

January 28, 2025

Strategic Plan Update – Business Stakeholder Meeting

Council Chambers, City Hall and remote through LebanonNH.gov/LIVE

Discussion Topics (Initiated by Participants)

Watch the video recording for the full discussion.

Housing and Development:

"It appears that there are two significant housing projects in the core area here. The former Kleen Laundry site and the former grocery store site (near the fire station construction) there that appear to be stalled. Don't know if they are, but is there anything that the city is doing to encourage those to move forward in the near future?"

Alignment with State and Federal Programs:

- "I attended last year's UVBA Economic Forum, and a lot of discussion centered around the need for additional housing stock opportunities for families to come in and grow businesses. I'm just curious how well the strategic plan aligns with what's at the state level and potentially at the federal level in terms of budgeting?"
- "Are there any grants or funding opportunities being explored to support housing and business development?"

Property Taxes and Business Contributions:

"I know there was a strong reaction from citizens regarding tax increases. My understanding is that there's been a shift in the tax burden toward homeowners due to rising property values. What can the city do to help balance this burden? Is there a way to ensure that large businesses that utilize city services contribute more fairly?"

Expanding the Tax Base:

"What efforts are being made to increase the commercial tax base to help offset residential property taxes? Specifically, how does the city plan to utilize properties like those in downtown West Lebanon?"

Childcare Availability:

"A lot of businesses are struggling to attract workers because of the lack of childcare options. What role can the city play in supporting new childcare centers or partnerships to expand child care availability?"

Downtown Cleanliness and Public Safety:

"The Lebanon Mall is covered in bird droppings, which is not just an eyesore but a health hazard. Are there any plans to address this issue and improve cleanliness in the downtown area? If this were a rat problem, it would likely be addressed quickly. Is there a reason why this issue has not been prioritized?"

Regional Collaboration:

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"What is the relationship between Lebanon and Hanover in terms of economic development? Are there opportunities to collaborate on housing and infrastructure to share the growth burden?"

Support for Nonprofits:

"Some nonprofits receive city funding while others do not. Is there a way to make this clearer to the public? Many people assume that all nonprofits receive funding when they do not."

Infrastructure and Transportation:

"What is being done to improve roads and transportation infrastructure, especially given the increasing wear and tear on city streets?"

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