

Discussion Questions
STERLING MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE
December 13, 2018

Services & Facilities

- What is Sterling's "best outcome" for town/school services and facilities over the next 10 years?
- What town (or school) services do you use most? How about your neighbors?
- What services seem adequate today in terms of capacity to meet demands, location of services, access to/use of technology?
- What services do not seem adequate under existing conditions? Where are there already signs of capacity shortage or some other problem?
- For services that are currently adequate today, where can you reasonably see some near-term needs? What are the needs?
- What services do not seem adequate under existing conditions? Where are there already signs of capacity shortage or some other problem?
- For services that are currently adequate today, where can you reasonably see some near-term needs or problems? What are they?
- What municipal/school facilities would you give high marks to for overall quality? Location? Access?
- Which facilities need the most attention? Why? What are the problems?
- Overall, is Sterling's town government organized to meet future demands for services? Setting priorities? Running the town day-to-day? Responding to change?
- What opportunities can you foresee for regional collaboration, i.e., services or facilities shared with nearby towns?

Land Use

- What is Sterling's "best outcome" for growth, change, and preservation over the next 10 years? How about longer term?
- What brings people to Sterling? What drives the housing market here? Demands for business space?
- What towns in your region do you think Sterling is most like today?
- What towns have qualities that you would like Sterling to have (or have more of) in the future? What are those qualities?
- Where are Sterling's most significant growth challenge problems? (Could be environmental constraints, location, zoning misfit with the market, other factors)
- Where do you want to *provide for* future growth?
- Where do you want to *encourage* future growth?
- Where do you want to *discourage* future growth?
- Where do you want to *prohibit* change in the future?

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- What kinds of land use tensions are most prevalent in Sterling today?
 - Agriculture - residential
 - Business - residential
 - Affordable/mixed-income/multifamily housing
 - Unexpected change of any kind
 - Expectations that town boards can stop development
 - Frustration with approval/permitting procedures
 - Traffic, loss of open space