



BAR HARBOR PLANNING DEPARTMENT

93 Cottage Street Bar Harbor, ME 04609

MEMO

TO: Bar Harbor Town Council

SUBJECT: Safe Streets for All Project Update

FROM: Hailey Bondy, Staff Planner; Paul Pottle, P.E., Senior Transportation Engineer at Stantec

CC: James Smith, Town Manager; Michele Gagnon, Planning Director

DATE: 10/9/2024

Background

As many of us have experienced, Bar Harbor's roadway infrastructure often struggles to handle the volume of people that are using it. There have been 5 fatal crashes and 17 incapacitating injury crashes in Bar Harbor between 2019 and 2023.

To assist in addressing safety issues on the roadways, the Town received a Safe Streets for All Planning Grant from the Federal Department of Transportation to create a Safety Action Plan. The goal of this plan is to achieve *Vision Zero*, which means to significantly reduce or eliminate roadway fatalities and serious injuries, through the creation of a Safety Action Plan. Emphasis is placed on pedestrians and those that use alternative forms of transportation (bicycles, electric scooters, skateboard, etc.) because they are more vulnerable in crashes.

As part of this project, and in conjunction with community input, we will identify locations with the highest injury potential and strategies that will guide the final Safety Action Plan. The final Safety Action Plan is anticipated to be complete in December 2025.

The Safety Action Plan will not only act as a tool to pull ready-to-go roadway improvement projects from, but it will also provide the Town with suggestions to alter behavior, post-crash care procedures, policies, and strategies. Furthermore, the Safety Action Plan will also set Bar Harbor up for funding sources that will allow for larger roadway-improvement projects to take place.

In order to support this effort, the Town has contracted with Stantec to assist with the creation of this Safety Action Plan. Stantec project manager, Paul Pottle, a Bar Harbor local and has a background in transportation engineering work.

The project is a multi-departmental effort and is being coordinated by Hailey Bondy, Staff Planner, with the support of a Steering Committee that consists of Michele Gagnon, Planning Director; Bethany Leavitt, Public Works Director; David Kerns, Police Chief; and Matt Bartlett, Fire Chief. Having input from these town departments is critical to making this project a success.



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Current Project Status

To date, the following tasks have been accomplished:

Aug. 2024	Data collection at 18 locations around Bar Harbor; this included both video collection, field measurements, field assessments of existing equipment (traffic signals, signs, etc.) and review of previously available data.
Sept. 2024	Various pop-up events and meetings to receive public input on dangerous or unsafe locations.
Sept.-Oct. 2024	A survey and GIS map are active and request information about roadway safety, previous crash experiences, and pin-point locations that are problematic for safety. As of October 7, there were 462 survey responses and 776 pins placed on the map. The survey and map are open to submissions until October 18.

Future goals and Timeline

Oct. 2024	Establishment of Vision Zero goals
Feb. 2025	Identification of priority locations
May 2025	Alternatives Analysis
Jul. 2025	Draft Safety Action Plan
Dec.2025	Final Safety Action Plan and potential Town Council Adoption

Outreach and Engagement

This project includes two primary types of engagement, Stakeholders Group meetings and engagement with the public at large.

The Stakeholders Group consists of a group of individuals that represent various populations within the Bar Harbor community, including major employers, Downeast Transportation, Acadia National Park, and others. This group is intended to provide perspectives and information on the populations that they represent. They will provide feedback throughout the process, including on deliverables and the Safety Action Plan.

Engagement with the public at large began in September with the pop-up events, survey, and GIS map, will continue throughout the entire project timeline. This will include multiple listening sessions, public meetings, and requests for feedback on deliverables including the Vision Zero Goals and the Draft Safety Action Plan.



Bar Harbor Safety Action Plan





SS4A Program

Safe System Approach



**BIPARTISAN
INFRASTRUCTURE
LAW**

How is this being funded?

This effort is funded by a Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant from the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) and will lead to future improvements to roadway infrastructure.



Acknowledges human mistakes and human vulnerability

Focuses on preventing fatalities and serious injuries over preventing crashes



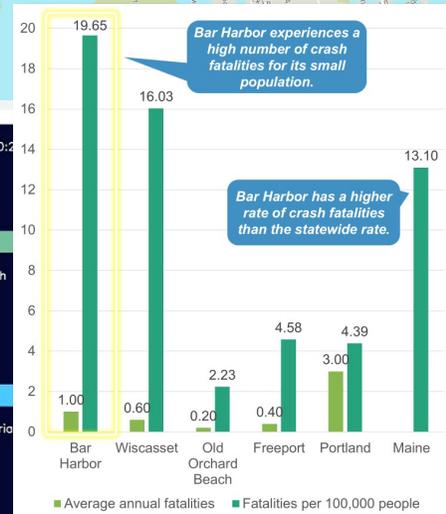
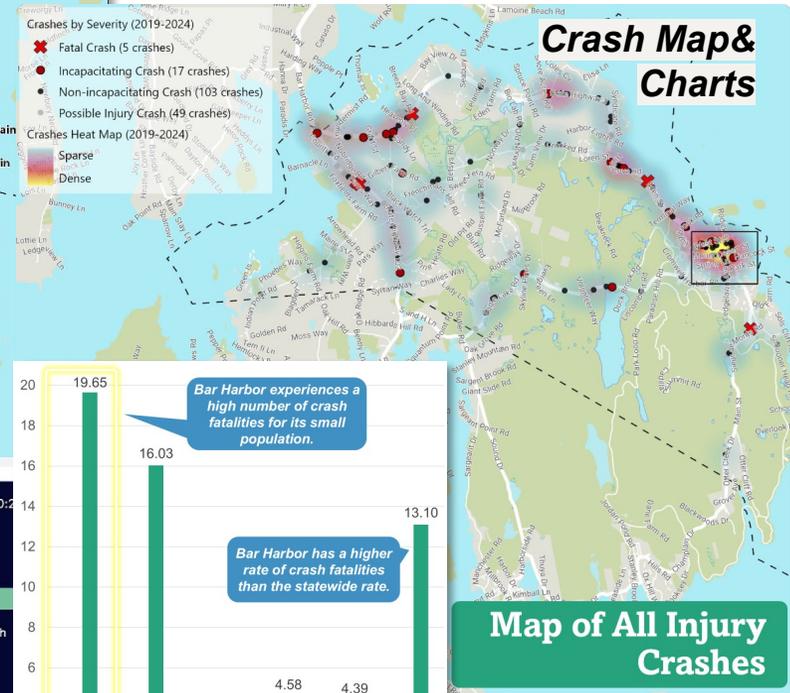
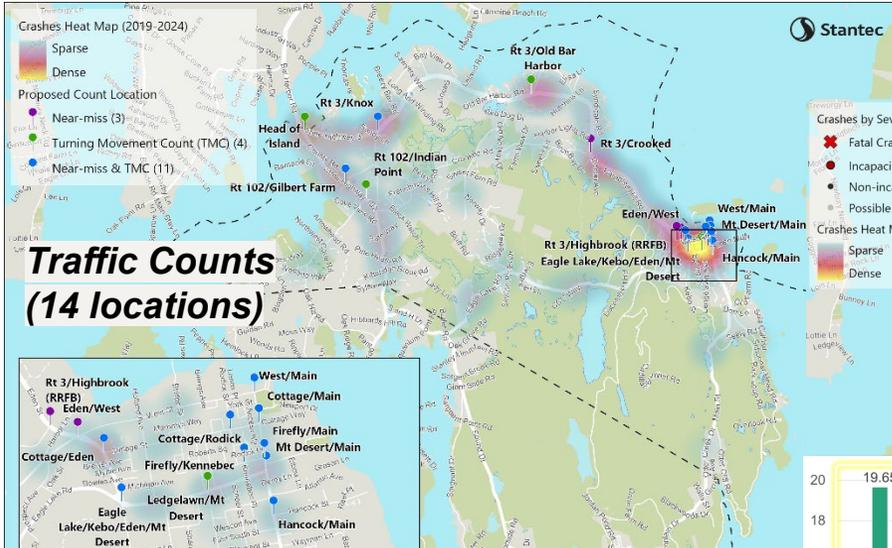


Project Progress To-Date

Data Collection

Preliminary Data Analysis

Engagement



Bar Harbor Safety Action Plan - Public Input

Comments placed by people in your community

- Walking
- Walking
- Biking

Survey (462 responses) & Interactive Map (776 comments)

PLEASE TAKE OUR SURVEY!

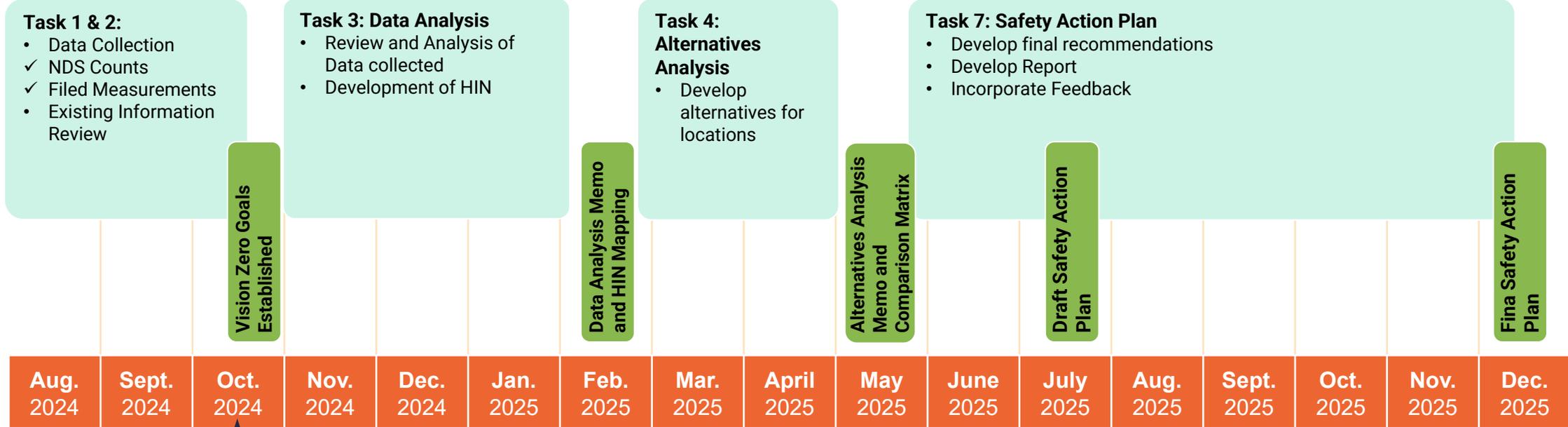
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Interactive Map- <https://bit.ly/mapBH>

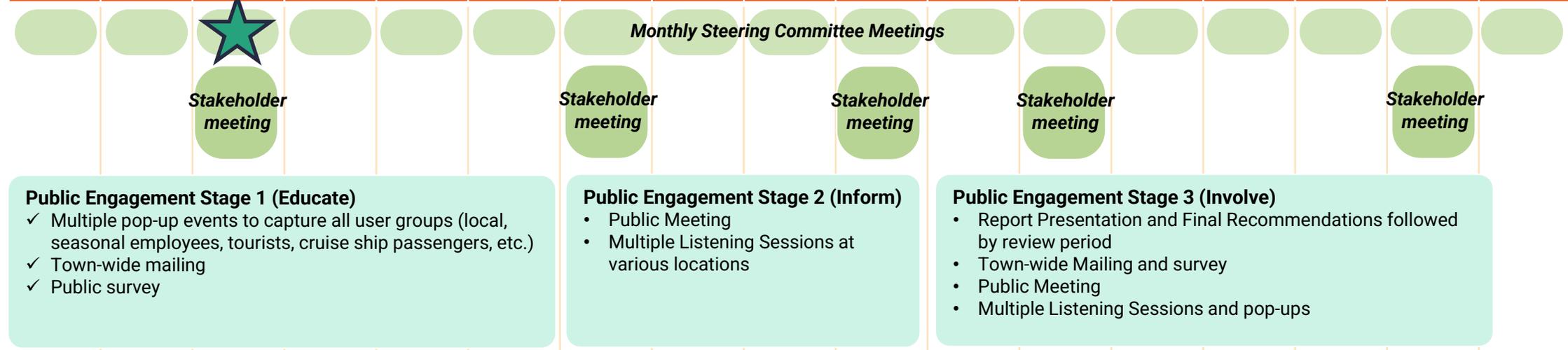


Schedule

Deliverables & Major Milestones



Public Engagement



Public Engagement Stage 1 (Educate)

- Multiple pop-up events to capture all user groups (local, seasonal employees, tourists, cruise ship passengers, etc.)
- Town-wide mailing
- Public survey

Public Engagement Stage 2 (Inform)

- Public Meeting
- Multiple Listening Sessions at various locations

Public Engagement Stage 3 (Involve)

- Report Presentation and Final Recommendations followed by review period
- Town-wide Mailing and survey
- Public Meeting
- Multiple Listening Sessions and pop-ups



Where will we be at the end? Bar Harbor will...

- Have a prioritization framework of where to invest to have the most life saving impact
- Become eligible for more federal funding to build projects
- Begin constructing quick-build street redesign projects



BAR HARBOR SAFETY ACTION PLAN



DEMONSTRATION



PILOT PROJECT



INTERIM DESIGN



PERMANENT INSTALLATION

QUICK BUILD

Safer Streets. Safer People. Safer Speeds.