



MIDDLETOWN
Rhode Island

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

TOWN OF MIDDLETOWN

350 East Main Road, Middletown, RI 02842

(401) 849-4027 | MiddletownRI.com

Memorandum

To: Hon. Paul M. Rodrigues, President
Town Council Members

From: Ron Wolanski, Town Planner

Thru: Town Administrator

Date: December 19, 2024

Re: RIPTA Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant & Middletown Safety Action Plan

The U.S. Department of Transportation awarded funding in 2023 to RIPTA under the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program to develop tools to help strengthen community approaches to roadway safety and to save lives. The program is funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law which will distribute \$5 billion over the next five years through its discretionary grant program for both planning and implementation. The current RIPTA project includes the development of safety action plans for municipalities throughout the state, including Middletown. Having a safety action plan in place will make the town eligible for implementation funding in future grant rounds to allow the town to complete its highest priority projects to improve safety for everyone using the town's streets. Work to complete the plan is progressing with the assistance of a local taskforce of town officials and residents and the consultants funded by the grant, Toole Design.

It should be noted that the Town also applied for and was awarded a \$100,000 SS4A planning grant in 2024. This funding will be used to expand upon the work of the RIPTA project, including focusing on specific projects that can be brought to a "shovel-ready" state of design.

During the Town Council's January 6th meeting the project consultant, Toole Design, will provide a presentation summarizing the work completed to date and the remaining steps needed to complete the plan, such as review and vetting of proposed action items. Also on January 6th the Town Council will be asked to pass a resolution expressing the Town's support for, and adoption of a Vision Zero policy. The resolution is an expression of the Town's commitment to work toward eliminating crashes that result in fatalities and serious injuries by 2034. Adoption of this resolution will further enhance the Town's ability to secure grant funding to complete important safety improvements.

Thank you for your consideration, please contact me with any questions.

Cc: Town Administrator
Finance Director
DPW Director

Middletown Town Council Presentation

Middletown, RI

January 6, 2025



Introductions

- Middletown Team
 - Ron Wolanski, Town Planner
 - Anita Guo, Principal Planner/GIS Manager
- Toole Design Team
 - Shawna Kitzman, Project Manager
 - Quinn Molloy, Project Planner
 - Support Staff



SS4A Program Goals

Overarching Goal

Significantly **reduce** and eventually **eliminate** fatalities and serious injuries across Rhode Island.

Specific Goals

Create an **implementable** Safety Action Plan (SAP) rooted in the Safe Systems Approach* for Middletown.

Prepare Middletown in their **ability to adapt** to known/emerging safety and mobility challenges for all modes of transportation.

Support multi-jurisdictional **collaboration** and regional **impact**.

Promote broad public involvement/**engagement** and **equitable access** to information for underserved and minority communities and low-income areas.

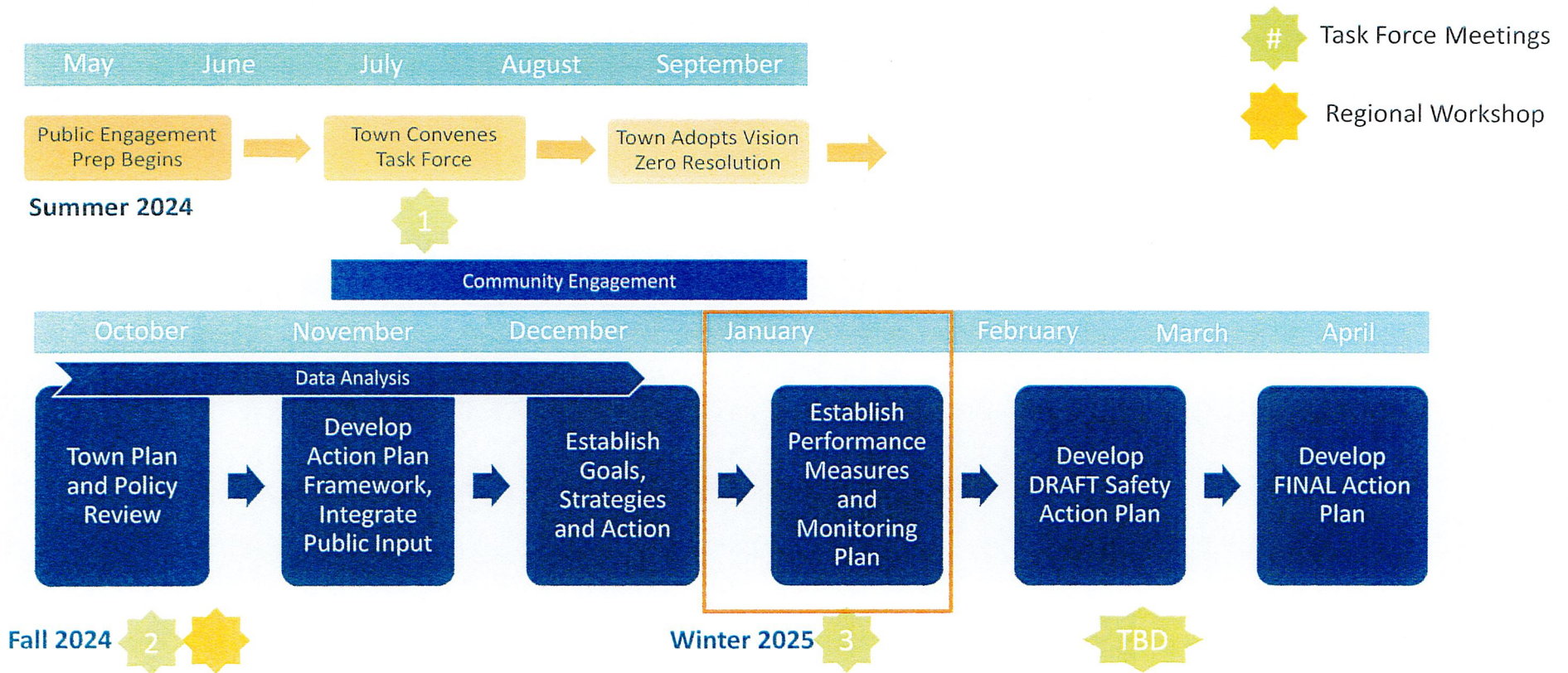
Keep Middletown in a position for continued SS4A implementation **funding eligibility**.

Safe System Approach and Speed Reduction



Source: Tefft, B. C. *Impact speed and a pedestrian's risk of severe injury or death. Accident Analysis & Prevention.* 50. 2013.

Plan Schedule



Data and Analysis

- Data will guide investment
 - Police crash reports provided by RIDOT
- Data = Crash data and community input
- Analytical products
 - Descriptive crash analysis
What types of crashes have happened?
 - High Injury Network
Where have serious crashes happened over time?
 - High Risk Network
Where are crashes likely to occur in the future?



Community Events by the Numbers

- Attended **7 Aquidneck Island** community events
- Spoke to **115+ people**
- 54 Middletown residents **completed the survey**
- And **6 supportive dogs** want safer streets for walking!



What We Heard

"People go
1,000 miles an
hour on
Wapping Road!"

"West Main
Road is deadly"

"We need
better lighting
at crossings"

"Add sidewalks
and crosswalks
near shops and
beaches"

"Drivers ignore
the rules of the
road"

"I would die if I
biked on the
island"

"It didn't surprise
me at all that a
pedestrian was
killed on Broadway"

"I would walk or
bike daily if it
wasn't so
dangerous!"

Key Takeaways

- **East Main Road** and **West Main Road** are continuously noted as the **top roads of concern**
- **Add sidewalks** to as many streets as possible
- Implement **protected bike lanes** to increase opportunities for people to safely bike
- **Improve education** for drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians
- **Slow vehicles** and enforce speeding and aggressive driving



Aquidneck Transportation Summit

- Representatives across Aquidneck in Middletown, Newport, and Portsmouth
- Goals included:
 - Facilitate discussion about safety solutions
 - Foster a regional approach
 - Gather input on draft Strategies



Safety Action Plan Components

The following components of SS4A will inform the Safety Action Plan Template:

1. Leadership Commitment and Goal Setting
2. Planning Structure
3. Safety Analysis
4. Engagement and Collaboration
5. Equity Considerations
6. Policy and Process Changes
7. Strategy and Project Selections
8. Progress and Transparency

Safe Streets and Roads for All Action Plan Components

This document is not meant to replace the NOFO. Applicants should follow the instructions in the NOFO to correctly apply for a grant. See the SS4A website for more information: <https://www.transportation.gov/SS4A>

Leadership Commitment and Goal Setting



An official public commitment (e.g., resolution, policy, ordinance, etc.) by a high-ranking official and/or governing body (e.g., Mayor, City Council, Tribal Council, MPO Policy Board, etc.) to an eventual goal of zero roadway fatalities and serious injuries. The commitment must include a goal and timeline for eliminating roadway fatalities and serious injuries achieved through one or both, of the following:

- (1) the target date for achieving zero roadway fatalities and serious injuries, OR
- (2) an ambitious percentage reduction of roadway fatalities and serious injuries by a specific date with an eventual goal of eliminating roadway fatalities and serious injuries.



Planning Structure

A committee, task force, implementation group, or similar body charged with oversight of the Action Plan development, implementation, and monitoring.



Safety Analysis

Analysis of existing conditions and historical trends that provides a baseline level of crashes involving fatalities and serious injuries across a jurisdiction, locality, Tribe, or region. Includes an analysis of locations where there are crashes and the severity of the crashes, as well as contributing factors and crash types by relevant road users (motorists, people walking, transit users, etc.). Analysis of systemic and specific safety needs is also performed, as needed (e.g., high-risk road features, specific safety needs of relevant road users, public health approaches, analysis of the built environment, demographic, and structural issues, etc.). To the extent practical, the analysis should include all roadways within the jurisdiction, without regard for ownership. Based on the analysis performed, a geospatial identification of higher-risk locations is developed (a High-Injury Network or equivalent).



Engagement and Collaboration

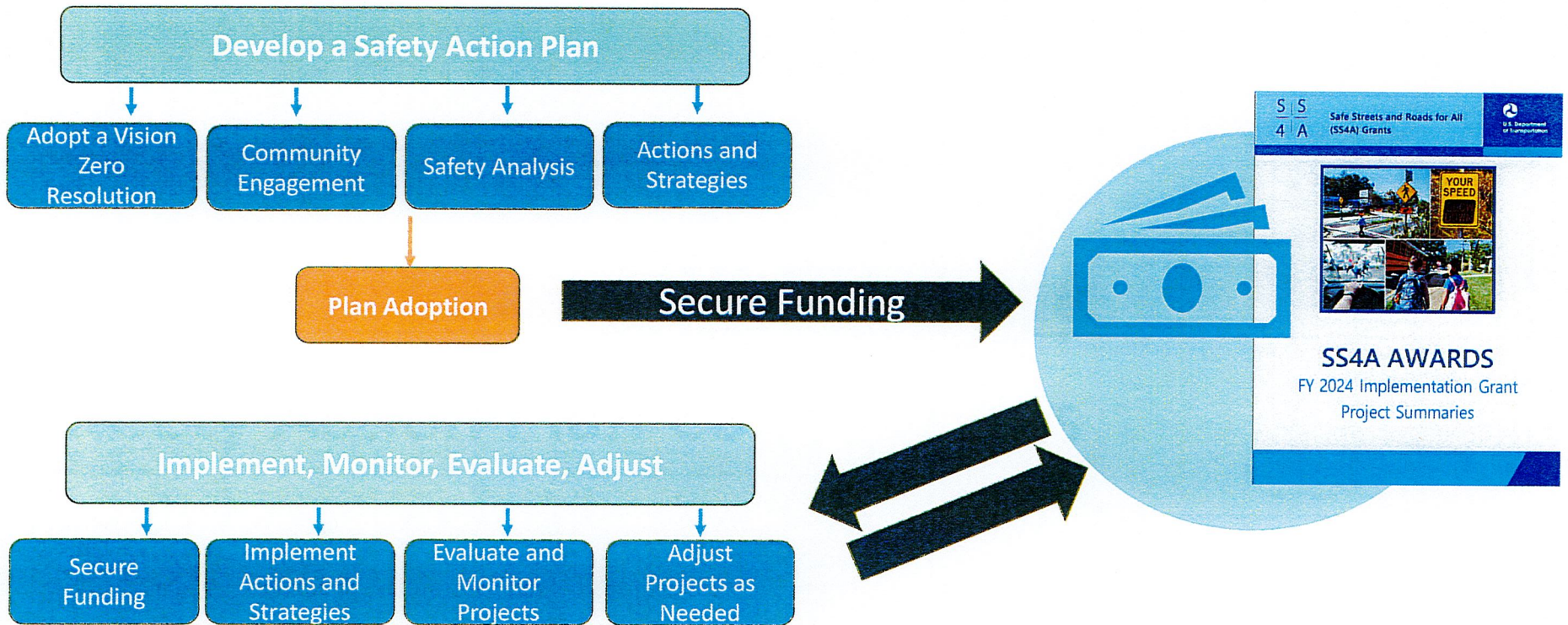
Robust engagement with the public and relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and community groups, that allows for both community representation and feedback. Information received from engagement and collaboration is analyzed and incorporated into the Action Plan. Overlapping jurisdictions are included in the process. Plans and processes are coordinated and aligned with other governmental plans and planning processes to the extent practical.



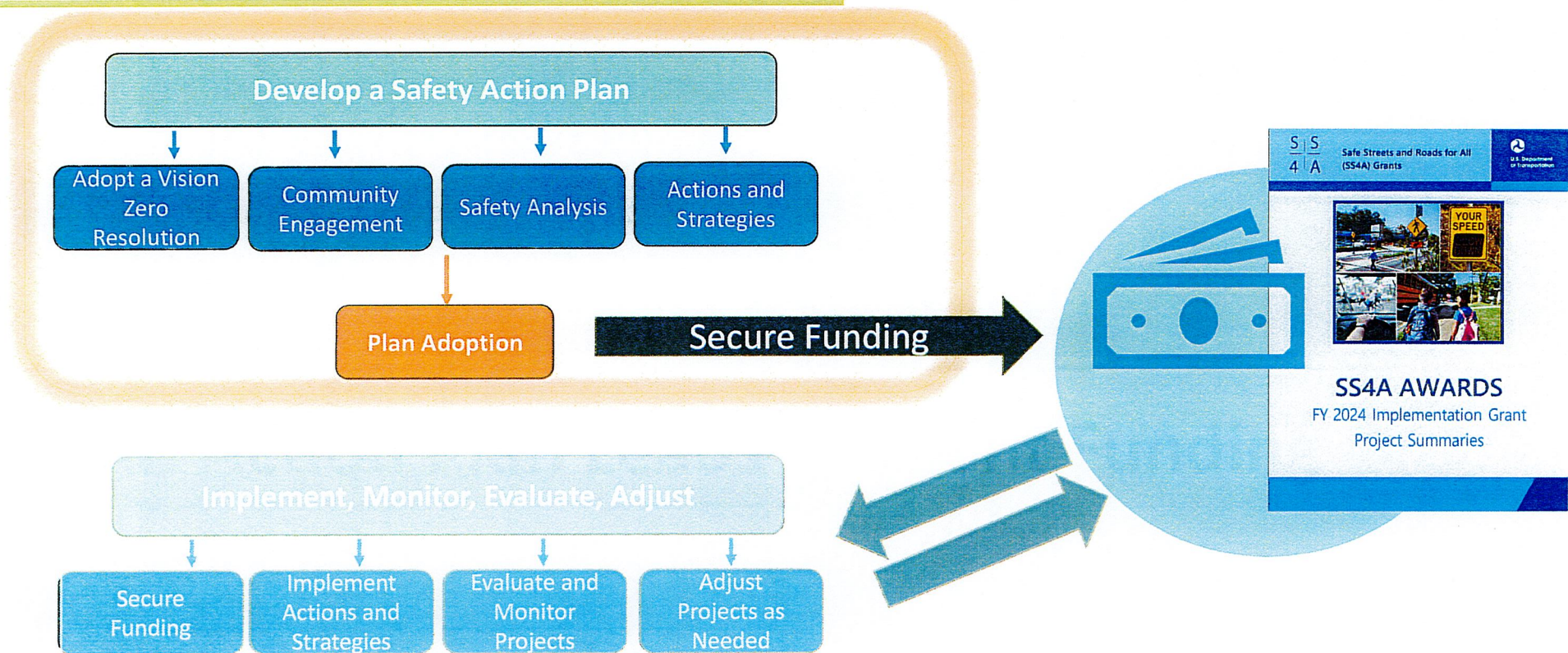
U.S. Department of Transportation

Safe Streets and Roads for All: The SS4A website
SS4A Action Plan Components | Page 1 of 2

An Action Plan Leads to Grant Funding



An Action Plan Leads to Grant Funding



Next Steps

- Finalize actions and strategies
 - Present recommendations to Town Council
- Develop draft of Safety Action Plan

Thank you! / Questions?

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