

# DARTMOUTH

Office of Planning, Design & Construction

## **Comments submitted to the Dartmouth Strategic Master Planning website**

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November 13, 2019

I admit to not looking too closely at the plan, but what doesn't seem to be addressed is accessibility. Looking forward, the College should strive to be more accessible and barrier free to students, staff, faculty, alumni, community, and visitors.

November 6, 2019

I'm alarmed that there seems to be no mention of disability accessibility. I recognize that the plan is likely including the needs of individuals with disabilities, especially mobility impairments (as well as other conditions that would limit access to learning, such as hearing loss, that could be mitigated through building infrastructure redesign and technology upgrades) under its commitment for the plan to respond to the needs of an increasingly diverse student body. However, given how extremely inaccessible/unwelcoming the campus is for individuals with disabilities, I believe there needs to be an intentional commitment to disability accessibility. We don't see/hear from individuals with disabilities very often because they don't/can't visit or stay/attend here given the current campus buildings, lack of point-to-point transport, lack of updated maps highlighting what limited accessibility features there are, and so forth. I believe/hope it is possible to maintain the beauty and history of the campus buildings while focusing on making some long-overdue upgrades/incorporating universal design.

September 7, 2019

Past footage shows trees covering roads and what was left on the landscape was done so as to add beauty like fresh-water pearls on bear skin. Now less than a quarter of these trees are left and more than half of that is already dry rotten. Therefore, strategic replanting of high value trees now will ensure posterity.

June 13, 2019

1. Light pollution at night is becoming an increasing problem; attention to that issue should be paid in choosing appropriate lighting.
2. Parking and attendant use of vehicles on campus is an increasing problem. Significant bad will is generated in faculty, visiting alumni, [and] reunion visitors at times of athletic events and other major events, and it deserves an innovative approach. Advance Transit has not been able to solve this issue. It is abominable that graduates, parents, interviewees are often ticketed by the town or college-creating a bad reputation. Perhaps radical solutions such as no parking on the

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central campus with off-site parking easily available and served by very frequent bus services or by electric driverless “people movers” as at Michigan State.

3. Consider the abrogation of the “law” that no building will be taller than Baker library—a tall, centrally-located complex perhaps with stores and offices on the lower floors and apartments on the upper would be efficient, would save precious space, [and] could be architecturally integrated so as to enhance the beauty of the campus.
4. Office space for retired but still active faculty, centrally located, would be a great boon and benefit.
5. Though cost is great, removal [of] the medical school building out to the medical center makes sense, as it did initially, and still does. With good transportation links, [undergraduate] college (biological sciences), Tuck, and Thayer faculty, and students participating in the MANY offerings to undergrads and grads makes sense.
6. Placement of the wood chip heating facility on the town of Hanover land up the hill across from the proposed site near the college garage should be reconsidered.
7. An offer to rebuild the Hanover High School out near the grammar and middle schools in trade for the in-town land makes sense to me.

June 10, 2019

I look forward to reading more about the Master Plan and am delighted that Dartmouth is taking such a long-term view. On the opposite end of the importance scale, allow me to point out a small mistake on page 7 of The Campus: Then and Now photos. It's labeled "view from the south"; it should be "view from the north".

May 31, 2019

I'm a '22 who already filled out the master planning survey but I had two additional thoughts I had that I wanted to write down.

1. I'm always frustrated because I want to study on the Green, but all of my work these days involves a laptop and Internet, and the WiFi on the Green is nonexistent, so I can't study there, which is super disappointing. It would be game-changing to improve service out there.
2. Outlets! There aren't enough in Baker-Berry. When I'm camping out at a spot in the library, I always have to hunt for a table with a nearby outlet, so I can continue to do work without my computer dying. This seems to be a widespread issue among students. I'd consider adding the kind of outlets that are currently in Thayer's couch lab that drop down from the ceiling, or even allowing students to rent 5' extension cords or power strips from Circulation. That would make such a difference.

May 31, 2019

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More flower beds. Brick pathways instead on concrete especially, if possible, on the Green. Improve hedges around buildings. Keep making building [sic] particularly if you buy the church by the back right of the library. Need more libraries.

May 18, 2019

I completed the Master Plan Survey and did not respond to questions about what downtown Hanover is missing. Having lived in the New York City area, what I have missed for the past 30 years is a good Jewish deli!

May 17, 2019

Would like to see the folks in this group deeply engage with Diversity and Inclusion as it related to planning physical space for the next 30 years. We already have so many folks excluded by portions and structures of the physical space. In 30 years, the changing demographics will even further exclude them. This should really be at the core of your planning and would make sense if the institution were truly and honestly committed to "inclusive excellence" "moving dartmouth forward" and "campus climate."

May 16, 2019

- More riverfront development, walkway along the water, waterfront restaurant open to public, coffee shop along the water
- Pedestrian access and low-speed electric vehicle transport from parking lots such as Dewey to central campus
- a "Trail around Dartmouth" similar to the "Trail around Boulder" and the "Trail around Middlebury", with signs from the central Dartmouth Green to a trail system incorporating Pine Park trail, Girl Brook Trail, trails behind lacrosse field (Scully-Fahey).

May 15, 2019

[This is a] comment about Track 2 Crosby Housing. Situating a new dormitory where the Topliff tennis courts are located will create an enormous traffic and safety problem at the intersection of Crosby and East Wheelock Streets. This already is a busy intersection, often backed up on Crosby Street, especially during rush hours. As someone who drives through this intersection two or more times daily, I always worry about hitting students who dart into the crosswalks, especially at night. From the esthetic viewpoint, a high-rise across the street from Topliff dormitory will create an urban landscape that is out of keeping with its surroundings. A bold and better approach would be to site the new dormitory on the north side of East Wheelock where the Sphinx and empty fraternity house (9 E. Wheelock, I believe) are now located.

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Dartmouth would do well to explore a land swap and move these two buildings to another site.