



YORK

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Comp Plan Open House

A Deeper Dive into York Today

September 19, 2021

York Community Auditorium

KARL F. SEIDMAN | CONSULTING
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LEVINE PLANNING STRATEGIES
Tools for Building Communities

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

A Comprehensive
Plan acts like a
blueprint for a
community.



The plan looks at various aspects of town life to assess issues and create policies for the future.





In Maine every community has different priorities, so the State set up guidelines to help create a unified plan.



These guidelines identify various topic areas to be included to make the plan truly comprehensive.



13 Topic Areas



**HISTORIC +
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
RESOURCES**



MARINE RESOURCES



**PUBLIC
FACILITIES +
SERVICES**



WATER RESOURCES



**POPULATION +
DEMOGRAPHICS**



TRANSPORTATION



NATURAL RESOURCES



ECONOMY



**EXISTING
LAND USE**



**AGRICULTURE +
FOREST RESOURCES**



HOUSING



**FISCAL CAPACITY +
CAPITAL
INVESTMENT PLAN**



RECREATION

These topic areas come together to create the comprehensive plan



Goals for York's Comprehensive Plan



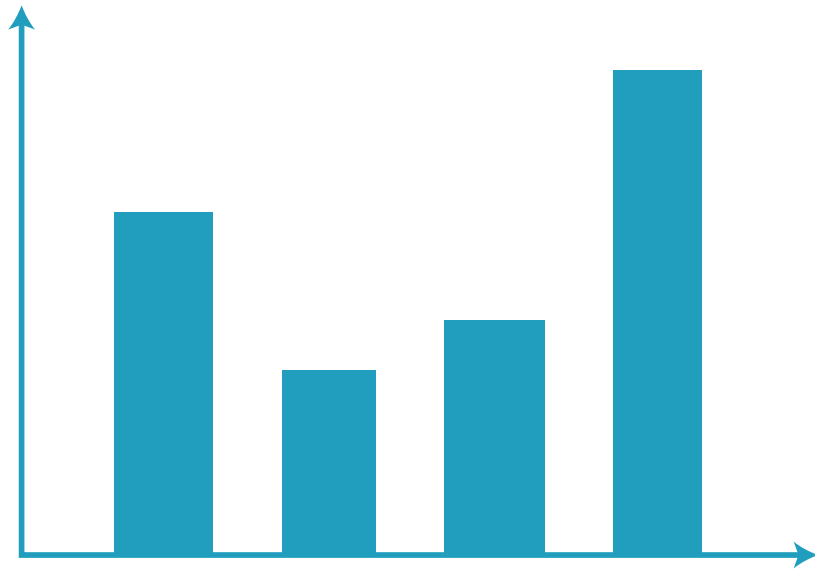
Create a user friendly and concise update to the previous plan.

Goals for York's Comprehensive Plan



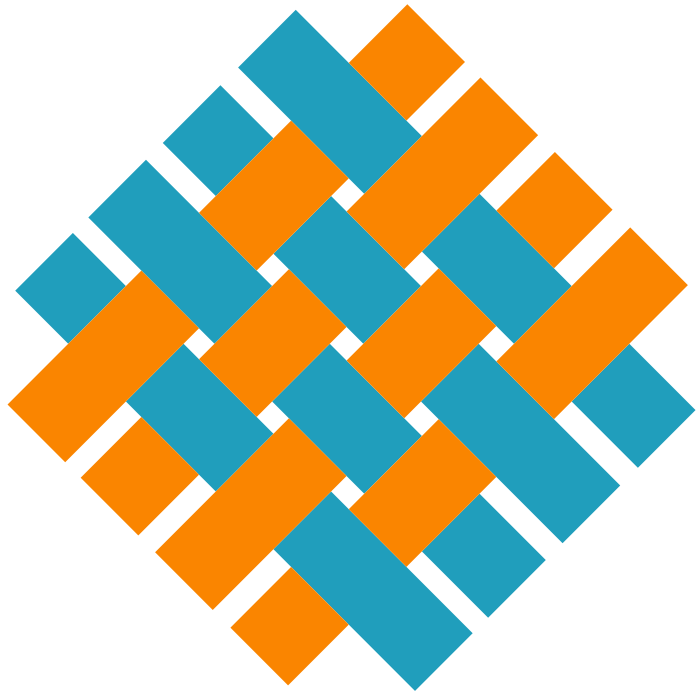
Establish a vision for the future, with goals to obtain that vision.

Goals for York's Comprehensive Plan



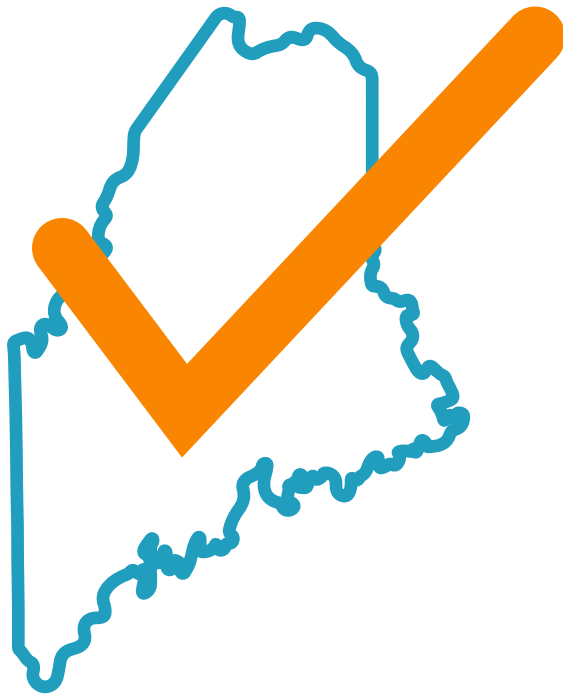
Create data-driven strategies and clear metrics for success

Goals for York's Comprehensive Plan



Weave sustainability and equity throughout plan elements

Goals for York's Comprehensive Plan



Meet State criteria for a comprehensive plan.

Meet the Planning Team

Town of York

Planning Board

Town Staff

**Comprehensive Plan
Steering Committee**

Board of Selectmen

Consultant Team

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LEVINE PLANNING STRATEGIES
Tools for Building Communities

YOU!

Focus Groups

Surveys

Interviews

Public Events

Mailing Lists

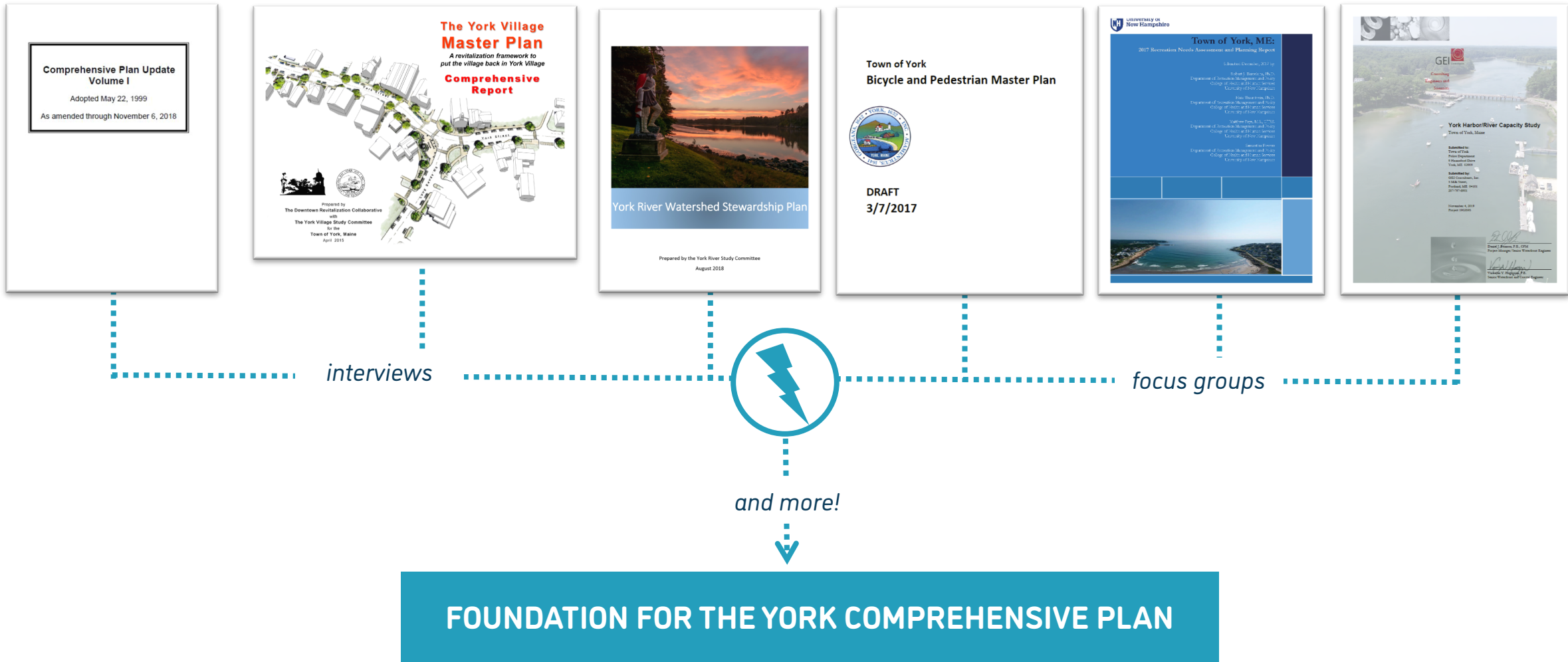
CompPlan.net



What We Have Been Working On

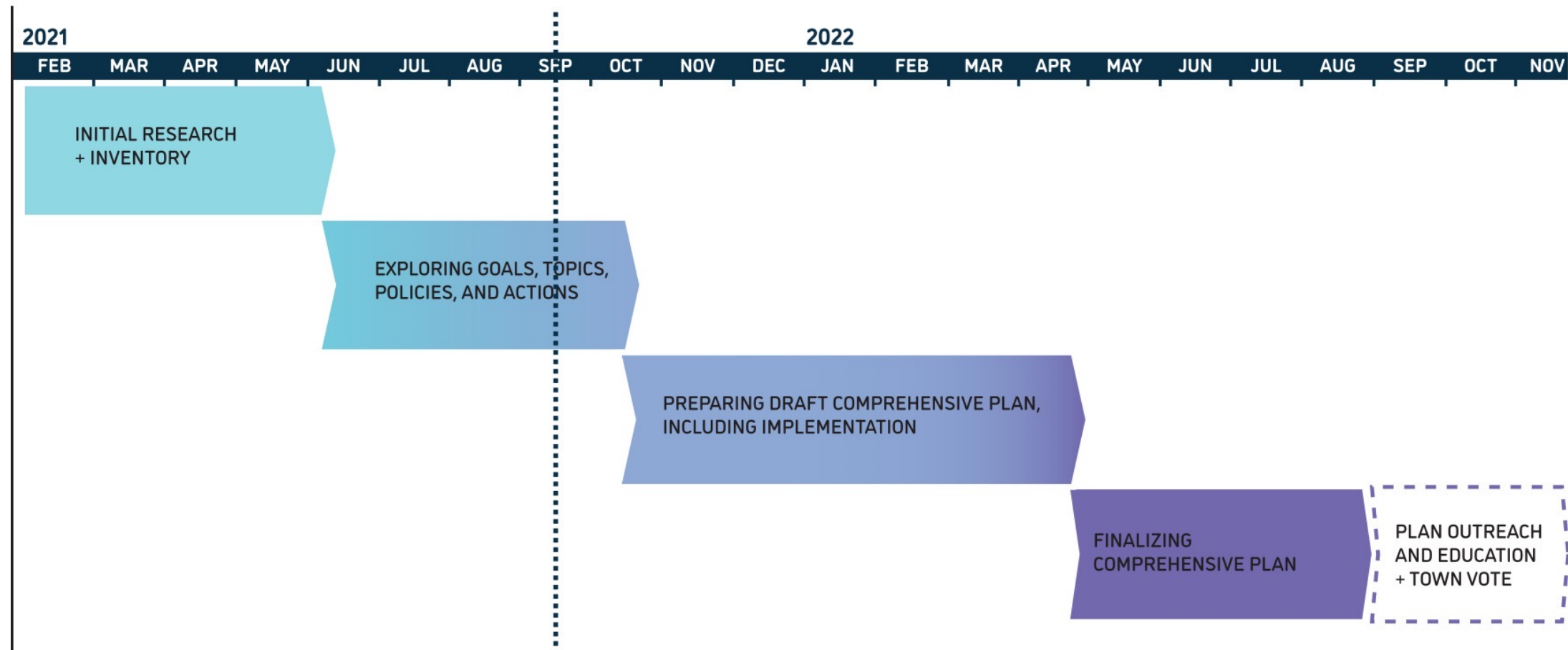
Reviewing and synthesizing information from past town, regional, and state plans, a deep dive of existing conditions, analysis of relevant data, interviews and discussions with stakeholders

What We Have Been Working On



Project Timeline

We're here!



Five Themes We Are Hearing



Climate Change



Tourist Season
Management



Housing



Natural
Resources



Town
Compartmentalism/
Capacity

CivicMoxie



Housing

- Continued growth in older residential population
- Seasonal housing units approximately 35% of housing stock, and trending upward
- Few choices for older residents to “age in community”



Housing (cont.)

- Unaffordable for many young families
- Hard to attract workers because of high housing costs
- Covid-19 illustrated that York tends to draw higher income people – this will accelerate current trends



Natural Resources (cont.)

- Coast/beach/ocean, forests, rivers and streams are key town amenities and identifying characteristics
- Natural features are key elements of York's visitor economy and robust property tax base



Natural Resources

- There is high value of the natural areas in the way they offset carbon emissions in town
- Balance is needed...for recreation, conservation, and water-based industries' access to and use of the resources



Tourist Season Management

- A recurring theme is impact and management of congestion at peak demand times:
 - Transportation and congestion
 - Resident access to businesses and services/amenities
 - Water supply (York Water District)
 - Natural resources (marine in particular but also trails, open spaces, and beaches)



Climate Change

- Impacts of climate change, including Sea Level Rise (SLR), drought, extreme temperatures, and inland precipitation-based flooding:
 - Risks to resident safety and well-being
 - Property tax base is vulnerable
 - Facilities, infrastructure, and services (wastewater treatment, emergency services, and neighborhood access, etc.) are vulnerable
 - Impacts on tourism-economy



Town Compartmentalism/Capacity

- Town Hall is under-resourced compared to towns of similar size, demographics and tax base
- Mount A and forest lands, as well as conservation lands, are under varied ownership and management
- Many parks in York are not Town-owned
- Buildings used for Town recreation are owned by other entities



Town Compartmentalism/Capacity (cont.)

- Transportation connections are segmented and disconnected (bike paths, sidewalks, trails, dead-end roads)
- Of the four beaches in York, only one – Short Sands – is owned by the Town
- There are three water districts and sewer districts, all outside of the Town's direct control
- There are two fire departments serving the town



Town Compartmentalism/Capacity (cont.)

- Affordable housing efforts are led by an entity separate from the Town (with Town support)
- Community services are provided by an entity separate from the Town (with Town support)
- Historic preservation efforts are led by outside entities (with Town support)
- Most grants/implementation of programs and initiatives are led by outside entities



Tonight's Event

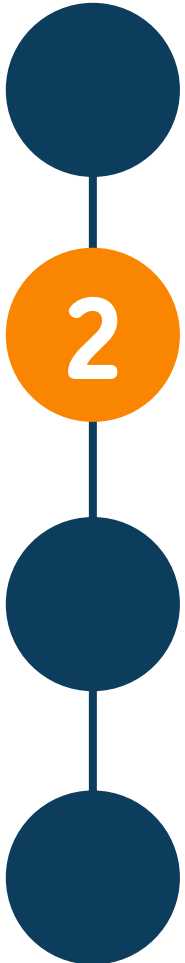
Where Do We Go From Here?

1

Step 1.

Visit stations, leave comments, ask questions – pay particular attention to “things to think about”

Where Do We Go From Here?



Step 2.

When you hear the announcement, find a round table in the foyer, café, or multi-purpose room and participate in a discussion with your neighbors



Where Do We Go From Here?

Step 3.

Return here to the auditorium to report back on your discussions, listen to our next steps for the planning process, and ask your questions

3

Where Do We Go From Here?



Step 4.

Tell us your plan priority on your way out



Where Do We Go From Here? (summary)

1

Visit stations, leave comments, ask questions

2

Find a round table and discuss

3

Report back on your discussions in auditorium; Q&A

4

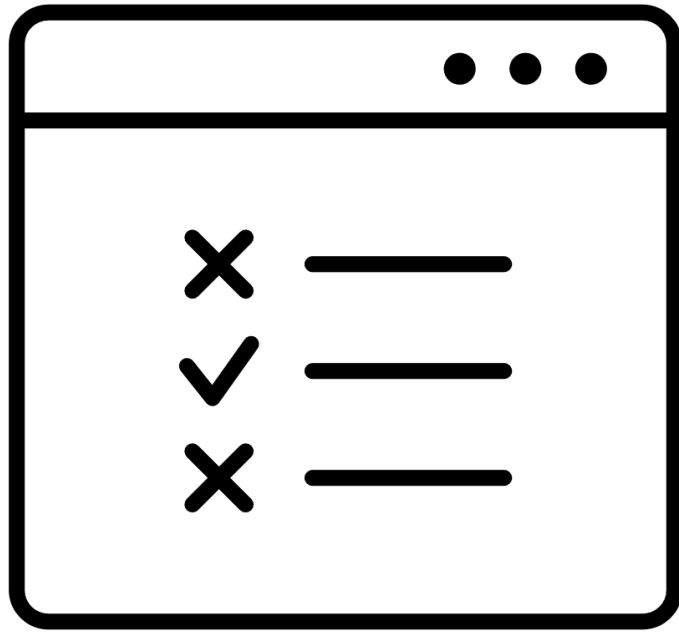
Tell us your plan priority on your way out



What's Next?

Town-wide Survey!

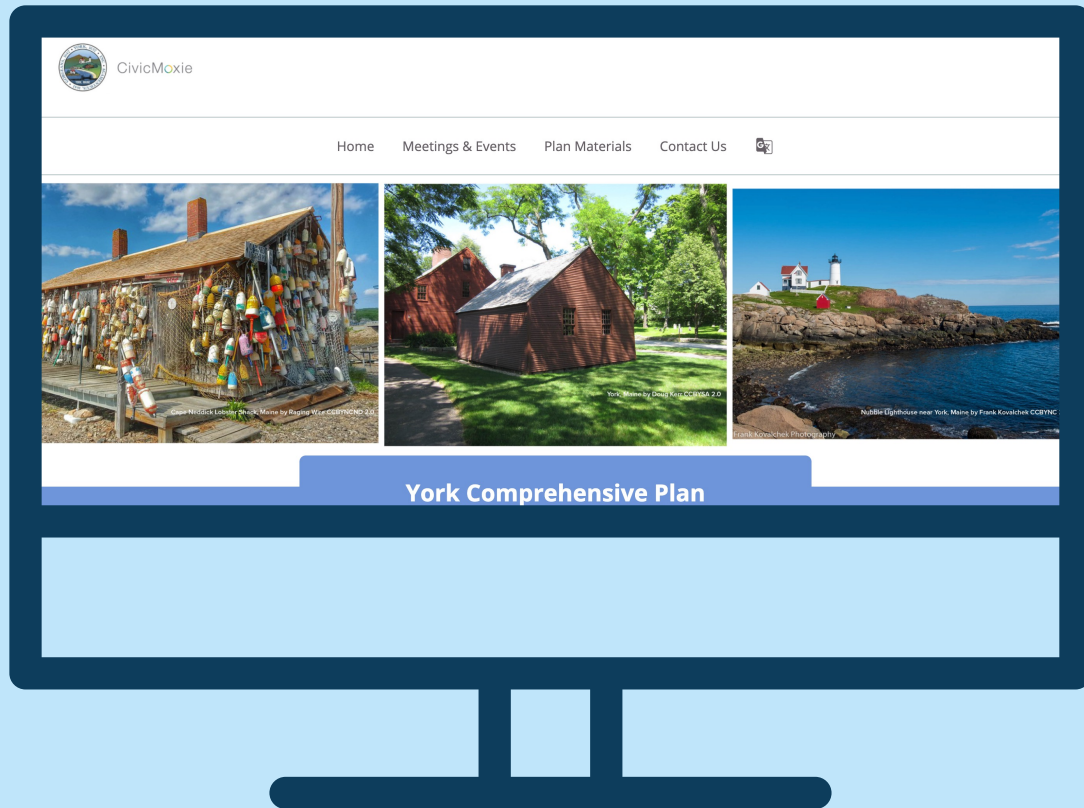
Watch for a postcard in the mail



***Please complete the
survey online or get
paper copies at Town
Hall starting in mid
October***

Share your ideas on the project website!

CompPlan.net



Add a comment on the project website, mark the map, and look at the results from Comp Plan events!

Save the Date!

*Sunday, November 14th
2–4 PM at the Public Library*

Join us to discuss possible goals and strategies!

Visit the website for more information: CompPlan.net





Thank you!

CompPlan.net
www.yorkmaine.org