

HINGHAM MASTER PLAN

Goal 1. Honor Town Character.

Sustainability Principles. Protecting and celebrating historic buildings, districts, vistas, institutions, and other resources with historic and cultural value, sustains what makes Hingham special and keeps it from being "Any Place, USA." Sustaining Hingham's unique character means protecting the natural resources that define the Town, honoring the Town's history and social connections for generations to come, and capitalizing on these assets to ensure long-term fiscal stability.

Policy 1-A. Continue to document, prioritize, and protect historic buildings and resource areas.

Actions	Level of Complexity	Timeframe
1. Improve the condition of town-owned historic buildings; annually appropriate funds (CPC or other sources) to keep up with maintenance.	Moderate	Ongoing
2. Explore alternative approaches to protecting historically significant buildings from demolition, including extending the term of the existing Demolition Delay Bylaw.	Moderate	Near future
3. Retain and continue a commitment to historic single-family development patterns, so that neighborhood character is preserved.	Difficult	Ongoing
4. Build on existing efforts to identify new or expanded Local Historic Districts to ensure further protection of historic properties and consider tiered level of districts to address evolving historic/age designations of neighborhoods.	Moderate	Ongoing
5. Establish a Town Archives program; identify a storage location, develop a cataloging system for town records and other historical documents and artifacts, engage in document conservation, hire a professional archivist to carry out these tasks, appropriate funds to implement the program.	Moderate	Ongoing
6. Evaluate the condition and business viability of Hingham's privately owned small cemeteries and their future, and the feasibility of the Town assuming ownership and maintenance of these cemeteries.	Moderate	Near future

HINGHAM MASTER PLAN

Policy 1-B. Provide stewardship of priority open space and natural resources area, connecting passive and active recreation lands wherever appropriate and possible.

Actions	Level of Complexity	Timeframe
1. Better define and beautify Hingham's approaches, or its "gateways" by installing signs, adding planting, and upgrading other landscape features.	Moderate	Ongoing
2. Increase the protection of historic trees, stone walls, and other landscape features by strengthening the existing Scenic Road Act.	Moderate	Near future
3. Enact measures to strengthen regulations related to water quality and quantity.	Moderate	Near future
4. Develop plans and appropriate funds to acquire land that connects existing open space parcels when they become available.	Moderate	Ongoing
5. Establish a policy regarding the design of public playgrounds, with a focus on using recyclable/renewable materials.	Not complicated	Medium-term

Policy 1-C. Increase vibrancy of the harbor for residents and visitors and improve connectivity to the Downtown.

Actions	Level of Complexity	Timeframe
1. Develop a wayfinding signage plan and information kiosks to direct visitors to destinations at the harbor and Downtown.	Moderate	Medium-term
2. Conduct a town-wide sign inventory.	Moderate	Medium-term
3. Make sidewalks ADA-accessible for all users	Moderate	Near future
4. Evaluate providing bike lanes/accommodations and streetscape improvements on roadways between the harbor and Downtown.	Moderate	Near future
5. Consider providing a Bike Share program where residents/visitors can rent bikes for a short period.	Not complicated	Medium-term
6. Consider repurposing travel lanes/parking lanes in Downtown to increase outdoor dining area and pedestrian capacity and safety.	Moderate	Medium-term

HINGHAM MASTER PLAN

Policy 1-D. Develop a strategic plan for public and private historic preservation and heritage tourism.

Actions	Level of Complexity	Timeframe
1. Appropriate funds and engage a preservation planner to develop a 20-year town-wide Preservation Plan to help guide preservation decisions. Such a plan should involve and share coordination with town commissions, including the Historical Commission and the Historic Districts Commission, as well as private preservation organizations, such as the Hingham Historical Society. [In conjunction with #5]	Not complicated	Medium-term
2. Expand efforts to educate new and prospective owners of historic properties about best practices and guidelines/requirements for historic building preservation and homeownership of historic properties; establish partnerships with the real estate community and other welcome organizations and develop a newcomer/homeowner education program.	Moderate	Near future and ongoing
3. Include historic/heritage tourism a part of Hingham's economic development plans; collaborate regionally with other communities to advance and develop a heritage tourism implementation plan.	Complicated	Medium-term and ongoing
4. Establish a partnership with a nearby college or university to study Hingham's historic resources further and store and manage Hingham data.	Not complicated	Medium-term
5. Support long-term efforts to designate Downtown as a Cultural District, connecting the harbor, downtown businesses, and historical organizations.	Moderate	Longer-term

HINGHAM MASTER PLAN

Policy 1-E. Facilitate open communication and coordination among all town boards and committees to advance the Master Plan's goals and better serve the residents.

Actions	Level of Complexity	Timeframe
1. Establish a Master Plan Implementation Committee to help coordinate implementation of this Master Plan.	Not complicated	Immediate
2. Hold an annual "Master Plan Summit " with leaders/representatives of all town boards, committees, and staff to assess the status of master plan implementation, share priorities, plans, and progress on master plan recommendations, and consider possible amendments to the Plan if warranted by unforeseen conditions.	Not complicated	Ongoing
3. Set up an Annual "State of the Plan" report to update town meeting in writing on the status of implementation of the recommendations.	Not complicated	Ongoing
4. Increase and build on the tradition of volunteerism to ensure the continued core commitment to self-governance and participation; recruit volunteers from all age groups, approach newcomers, and be proactive about explaining volunteer opportunities	Moderate	Ongoing
5. Develop a staffing plan and budget to televise Town Meetings, continue to use Zoom or other remote participation tools to include more residents in Town governance, and keep the Town website updated to centralize and disseminate information.	Complicated	Immediate
6. Convene semi-annual meetings of chairs of all volunteer boards and commissions to share information on activity and measure progress toward the Master Plan goals.	Not complicated	Ongoing

HINGHAM MASTER PLAN

Goal 2. Protect the environment and prepare for the impacts of climate change.

Sustainability Principles. Protecting and conserving forestlands, wetlands, sensitive coastal areas, active farmlands, and other properties with ecological value, and preparing to be resilient in the face of climate change, is one of the pillars of sustainability. Protecting these resources not only ensures a sustainable environment but provides fiscally and socially sustainable services such as clean water and air, connected habitat, and recreational opportunities, while enhancing the quality of life for everyone in Hingham.

Policy 2-A. Prepare and implement a comprehensive plan to address and adapt to climate change.

Actions	Level of Complexity	Timeframe
1. Maintain a Climate Action Plan Task Force responsible for developing a climate action plan.	Not complicated	Near future
2. Develop a public visioning workshop to collect input on community priorities for the climate action plan.	Not complicated	Near future
3. Ensure the plan includes a strong and organized implementation section, including responsible parties, budget gaps and considerations, and available resources.	Complicated	Near future

HINGHAM MASTER PLAN

Policy 2-B. Reduce energy and water consumption by residents, businesses, and town government.

Actions	Level of Complexity	Timeframe
1. Consistent with the town budget, identify resources, and continue to meet and seek opportunities to exceed the Massachusetts Green Communities criteria and actively implement the Town’s Energy Reduction Plan.	Moderate	Ongoing
2. Prioritize adopting a “net-zero” policy for new municipal construction within five years and develop a budget strategy to accomplish this goal.	Complicated	Medium-term
3. Find more energy-efficient options for replacing municipal vehicles exempt from the Fuel-Efficient Vehicle policy.	Moderate	Ongoing
4. Develop an energy and water use reduction campaign, with resources targeted to municipal staff and facilities, businesses and institutions, and residents. Focus on changing the daily habits of individuals that cumulatively make a difference over time.	Complicated	Near future and ongoing
5. Better enforce existing anti-idling laws, particularly in school zones, with signage and ticketing. Take advantage of the free anti-idling resources of the MA DEP “Green Team.”	Not complicated	Near future
6. Install electric vehicle charging stations at public properties and work with local businesses and institutions to install them. Consider an addition to the Zoning Bylaw to require EV charging stations at commercial developments. Dedicate parking spaces for electric vehicles at prominent public facilities such as Town Hall and the Library.	Moderate	Medium-term

HINGHAM MASTER PLAN

Policy 2-C. Protect critical public infrastructure along the coast from sea level rise.

Actions	Level of Complexity	Timeframe
1. Proactively budget for and implement the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness project recommendations and the Climate Change Vulnerability, Risk Assessment, and Adaptation Study.	Complicated	Longer-term and ongoing
2. Increase the height of the existing seawalls, other coastal stabilization structures, and adjacent upland; continue ongoing maintenance of existing seawalls and related structures; work with private property owners to improve private seawalls and related structures; and maximize the protective ecosystem functions of adjacent salt marshes and other natural resources.	Complicated	Longer-term and ongoing
3. Implement resiliency improvement and critical protections to sewer pump stations, including installing watertight mitigation gates, improvements to pump station buildings, and sealing of manhole covers.	Moderate	Medium term and ongoing
4. Protect the quality and quantity of potable groundwater and surface water supply by identifying additional water supply sources unlikely to be affected by sea-level rise, establishing emergency water distribution sites, and educating private well owners about the risks of sea-level rise.	Moderate	Medium-term

Policy 2-D. Establish goals to achieve Carbon Neutral status by 2050.

Actions	Level of Complexity	Timeframe
1. Continue to support the Hingham Energy Action Committee and Hingham Net Zero efforts to explore a path to "carbon neutrality."	Not complicated	Ongoing
2. Conduct a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory, counting and analyzing the emissions that need to be eliminated and options for doing so.	Moderate	Near term
3. Develop strategies for reducing emissions to the greatest extent possible, and then explore options for offsetting the remainder as feasible.	Moderate	Medium-term and ongoing
4. Invest in a framework for tracking and evaluating progress over time.	Complicated	Medium-term and ongoing

HINGHAM MASTER PLAN

Policy 2-E. Enhance public access to the harbor and its amenities while protecting the coastline.

Actions	Level of Complexity	Timeframe
1. Plan and budget for adequate dredging of the harbor at least once every ten years and include dredging of the bathing beach swimming area with future dredging projects to improve the beach's recreational use.	Moderate	Medium-term and ongoing
2. Redesign and restore the wharves and related harbor infrastructure to be more resilient in the face of projected sea-level rise, including options for floating and retreating over time.	Complicated	Longer term

HINGHAM MASTER PLAN

Goal 3. Improve safety for all modes of travel and reduce traffic congestion.

Sustainability Principles. Sustainable transportation is achieved by investing in alternatives to driving alone (transit, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, etc.) and ensuring that as many people as possible have access to these alternatives. These investments can significantly reduce local greenhouse gas emissions, increase economic activity and efficiency, and provide more options and a better quality of life for residents.

Policy 3-A. Improve safety for all modes of travel and reduce traffic congestion.

Actions	Level of Complexity	Timeframe
1. Continue to fund the maintenance of roads, intersections, and sidewalks primarily through MassDOT Chapter 90.	Not complicated	Ongoing
2. Continue the Pavement Management Program, which was allocated \$2 million in 2016.	Not complicated	Ongoing
3. Conduct a Pedestrian and Bicycle Study to improve safety, accessibility, connectivity, and mobility for active transportation.	Moderate	Near future
4. Develop consistent standards for crosswalks for different areas, including dimensions and materials, to address varied safety needs, with added features as needed.	Not complicated	Near future
5. Evaluate the need for new traffic signals at high traffic and high crash intersections along Main Street to improve safety.	Not complicated	Near future
6. Develop a Complete Streets Policy and Prioritization Plan through MassDOT's Complete Streets Funding Program.	Not complicated	Near future
7. Develop a Traffic Calming Policy and Guidelines to help reduce traffic speeds and cut-through traffic on residential streets.	Not complicated	Near future
8. Consider designating a 20 MPH safety zone in the Downtown and harbor areas.	Not complicated	Near future
9. Consider to opt-in to MGLc.90 S 17C to reduce the statutory speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph in thickly settled or business districts.	Moderate	Near future
10. Work with the state and other property owners to construct Road Diet improvements planned at Route 3A and Summer Street Rotary.	Moderate	Near future
11. Work with Traffic Committee to identify potential locations for a Road Safety Audits in high crash locations.	Not complicated	Near future

HINGHAM MASTER PLAN

Policy 3-B. Enhance public transportation services connecting parts of town, particularly linking the downtown to the Shipyard and Harbor.

Actions	Level of Complexity	Timeframe
1. Consider developing a shuttle bus or micro-transit pilot program to provide service for residents to local destinations, business districts, and regional connections.	Complicated	Longer term
2. Evaluate options for providing first-mile/last-mile connections to transit stations.		

Policy 3-C. Improve Water Transportation and Support Facilities.

Actions	Level of Complexity	Timeframe
1. Consider providing a water shuttle between the Shipyard, Hingham Harbor, and the five Town-owned islands.	Moderate	Medium-term

Policy 3-D. Pursue public-private partnerships to coordinate public transport and traffic to benefit the commercial districts.

Actions	Level of Complexity	Timeframe
1. Work with employers, business parks, and developers to develop a Transportation Management Association and implement Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies to reduce single-occupancy vehicles. This may include carpooling, shuttle vans, flexible work hours, and subsidized transit passes.	Moderate	Near term

HINGHAM MASTER PLAN

Goal 4. Provide a variety of housing to encourage population diversity and aging in the community.

Sustainability Principles. Children born in Hingham should live their whole lives here without having to leave for communities that are more affordable or have more types of homes that suit their needs. Sustainable housing development is located where residents can best take advantage of transit, walking and biking facilities, shops, and services. Without thoughtful policies and investments in housing, we run the risk of losing many of the types of people who are integral to our community's fabric.

Policy 4-A. Provide for the development of housing appropriately designed, managed, and located for older adults and people with disabilities.

Actions	Level of Complexity	Timeframe
1. Work with the Council on Aging (CoA), the Health Department, and local social service organizations to identify existing properties appropriate for conversion to group residences for adults with disabilities.	Moderate	Medium-term
2. Consider designating Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds for use by the Affordable Housing Trust (AHT) to acquire, renovate, and lease or sell existing homes to group residence organizations.	Moderate	Medium-term
3. Identify "edge residential" areas adjacent to business districts for small-scale congregate dwellings and other types of "missing middle" housing.	Difficult	Long-term

HINGHAM MASTER PLAN

Policy 4-B. Encourage universal design in new neighborhoods.

Actions	Level of Complexity	Timeframe
1. Encourage universally designed common areas and outdoor amenities in all-new high-density multi-unit residential and mixed-use developments	Easy	Near-term
2. Encourage both universal design and visitability design in age-restricted developments.	Easy	Near-term
3. Adopt the American Society of Landscape Architects' Universal Design guidelines as part of the site plan review requirements for commercial and mixed-use developments. ¹	Easy	Near-term

¹ Universal design is the design of buildings and environments so they are equitable for all users, adaptable, easy to use, accessible to all people, regardless of age, disability, or other considerations. For more information, visit the website of the Society of Landscape Architects, <https://www.asla.org/universaldesign.aspx>.

HINGHAM MASTER PLAN

Policy 4-C. Continue to create and preserve affordable a range of housing for a wide range of incomes.

Actions	Level of Complexity	Timeframe
1. Develop and implement a continuous public education program about fair housing and affordable housing, including videos, panel-of-expert presentations, website materials, and periodic presentations at televised Select Board and Planning Board meetings.	Moderate	Near term
2. Finish and adopt the Housing Plan and disseminate to town boards and commissions.	Difficult	Near term
3. Provide enough funding and staff capacity to the Affordable Housing Trust to enable it to target a goal of at least ten affordable units each year.	Difficult	Near term and ongoing
4. Institute a residential demolition fee, the revenue from which will be used to capitalize on the Affordable Housing Trust.	Moderate	Medium term
5. Adopt an inclusionary housing bylaw ² that requires affordable units in all new residential or mixed-use developments over a certain size (e.g., six units), or requires a comparable financial contribution to the HAHT to produce the necessary units elsewhere in town.	Moderate	Near term
6. Adopt a short-term rental tax (like a hotel room occupancy tax) and use the revenue to capitalize on the Affordable Housing Trust.	Moderate	Near term
7. Commit at least the 10 percent CPA set-aside for affordable housing directly to the Affordable Housing Trust each year, to be expended by the Trust for purposes consistent with the housing trust bylaw and G.L. c. 44, s. 55C.	Difficult	Near term
8. Conduct an annual inventory of Hingham's position relative to the state's SHI database to ensure the town remains above the current or future 40B thresholds	Moderate	Ongoing

² Inclusionary housing bylaws require the inclusion of affordable housing in residential or mixed-use developments over a certain size (the size threshold varies by town).

HINGHAM MASTER PLAN

Goal 5. Support a vibrant, resilient local economy.

Sustainability Principles. A sustainable economic future requires that Hingham continue to balance commercial and mixed-use development with residential development and land conservation. The benefits of investing in viable commercial areas in targeted portions of Town can help shift some of the tax burdens to commercial property owners and away from residential property owners, while also providing space for locally serving businesses and services.

Policy 5-A. Support local businesses and attract new enterprises that provide employment and deliver goods and services to residents and visitors alike.

Actions	Level of Complexity	Timeframe
1. Establish and fund a full-time economic development director position accountable to the town administrator and Select Board.	Easy	Near future
2. Develop consistent time regulations and restrictions for on-street parking in the Downtown Business District to encourage businesses' parking turnover.	Moderate	Near future
3. Conduct a study to evaluate the operational and financial feasibility of structured parking in downtown lots and at Shipyard.	Moderate	Medium-term
4. As part of the senior center study, review and assess parking at the town hall and consider Designating parking spaces at Town Hall for staff and visitors and identifying sign flow parking areas to optimize parking availability.	Moderate	Near future
5. Develop and conduct a business visitation program for the economic development director and other town officials to visit a target number of Hingham businesses every week	Difficult	Medium term

HINGHAM MASTER PLAN

Policy 5-B. Attract nonresidential development to increase tax revenue.

Actions	Level of Complexity	Timeframe
1. Encourage HDIC and others to engage regional partners such as the South Shore Chamber of Commerce to increase local capacity consistent with the overall strategy.	Not complicated	Near future and ongoing
2. Where appropriate, reduce special permit requirements and replace them with clear, predictable site plan approval standards.	Difficult	Medium term
3. Identify, track, and develop strategies responses to "at-risk" properties, i.e., sites considered "transformative" by the Town, with evidence of near-term change in ownership or use.	Difficult	Near term
4. Hold a biannual Economic Development Advisory Summit, advisory to the town administrator, Selectmen, economic development director, and HDIC to assist the Town with assessing industry trends and CRE conditions.	Not complicated	Near term and ongoing

Policy 5-C. Encourage mixed-use development and a wide range of businesses and institutions in business districts.

Actions	Level of Complexity	Timeframe
1. Allow mixed-use development with upper-story housing as-of-right in business districts for buildings with ground-floor retail, restaurant/food service, and personal service uses facing the street.	Moderate	Near future
2. Commission and periodically update a market analysis and trends assessment of Hingham's business districts and review zoning for market-driven development impediments.	Moderate	Medium-term
3. Consider Shared Parking arrangements between land uses with different peaking characteristics to increase parking supply in the Downtown Business District.	Moderate	Near future

HINGHAM MASTER PLAN

Policy 5-D. Guide development to desired locations with regulatory incentives and adequate infrastructure.

Actions	Level of Complexity	Timeframe
1. Prioritize public facilities, utilities, and infrastructure improvements in locations targeted for concentrated development and redevelopment: Downtown/Harbor, Hingham Shipyard, and South Hingham.	Difficult	Ongoing
2. Conduct a zoning bylaw audit with an emphasis on making sure new development is targeted to desired locations and discouraged elsewhere.	Moderate	Near term
3. On top of investments in water and wastewater capacity (see Goal 7), explore options for investing in bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in South Hingham as an incentive for private development.	Difficult	Near term

Policy 5-E. Promote Hingham as a destination and each commercial district as a unique experience, such as Hingham Square and other long-time commercial centers.

Actions	Level of Complexity	Timeframe
1. Support the downtown business association and encourage participation in marketing and branding efforts.	Moderate	Ongoing
2. Pursue/prioritize a boutique hotel in the downtown either as adaptive re-use or new construction.	Moderate	Medium term
3. Target the commercial areas in the north and south gateways of Hingham for future economic development that will further diversify tax revenues while protecting traditional neighborhoods.	Not complicated	Ongoing

HINGHAM MASTER PLAN

Policy 5-F. Ensure that proposed developments provide mitigation and community benefits in order to maintain high-quality services and amenities in Hingham.

Actions	Level of Complexity	Timeframe
1. Explore options for tying the density of larger-scale development (such as in South Hingham) to the provision of needed services and amenities to support that density and enhance the community beyond mitigating the development's particular impacts. For example, consider developing a "menu" of amenities and critical needs (such as affordable housing, open space, transportation demand management, etc. beyond what is otherwise required), each of which may provide a developer with additional density or other needed relief.	Difficult	Near future
2. Create an interdepartmental process for conducting development impact assessments on municipal services and measure overall cost-benefit analyses for the adjacent neighborhoods and the Town, overall.	Moderate	Near future and ongoing
3. Establish an interdepartmental mitigation group to represent Town departments to negotiate public benefit agreements with developers of large-scale projects.	Not complicated	Near future and ongoing
4. Work with regional municipal partners on critical resource preservation such as water and open space as well as shared participation in utility connections or improvements as appropriate.	Moderate	Near future and ongoing

HINGHAM MASTER PLAN

Goal 6. Provide high-quality services that support the health and wellness of residents of all ages.

Sustainability Principles. Hingham’s recreational areas and services, schools, and public health efforts are critical components of sustainability. They promote healthy activities and life choices, can be designed to protect and manage wildlife and serve as “green infrastructure” for stormwater management and managing of flooding and sea-level rise, and ensure that each person in Hingham has the skills and health they need to live happy and productive lives and bounce back in the face of adversity.

Policy 6-A. Achieve and deliver excellence in education and state-of-the-art school facilities.

Actions	Level of Complexity	Timeframe
1. Continue to make the replacement of the current Foster School a top priority.	Difficult	Short-term
2. Develop and closely monitor a plan to fund and update school buildings to accommodate a slight increase in projected enrollments and support contemporary pedagogy.	Difficult	Medium –term

Policy 6-B. Provide facilities and services that support older adults to age in the community.

Actions	Level of Complexity	Timeframe
1. During the current analysis of the future senior center, consider how creating an intergenerational Community Center could address multiple community needs, trigger additional funding sources, and benefit a wider range of constituencies.	Difficult	Near future
2. Support Town Departments to work together to coordinate programming in order to meet the needs of older adults (e.g., The Recreation Department, Library, Schools, etc. to provide opportunities for recreation, lifelong learning, socializing, fitness and wellness, etc.).	Moderate	Ongoing
3. Support Town Departments (Fire, Police, EMS, Town Nurse) as they experience an increase in calls for service from older adults as our population ages.	Moderate	Medium-term
4. Commit to achieving Age-Friendly Designation.	Not complicated	Medium-term

HINGHAM MASTER PLAN

Policy 6-C. Provide a range of opportunities for cultural, recreational, leisure, and social activities for all ages and abilities.

Actions	Level of Complexity	Timeframe
1. Maintain existing recreational facilities, including ADA compliance at all playgrounds.	Moderate	Ongoing
2. Provide new parks and playgrounds in underserved and more densely populated neighborhoods as needed or requested.	Difficult	Long-term
3. Create a Community Calendar by centralizing information regarding existing offerings, activities, and facilities from various Town Departments (including Recreation, the Library, Council on Aging, Community Center).	Difficult	Medium term and ongoing
4. Once the Athletic Fields Study is approved and finalized, provide the recommended additional recreational opportunities / facilities.	Difficult	Longer term

HINGHAM MASTER PLAN

Policy 6-D. Support the health and wellness of the most vulnerable residents in Hingham.

Actions	Level of Complexity	Timeframe
1. Increase capacity of the Dept. of Health/Board of Health to address current and future public health issues such as mental health, immunization, domestic abuse, food access, communicable disease surveillance, and drug, alcohol, and tobacco control, and overall community communications and monitoring – including the hiring of at least one full-time social worker.	Moderate	Medium term
2. Conduct a community needs assessment to identify gaps in health and social services for current and future residents as certain groups are more susceptible to health issues than others and should get particular attention from the Health Department. This includes seniors, residents with disabilities, and lower-income families and individuals.	Moderate	Medium-term
3. Institute an opt-in home safety visitation program to regularly check in on the elderly, the homebound, and other vulnerable populations, with the goal of avoiding preventable accidents and health problems. Promote the opportunity for such as service through all channels (the Senior Center, Community Center, Library, etc.) and identify resources to keep each resident healthy and safe and develop a systematic way to identify participants.	Moderate	Near future
4. Explore the regulatory landscape for a community paramedicine program. Paramedics and EMTs may be deployed to conduct preventive care to vulnerable residents to reduce preventable accidents and trips to the hospital. Such programs are in their early phases, and Hingham should monitor their legal status and success in Massachusetts.	Moderate	Longer term

HINGHAM MASTER PLAN

Policy 6-E. Monitor the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and plan for future public health events that may impact the Town’s ability to deliver services.

Actions	Level of Complexity	Timeframe
1. Learn from COVID-19 hotspots in Hingham, such as assisted living facilities and nursing homes, and be prepared to help deploy more frequent testing to these vulnerable populations in the event of future outbreaks.	Moderate	Immediate
2. Seek input and recommendations from BOH and Health Officer on how the Town can be better prepared in the future. Identify where the Town was successful in delivering services and functions and where gaps existed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Be more prepared to store personal protective equipment, such as masks and gloves, in quantities not only large enough to serve Town staff but also vulnerable populations.	Moderate	Near future
3. Begin talking with neighboring communities and state and regional partners about roles and collaboration necessary for better future responses. Establish a clear chain of command, so the Town knows when to rely on the State and where it needs to increase local resources to handle things internally.	Moderate	Medium term

HINGHAM MASTER PLAN

Goal 7. Provide public facilities and infrastructure that support the Town’s need to manage growth and town services.

Sustainability Principles. Investing in sustainable facilities and infrastructure not only helps improve environmental outcomes, it can reduce the long-term costs of services and increase their effectiveness for the public. For example, investments in “green” equipment and transportation methods; renewable energy sources; roads, utilities, and public buildings resilient to flooding and sea-level rise; energy efficiency upgrades; green infrastructure; improved recycling and composting rates; and the like all help meet the “triple bottom line” of sustainability.

Policy 7-A. Conduct long-range capital planning and service delivery with the foresight to anticipate and address future needs.

Actions	Level of Complexity	Timeframe
1. Work with the Permanent Building and Facilities Management Study Committee to explore alternative approaches to prioritize and manage capital improvement projects.	Moderate	Ongoing
2. Use the recently funded Townwide Facilities Study, once it is completed, to help set priorities. Develop criteria for capital expenditure priority setting.	Moderate	Near future
3. Utilize technology, including Geographic Information Systems, to support long-range planning efforts. Also, increase cybersecurity capabilities in order to protect against ransomware attacks, replace the fiber in the 16 municipal buildings, and investigate best practices for deploying 5G technology.	Moderate	Ongoing
4. Maintain adequate staffing of all town departments to ensure adequate management and planning.	Difficult	Ongoing
5. Retain ownership of town-owned properties to help fill any anticipated future facility needs.	Moderate	Ongoing

HINGHAM MASTER PLAN

Policy 7-B. Explore opportunities for instituting planned preventive maintenance (PPM), with prudent and transparent budgeting that considers future maintenance and replacement costs.

Actions	Level of Complexity	Timeframe
1. Consider hiring a Facilities Manager.	Moderate	Near future
2. Develop a deferred maintenance plan and carry out regular and scheduled maintenance that is cost-saving in the long-run.	Moderate	Near future
3. Clarify maintenance responsibilities for town-owned facilities and properties.	Not complicated	Near future

Policy 7-C. Provide adequate spaces to support municipal facilities in their missions.

Actions	Level of Complexity	Timeframe
1. Support the Fire Department's plans to renovate and modernize aging fire stations.	Difficult	Medium-term
2. As part of the Senior Center Study, consider creating an intergenerational Community Center for all ages, following models on other towns to create efficiencies, address multiple department needs, and create a more vibrant and widely utilized facility.	Difficult	Medium-term
3. Explore ways of funding – including identification of funding sources - Library renovation and expansion as outlined in the Library's Long-Range Plan.	Difficult	Medium-term
4. Support the expansion of the regional dispatch and IT Departments in Town Hall space freed up by the relocation of the Police Department to the new Public Safety Complex.	Not complicated	Medium-term

Policy 7-D. Increase the wastewater treatment capacity.

Actions	Level of Complexity	Timeframe
1. Explore public or private alternative solutions, especially in order to accommodate and support development in South Hingham.	Moderate	Near future
2. Continue to replace aging pipes and address infiltration and inflow issues.	Moderate	Ongoing

HINGHAM MASTER PLAN

Policy 7-E. Maintain the Town’s recently acquired water company.

Actions	Level of Complexity	Timeframe
1. Support Aquarion to address existing deficiencies and conduct system upgrades to meet existing and future needs, to assess future water demand and water storage needs based on existing and projected supply and demands.	Moderate	Ongoing

Policy 7-F. Support the Hingham Municipal Light Plant and Weir River Water Company in their efforts to increase capacity and conserve resources.

Actions	Level of Complexity	Timeframe
1. Support the plans of the HMLP to add another transmission and sub-station to reduce the Town’s carbon footprint and increase capacity to accommodate the trend towards electric cars, buses, home heating, and other uses.	Moderate	Medium-term
2. Work with HMLP to better promote existing incentives for electric vehicles, energy efficiency, and renewable energy, and explore opportunities for additional incentives for these and other resources such as air-forced heat pumps. Determine how HMLP may participate in existing incentive programs for consumers/residents.	Not complicated	Near future
3. Work with the Weir River Water Company water superintendent (under the advisement of the citizen’s advisory board) to regularly forecast water needs and have a long-term plan for managing and expanding capacity.	Moderate	Ongoing
4. Work with the utilities on a coordinated public resource conservation campaign, promoting ways and incentives for individual homes and businesses to reduce their energy use.	Not complicated	Near future

Policy 7-G. Lead in the regionalization of services on the South Shore when it is in the Town’s interests to do so.

Actions	Level of Complexity	Timeframe
1. Explore possibilities of sharing facilities and/or services with area towns to increase efficiency and cost savings (for example, regional wastewater treatment solutions).	Not complicated	Medium term
2. Enlist regional partners and the State to participate in the planning, funding and implementation of interventions to address sea level rise.	Difficult	Near future and ongoing