Somerville Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change

Brainstorm on Covid-19 and local climate impacts
May 13/June 10

Transportation

Time at home:
· Teens bored / tensions
· New home experience
Consumer spending down
Food insecurity
Rental insecurity
(landlords)
Job losses
Employment changes
City
Municipal budgets down
Municipal budgets down Schools (online/project)
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Families

Air quality improved Public transit down Streets empty (traffic) Cheap oil Community Mutual aid groups grow Awareness: · inequities (worsening)

Uptick in racism

· natural/open space · short-sighted decisions Politicization of science Connect w/neigh. hard

New ways of working Shift to online Last-mile delivery

Business (all orgs)

Closures

Those w/capital: · New investments · Wealth capture? Disposables use rises

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2. Impacts on Climate Action Area + Key Questions: Mobility

Demand for walkable/bikeable streets (equity?)
Demand for mobility down

More people in cars
Stress air quality and inequities
Will there be T investment?

Will people trust the T is safe?

Teens as bike delivery couriers
Bike training
Organized shared streets
Bike corridors

3. Potential Responses

Surveillance

T modifications to service

Modifications to T equipment?

1. Impacts on the Community **Families Transportation Business (all orgs)** Time at home: Air quality improved Closures · Teens bored / tensions Public transit down New ways of working · New home experience Streets empty (traffic) Shift to online Consumer spending down Cheap oil Last-mile delivery Food insecurity Those w/capital: Rental insecurity · New investments Community (landlords) · Wealth capture? Mutual aid groups grow Job Josses Disposables use rises Awareness: **Employment changes** · inequities (worsening)

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Energy)

Energy demand curve flattening Energy usage down how much? Demand for bigger houses (WFH features) Demand for more space/worker

2. Impacts on Climate Action Area + Key

Questions: Buildings and Power

Not as much office space needed Retrofit demand Jobs in energy efficiency (labor costs?) Capital seeking investment opportunities

Stress air quality and inequities

Normalizes WFH (?) Public health risks if unoccupied Is there historical precedent (e.g., 2008)?

WFH affects workforce/job readiness

3. Potential Responses

Find volunteers, train in energy efficiency Take investment in financial vehicles for energy

Outreach on energy efficiency programs (e.g., All In

· natural/open space

· short-sighted decisions

Politicization of science

Connect w/neigh. hard

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efficiency Enable "hibernate mode"

Shovel ready infrastructure projects? Advocacy on green infrastructure projects? Real estate disclosures if market cools? (Green mortgages?) (Inequities?)

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Trash data?

Questions: Waste and Consumption

2. Impacts on Climate Action Area + Key

Consumption down, is waste up? Single-use plastics up

3. Potential Responses

Teens picking up trash Communications on recycling Reinforce positive choices in consumption (including buy local)? (For resilience) Low-carbon consumption substitutes Inform public health (re: single use plastic)

Mutual aid to reinforce sharing?



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Business (all orgs) Closures

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Last-mile delivery

· Wealth capture? Disposables use rises 2. Impacts on Climate Action Area + Key Questions: Community/Equity

Jobs to offer?

3. Potential Responses

Connect w/universities and neighboring communities

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2. Impacts on Climate Action Area + Key Questions: Stormwater and Resilience

3. Potential Responses

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3. Potential Responses