

Damariscotta and Newcastle Joint Workshop

January 18, 2024

Recap of 10/30/23 meeting

The three top priorities from the survey were identified:

- Housing Strategies
- Planned Development Strategy
- Transportation Solutions/Coordination

Recap of 10/30/23 meeting

Based on the conversation about defining what it is we're trying to achieve, I've taken the liberty of providing a little more context to the topics for these priorities:

- Addressing Housing Needs
- Coordinating our Future Land Use Development
- Finding Solutions to Transportation Challenges

Here is a [LINK](#) to the notes gathered from the Workshop

Recap of 10/30/23 meeting

8 questions were asked in the small group exercise for each of the priorities which is being used to help develop timelines and expectations.

Development of this is partially driven by each Town's priorities.

Evaluation from Workshop

Generally, participants felt we met our objectives. 4.56/5 (5 = totally)

Pace of presented information was just about right, a bit fast 3.44/5 (5 = too fast)

Pace of breakout session, a bit fast 3.33/5 (5 = too fast)

Balance of the activities 3 (Good Blend)

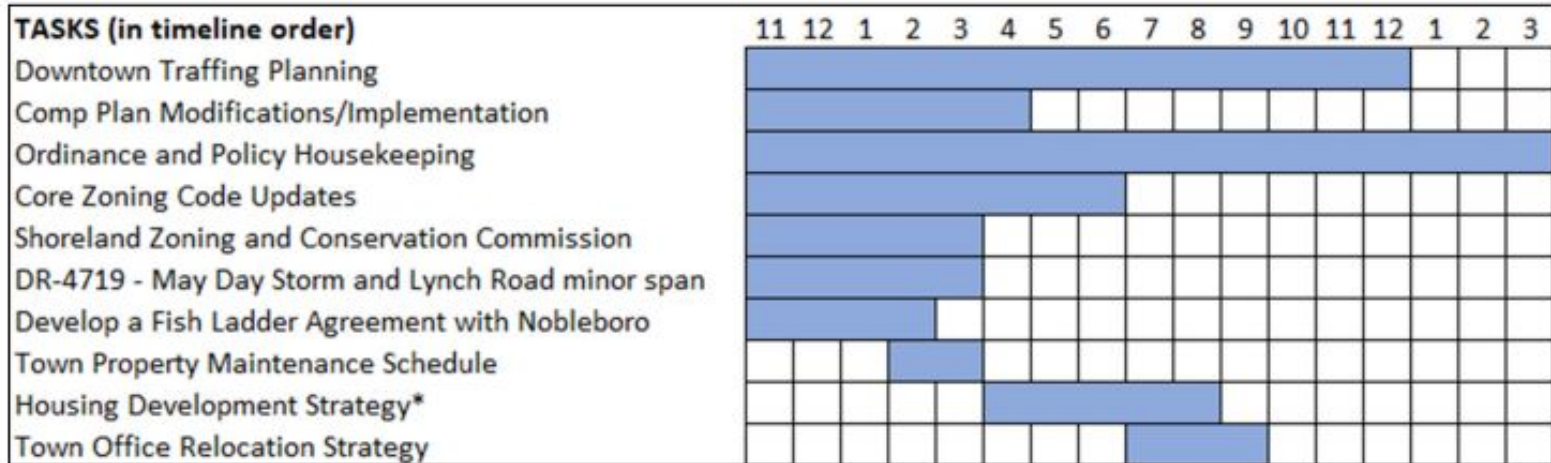
Next Steps

One thing we didn't address at the meeting was where these topics fell on the list of each towns priorities.

Newcastle's priorities

In November, the Newcastle Select Board updated their [list of priorities](#). (Some of what's at the top of this list was already in development before the joint workshop)

Top 10 Select Board Supported Priorities (11/27/23)



Relevant Newcastle Priorities

Downtown Traffic Planning

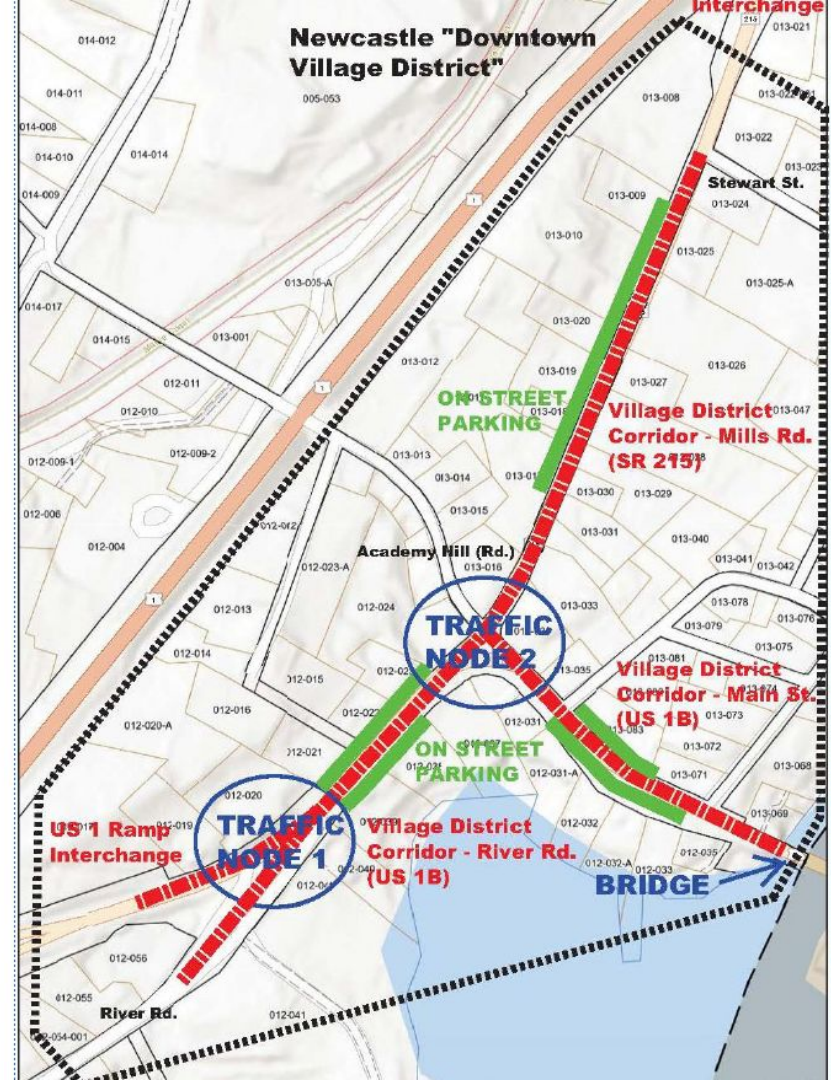
Newcastle was approved for a Village Partnership Initiative with the MaineDOT. An engineering firm was chosen to do pre-engineering work and assess the intersection at Mills/Main/Academy Hill and the intersection at 1B/River Road. Additionally, they'll be looking at some of the layout of downtown and use of State Right of Way.

The Newcastle Select Board will be discussing efforts to engage the community at their 1/22 meeting.

Relevant Newcastle Priorities

Downtown Traffic Planning

Map of what was provided in the RFP



Relevant Newcastle Priorities

Comp Plan Modifications/Implementation

The state has not yet approved the Newcastle Comprehensive Plan. Staff are working on the necessary changes to get this across the finish line and will be bringing a list of updates along with request for direction to the Select Board on 1/22.

Once we receive final state approval, we'll bring the updates to its next Town meeting.

Relevant Newcastle Priorities

Core Zoning Code

We're bringing this back to the Select Board regularly for slight modifications and the Select Board has committed to having three Special Town Meetings a year (quarterly with regular Town Meeting) to address any Ordinance update.

Relevant Newcastle Priorities

Housing Development Strategy (aka Addressing Housing Needs)

Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission has been working with Camion Associates to identify properties in each town that would be good candidates for Affordable Housing projects.

This should be available soon.

LD2003 - State law requirements to expand housing potential