

January 30, 2025

Strategic Plan Update – Public Input Meeting

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

Discussion Topics (Initiated by Participants)

Watch the video recording for the full discussion.

Financial Stability & Taxes

What We Heard:

- Residents are concerned about rising property taxes, especially their impact on elderly residents and young families.
- Some suggested a revenue-first budgeting approach, where the city determines available funds before setting priorities.
- A proposal was made to explore alternative revenue sources, such as corporate contributions from businesses that benefit from Lebanon's infrastructure and workforce.
- Residents also suggested reviewing city fees (e.g., landfill permits, facility use fees) to ensure they align with actual costs and revenue needs.

Options for Next Steps:

- Explore forming a Revenue Diversification Task Force to identify new funding sources.
- Review current fee structures and consider adjustments where necessary.

Housing & Neighborhoods

What We Heard:

- Concerns were raised about the affordability of new housing developments. Specifically, residents questioned whether high-cost studio apartments meet Lebanon's housing needs.
- A resident asked if zoning regulations could better prioritize housing that benefits local residents rather than external investors.

Options for Next Steps:

- Review zoning guidelines to encourage a better mix of housing types, including family-friendly and affordable options.
- Work with developers to explore incentives for including affordable housing in future projects.

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High-Performing Government

What We Heard:

- Some residents want a clearer "resident-first" approach in city planning decisions.
- Younger residents feel underrepresented in local decision-making and want more opportunities to engage.

Options for Next Steps:

- Explore adding an explicit “Resident-First” policy to guide strategic decisions.
- Expand outreach efforts to ensure more diverse community participation in meetings and planning efforts.

Economic Vitality

What We Heard:

- Lebanon businesses rely on employees who live outside the city due to high housing costs.
- Some suggested that businesses benefiting from Lebanon’s infrastructure should financially contribute to city services.

Options for Next Steps:

- Consider a Business Partnership Program to encourage corporate contributions toward local infrastructure and housing needs.
- Explore workforce housing partnerships to provide employer-supported housing options.

Public Health

What We Heard:

- A resident questioned why the city funds public health initiatives when major healthcare providers like Dartmouth Health and Alice Peck Day are already established.

Option for Next Steps:

- Ensure public health funding is aligned with clear community needs and coordinated with existing providers.