### Built environment

- Better walkways downtown, a community path
- Safer areas with lighting, crosswalks and visibility

**Below is a summary of the BIG Ideas sheet that was distributed to attendees. This includes the summary of the challenge people are facing, who should lead the work of solving the challenge and who else should be involved in the process.**

**Challenge #1:** Attendance and awareness: Centralized up-to-date source for advance information about the arts; lets reduce scheduling challenges, plan head, it helps to drive participation and attendance.

- Who should lead? – City or non-profit
- Who should be involved? Arts organizations, cultural venues

**Challenge #2:** Gentrification. Secure a real-estate base for arts culture and artists so all are not displaced by gentrification.

- Who should lead? – City or non-profit, state
- Who should be involved? Artists
- Policy ideas: Community preservation act for affordable artist / affordable housing

**Challenge #3:** Funding: Lobby all elected officials for base funding for the arts in the city budget

- Who should lead? Leaders in arts with concerted citywide campaign to engage constituents and citizens
- Who should be involved? Find a champion among elected officials – Contact past elected officials for support
- Policy ideas: North Shore community college is centrally located. Can the college dedicate space to a smaller theater or performance space?

**Challenge #4:** Public awareness. Expand visibility of the arts – come up with a motto or slogan – plaster it everywhere! Include how to get involved

- Who should lead? Combined city government and arts leaders
- Who should be involved? – All constituents or arts, social service, and business, political

**Challenge #5:** A dance center with studios. Classes focusing on cultural dances that are accessible to many people. People can work these/ do work studies/ do workshops. This will address the lack of public space to get people together as these classes will be safe for young folks/ elders to attend. Opportunities such as work studies will help with financial burden.

- Who should lead? Lynn Art/ cultural council should work together on this.
- Who should be involved? Lynn Cultural council

**Challenge #6:** My big idea is to include more this from different cultures like art, or even putting more diverse information in museums, or to get a black wall and let the youth draw or write something from their culture.

- Who should lead? State of Massachusetts
- Who should be involved? City of Lynn
- Policy ideas: More funding towards art programs and giving youth free space in Lynn to draw or create anything they want

**Challenge #7:** My big idea for how to address this topic is having a lot more youth events run by youth. An example allowing student to an art exhibit with Lynn youth artists showing the diversity of art and culture in Lynn musicians. A challenge would be getting enough attendance for youth to show up, because as a youth myself its hard to hear about different events.

- Who should lead? Non-profits: raw arts, Schools with art classes: KIPP, English
- Who should be involved? Neighboring communities – schools in Boston
- Policy ideas: sharing culture and art, making people knowledgeable on public art

**Challenge #8:** Maybe as a community we can through some ideas out there so that everyone feels as comfortable as possible

- Who should lead? MA
- Who should be involved? The city as a whole, The Food Project
- Policy ideas: community service

**Challenge #9:** We need affordable live/work rentals for artists. An attempt was made with condos, but they are too small and there was no sound abatement

- Who should lead? Nonprofit organizations
- Who should be involved? EDIC, downtown cultural district, artists
- Policy ideas: must have smaller spaces, multipurpose rooms with different uses like AS220 in Providence.

**Challenge #10:** More protections for historic properties and districts. Completely overhaul of the parking department, more artist live workspaces

- Who should lead? Nonprofit organizations
- Who should be involved? BID artists in particular

**Challenge #11:** Grants and presentation – competition for limited resources. A new grant explicitly for works of art that highlight a community that does have enough attention for example – immigrants, LGBTQ, people with disabilities, elders / youth)

- Who should lead? City budget
- Who should be involved? Need to be sure people who can make the art know about the grant. Does Lynn have a website? And or newspaper (news can be online)
- Policy ideas: word of mouth is valuable, how to make people tell friends and family?

**Challenge #12:** Improve the perception of the cultural district and downtown Lynn. Our reach other Lynn neighborhoods via schools, LCTV, Social media Signage (billboards) and improve wayfinding to the cultural district. This Should include Flexible signage to promote various events

- Who should lead? City of Lynn cultural coordinator and funding is essential. Give her a budget!
- Who should be involved? Businesses and all cultural organizations
- Policy ideas: wayfinding and promotion, signage throughout the city is essential.

**Challenge #13:** Inspiring youth to be involved/represented in the community through more awareness (maybe through schools). There are so many talented people I the city of Lynn and I feel that there should be an accessible platform or event to hold a space for artists to present their art or perform.

- Who should lead? A collaborative effort between the city and organizations/ people in Lynn
- Who should be involved? Small local businesses, arts programs or groups in Lynn, city department, residents, youth and artists.

**Challenge #14:** Form a Lynn Cultural Coalition (like the Worcester mode) where all cultural organizations in the city and the business community can locate and share resources. With and existing collaborative spirit and general support from the city, forming a public/ private partnership world build on strengths of both sectors.

- Who should lead? Community development and LCC/ public arts commission and cultural district
- Policy ideas: dedicated revenue stream from %of new construction and or public infrastructure to support arts/culture staffing public art, and programming.

**Challenge #15:** Need space

- Who should lead? Business groups
- Policy ideas: Build income producing venues for the city tax for vacant property.

34 people ranging from school committee members, students and other educational leaders. The priority challenges were those that were chosen by the group as the top concerns.

#### **Dr. Patrick Tutwiler – Lynn public schools' presentation**

- High Level on LPS strategic plan
- First of 2 ½ page document
- It's the communities strategic plan not Dr. T's
- How it came together: Planning for success model – only one endorsed by Dept of Education
- October – April: Leadership team met – principals, anyone in a leadership role at LPS
- Inclusion Team: Students, teachers, parents, nonprofits, elected officials
- Teams dove into data what was working, visioning exercise.
- This plan represents thousands of voices
- Mission: What is the work about Vision: Where LPS wants to be, 5 Core Values language to beliefs
- Theory of action: If/than statements
- 4 strategic objectives – 5-year goals. Evolve is the verb used to describe the strategic objectives
- Evolving strategic initiatives/outcomes to meet the 4 objectives

#### **Leanne Soucey - North Shore Community College Career Pathways Grant manager**

- Goal is to get early education teachers or aspiring teachers get free courses due to a crisis in hiring. Program began in January 2019 and it included stipends and free classes to become teacher certified. 27-month program to follow if they elect in to become Lead Teachers. There is also funding for BA and Masters at Merrimack, Gordon and Salem State
- Fall program 20 enrolled, teacher interns in Lynn programs.
- Q/A – Promise Act: More funding for Lynn Public Schools. How will it affect the strategic plan? Looks like it will enhance the work. Mindset work has begun. It will enhance the work happening.
- Question: Is there \$ to attract and retain teaching talent?
  - Contract was just settled with increases its more important that teachers feels valued and appreciated.
- Question: What can we do to show value to teachers?
  - 5<sup>th</sup> largest district, lots of support in training and education, mind set work. Having all teachers feel like there is responsibility to all kids at all times.
  - There is a HUGE sense of community amongst Lynn Public School teachers.
- Impact Lynn: relationships with our vocational schools to recruit kids.
- Question: How does Lynn Public School meet the strategic objectives?
  - It has been mapped out, they are creating plans, lots of professional development.
- How will LPS diversify?
  - There is a three-year plan for this including applying for funding to create pathways for students interested in education to find a path in Lynn as well as investing in para professionals.

## **Strengths of Education in Lynn Public Schools**

### Teachers

- Caring and hard-working teachers\*\*
- Dedication and expertise of staff\*
- Teachers, working hard to support students
- Student: teachers are nice and help you when you need it

### Diverse student population

- Diversity of the student body \*\*\*\*\*
- School community amongst students \*
- The way individual classrooms honor that diversity
- Dedicated and energetic students
- resilience of students
- Number of students

### Community

- Community resilience, rallying for kids\*
- Appetite for change
- Community of resilience and the ability to bounce back from adversity
- Culture and diversity

### Governance

- District approach to working with community partners
- Equity – at the school level. Shown in budget and policy
- Bringing more people to the table
- Core values of the schools
- The districts approach to working with community partners
- Strength and equity

### Programming

- Free lunches and breakfast\*\*
- Free school lunch and breakfast\*
- Community collaborations\*
- Arts and sports programs
- Technical school
- Amount of high schools
- Lynn public schools has been bringing more people to the table. It is different than it was 10 years ago. We need to continue to bring more people to the table
- Millions more coming into Lynn public schools
- Supporting transitions in schools
- Schools have expanded partnerships
- College credits with north shore community college
- Large district means there are a lot of ideas present
- I think bringing back religious class into school would be great. It will be a huge change in a good way

## **Challenges of Education in Lynn Public Schools**

### Cultural needs

- Culturally diverse foods are needed
- Immigrant students getting to college is challenging
- Some curriculum needs translation i.e. health

- Adding more language options to the schools
- Translation of documents / interpretation for parents. It would improve community engagement\*
- Effectively creating an inclusive classroom
- Greater diversity in faculty and staff\*

#### Parent engagement

- Accessible ways for parent engagement
- Getting parents involved (ESOL classes)
- Family and parent involvement \*\*
- Getting parents and students hyper-active in their college after high school readiness
- Lack of long-term involvement and/or engagement of families, which in turn leads to lack of connection to community resources and lack of support for young people

#### Student engagement

- Understanding students' barriers to social emotional learning, homelessness, food insecurity makes learning hard\*\*\*
- Lack of comfort in the classroom for students
- Students owning their education
- Finding ways to create peace amongst our kids
- Matching students learning styles to teachers
- We need to teach to problem solve and to be creative thinkers
- There is not enough time to learn certain subjects
- They teach well but they don't give us enough time to understand the subject
- Lanyard policy. They should collect the lanyards at the end of the day and give it back in the morning
- Implement more student interest towards their education and values
- Help students pre-pay for college
- Need for better outreach to our underserved residents, this includes our students at risk

#### Teacher engagement

- Teacher retention is hard and it is NOT the money
- There are different levels of teachers
- Teachers are burnt out
- Teacher retention
- Inconsistency in instruction
- Teacher communication
- Getting new teachers into the field. We need diverse teachers
- Teachers not knowing how to talk to a classroom full of kids
- 

#### Classroom structure

- We have overcrowded classrooms \*\*\*\*\*
- Full human development education – the whole child is important. We need this.\*\*
- We need to teach beyond testing\*
- Order above all else is emphasized – There is structured recess, quiet lunch, not enough time to let the silly out. Silent moving between classes etc.
- We need to modernize for jobs of the future
- Kindergarten needs and earlier orientation for students as well as those switching schools
- Lack of diverse leadership
- No enrichment / acceleration potential for kids or upper end of academics – elementary

- Need for more pre-school slots
- Punishment policies
- Improve writing skills
- Pedagogy matching learning styles
- Modernize and prepare for the jobs of tomorrow – quickly and well!
- Hire more college councilors to best prepare student for life
- Need for social/emotional learning
- Violence in schools

#### Communication

- Communication needs to be improved – we are working towards this with a change in administration\*
- Adding more language options and diversity of classes for kids
- Language barriers given the cultural diversity of our schools
- Lack of partnership with teachers and parents
- No information for prospective families, open houses
- There is a disconnect between students, teachers, parents and the administration who are all natural allies
- How to navigate the website
- Website for the school district needs to be overhauled

#### Programming

- More after school programs and things to keep the kids busy\*\*
- More resources such as social workers, emotional supports for students\*
- Healthier foods for students
- More extra-curricular activities, student involvement with their community
- Financial support for sports teams

#### Infrastructure

- We need more spaces and buildings\*\*
- Need to decide on how new money is being spent
- Age to condition of the buildings

#### Other

- Lack of buy-in from principals for more community support for schools and parent engagement
- Power to mobilize people to get information out to parents of children. People don't feel they will be heard so they don't get involved
- People don't come out because nothing will happen but today's conversation ties into that and is affirming that the Lynn Public School strategic plan is helpful. We hope there is more to come from this to discuss and support.
- Homelessness issues
- Food insecurities
- Trauma
- Mental health
- Poverty
- Outcome gap for certain groups
- Value education because with this there will be a solution to every problem our city has

#### **Group activity: Priority of challenges:**

- Needing more unstructured time
- Social emotional needs of kids and educators
- Family involvement – language options
- Buildings are old

- Teacher retention – diversity within our schools is needed!

**Discussion: Student Opportunity Act passed**

- additional funding for Lynn Public Schools, millions more to fund some of the BIG IDEAS.
- Input to how it is spent: Budget is transparent for 2020. People will be looking at Lynn to see what happens with the extra funds that they will get. Looking for participation in that.
- Open budget process for Lynn Public Schools. City Council approves and then sends to School Committee – they then can take feedback and make needed changes. This is taxpayer dollars so please participate.
- There is an outdated funding formula (26 years old) Lynn has suffered due to this. There is lots of catch up to do for this community with those extra funds.
- Voices matter in the City, School Committee would like to hear from parents and students and teachers. They need ambassadors and if there are issues they should be voiced. Partnering with families, community partners and school district to fight for Lynn.

**Big Ideas on how to solve the identified challenges and who should be involved in solving them:**

Programing

- Being able to bring focus of social emotional and how to you measure that\*\*\*\*
- Creating paid positions that stay to support social emotional learning
- Unstructured time (for elementary kids) to create self-regulation. Create those opportunities early. What needs to change: more unstructured recess. Currently 15 mins of focused play. No opportunity for problem solving. \*
- Parent engagement: how to communicate? How are we getting to the at-risk kids?
- Education on loans
- Flexible school drop-in hours, with interpreters, is needed
- Community schools are vital and can help with PD for educators & drop-in hours
- Teaching students the concept and value of respect, tolerance and love towards others
- Classes on networking and engagement
- Civics Classes & Classes on finances, leasing, cars, credit card management, taxes, mortgages, loans, etc.)  
→ things they need to know to function as an independent person
- It is necessary to think about how recess, lunch, etc can help with concept of social/emotional learning. Strong social bonds and a sense of “fun” at school, along with totally unstructured time all contribute to social/emotional learning and academic office

Structure

- Outside scope of influence with the time on learning with the state law, but an extended school day could/would assist with this.
- More community schools: longer days and programming kept open for activities after school hours. All students need a break to decompress.
- Census 2020 – ensuring parents are responding for the census as its tied to funding. School committee to give feedback to the state about policy and procedure. Engage our teachers in this as well.
- Extending the school day: how does that work with sports? Kids need to work, how does that work to extend the day and the teacher contracts? High school redesign, classes happening at different times so people can still make the hours and work. Job shadowing can count as hours and the city can become the classrooms to.
- Individualized future plans for students to succeed
- Increasing teacher salaries
- Adding more staff to schools
- Changing the lanyard policy (not having students receive detention for this)

- Teaching content rather than teaching only skills (you can't comprehend what you are reading if it's on a subject you're never encountered before). Additionally, content-based and project-based learning can help teach vital workplace skills necessary for our changing work contexts (creative problem-solving, flexible thinking, etc.)
- Looking more into Human Rights & values curriculum
- Excused mental health days!
- Write and implement a Plan of Action to improve education, improve community support for education and improve fundraising
- Mindfulness training for teachers and students

#### Engagement

- Engage students and parents to conduct outreach about the importance of the Census. Accurate and complete counts would bring additional funds to the city.
- Have a city-wide summit on quality parent engagement with parents, teachers, principals and expert facilitation

#### Staffing

- Add more staff to the schools so there are enough adults to help the kids regulate. There should be a dedicated staff person for social emotional learning. Time on learning from the state law.
- Social emotional support in every school.
- Multiple social workers and school psychologists behavior specialties\*\*\*
- Hiring qualified & relevant leader
- Offering more Professional development for educators on other languages/cultures
- More training/professional development for teachers

#### Communication improvement

- Robo calls, community organizations, churches
- Announcements in school for kids to participate
- More translations
- small businesses to get information out to people.
- We need advocacy and ambassadors for the community. Everyone has a role to play so to find out how to get involved, people don't know where to start. Keeping conversations active, social justice and civic engagement. Consistent in our messaging, and advocacy and communication.
- Encouraging students to participate in after school programs, sports, activities, etc.
- Information sharing with other school districts and country-wide programs

#### Partnership

- A partnership with Impact Lynn has some emerging ideas around school readiness, family involvement, kindergarten registration, early childhood screening, etc.

**Below is a summary of the BIG Ideas sheet that was distributed to attendees. This includes the summary of the challenge people are facing, who should lead the work of solving the challenge and who else should be involved in the process.**

**Challenge #1:** Non grant staff position like more school nurses, social worker parent coordinators, more unstructured time built into the school day.

- Who should lead? The state and the school
- Who should be involved? Students and teachers

**Challenge #2:** teacher burn out and lack of support as a result of the overcrowded schools and crumbling infrastructure. Many teachers burn out not due to the students themselves, as many would assume, but because extra, unissued work associate with the profession. Such paperwork accumulation changing mandates and standardization has disempowered educators from their work eradicating and fulfillment. This is why while an increase in compensation is preferred, it not the cause of burn out.

- Who should lead? Teachers, Bennett street, school committee

**Things that have made people smile in Lynn recently:**

- The north shore drive
- The murals
- An Instagram called, “Really Lynn” and it is an artist that takes photos of Lynn highlighting its beauty
- The Latino business owner event in Lynn: Cultural dancing and singing
- The diversity and recently the vote of the school committee to allow sex education and condoms in our schools because the pregnancy rates are off the hook
- The recent Halloween event and the joy of the children
- Being able to find foster parents in the city of Lynn knowing that many young people are being displaced not too far from the City of Lynn
- Seeing some of the new restaurants and things happening throughout Downtown
- Driving down here and seeing the new construction that contributes to including development for the City of Lynn
- Uncommon feast, a new restaurant in Lynn. A woman came into their office with a dream and now it has become a reality and she has this restaurant
- Taking the train to Lynn and going to the coffee shops and wandering around and looking at the urban landscape and see how it has been changing over the years

**Don Walker, Department of Community Development**

- This past year received an allocation of 2.2 million dollars and a part of that will be used to promote economic development which will help support small businesses: starting business and current business owners who are looking to improve/ gain assistance.
- They fund a lot of infrastructure development which is used to improve the development being done and their department will come in behind that to improve by helping with the sidewalks, installing better lighting, adding in trash cans, etc.
- Does work around playground building to make sure that there are safe areas for children
- Department is also responsible for seeking out grant funding from various state organizations. Has been successful with the park grants that come in through the state. They support with matching grant funds to enhance the improvements of the parks in tandem with the grants they receive.
- They work collaboratively with all the agencies to enhance the funds across the city.
- Audience comments: The city needs a lot more trees, but I heard it has been hard to talk people into allowing a tree to be planted. Is this true?
  - Answer: Sometimes it is because we have to go and speak to property owners to get permission to put up trees but sometimes, we put it up and then property owners will cut them down if it expands onto their properties. The grant we have from the state allows us to be more far reaching with our efforts

**Jim Cowdell, EDIC**

- Established in 1977 – EDIC. We are a lender. Has given loans to different business throughout Lynn to help create organizations that will support with giving employment opportunities
- We work to increase employment opportunities for Lynn residents
- It is really the small business that are driving the economy. Created a small business guide to help people who are interested in starting their business
- Two focus areas with economic development: Downtown and the Waterfront
- Today Lynn has 300 million dollars invested in improving downtown and the waterfront

- The waterfront is mistake after mistake: There are stores and car dealerships on the waterfront which is not a good idea.
- December 3<sup>rd</sup> they will be voting on a new waterfront development plan so that changes can be made to improve the waterfront
- Questions: Is there a place to find the waterfront plan? It is online so that people have public access to the information

#### Dr. Tracy A. Corley, Mass Inc. Transit Fellow

- Works with the 26 different gateway cities across the commonwealth
- Working to make sure the TA, not just the MBTA, gets the funding it needs to improve the commuter rail. The commuter rails help to improve and drive economic development
- The focus is to advocate on behalf of the community to make sure that things happening in Boston and around the neighboring cities are supporting everyone
- Massinc.org/ttod
- Mass Inc. is planning to get someone into a role full-time to take over with the community engagement with the City of Lynn. Soon there will be someone in this role, the role is being developed.

#### Economic Development Challenges in Lynn

##### Safety

- One person is planning to sell her house because she cannot deal with the violence anymore in her neighborhood., She has spent over \$100,000 in repairs on her home and has seen a lot of violence happening. She has attempted to form an alliance with the police so that they are able to support with keeping crime rates low.
- One is the safety and security in the city. There needs to be an increase of police and security, possibly surveillance to make people feel safer
- To keep developing businesses, Lynn has to be very careful with keeping them safe so there is no vandalization. For the beyond walls project, not one of the murals have been vandalized
- Prevention is necessary to make sure that there is no vandalization of any property throughout Lynn
- A challenge with getting a city-wide response to what is going on and people being out of work. Implementing an emergency response in place.
- Policies around making sure the streets are equitable for all community members regardless of abilities. Want to create funds that cities can tap into to make things accessible.
- Theft
- There's a safety issue (Goldfish pond/ Lewis St.) (Brickett School). She has now taken it to Facebook to try and get support with fixing up the crime issue in their neighborhood. The city of Lynn has hired additional police to help support with the crime. People need to feel safe in their neighborhoods and their homes.

##### Small business

- One challenge would be sustaining small business in the city of Lynn.
- Improving immigrant owned business because they are major contributors to the economy and that is the direction of the workforce
- Lack entertainment venues (movie theatres, restaurant nightclub promoting the cuisine varieties). Promoting what is available and getting people to support the businesses here
- Big advocate for small business but in order to have successful business, you need money. Most people come to the city and have dreams, they all want to be successful but one thing that hinders them is money. Lynn needs to have an economic development plan that gathers those people to hear from them and figure out how to help them achieve their dreams.
- Not focusing on other clusters of commercial small businesses in the City. They do a good job of focusing on Downtown but there are more areas that need support. Not focusing on things like collaboratives that are getting priced out of their communities, we can welcome them to Lynn
- Lack of diversity in local business options (too many barbershops)

## Housing

- Housing restrictions. First time homeowner can't do improvements on home without a license which ends up causing more money to be spent regardless of whether the owner is able to do the construction themselves. . It contributes to an increase in money spent to do home improvement. He had to pay \$17,000 dollars to put a wall in his home (real example)
- Absentee landlords are a challenge. It is about people living in their property and taking care of it. There are people who own properties but do not live there or even in the neighborhood, so it doesn't allow for careful maintenance. Needs to be more pride around ownership.
- Building in the theme of flood zones. No understanding of why this is happening because it contributes to an increase in insurance costs because of all the flooding but building happening on these flood zone areas. What is being done to mitigate that? Where are the people going to go when flooding takes place and who is it going to impact?
- Worry about developers looking at Lynnwoods who want to take a chunk of the area to turn it into a golf course, luxury condo, etc.
- Lynn is made up of hundreds of neighborhoods and there are no consistent neighborhood meetings that allow people to convene around neighborhood issues. Not enough engagement with Ward Councilors & City Officials

## Transportation

- Transportation plan is a challenge. There used to be an express bus to downtown, but it stopped last month, and it has caused a huge disruption in service. There have been many bus stops removed
- Strategic vision of the Lynnway
- Infrastructure is focused on getting people to Boston but does not support with getting people around Lynn

## Government

- More diversity at City Hall

## Workforce Development/Jobs:

- Workforce for pipeline jobs. Does Lynn have the right workforce to fill the jobs? Is there more Workforce Development to help prepare people for the jobs growing?
- What kind of partnerships are there between schools and employers to support youth with their employment and help them become aware of what they want? How institutions are working to support youth.

## Health & Wellness

- More than 100,000 people living in Lynn and there was a hospital removed that will not extensive care so now residents have to commute to Boston to get medical attention.
- More healthy food options for students who stop at convenient stores and rely on junk food for nourishment after school

## Infrastructure

- A space to hold more than 500 people. If there was a conference, Lynn was never a part of the strategy because there is no space large enough to support large groups of people\*
- There needs to be a way to get more community residents involved in the conversation in order to know the problems and solve them
- Developers and City are going after the Reservoir Watershed and the Cemetery land
- Trash pickup does not work

## People

- Currently there are over 242 youth in the Lynn area that are placed in foster care, but a majority get placed outside of their community. One of the challenges is the lack of foster parents that are willing and able to support foster children which will allow them to stay in Lynn and know their background/community/culture
- Challenges around supporting people with disabilities: What is Lynn doing to support this community?
  - Answer: There is a disability commission that residents are able to join to be supportive of supporting this community.

- A challenge of how we change people's perceptions of the City of Lynn
- Concern that youth are disengaged

#### Strengths

- Arts & Culture District
- Infrastructure
- Natural resources (Lynn woods, golf course, beaches, park system)
- Rich food culture

#### Big Ideas on Economic Development in Lynn

- Housing
  - Property tax incentive for owners of multifamily buildings
  - Simplify regulations for 1-3-unit repairs
  - Not allowing absentee landlords
- Miscellaneous
  - Build trust with diverse communities
  - Better advertise opportunities for Lynn residents
  - Marketing Campaign with videos, TV, billboards to showcase Lynn as a great city to live, work & play in
  - A new city planner
  - Data tracker with access to information on city (how many housing units, affordability, etc.)
  - Advisory neighborhood commissions
- Infrastructure
  - Use colleges to host events
  - Hire a city planner to create comprehensive plan beyond land use
  - Federal resources to promote assets
  - Building tourism infrastructure
    - Tourism office
    - Hotel for tourism and events
    - History (army, abolition, etc.) tours – restore historic assets in Lynn
    - North Shore – Canada ferry (overnight, cruise-like)
    - Lynn has a rich history and trying to find a way to preserve and market it to people who would like to visit and contribute to the economic development
    - Expanding entertainment venues (movie theaters, restaurant guides, promotional nights, multicultural cuisine options)
  - Collaborating with high school and higher ed institutions for event space
  - Industrial workspaces
  - Potential usage of viaduct: year-round market space, incubator kitchen, local food distribution, solar panels, other small businesses, rotational food vendors
  - Cluster development, walkable neighborhood and services
- Workforce Development
  - Prioritize local training & hiring for city/public projects
  - Providing vocational education for young people who lack family, resources and education that do not have the right skills to gain meaningful employment. Address the importance of employment, youth employment
  - Workforce pipeline for living wage jobs
  - Vocational education/training & crime amelioration
  - Youth employment \*
- Small Business
  - A free service is helping small business owners figure out how to write their business plan and market their business

- Artist live/work spaces
- Cross-sector collaboration between disciplines
- Changing tax base and permitting process to expand diversity of small business
- Including small business support in help with advertising
- Nature
  - Utilizing the park system in Lynn more → we'd be tapping in to already existing assets
  - Beautifying the City: Leaf pickup, Loitering, bike paths, walking paths, commute rails. Making this all more accessible
- Health & Wellness
  - Healthy Incentive Program (SNAP Match) to help people with affording healthier foods. This started in Lynn but how it can become something that people know about what has been started in Lynn and using it to serve as a narrative of Lynn as an innovation hub.
  - Need for stores that support healthy food
  - A full-service hospital
  - Faster, more streamlined emergency response
- Safety
  - Lighting roadways and crosswalks
  - Community policing
  - Homeowner/neighborhood liaison with police to report crime/drug dealing
  - Drug task force

#### **Summary of what was discussed:**

- Economic Development encompasses a lot of the major issues in Lynn
- Small businesses: sustaining and starting, support with immigrant businesses
- Safety: businesses are safe, neighborhoods are safe, many people are facing challenges like places to convene (advisory neighborhood committees)
- Housing: proper city support and improving their homes and not relying on high priced requirements to make home improvements
  - Absentee landlords – homes are well taken care of.
  - Advisory Neighborhood Commission (an opportunity to bring neighbors together to discuss issues and come up with solutions with support from the City leaders)
- Transportation issues: removal of bus lines like direct to downtown Boston
- Space needs: hold lots of people , bring together more than 500 people for conferences or other major events that bring people into the City and support the local business
- Workforce pipelines: Preparing people to enter into roles of developing businesses (ie. Pharmaceutical, tech, bio, ect.)
  - Workforce Development programs for youth
  - Vocational schools/ programs and education opportunities to enhance their skill sets and get them into better jobs/careers
- Perception of Lynn
  - Be a City of “firsts”
  - Innovation Hub
  - Focus on and promote the positives of the City
  - Preservation of historical items and the assets that are here

#### **Solutions/ Small Group Activities:**

- Group1: Hiring a city planner to create a comprehensive plan that goes beyond land use. Promoting the assets that Lynn has. An inclusive process
- Group 2: Marketing campaign: Videos, billboards, Tv ads that talk about the beauty of Lynn
- Group 3: Utilizing a space as an incubator hub to help people prepare for their businesses and gain support with development

- Group 4: The concept of working across disciplines in order to have a comprehensive plan to move Lynn forward. Constant communication and constant planning that effects Economic Development. Wanting to plan for it
- Group 5: Focused on the diversity of businesses. Permitting and zoning policies and enforcing those. Knowing what properties in the city and what they are allocated to. Speak with the community to restrict units to affordable housing but it is not clear how many units are affordable. More data collection to track it in a single place and make it more aware for communities

**Summary of topics covered by Presenters**

**1. Complete Streets Project – Oxford Street at Central Avenue**

- a. Funded through a Complete Streets grant from MassDOT, this project will reconstruct Central Avenue from Andrew Street to Oxford Street, including reconfiguration of existing ramps, crosswalks, pedestrian traffic signal equipment to improve pedestrian circulation and accessibility at a critical location in downtown Lynn between City Hall Square and the Central Square MBTA commuter rail station. The implementation of this project would raise awareness and increase overall pedestrian safety and movement. This will make the Central Square area a more appealing destination and further the City of Lynn's goal of promoting residential and commercial development in its historic Downtown.

**2. Rehabilitation of Western Avenue**

- a. Construction funded through the Massachusetts Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Boston MPO, this project will reconstruct Western Avenue from Centre Street to Eastern Avenue, including segments of Franklin Street, Boston Street, Washington Street, Maple Street, Chestnut Street, Chatham Street, Eastern Avenue and Waitt Avenue. The proposed roadway improvements will provide enhanced safety and operational improvements, and will include roadway pavement reconstruction, drainage improvements, improved traffic operations and safety, new signs and pavement markings, bicycle and ADA compliant pedestrian improvements.

**3. Rehabilitation of Essex Street**

- a. Construction funded through the Massachusetts Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Boston MPO, this project will reconstruct Essex Street from the intersection with Rockaway Street at Joyce Street to Eastern Avenue (Route 129A) and including Chestnut Street from Essex Street to Union Street, Mason Street from Chestnut Street to Fayette Street, and Fayette Street from Mason Street to Essex Street. The proposed roadway improvements will provide enhanced safety and operational improvements, and will include roadway pavement reconstruction, drainage improvements, improved traffic operations and safety, new signs and pavement markings, bicycle and ADA compliant pedestrian improvements.

**4. Intersection Improvements at Two Locations (Euclid Avenue & Jenness Street)**

- a. The project is intended to provide safety and operational improvements at two high crash locations, at the intersections Broadway with Euclid Avenue and with Jenness Street. The project will generally include targeted safety improvements including replacement of outdated and non-compliant traffic signal equipment reconstruction of sidewalks, crosswalks and wheelchair ramps; addition of bicycle facilities; improvements to transit stops; and roadway resurfacing.

**5. The Northern Strand Community Path**

- a. The Northern Strand Community Path is an approximately 11 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> mile long primarily off-road multi-use path connecting the Mystic River in Everett to the shore in Lynn. Over its length it passes through the five communities of Everett, Malden, Revere, Saugus, and Lynn and is accessible to tens of thousands of residents, providing a safe alternative route to multiple community downtown neighborhoods and, ultimately, Boston via the planned pedestrian bridge over the Mystic River. The Northern Strand will not only deliver recreational and public health benefits, but the completed path will also be a transportation and commuting route and provide access to hundreds of businesses.

### Strengths of Transportation in Lynn

- New northern strand and community trail! \*\*\*\*
- Northern strand is a good mixed-use definition. I like the progress\*\*\*
- The northern strand tail work has gone out to bid!
- I am excited for the northern strand. Very good Lynn glad it is final happening
- Garage location. It needs improvements and expansion
- Road improvements on Essex St.
- Road improvements on western Ave.
- Street work
- Streetlights
- Complete streets
- Some really nice boulevard like streets, like broad, market, north and south common streets
- Adoptions of complete streets
- Use of rotaries
- The four corner tie up western Ave. and franklin St., Boston St. and Franklin St., western Ave. and Washington, western Ave. and Boston St.
- Parkland Ave. and Wyoma square – traffic flows better during non-peak times
- Happy to hear about Wyoma Square improvements
- More parks
- Plans for traffic improvements by market basket
- 107 bridge being work on
- New leadership in city hall bringing grants.
- Pedestrian path along Lynn Shore Drive
- Nahant street is a problem that could be fixed with a roundabout
- State of the art ferry terminal
- Connectivity via commuter rail to Boston and other Northshore communities

### Challenges of Transportation in Lynn

#### Commuter rail

- Commuter rail stop in downtown Lynn needs a plan to increase frequency and reduce costs \*\*\*\*\*
- Commuter rail at rush hour is a huge issue and is very crowded\*\*\*\*
- Decrepit train station platform especially the lighting and stairs etc. It is dirty and crumbling\*\*
- Make a Commuter stop in Lynn close to bus terminal, parking garage near train station\*\*
- Reliability of the commuter rail is a challenge
- We have a crumbling commuter rail garage no state support for the Ferry service to start and expand.
- Commuter rail service is limited access.
- There are no express trains

#### Bus

- The MBTA is too powerful to determine bus stop routes etc. City government has no say\*
- We need more bus stops especially if patrons want people to walk to too few stops \*
- 450 bus to Boston
- Consolidation of bus routes increasing parking
- Capacity for buses in central square
- There is limited bus service in the Nahant rotary area
- MBTA needs a bus route direct to Danvers
- Bus to Nahant beach on the weekends
- We need more MBTA buses – or something like the silver line
- MBTA 455 frequency and timing

- Improve the bus schedules to Mass General Hospital it's all day now

#### Ferry

- We need ferry service\*\*\*\*\*
- State of the art ferry terminal!

#### Connectivity

- Commuter rail connectivity to other cities in the north shore
- There is not enough integration of many transportation modes – trying to get to Cambridge is not worth the bother!
- It is hard to get anywhere west – you can go into Boston but few ways to go elsewhere within the 128 belt. I can't get to Waltham!
- There are many transportation options, but they are disjointed and inconvenient. There are many transfers that are needed, and it adds time!
- Lack of easy/ quick transit to and from the airport
- There is no direct access to Boston
- Access to one side of the city to the other

#### Traffic

- Traffic – congestion from a few major routes and inadequate capacity (volume)\*
- Traffic and bus time to wonderland
- Walnut St. needs traffic relief. Saugus issue too
- It takes over half an hour to get to 128
- We have multiple traffic pile ups
- Lynn Shore drive needs alternatives – too much traffic am/pm rush hours prohibit the use of the beach
- Truck traffic on western Ave. in the early morning is an issue
- Truck traffic – transmission braking in the early morning like 5 am
- There is an irrational traffic flow in downtown Lynn
- Bus traffic generally

#### Blue line extension

- There is lack of rapid transit access to Lynn – We just need to bring the blue line north! \*\*\*\*\*
- Extended hours for blue line
- I would like to see the blue line go farther north
- Use the general electric space for the new garage

#### Streets and intersections

- There are deplorably bad potholes in the streets\*\*\*\*
- Horribly and poorly planned Boston, Franklin, Washington St. interchange\*
- Downtown Lynn one-way streets\*
- Wyoma square at rush hour
- We need better crosswalks. There are faded white lines – we need better signage or crosswalks that are raised so people need to stop
- Market St. and Lynnway intersection is confusing
- Finish Boston St. paving
- Other cities have two-way streets and the results are good for all.
- A dysfunctional Lynnway unsafe for pedestrians works as a speedway and is a major barrier to our community
- Western Ave. rotary near market basket leads to blocked intersections

- Maintaining state roads (Lynnfield St.) Lynnway
- Stoplights and intersections
- South common street – all of the entry and exit points make it dangerous
- Rotaries needed at many 5-way intersections - Western Ave. / eastern Ave.
- Western and eastern intersection issues with safety and lack of signal
- Lack of road markers on market St. for many, the entrance to Lynn
- Walden St. Western Ave. intersection needs better “do not block intersection sign marking
- Western Ave. and Minot St. needs “do not block intersection” signs
- Signage to 128 is confusing – Pine hill gets tractor trailers

#### Lights

- Lights are not synchronized. They need to be timed better\*\*  
Traffic lights – timing of Boston St. and North franklin and Franklin and Washington\*

#### Other Improvements

- Lack of bicycle infrastructure. We need a bike trail\*
- Sidewalks are a mess and are hazardous
- The lack of pedestrian walkways on the Lynnway and across the Lynnway
- The lack of bike facilities on the Lynnway and across the Lynnway
- Many parts of the city including downtown are not pedestrian friendly
- Limited chapter 90 local road and bridge dollars
- The northern strand in Lynn is an image problem and is used as a dump
- All bridges into Lynn are crumbling and need to be replaced including Belden Bly and General Edwards
- Speed limit and lane signage needs improvements and enforcements
- Need lane markings lacking in many places. How many lanes are there and where do they go?
- Replacement curbing was never replaced. Now it is breaking down.

#### Other

- Commuters are not involved in discussion of how they should get to work and how long commute takes, etc.
- Northern strand is a current challenge\*
- Our proximity to Boston
- The citizens of Lynn and community engagement
- I find no positives about transportation in Lynn except that it is not as bad as Salem
- We need translated signage at least in Spanish

#### Big Ideas for Transportation in Lynn

- Mixed use opportunity for development + food trucks!
- Maximize the usage of land along the Northern Strand
- Can you have blue call help buttons on strand?
- Expanding garage if we ever get a blue line station
- Improving accessibility & safety
  - Tolls on state roads to bring in revenue for improvements (tolling equitably)
  - Add line markings, including establishment of bike lanes on wider streets (South Common, North Common, Boston, Market, Broad streets and more)
    - Doing so will decrease speeds and make city more livable by making it safer
  - We need to bring back the Ferry to Boston and extend the Blue Line into Lynn (and maybe beyond Lynn)
  - An express bus from Downtown to Wonderland with one stop at Commercial Street could also be a possibility

- Keep looking at ways to improve the image of Lynn by the rail trail
- Keep doing these summits
  - Having a monthly meeting follow up to the summit
- Work to reduce traffic volume in Lynn by developing areas that are self-contained with housing, shopping, recreation in accessible distances rather than requiring everyone to drive to malls
- Adding a traffic signal and pedestrian sign and/or rotary to Eastern and Western intersections (impacts Waitt Ave, Maple St, Stanwood St)

### **Presentation**

LHAND Planning and Development Manager Jeff Weeden introduced participants to Housing Lynn: A plan for inclusive growth, which will kick off in January 2020. MAPC Chief of Housing and Neighborhood Development Karina Milchman described the plan in more detail, including its focus on production of Affordable Housing and market-rate housing, preservation of the housing stock (including Affordable Housing stock), and protection of the existing community against forces of displacement. Milchman noted the plan will qualify as a Housing Production Plan (HPP) under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40B. MAPC Regional Housing and Land Use Planner John McCartin then presented on Lynn's demographics, housing stock, and housing affordability. For more information on Housing Lynn, visit [mapc.org/housing-Lynn](http://mapc.org/housing-Lynn), where you can also view the materials presented during this workshop.

### **The group had a short Q&A following the presentation:**

- A participant asked if some segments of the population, such as lower-income residents and immigrants, may be underrepresented in the data. MAPC staff replied that yes, US Census Bureau data (which was used in this analysis) typically does underrepresent those groups. They noted where possible MAPC tries to use local data to gain a better understanding of these populations, and that knowing this data limitation will inform outreach and engagement as part of the planning process.
- A participant asked about the engagement process. MAPC staff responded that the public engagement plan is currently under development, but that it would include a working group of residents and stakeholders, public events, and targeted measures to ensure Lynn residents of all backgrounds have the opportunity to participate.
- A participant asked what would happen once the plan was complete. MAPC staff said a plan that qualifies as a Housing Production Plan must be approved by the City Council and Planning Board and then certified by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development. Staff said the City Council and Planning Board must engage in the process.

### **Strengths of Housing in Lynn**

#### People and Community

- Sense of community\*
- Diverse community\*
- Civic engagement, residents' commitment to community\*
- History, arts, and culture\*
- Community groups and organizations\*

#### Housing Stock

- Diversity of housing stock, diversity of options and prices
- Charm of housing stock\*
- The Gateway North development\*
- Housing Authority, deed-restricted Affordable Housing
- Mixed-income development
- Low-cost housing relative to region (across housing types)\*
- Strong neighborhood character\*

## Amenities and advantages

- Quality of life\*
- Presence of North Shore Community College\*
- Location and diversity of neighborhoods\*
- New development coming to Lynn
- Access to transit\*
- Strong economy

## Challenges of Housing in Lynn

### Changing housing market

- Gentrification and displacement\*
- Evictions and unfair housing courts/eviction authorities\*
- Lack of tenant protections\*
- Rent increases; rents are summarily raised, sometimes before leases end; contracts not respected\*
- Speculation and flipping\*
- Lack of housing availability, low vacancies
- Unmet emergency housing need and homelessness\*
- Lack of Inclusionary Zoning\*
- Not enough new market-rate housing development
- Not enough buildable land\*
- New buildings are ugly/don't fit community character\*
- Bad zoning\*

### Safety of housing stock

- Bad landlords, poor property maintenance, abandonment\*
- Services cut off to force out tenants\*
- Overcrowding and illegal apartments\*
- Environmental contamination\*
- Pests\*

### Issues with current Affordable Housing

- Need deeply Affordable Housing, some Affordable Housing too expensive for residents\*
- Lack of landlords accepting vouchers\*
- Nonprofit developers can't compete in current market\*
- Expiring deed restrictions on Affordable Housing
- Housing Authority officers act aggressively toward minority residents and there are not Spanish-speaking employees
- Need more clarity on public housing waiting lists\*

### Housing for specific populations

- Lack of family housing\*
- Lack of housing for seniors wanting to age in place
- Lack of pet-friendly buildings

### Issues related to homeownership

- Taxes and fees increasing\*
- Tension between wanting affordability and the benefits of rising property values

- Functional obsolescence of older homes (difficult to sell)

#### Political context

- Racism and discrimination\*
- Segregation, distribution of Affordable Housing keeps some neighborhoods unaffordable\*
- City leaders don't seem to understand housing needs or have other priorities\*
- Difficulty with civic engagement, particularly with marginalized or vulnerable populations\*
- Lack of education among tenants and landlords on housing issues and misinformation related to housing issues and tenants' rights\*
- General hostility to Affordable Housing\*

#### Non-housing issues which impact/are impacted by housing

- Low-paying jobs, low incomes generally\*
- Old infrastructure\*
- School overcrowding\*
- Violence and public safety\*
- Transportation costs\*
- Childcare costs\*
- Residents' access to natural resources: green space, waterfront, parks and playground

## **Big Ideas for Housing in Lynn**

### Housing Production

- Adopt inclusionary zoning (many participants proposed at least 20% of units in new developments be deed-restricted Affordable Housing. Some participants said developers could also pay into a fund.)\*
- Build more three-bedroom housing units.\*
- Engage with/incentivize developers interested in building during the strong economy.
- Encourage mixed-income housing.\*
- Encourage mixed-use development.
- Add market-rate housing on the waterfront/downtown.
- Encourage co-living opportunities.
- Use public land for Affordable Housing, related public benefits.\*
- Facilitate community oversight of new development.\*
- Work with nonprofit developers beyond LHAND (invite Harborlight Community Partners, North Shore CDC, etc.).
- Require union labor on new developments.
- Change parking rules in zoning to allow for more family housing.

### Tax Policy

- Adopt a Real Estate Transfer Tax.\*
- End tax breaks/incentives for market-rate developers.\*
- Adopt an anti-flipping ordinance or tax.
- Employ a higher tax rate for out-of-town developers.

### Community Priority

- Give priority to Lynn residents in new developments, set preference in RFPs.
- Require Community Benefits Agreement in RFPs.
- Facilitate Community Land Trusts for renters and homeowners.\*
- Facilitate right of first refusal for tenants or organizations to purchase rental properties, help finance purchases.
- Enforce Fair Housing laws.\*
- Work with other communities to pursue grants/funding for housing.
- Develop housing programs for middle-income residents.\*
- Develop first-time homebuyer programs.\*

### Tenant Protections

- Advocate to lift the ban on rent control and establish rent stabilization\*
- Set safety standards for rental units, develop an enforcement plan for safety standards, and expand code enforcement staff capacity.\*
- Increase renter protections.\*
- Establish office or organization to coordinate renter protections, and educate renters on tenants' rights.
- Establish right to counsel for renters, offer free legal aid.
- Have walkthroughs of apartments with Landlords and City at once.
- Meter water usage by unit.

### Community Engagement

- Increased community engagement between elected/appointed officials and residents/community groups.\*

- Some suggested a greater role for the Commonwealth and nonprofit leaders in bringing (City) officials and residents together.\*
- Build connections with communities of color.\*
- Educate residents on political process.
- Teach residents how to organize, mobilize, and push for policy change.
- Educate public on environmental contamination, pests.
- Offer translation for people who don't speak English.\*
- Work more with children and teens through schools, youth programs.
- Put more value on history and diversity.
- Work with leaders in ethnic communities, religious institutions.\*
- Work with local community-based organizations.\*
- Work with small business leaders.
- Increase transparency from government officials and agencies.\*
- Create greater role for grassroots organizations in communicating with and organizing public.\*
- Create a new role at LHAND to ensure public services reach public housing residents.
- Non-housing Issues (that affect/are affected by housing)
- Clean up brownfields.
- Provide more access to transportation.
- Prioritize minority-owned local businesses in developments with ground-floor retail.
- Increase recreation opportunities: parks and playground, movie theaters.\*
- Raise income level of Lynners through more accessible training opportunities. \*
- Establish and fully staff a planning department.

