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## Implementation Program

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### Introduction

Implementation – taking the Plan recommendations and translating them into concrete and ongoing actions by the Town, landowners, Commonwealth and local agencies, and individuals – is the ultimate purpose of a Comprehensive Plan. The implementation program is based on the goals and objectives of this Plan and the data that was collected and analyzed. To ensure the implementation on a year-to-year basis of these actions, the Town of South Hadley should clearly identify a group or agent that will have ongoing responsibility for assessing, and reporting on, the actions that have been taken towards the Comprehensive Plan goals. Such a group might best be comprised of representatives from Town staff and existing boards and commissions and other key stakeholders, but fundamentally, it will be charged with assessing the whether this Plan is being used to guide actions, and the recommendations followed. Ideally, this group would also work to ensure that public outreach and education about the Plan and its ongoing role in South Hadley’s public life are achieved.

Two options for implementation follow-up would be to create a Selectboard-appointed Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee, or assigning this responsibility to the Planning Board, which is already charged with official adoption of the Plan pursuant to M.G.L. c. 41 §81D. Regardless, in order to provide some “accountability” for plan implementation, a committee or the Planning Board should be required to present an annual report to the Selectboard and Town Meeting on plan implementation progress, achievements, and barriers to successful implementation.

The implementation program is often the most difficult component of a Comprehensive Plan. Unlike the lofty goals and objectives of the previous sections, here is where “the rubber meets the road,” where the planning ideals are translated into concrete actions. The following recommendations can sometimes be difficult to



commit to and be problematic to review over time. Items that have been accomplished fade from view, while the more intractable problems linger for years. Financial and political trends may change, advancing some items while leaving others untouched. For these reasons alone, many communities are hesitant to put in writing the full scope of their intentions.

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### **A “Searchable” Implementation Program**

In the matrix that follows as an attachment to the Implementation section, the goals, objectives, and recommended actions for each Chapter are listed, along with the principal coordinating responsibility, timeframe, and local supporting agencies, boards, or individuals who are essential to accomplishing the recommended action. The goals and objectives also have been provided to Town as a searchable spreadsheet matrix that can be reorganized and sorted by Plan chapter, theme, type of action (e.g. pedestrian connections, bylaw amendments, etc.) or goal. The Town and its bodies, and citizens groups with a particular interest, can sort the recommended actions in the Plan to reflect a particular topic of concern, such as open space conservation or documenting natural areas. In this way, the Plan’s recommendations can be a more active and living part of the ongoing planning and actions in South Hadley.

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## **Strategies Matrix**

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### **Key Responsible Parties**

- SCHOOL – South Hadley School Department
- BDG – Building Inspector
- BOA – Board of Assessors
- BOH – Board of Health
- PVPC – Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
- PVRTA – Pioneer Valley Transit Authority
- COA – Council on Aging
- Con. Comm. – Conservation Commission
- CPA – Community Preservation Act
- DCR – Department of Conservation and Recreation
- DEP – Department of Environmental Protection
- DPW – Department of Public Works
- HIS – Historical Commission
- MHD – Massachusetts Highway Department
- MWRA – Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
- REC – Recreation Commission
- PB – Planning Board
- PD – Private Developers
- SBD – Selectboard
- TIP – Transportation Improvement Program
- TAX – Treasurer/Town Clerk
- TM – Town Meeting

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