

On behalf of the Malden Planning Board and Master Plan Steering Committee,
Welcome to the first-ever Master Planning Public Forum.

We thank you for joining us this evening for what I hope you will agree is an exciting event. We have a full agenda ahead of us, so I will be brief.

Tonight's Forum is the next step in the community-based master planning activities known as the Malden Visioning Project, which started in 2007. Since it began we have held a Citywide Workshop, conducted a Community Survey, and held several Ward Workshops that culminated in the *Malden Vision* that was adopted by the Malden Planning Board and endorsed by the Malden City Council in 2008, providing us with a statement of the community's goals and a decision-making guide for future land use planning and development.

Visioning should be a community-based activity and we are happy to see so many members of our community participating with us tonight.

We are all here to work together to move forward with implementing the *Malden Vision*. Your feedback this evening will be considered when recommending revisions to the zoning ordinances.

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) has been providing technical assistance with the visioning project from day one. In a few moments, I will introduce Jennifer Raitt of the MAPC to explain the format of tonight's Workshop.

Before I introduce Jennifer, I would like to acknowledge that this Forum and the Visioning Project are part of on-going, pro-active master planning activities being undertaken by the Malden Planning Board and Planning Department with funding of the City's Community Development Block Grant, as authorized by the Mayor, Malden City Council and Malden Redevelopment Authority. And I would like to extend our thanks for their generosity and wisdom in recognizing the need to support these master planning activities.

Again, thank you for attending this evening. Ladies and Gentlemen, Jennifer Raitt, of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.