

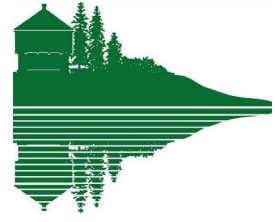
TYLin _rasor



Fort Kent Village Planning Study

America's First Mile – Connecting People and Places

72ND Maine Transportation Conference
December 7, 2023





Presentation Outline

1. MaineDOT Village Partnership Initiative (VPI)
2. Study Team
3. Project Location and Study Area
4. Purpose and Need Statement
5. Study Scope and Public Process
6. Character Areas and Connectivity
7. Existing Conditions
8. Concept Improvements
9. Next Steps



MaineDOT Village Partnership Initiative

The Village Partnership Initiative (VPI) is intended to address **time-sensitive, locally-initiated planning and feasibility studies** that occur outside MaineDOT's normal annual Work Plan cycle. The approach is to **study, evaluate, plan and scope transportation projects** on or adjacent to the state transportation system with MaineDOT as a partner. While MaineDOT will continue to evaluate requests for planning studies and engineering assessments during its annual Work Plan process, the VPI program is intended to be **simple, flexible, and fast-moving for new economic development** and other high-priority proposals. MaineDOT will respond to regional and local interests, economic opportunities, and safety needs whenever possible, while ensuring the public gets good value for its tax dollars. Municipalities, Regional Planning Organizations, other transportation stakeholders and private entities may request or apply for VPIs. Since MaineDOT already provides discretionary transportation planning funds to MaineDOT's four Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO), VPIs are directed outside MPO planning boundaries. The VPI is for **planning activities only and is not intended for project design.**



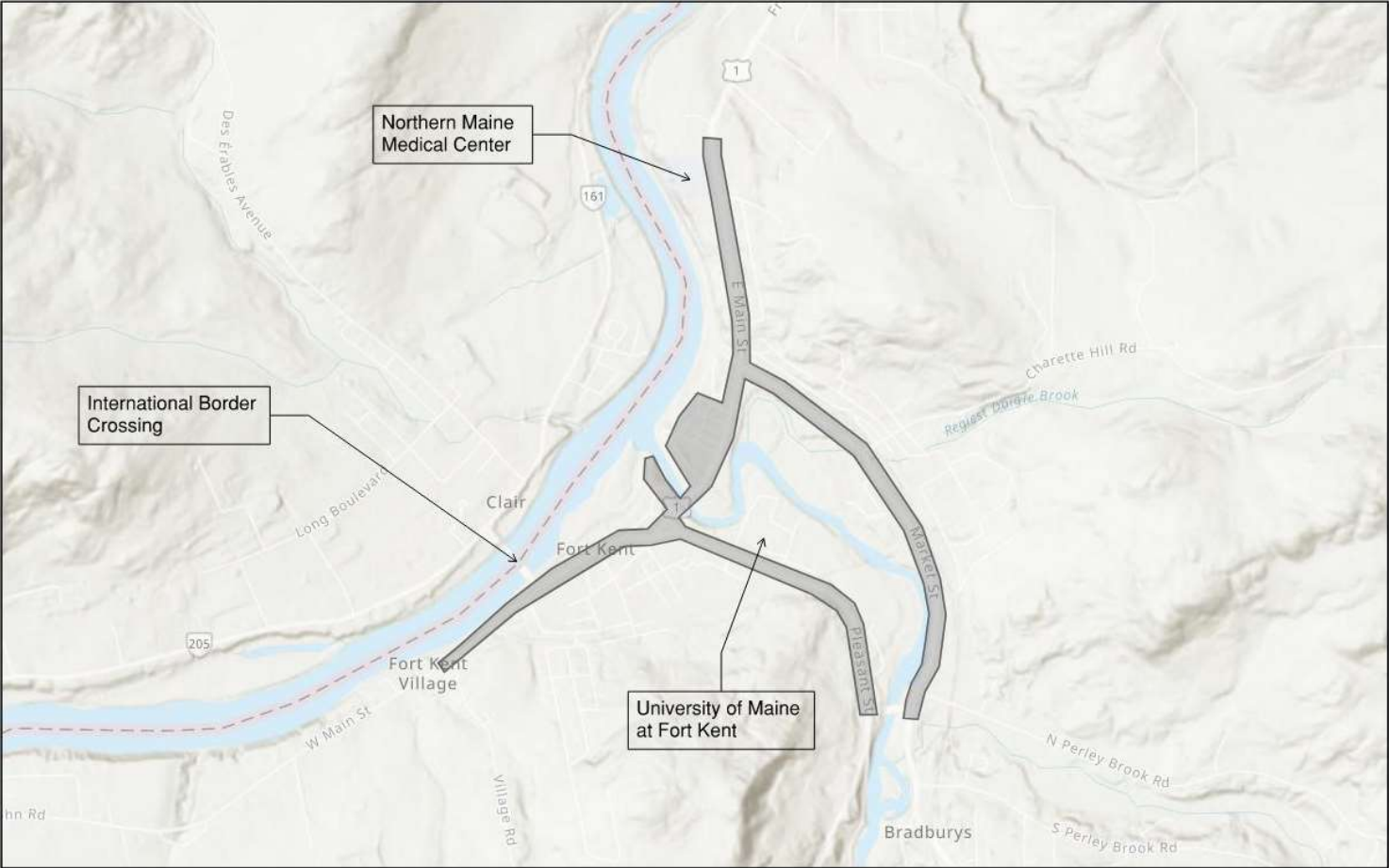
Study Team

- Town of Fort Kent and Northern Maine Development Commission (NMDC)
 - Suzie Paradis, Fort Kent Town Manager
 - Jay Kamm, NMDC Senior Planner
- MaineDOT Bureau of Planning
 - Jarod Farn-Guillette, Regional Planner and Tribal Liaison
- TYLin (Project Management, Traffic Engineering, Preliminary Design)
 - Tom Errico, PE, Project Manager
 - Chris Helstrom, PE, Senior Highway Engineer
 - Shawn Davis, PE, Quality Manager
- Razor Landscape Architecture (Streetscape Design)
 - Mitchell Razor, LAR, Principal

Project Location



Study Area





Purpose and Need Statement

The purpose of the study is to **improve accessibility and safety for all transportation modes** in Fort Kent while complementing local economic development strategies, goals, and objectives. The study will identify transportation improvements that **reduce congestion, improve pedestrian and traffic safety, complement long-range land use planning goals, and align with economic goals** for Fort Kent. This study will not only consider roadway safety and mobility issues, but also consider improvements to **active transportation**. It will also look at **aesthetic design features to enhance the village look, feel, and character of historic Fort Kent Village** and anticipate current growth trends and development. The proposed recommendations will be supported by reasonably available local, state, and federal funding.



Study Scope of Work

- **Assessment of Current Conditions (Completed)**

- Analysis of current traffic conditions within the study area
- Identification of bicycle and pedestrian deficiencies, vulnerable uses of the transportation system, and equity concerns
- Character area mapping and identification of existing community assets
- Existing land-use pattern analysis and identification of potential changes based on development projections
- ADA compliance analysis and identification of impacted facilities
- Identification of existing historical and environmental resources
- Development of existing conditions technical memorandum



Study Scope of Work

- **Project Kickoff Meeting and Safety Audit (Completed)**
 - Identification of local issues and economic development opportunities
 - Site walk and review of existing safety concerns
 - Review of previous related studies and planning efforts
 - Identification of gaps in existing data and information to be collected
 - Development of approach to public outreach

- **Review Available Data (Completed)**
 - MaineDOT Traffic Counts and Crash History
 - Fort Kent Zoning and Land Use Ordinances
 - Historic properties, wetlands, and other environmental resources
 - MaineDOT plans for signal upgrades and pedestrian improvements at Main Street/Market Street and Main Street/Pleasant Street intersections



Study Scope of Work

- **First Public Listening Session (Completed)**

- Public engagement is a key element of the Village Partnership Initiative
- Educating the public and soliciting meaningful feedback is essential to reaching consensus and developing recommendations that both meet the Town's needs and are well positioned to leverage grant funding for construction
- Results of safety audit and existing conditions assessment presented, highlighting technical deficiencies and potential areas for improvement
- Site photos and open forum were used to facilitate discussion and generate ideas



Study Scope of Work

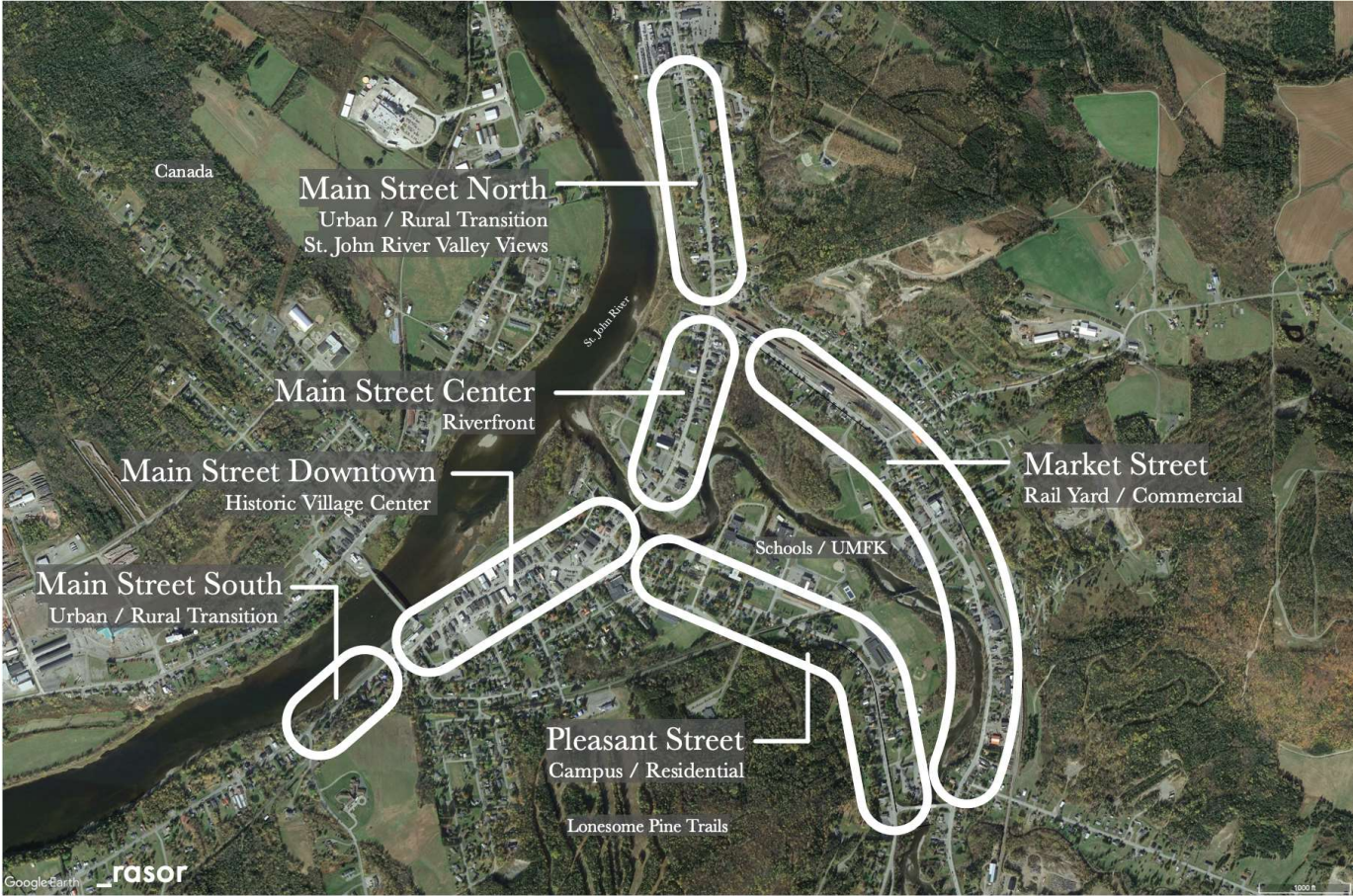
- **Assessment of Future Scenarios (In Progress)**

- Intersection and access management improvements
- ADA compliance and pedestrian safety upgrades
- Revised typical sections on Pleasant Street and Market Street
 - Enhancements to “The Mills”, a popular local walking route
 - New multi-use path with esplanade provides increased safety and connectivity
 - Narrower roadway template promotes traffic calming
- Reconfiguration of Monument Square and Hannaford Entrance
 - Monument Square (currently a one-way street) closed to add parking and greenspace at Library
 - Entrance to Hannaford narrowed for improved access management and pedestrian safety
 - Improved pedestrian connectivity between Pleasant Street and Main Street

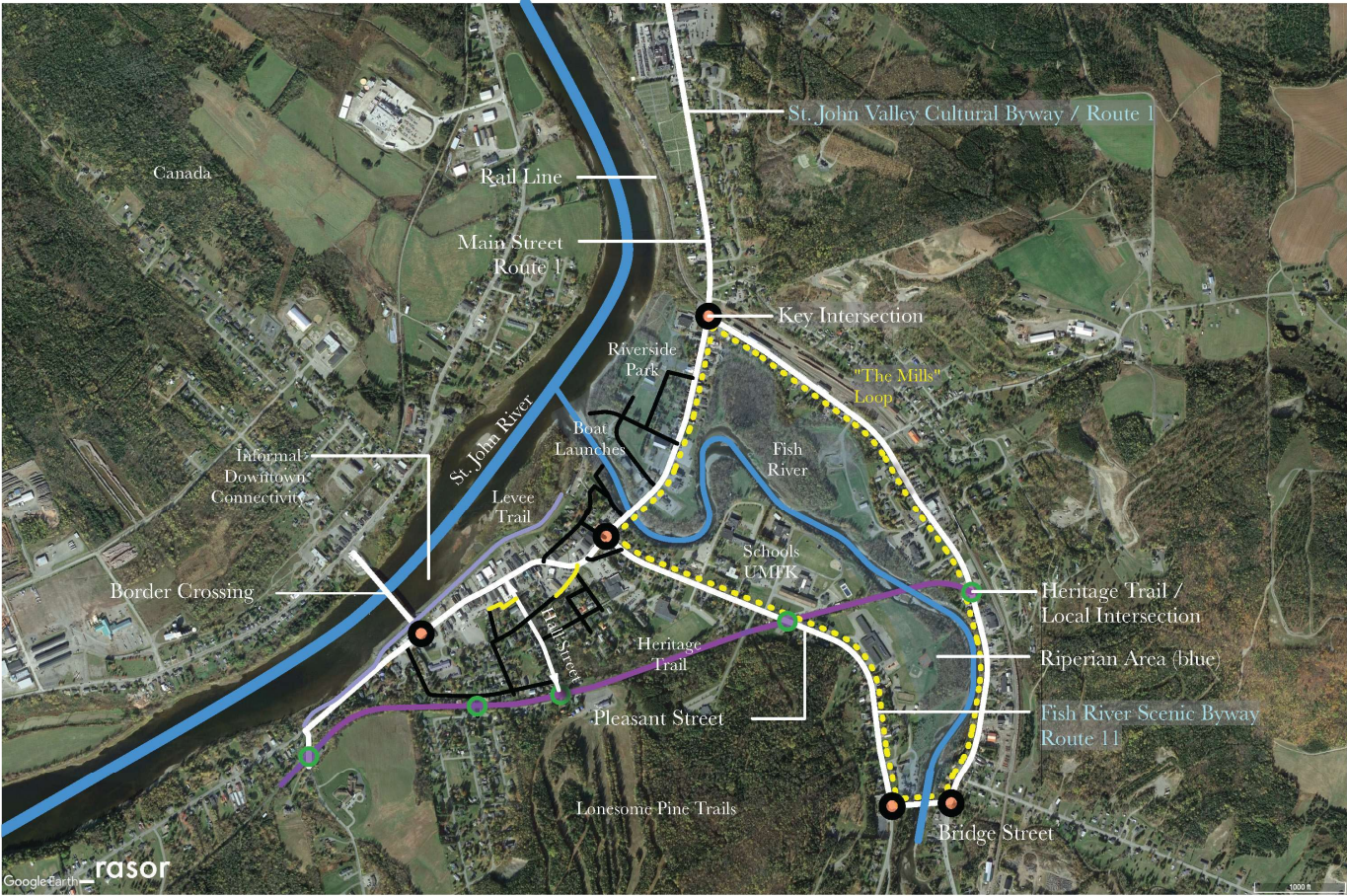
- **Second Public Listening Session (Pending)**

- Review Draft Recommendations

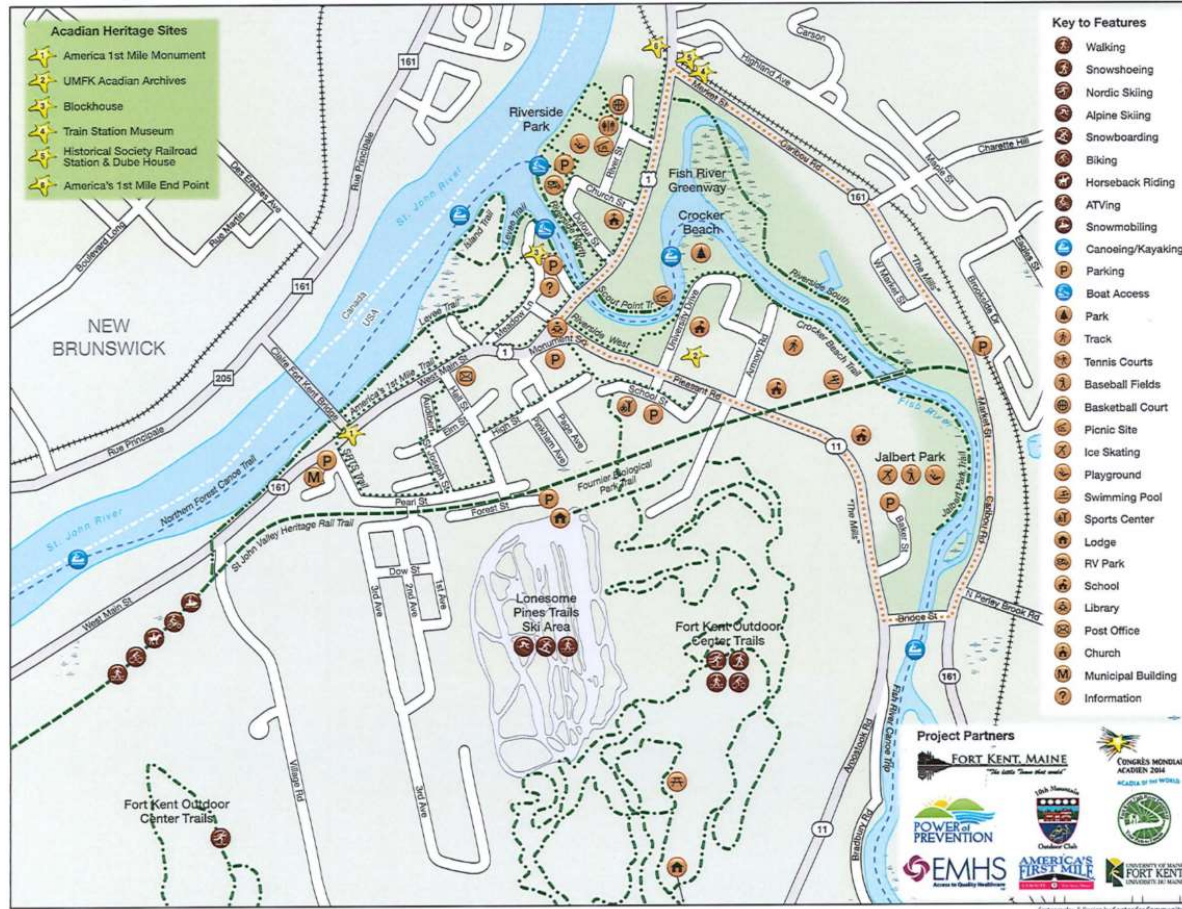
Character Areas



Connectivity



Fort Kent Fish River Greenway



Existing Conditions



Existing Conditions



Existing Conditions



Existing Conditions



Existing Conditions



Existing Conditions



Existing Conditions



Existing Conditions



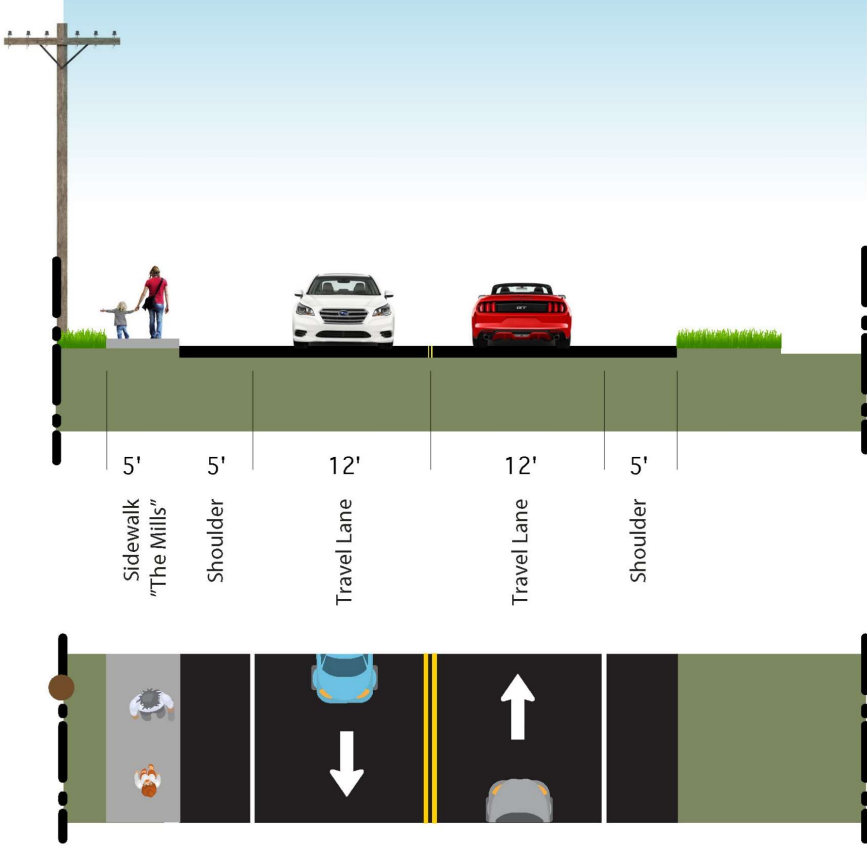
Existing Conditions



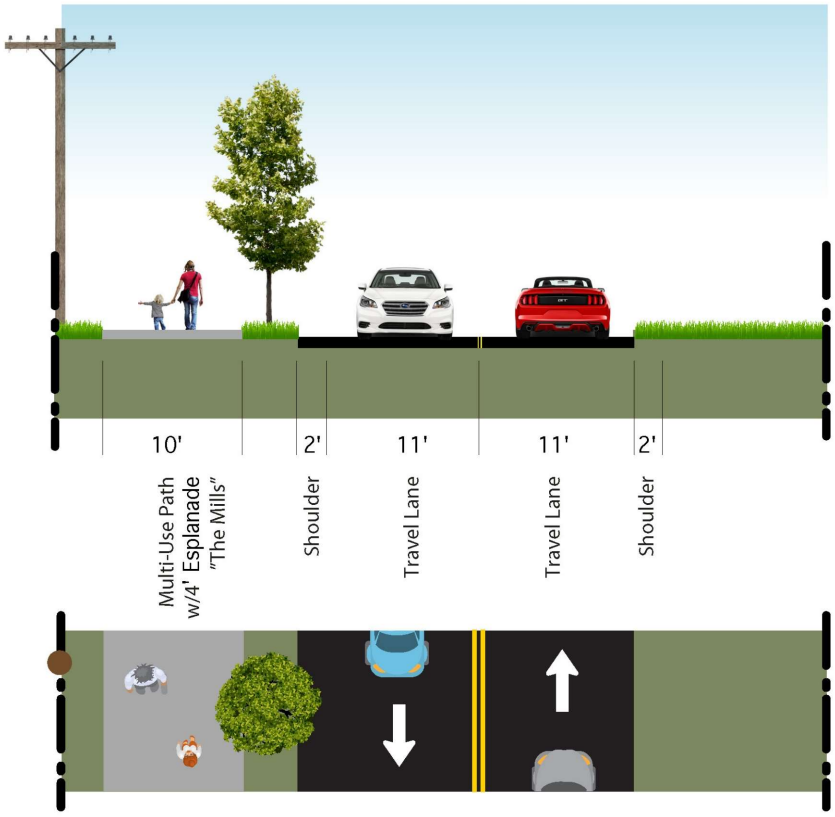
Existing Conditions



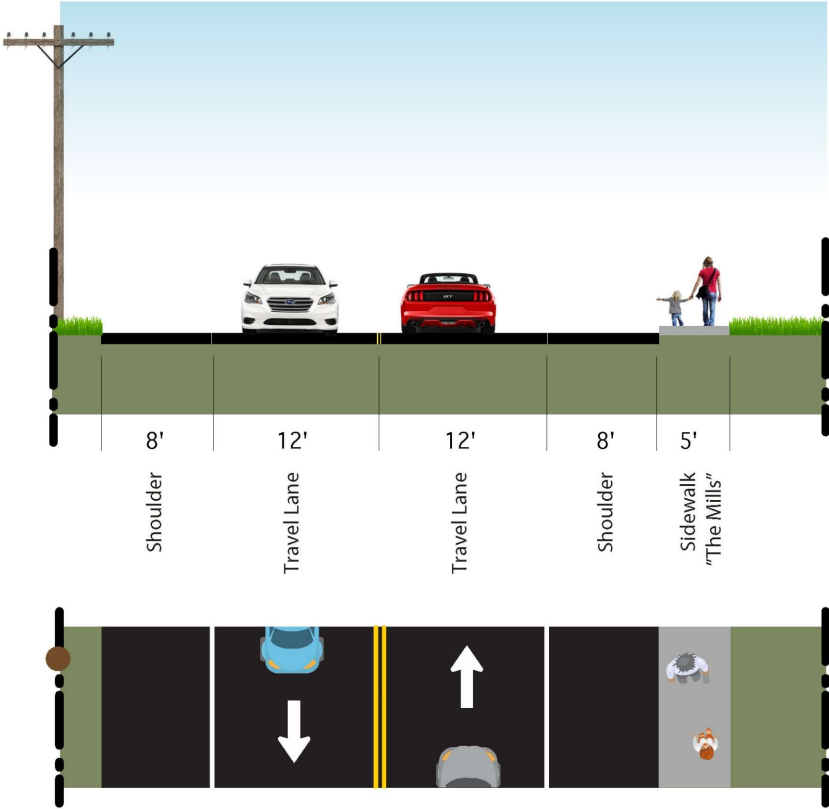
Pleasant Street – Existing Section



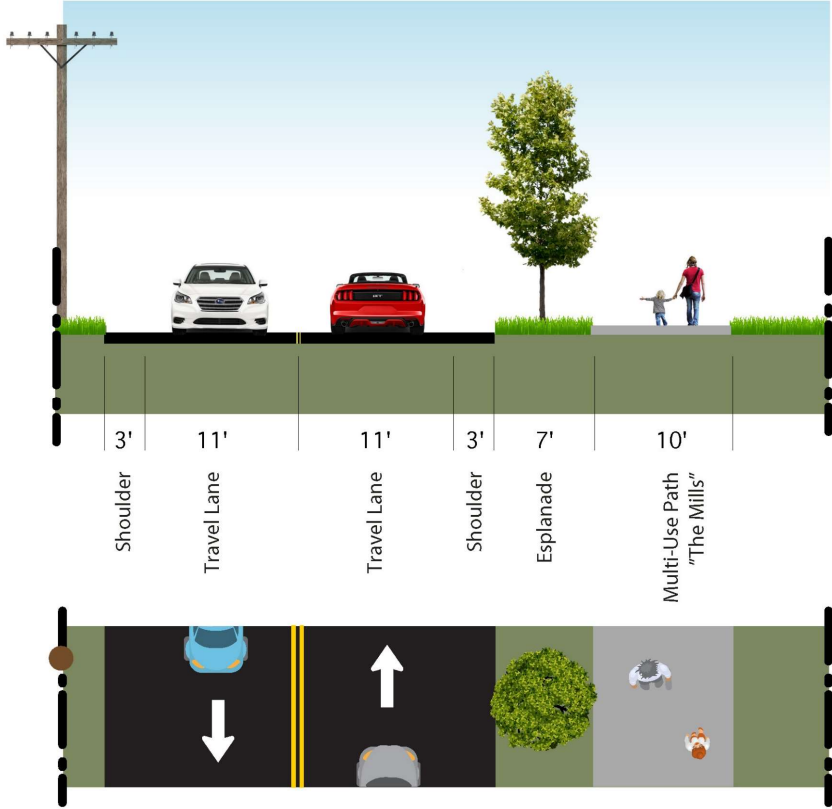
Pleasant Street – Proposed Section



Market Street – Existing Section



Market Street – Proposed Section



Market Street – Existing Perspective



Market Street – Proposed Perspective



Library/Park – Existing Conditions



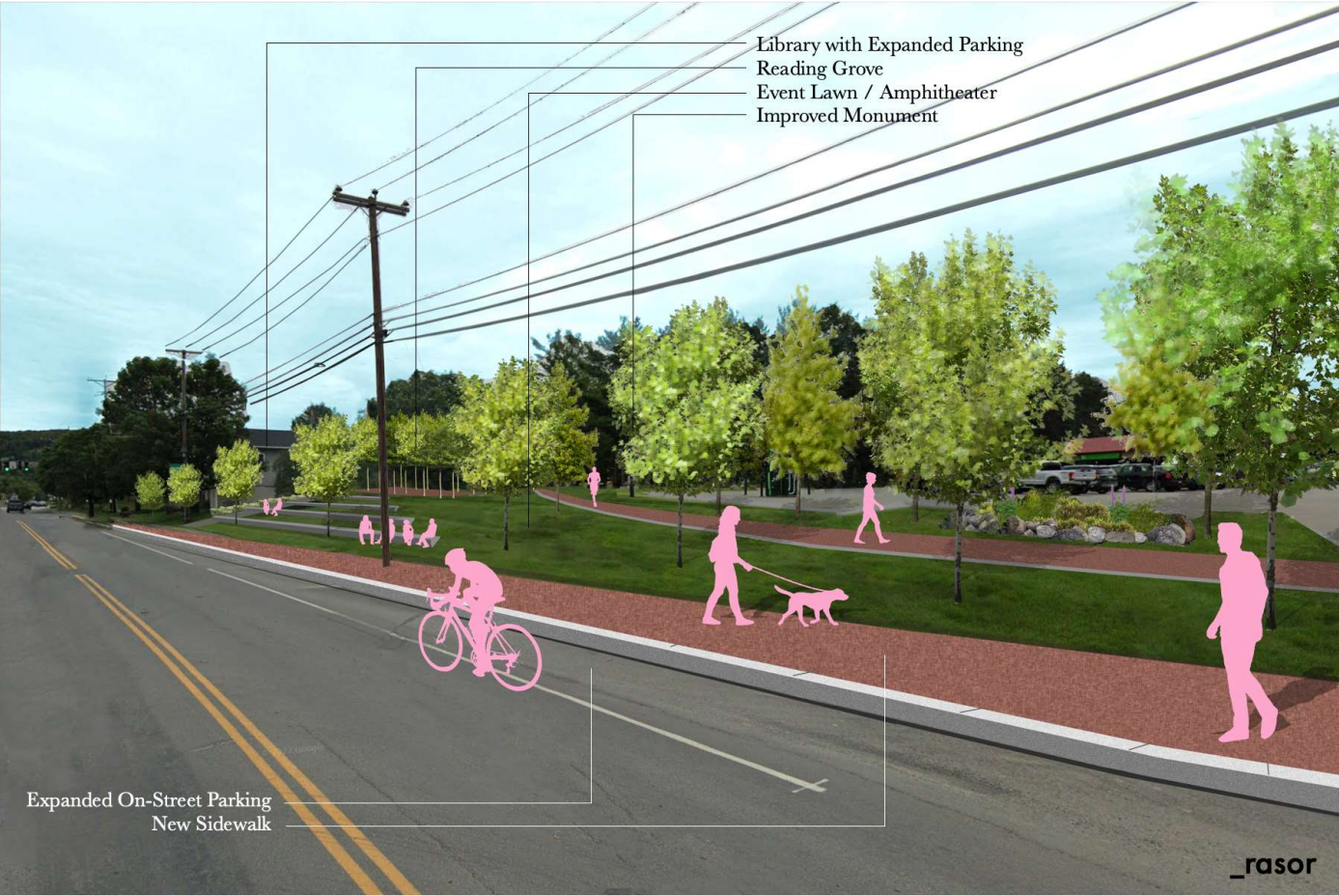
Library/Park – Concept Improvements



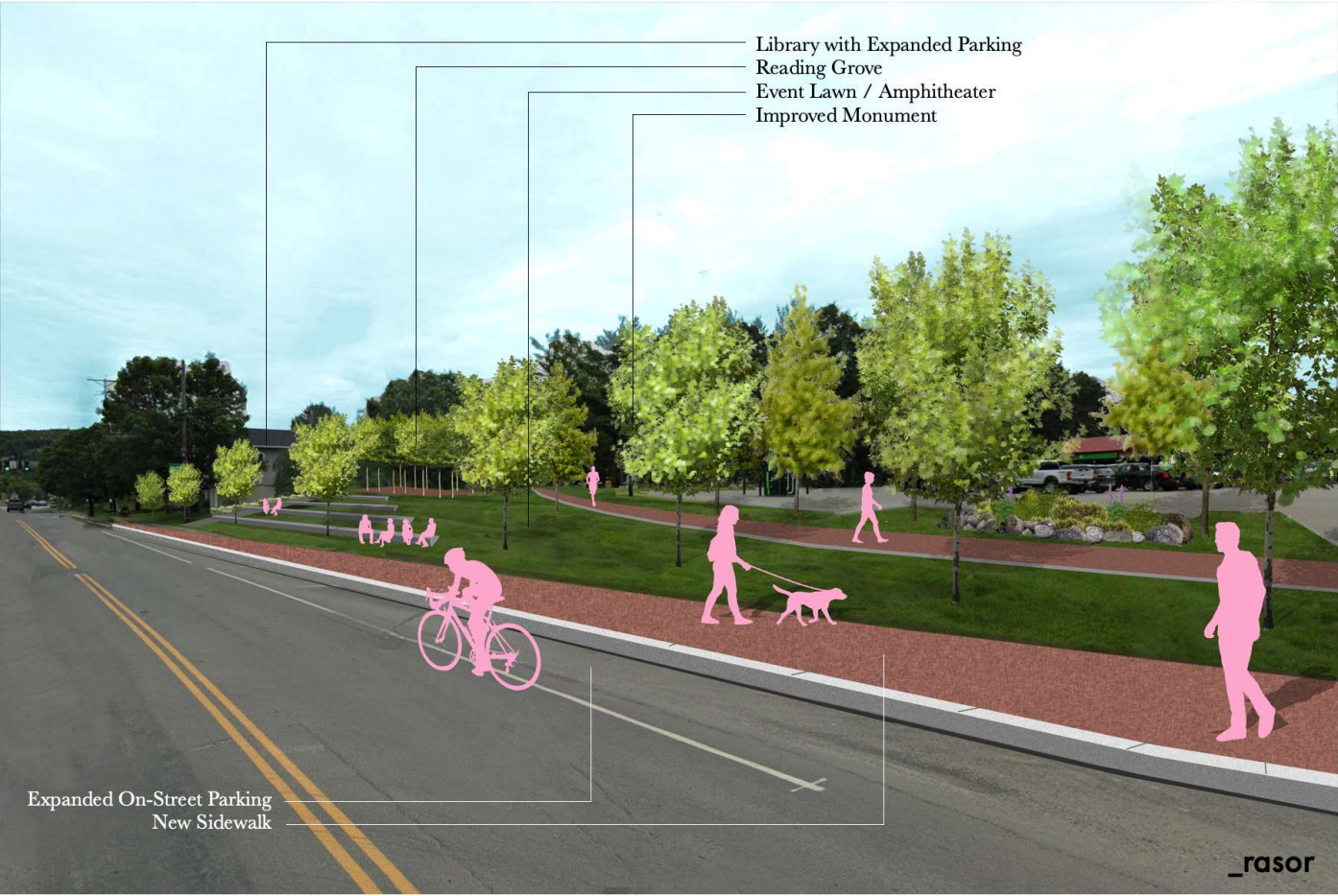
Library/Park – Existing Conditions



Library/Park – Concept Improvements



Library/Park – Concept Improvements





Next Steps

- Consider Feedback from December 5th Public Meeting
- Develop Draft Recommendations
- Host Second Public Meeting
- Prepare Draft of Final Report (with cost estimates)
- Submit Final Report (June 2024)
- Seek Funding Opportunities for Implementation



Thank You

Suzie Paradis, Town Manager

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