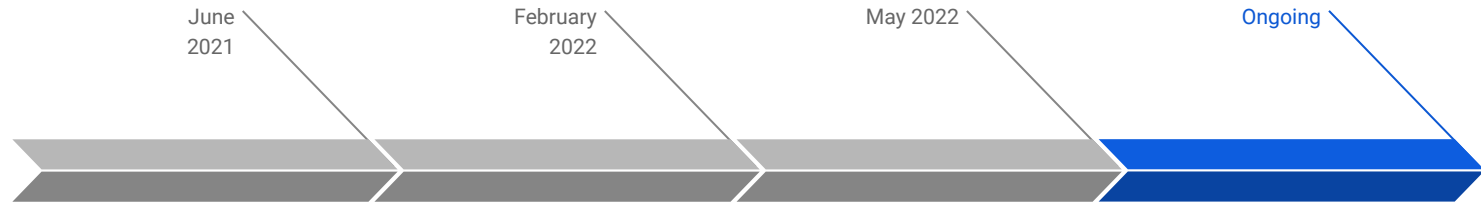


# Downtown Vision Task Force Recommendations

December 6, 2022

# Vision Plan History



## Vision: Phase 1

In phase 1, we held a virtual workshop, launched community surveys aimed at residents, youth, businesses, and visitors, and hosted a Town Walk. This phase culminated in the Early Action Plan which focused on short-term strategies for downtown, some of which were implemented during the Summer of 2021.

## Vision: Phase 2

In phase 2, we held the Downtown Design Week to gather more input from the community around the big ideas developed during phase 1.

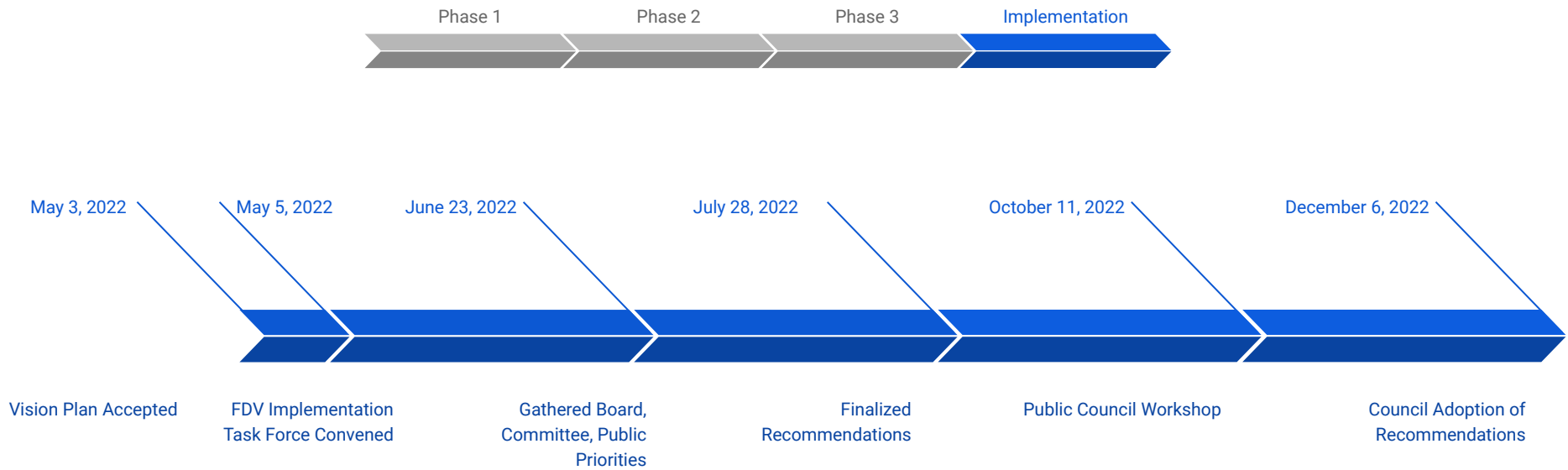
## Vision: Phase 3

In phase 3, we drafted and refined the Vision Plan with the community and Town Council.

## Implementation

We are now focused on putting the Vision Plan into action by implementing many of the suggested action items identified in the Plan.

# Implementation Timeline So Far



# Implementation Task Force

40+ individuals representing 23 organizations (more are welcome)

Monthly meetings since May, open to the public

Charged with the following activities:

- Coordinate activities across projects
- Communicate about updates
- Serve as a clearinghouse for resource requests (I need ... for my project)
- Provide recommendations to the Town Council regarding priorities
- Allow for, and encourage, public input throughout
- Meet in a public setting (noticed on the Town website, and open to all residents)

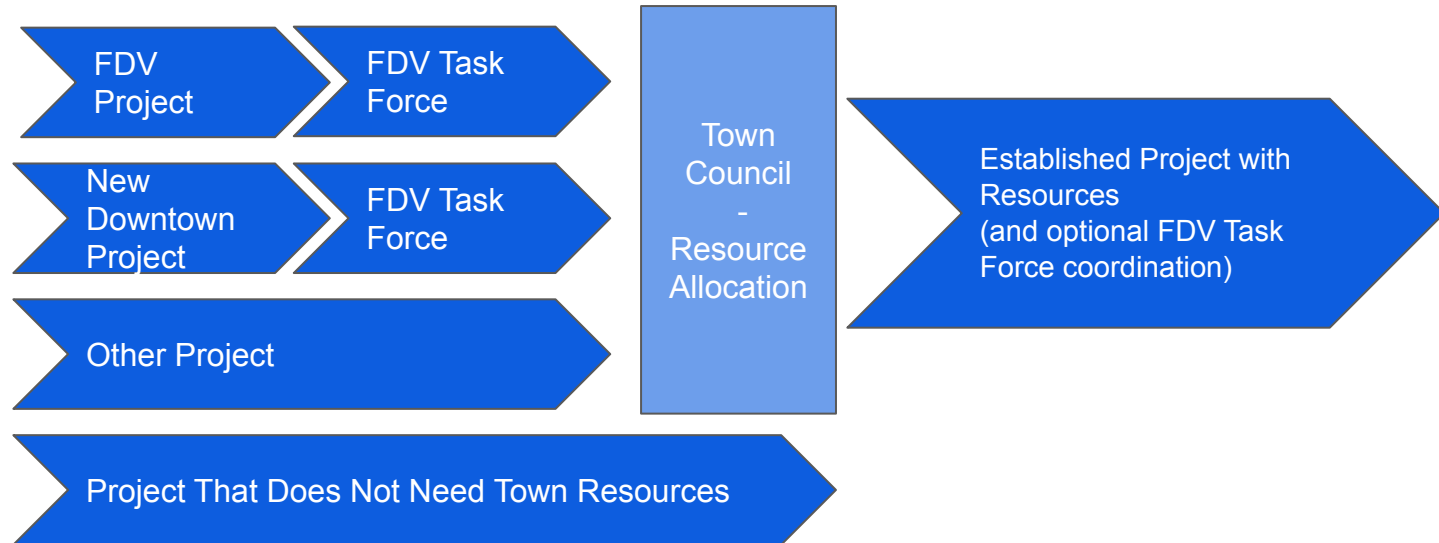
Steering Committee:

- Adam Bliss, Town Engineer
- Mary Davis, FEDC
- Caroline Pelletier, Town Planner
- Dan Piltch, Town Council

# Implementation Task Force

The Task Force is an enabler, but not a limiter. As today, projects can be done without needing to go through the Task Force.

Downtown Vision Task Force can be a “fast lane” for projects ...providing extra coordination and unblocking.



# Guiding Principles



# Making Things Manageable



Starting with the entire Vision Plan, which included input from 1,500+ participants ... we solicited additional input from boards, committees, staff, and residents to recommend 21 goals and projects to start implementing the Downtown Vision

We followed a top down approach:  
values → vision → goals → projects → priorities

The consultant's suggestions for high & medium items mostly aligned with Task Force recommendations.

Task Force recommendations include public input + board/committee priorities + Task Force Steering Committee opinions

# Goals, Projects and Catalyst Sites

**Goals** are high level guidance that we should (all) be keeping in mind as we propose projects. Boards and committees should consider these when making policy decisions.

Each goal can have projects proposed to support it

Of the original 25 goals:

- 7 already incorporated into existing work
- 9 recommended for advancement,
- 9 are in backlog for future

The Task Force filtered for **projects** where the Town can have a meaningful impact within the next two years on a project within the limits of downtown.

Of the original 45 projects:

- 13 already incorporated into existing work
- 12 recommended for advancement
- 18 are in backlog for future
- 2 are mostly complete

There are also 10 **Catalyst Sites** that will require public/private partnerships. Some of these are already intertwined with existing goals/projects



# Where Do We Go From Here?

What we're looking for today is consent that these are good ideas and it's worth pursuing details. We don't have all the details/answers/costs tonight. The question is "Is it worth it for us to pursue getting answers to these projects?"

Next steps will be project charters, refining resource requests, etc.

Need to be mindful about capacity ... if we approve these (or more) what won't get done.

Periodic updates to Council on projects (quarterly).

Task Force can accept and evaluate new ideas and propose to Council at quarterly meetings

# Nine Recommended Goals

GOAL: Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled

GOAL: Explore redesigning Main Street into a Universal Street or some similar alternative with slow-moving vehicles, outdoor seating and dining, street trees, and wider sidewalks

GOAL: Encourage Multi-Family Housing and Mixed-Use Development in Downtown Freeport

GOAL: Encourage more public art, sculptures, murals, temporary installations, outdoor instruments, interactive installations

GOAL: Support local arts and cultural programming, festivals, and events in downtown

GOAL: Recruit more local businesses and food merchants to open Downtown to maintain a mix of local, regional and national businesses

GOAL: Establish Downtown as a hub for trail connections, better multi-use pedestrian and bike access to and from downtown and surrounding areas, including better signage, ability to park (only) once, and maintain walkable routes

GOAL: A downtown that supports people and families of all backgrounds and abilities

GOAL: Create Flexible and Multi-Functional Civic Space

# Twelve Recommended Projects

PROJECT: Establish Emergency Management Plan, Climate Resilience Plan

PROJECT: Install EV charging stations at municipal facilities

PROJECT: Encourage EV charging stations to be made available as part of new development

PROJECT: Transform Mallett Drive and Route 1 S to be gateways to Main Street pedestrian and bike-friendly boulevard

PROJECT: Create an Accessibility Map for Freeport's Trail system

PROJECT: Assess Parking Requirements for Downtown

PROJECT: Streamline the permitting process to make the development process quicker and more predictable

PROJECT: Update zoning for Downtown to align with the long-term vision

PROJECT: Support Local Arts Programming, Festivals, and Events by building public infrastructure in existing public spaces

PROJECT: Review sewer connection fees

PROJECT: Use interesting wayfinding and “landmarks” to link people to local attractions outside Downtown -mountain, harbor, farm, beer, open spaces

PROJECT: Rethink how parks are being maintained, potentially create a parks or maintenance department within Public Works

# GOAL: Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled

*A combination of strategies including designing better streets, creating safer biking and walking experiences, and making it easier to get around Downtown can help to nudge human behavior and encourage healthier transportation choices. The train station on Depot Street with Downeaster train service and the MetroBreez bus service are existing public transportation assets. Embracing public transit and encouraging development near existing transit facilities can reduce vehicle trips by giving people the opportunity to live close to where they work or run errands.*

## **What has been done so far?**

- Included in list of resiliency grant options for town workshop.
- Freeport CAN has done a free METRO pass program
- FEDC & Town have submitted proposals to GPCOG & PACTS for transportation planning grants

## **What could be done next?**

- Connect with Complete Streets, Visit Freeport and FCAN to coordinate efforts with Bike/pedestrian/transit
- See two related EV projects (public & private)
- Coordinate with Bike Coalition of Maine to discuss walkability audit
- Could apply for future Community Resilience Grant
- Options for tackling the last mile traveled

# GOAL: Explore redesigning Main Street into a Universal Street or some similar alternative with slow-moving vehicles, outdoor seating and dining, street trees, and wider sidewalks

*Main Street needs to be a slow-moving thoroughfare that prioritizes the pedestrian experience, supports gathering, strolling and staying. New street trees will help make the street a more pleasant place to spend time and help cool downtown in the summer. Broader sidewalks allow more space for outdoor seating and dining, and make it easier for those with strollers or gear.*

## **What has been done so far?**

- Town Council has eased requirements for temporary outdoor seating, and experimented with on-street parklets
- Complete Streets Committee, Connect Freeport, and the East Coast Greenway continue to explore connectivity and grant opportunities to the Downtown
- Several Committees recognize this project is a large-scale, long-term endeavor. Several Committee members have gathered and created a list of grant opportunities for further exploration

## **What could be done next?**

- Create summary table ranking eligibility and feasibility of grant funding
- Submit letter of interest to Maine DOT Planning Department to initiate Planning (i.e., high-level) meetings and request a letter of support for a federal RAISE grant
- Engage stakeholders (e.g., local Committees, MDOT, GPCOG, East Coast Greenway, local businesses, and Congressional representatives) for visionary type meetings
- Collect and analyze multimodal traffic data including physical data such as crosswalks, right-of-way, easements, accessibility, traffic speed and volumes, and mode type.
- Assign task to Town Committees to research what other Towns are doing/ have done (e.g. Yarmouth, Bridgton, Skowhegan, Wiscasset, and Burlington, Vermont)

# GOAL: Encourage Multi-Family Housing and Mixed-Use Development in Downtown Freeport

*Downtown has a number of existing parking lots and sites that could support new housing to attract retirees aging in place, young people, and those who work in Downtown Freeport. The Town wants and needs people of all ages, incomes, and abilities to live here. Proximity to schools, town hall, community center, library, shopping, a grocery store, L.L.Bean, jobs, Metro Breez bus, and the Train Station make downtown a great potential neighborhood for new housing.*

## **What has been done so far?**

- Several multi-family developments are in progress (partly inspired/motivated by this Vision Plan)
- Town Council established a Housing Task Force on 11/29/22
- FEDC & Town submitted grant proposals to evaluate downtown parking and to encourage transit oriented development on Route 1 South

## **What could be done next?**

- Housing Task Force to present recommendations to Council within six months
- See associated projects regarding streamlining permitting and updating zoning
- Consider implementation of LD2003
- Will likely need to consider resources needed to incentivize development. This could be: land, a Town-sponsored housing fund, technical assistance, TIF funding, or other mechanisms.

# GOAL: Encourage more public art, sculptures, murals, temporary installations, outdoor instruments, interactive installations

*Public art plays an important role in placemaking and comes in a variety of forms from sculptures to street murals. Public art promotes a community's values, character, and cultural heritage, inspires connection, and can even become anchors to draw people to a destination. Public art can be funded through individual donors, local businesses or corporations, grants, crowdsourcing, or events, auctions, and sales.*

## **What has been done?**

- Meetinghouse Arts has been in initial discussions with Planning Department
- Town Council and Meetinghouse Arts have supported public concerts in Memorial Park

## **What could be done next?**

- Consider reviewing municipal regulations to support all forms of art

# GOAL: Support local arts and cultural programming, festivals, and events in downtown

*Support new arts and cultural events and events that celebrate Freeport's heritage, such as walking tours, open studios events, haunted tours at Halloween, chalk art or fiber arts festivals.*

## **What has been done so far?**

- Visit Freeport, Chamber of Commerce, Meetinghouse Arts, Historical Society, FEDC and other local businesses continue to add vibrant events to our downtown village
- Town Council voted to provide financial support for police to attend to annual Sparkle Parade
- Relaxed regulations for food trucks, temporary activity permits, and temporary parking issues
- Launched weekly summer farmers' market with FreeportCAN & Visit Freeport

## **What could be done next?**

- Encourage volunteers from community to work with the above groups
- See related project regarding public infrastructure



# GOAL: Recruit more local businesses and food merchants to open Downtown to maintain a mix of local, regional and national businesses

*We've heard people say that Downtown Freeport has the potential to grow a local food scene if it can attract more variety and options for food and beverages. Locals want more small businesses and stores they can shop at in Downtown, shifting away from its reputation as an outlet center with mostly national retailers.*

## **What has been done so far?**

- New FEDC website has been created to attract businesses (<https://www.choosefreeport.com/>)
- FEDC has implemented a new customer relationship management (CRM) system to track prospects; in coordination with Chamber of Commerce
- New businesses have opened: Freeport Oyster Bar, Skechers (soon), The Bake Shop, Two Sisters, Foiled, Haberdashery  
Also, outside of downtown: Goodfire Brewing, PetMedic, Soccer Post, Bakeshop, Maine Street Bee, DiVinci Childcare
- Repealed victualers licensing requirements to lessen burden on food related businesses

## **What could be done next?**

- Encourage residents, entrepreneurs and existing businesses to approach FEDC with suggestions
- Explore a town sponsored toolbox of incentives such as business facade grant program, tax increment financing for property owners and new businesses to upgrade and retrofit attractive commercial space

## GOAL: Establish Downtown as a hub for trail connections, better multi-use pedestrian and bike access to and from downtown and surrounding areas, including better signage, ability to park (only) once, and maintain walkable routes

*We know that there are a variety of beautiful trails, natural resources, and outdoor destinations within a short distance of Downtown. However, today these connections are not clear to locals and people from away. Downtown does not connect to Freeport's beautiful coastline along Harraseeket River and Maquoit Bay. Downtown can be the starting point - a trailhead to access Freeport's outdoor amenities.*

### **What has been done?**

- Off-road path from Pine Street to West Street is in the planning phase
- Two multi-use paths being installed on highway bridges
- Multi-use path along Mallet Drive is being designed (pending RFP)

### **What could be done next?**

- Continue to support development of mountain bike trails at Hedgehog Mountain
- Continue to connect with outside groups such as the Casco Bay Trail Alliance

# GOAL: A downtown that supports people and families of all backgrounds and abilities

*Support age-friendly interventions such as more benches and seating downtown, accessible public transportation and street design, conveniently-located restrooms, and a variety of housing choices. Freeport is committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion, because these values make us a stronger community. The diversity of people, and mix of residents and visitors makes Freeport special. The Town, businesses, and residents all have an integral role and daily responsibility to make Freeport welcoming and friendly to everyone. Offering a variety of housing options, jobs, and cultural activities helps to achieve this goal.*

## **What has been done so far?**

- Developed plans for completely accessible landscaping at Town Hall
- Coordinated with Accessibility Task Force to suggest improvements on public and private property. Some of these have already been completed.
- Private businesses have added accessibility features
- Support has been provided to FCS to help welcome New Mainers into the community and school system

## **What could be done next?**

- Freeport Community Services will continue to work with Freeport Housing Trust to secure other funding and install benches that were proposed as part of a grant
- Encourage public and private outdoor seating
- Make it easier or more economical for businesses to make accessibility improvements on their properties

# GOAL: Create Flexible and Multi-Functional Civic Space

*A great neighborhood has a network of well-connected public spaces that are flexible and support the many functions of public life that happen day to day and month to month. Freeport's Downtown can have this characteristic if we can come together to think through these details, particularly as new development and larger infrastructure capital improvements happen. Short term “tests” can pilot ideas before making significant investments in permanent improvements.*

## **What has been done?**

- See Town Hall Park & Memorial Park pavilion for examples of projects in support of this goal

## **What could be done next?**

# PROJECT: Establish Emergency Management Plan, Climate Resilience Plan

*Establish a community resiliency and preparedness plan, Assess the impacts of climate change and how the Town can address them as whole.*

## Status

- Work already underway on a townwide Emergency Management Plan, led by Chief Conley  
The Town and its Sustainability Advisory Board (FSAB) has begun working with GPCOG on the development of a town wide Climate Action Plan
- Completed enrollment in Maine's Community Resilience Partnership including hosting a community workshop to assist with prioritization

## Next Steps

- Continue developing both plans.
- Encourage community engagement for the Climate Action Plan

## Resources Needed

- Funding: Town Council has already allocated funds for the the Climate Action Plan and Sustainability Coordinator. Resilience grant awarded for Sustainability Coordinator (shared with Yarmouth)
- Staff: Some time from several departments, led mostly by Planning Dept
- Community: FSAB to help lead community engagement on Climate Action Plan

**Project Lead:** Chief Paul Conley  
Cecilia (transition to  
Sustainability Coordinator)

**Facilitator:** Caroline Pelletier

# PROJECT: Install EV charging stations at municipal facilities

*Consider installing EV chargers at municipal properties in/near Downtown Freeport to further increase opportunities for EV charging stations throughout town. The Town can be a leader by encouraging sustainable choices while also having economic benefits to the community.*

## Status

- Working with the Sustainability Advisory Board (FSAB) to determine prioritization of municipal locations
- Adam has been in touch with other towns to get information about specs and cost

## Next Steps

- Research potential funding from Efficiency Maine or other state and federal sources
- Investigate different types of equipment and operational concerns

## Resources Needed

- Funding: around \$25,000 per charger
- Staff time: Significant time Adam Bliss for planning, design and outreach to funders & installers. Assistance from Sustainability Coordinator
- Community: Continued involvement from FSAB

**Project Lead:** Valy Steverlynck  
Mandy MacPherson

**Facilitator:** Adam Bliss

# PROJECT: Encourage EV charging stations to be made available as part of new development

*Work with local property and business owners to increase opportunities for EV charging stations in Downtown and Lower Main Street. Not only does this encourage sustainable choices, it also has economic benefits and some companies are adding EV charging stations to their parking lots to attract EV drivers to stop and charge.*

## Status

- FSAB is exploring options around whether or how to recommend requiring or encouraging EV charging as part of approval conditions for private development

## Next Steps

- Research available grant opportunities that could assist private development
- FSAB would work with Planning Board to update Zoning Ordinance, if there is support to proceed

## Resources Needed

- Funding: \$0
- Staff time: Time from Planning Dept (Cecilia Smith and/or Sustainability Coordinator)
- Community: Time from Planning Board, FSAB

**Project Lead:** Valy Steverlynck  
Mandy MacPherson

**Facilitator:** Caroline Pelletier

# PROJECT: Transform Mallett Drive and Route 1 South to be gateways to Main Street pedestrian and bike-friendly boulevard

*Right now, MeDOT and the Town are making investments in Mallett Drive, presenting a timely opportunity to truly transform how Mallett Drive functions. With bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements coming for the bridge, Mallett Drive can be designed as the new gateway to Main Street, bringing cars to a slower speed sooner. A redesigned street can also support new housing and business opportunities, too.*

## Status

- Design funding procured for Mallett Drive paving & multi-use path
- Met with Rep. Sachs and MDOT to identify grant opportunities, including Village Partnership Initiative (VPI)
- Design of boulevard has not yet begun

## Next Steps

- Issue design RFP for Mallett Drive Complete Streets design
- Complete Streets is assembling materials for VPI grant application
- Procure commitment and funding for boulevard concept

## Resources Needed

- Funding: Paving partially allocated for 2025, \$2M to \$10M+ more would be needed for full project
- Staff time: Significant time from Adam Bliss
- Community: Continued involvement from Complete Streets and local businesses

**Project Lead:** Liz McDonald (Complete Streets )

**Facilitator:** Adam Bliss



# PROJECT: Create an Accessibility Map for Freeport's Trail system

*Ensure that Freeport is accessible for all and friendly to those aging in place. A Town-wide Access map would take into account slopes, sidewalks, construction, and other barriers to pedestrians to promote accessible routes for people with different abilities. This could be done by partnering with a university or research organization using grant funding.*

## Status

- Adam Bliss and Connect Freeport have assembled a trail system map, including sidewalks and future trail concepts

## Next Steps

- Maybe hire a student/intern to help with mapping; maybe involve Freeport Conservation Trust or Conservation Commission?
- Reach out to Yarmouth who have recently done a walkability map
- Explore funding from Davis Conservation Foundation

## Resources Needed

- Funding: Less than \$10,000
- Staff time: Some time from Adam Bliss
- Community: Continued involvement from Complete Streets, and assistance from Accessibility Task Force

**Project Lead:** Sally Walsh (Accessibility Task Force)  
TBD from Complete Streets

**Facilitator:** Adam Bliss

# PROJECT: Assess Parking Requirements for Downtown

*The Town should reassess Downtown parking needs, existing regulations and identify misalignment and opportunities for increased efficiencies. If parking requirements are too restrictive, it'll thwart conversion of empty commercial spaces to residential, and cause difficulty filling vacant spaces with new tenants. Taking a district-wide parking management approach will allow lots to be redeveloped even if they're too small to provide on-site parking.*

## Status

- Town Council & Planning Board reduced parking requirement for multi-family housing in September 2022
- Substantial reductions to downtown commercial off-street parking requirements were made in December 2018, we are now seeing redevelopment opportunities based on this change

## Next Steps

- Continue to study downtown parking needs
- Consider use of on-street parking
- Assess signage to encourage use of underutilized spaces
- Consider any ordinance changes for on-street or off-street parking

## Resources Needed

- Funding: \$35,000 for parking study (GPCOG/PACTS grant application in the works). future
- Staff time: Time from Planning Department and FEDC
- Community: Planning Board outreach to gather community input for any prospective changes

**Project Lead:** Brett Richardson (FEDC)  
Sam Kapala (Planning)

**Facilitator:** Caroline Pelletier

# PROJECT: Streamline the permitting process to make the development process quicker and more predictable

*Throughout the process, we have heard that one of the barriers to development is the long and complicated permitting process for new development downtown. Updating the zoning and project administrative process for Downtown will provide the private sector with clear directions for how they can help implement Downtown's long-term vision in a more timely manner.*

## Status

- Planning Board has been discussing this and is proposing changes to streamline Site Plan Review zoning ordinance tomorrow (public hearing on 12/7/22), including increasing the number of residents who get notified of larger development projects
- Planning Board continues to work on cleaning up existing ordinances
- Reduced administrative burden and cost for food trucks, restaurants, and temporary activity permits
- Process flow chart is in the works to help developers quickly understand Freeport's permitting processes

## Next Steps

- Send out RFP to update Design Review Ordinance
- Foster more effective communications process with residents
- Post some diagrams and plans along with Project Review Board (PRB) agendas on town website
- Continue partnering with FEDC to help businesses and developers understand all of our permitting process

## Resources Needed

- Funding: Funding has already been approved for Design Review updates
- Staff time: Planning Department Staff time
- Community: Significant time from Planning Board

**Project Lead:** Sam Kapala (Planning)  
Lynn Hamlen (PRB)  
Tod Yankee (PRB)

**Facilitator:** Caroline Pelletier

# PROJECT: Update zoning for Downtown to align with the long-term vision

*The Town has recently amended zoning in certain downtown zoning districts to allow increased density, building height, and reduced parking requirements. Enabling the kind of development shown on the catalyst site drawings will require further amendments including a defined framework of building and architectural standards, shop-front street standards, additional street types, civic space standards, districts and boundary adjustments and land use amendments.*

## Status

- Town Council & Planning Board passed new ordinances expanding mixed-used development, increasing permissible height and increasing density of residential development
- Town Council eased requirements for food trucks and temporary outdoor seating

## Next Steps

- Send out RFP to update Design Review Ordinance

## Resources Needed

- Funding: Funding has already been approved for FY 2023
- Staff time: Planning Department Staff time
- Community: Planning Board will be heavily involved, with input from the Project Review Board (PRB) and the public

**Project Lead:** Sam Kapala (Planning)  
Tod Yankee (PRB)

**Facilitator:** Caroline Pelletier

# PROJECT: Support Local Arts Programming, Festivals, and Events by building public infrastructure in existing public spaces

*Freeport can continue to support local arts programming and events by building public bathrooms, a pavilion or shelter for outdoor events, stages for outdoor performances, and making the events permitting process easier to navigate. Use of current and future space could be considered (High School, parking lot behind ACAF).*

## Status

- Town Hall park has been designed, permitted, and funded
- Memorial Park pavilion is funded in Capital Program

## Next Steps

- Construction of Town Hall park to start Spring 2023
- Consider improving pocket parks, including the Town owned land behind Starbucks

## Resources Needed

- Funding: Funding already appropriated by Town Council, \$50,000 granted by T-Mobile, Further funding TBD
- Staff time: Adam to design Memorial Park pavilion
- Community: Will need significant input from Meetinghouse Arts and other cultural institutions and residents

**Project Lead:** Adam Bliss  
Meetinghouse Arts

**Facilitator:** Dan Piltch

# PROJECT: Review sewer connection fees\*

*Work to define predictable and consistent sewer connection fees for the downtown area. It is currently difficult for projects to plan for these fees and the fees are incredibly high to the point that they are discouraging development Downtown.*

## Status

- Ongoing work with the Sewer District, FEDC and the council has resulted in open discussions of current costs, challenges, and opportunities
- The Sewer District completed an engineering study of what is needed for the total system that has identified needs/costs for upgrades, ongoing, etc.
- Grants and funding options have been identified and the team is working together on funding options.
- Town Council established a Sewer Funding Task Force on 11/29/22

## Next Steps

- Task Force to propose recommendations to Council within six months
- Foster better communication with prospective businesses and developers regarding sewer fees

## Resources Needed

- Funding: \$17M+ from various potential sources, potentially more for additional upgrades
- Staff time: FEDC continues to play an active role
- Community: New Task Force will be heavily involved

**Project Lead:** Ed Bradley  
Brett Richardson  
Lee Arris

**Facilitator:** Mary Davis

\*As we have worked on this recommendation, we have expanded the scope beyond just looking at connection fees

# PROJECT: Use interesting wayfinding and “landmarks” to link people to local attractions outside Downtown - mountain, harbor, farm, beer, open spaces

*Updated wayfinding could help all navigate around Freeport and support connecting the downtown with our many experiential attractions. This updated wayfinding could include a central gathering location downtown to enjoy a beverage and light fare outside while learning about the what Freeport offers in the downtown, waterfront, parks, resources, and offerings.*

## Status

- Need for updated and consistent wayfinding and signage needed to help navigate downtown (i.e. where is parking garage?) as well as marketing/informational signage for Freeport’s amazing resources and experiential opportunities (Wolfe’s Neck Center, Pettengill Farm, Mast Landing, Desert of Maine, harbor tours and businesses, parks within downtown, etc.)

## Next Steps

- Identify consultants who can help define what is needed, costs for an upfront plan, and overall implementation costs. We do have a local expert to bring experience!

## Resources Needed

- Funding: Capital budget request TBD - pending feedback from local design consultant
- Staff time: Staff time to understand any ordinance requirements/changes, including time from Nick Adams and FEDC
- Community: Complete Streets has signage in their mandate, Visit Freeport has been heavily involved

**Project Lead:** Kelly Edwards (Visit Freeport)  
Complete Streets

**Facilitator:** Mary Davis

# PROJECT: Rethink how parks are being maintained, potentially create a parks or maintenance department within Public Works

*Improving and inviting more use of parks and open spaces will require additional maintenance to ensure spaces are well-cared for. The Town should explore creating a parks or maintenance department within Public Works and scale up equipment and staffing over time to meet new, expanded needs.*

## Status

- This is currently managed by Public Works Department, which has been understaffed for a while. Existing staff takes enormous pride in maintaining Town property and has been putting in extra effort.
- Some of the other projects in the Vision Plan will increase the demand for property and grounds maintenance

## Next Steps

- Consider additional contracting of external resources
- Encourage and coordinate work done by volunteer groups or RSU grounds maintenance
- Consider beautification, plantings, grass/weed trimming especially on Lower Main St, Leon Gorman Park, pocket parks

## Resources Needed

- Funding: TBD for additional staff or contractors
- Staff time: Existing Public Works is already stretched too thin
- Community: Freeport Community Improvement Association

**Project Lead:** Adam Bliss

**Facilitator:** Dan Piltch



# Thank You

Adam Bliss  
Alex Intraversato  
Any Spaulding  
Brett Richardson  
Caroline Pelletier  
Cathy Cryvoff  
Cecilia Smith  
Chip Gray  
Chip Lawrence  
Dan Piltch  
Dana Legawiec  
Darrell Fournier  
Doug Leland  
Ed Bradley  
Eric Smith  
Evan Haynes  
Gregory Michaud  
Howie Berger  
Jake Daniele  
Jason Donahue

Jason Sulham  
John Egan  
John Lowe  
Judith B  
Kate Werner  
Kathleen Meade  
Kathy Smith  
Kelly Edwards  
Ken Mann  
Linda Berger  
Liz McDonald  
Lynn Hamlen  
Mac Collins  
Mandana MacPherson  
Mary Davis  
Maryellen Carew  
Matt Pillsbury  
Mitch Rouda  
Nancy Salmon

Nancy Salmon  
Peter Joseph  
Rose Mary Burwell  
Sally Walsh  
Sam Kapala  
Sam Smith  
Sarah Kelly  
Stefanie Millette  
Suzanne Watson  
Tawni Whitney  
Tod Yankee  
Valy Steverlynck