



Questions? Concerns?

Email downtownproject@townofvinalhaven.org

OR Contact

Andrew Dorr,
Town Manager
(207) 863-2042
townmanager@townofvinalhaven.org

Learn More

www.townofvinalhaven.org/capital-projects

Vinalhaven Downtown Project

What is the Downtown Project?

The Town of Vinalhaven will launch an extensive infrastructure construction project in and along the .6 mile long corridor spanning from the ferry terminal to Water Street. This series of coordinated capital improvements is based on the recommendations of the Downtown Master Plan, and is scheduled to begin in the early spring of 2022.

The overall goal of the Downtown Project is to improve the function and resilience of Main Street, which will help make walking, driving, working, living, and doing business easier, safer, and more efficient for everyone. The project is funded through town reserves, a contribution from the Vinalhaven Water District and state and federal grants. The details of the Downtown Project will be finalized this fall and winter (November 2021 – March 2022), but the major components of the project are listed on the following page.

How much will the project cost and who is paying for it?

Over the past two years, the Town has been successful in securing both state and federal grants to fund the Downtown Project. These grants along with a significant contribution from the Vinalhaven Water District plus monies from the Town's reserve accounts will enable the four defined components of this project to move forward without the need to borrow additional funds. It is still uncertain if and how additional expanded project components will be fully funded, but it is the goal of the Select Board to use town reserve funds and state and federal grants to cover costs.

Project Budget

ESTIMATED Total Project Cost: \$5,734,000

Total APPROVED Grants, Contributions, Reserves*: \$5,191,476

Total POTENTIAL Grants, Contributions, Reserves*: \$542,524

**Detail of Grants, Contributions, Reserves*

Total State Grants (Maine Department of Transportation): \$625,000

Total Federal Grants (Economic Development Administration & Northern Borders Regional Commission): \$2,875,316

Total Water District Contribution: \$500,000

Town Reserve Fund Allocation (Road and Sidewalk Reserves): \$1,191,160

POTENTIAL State Grants: \$250,000

POTENTIAL Town Allocation: \$292,524

When is the Downtown Project going to happen?

Preliminary surveying and engineering will be conducted late fall 2021 and public information and outreach events will begin December 2021.

Construction is expected to start early spring 2022. Construction with the potential to disrupt the busy summer season will be scheduled to avoid negatively impacting business during July and August. All major construction is expected to be completed by the end of 2023, barring unforeseen delays and material and labor shortages.

Vinalhaven Downtown Project

Project Components



1 Upgrading Stormwater Infrastructure

- a** Constructing and renovating the drainage system along Main Street to reduce flooding of businesses, street, and parking areas.

2 Replacing Public Sewer and Water Utilities

- b** Renovating and improving critical components of the sewer system along Main Street as recommended by the Sewer Climate Adaptation Plan.
- c** Replacing the 1908 Cast iron water main along Main Street.

3 Improving Main Street

- d** Reconstructing Main Street to accommodate new sidewalks and a drainage system to prevent flooding and reduce the impact to business owners.

Sidewalk construction, crosswalk indicators, ADA improvements, pavement markings and traffic calming elements to aid in pedestrian movements and sea level rise issues along Main Street.

- e** Reconstructing critical intersections at Clam Shell Alley and Water Street to improve safety and resiliency.

4 Upgrade Downtown Parking Lot and Improve Boat Launch

- f** Reconstructing downtown parking lot to reduce flooding.
- g** Improving the downtown boat launch.
- h** Repair/replace bulkheads along downtown parking lot.

5 Prepare Net Factory Site for Eventual Repurposing

- i** Relocate Water District Offices and renovate existing structure for project support needs.

6 Improve Working Waterfront

- j** Improve Fish Plant commercial boat launch.
- k** Repair/replace bulkheads along Fish Plant parking lot.

It is possible the Town may be awarded additional federal grant funding which could allow an expansion of the downtown project, possibly including, but not limited to, town sewer and water upgrades. Details about this possible project expansion are expected to be finalized by spring of 2022.

Vinalhaven Downtown Project

Why is the Town doing this project?

Aged infrastructure is a problem throughout the state and the nation; Vinalhaven is no exception. For many years now, the condition and lack of sidewalks on Main Street has been an issue for the community as has the inadequate drainage. In addition, the 1908 cast iron water main is ready to be replaced. Flooding due to sea level rise and more intense and frequent storms will become an increasing challenge and these improvements will mitigate nuisance floods.

The Downtown Project is based on the 2019 Downtown Master Plan, which recommends prioritized capital projects designed to meet community values and infrastructure needs covering the next 20 to 30 years. The Master Plan recommendations are founded on numerous studies and reports, the ideas and concerns of over 95 Main Street business and property owners, as well as community groups and organizations. The Master Planning Process was overseen by a board appointed nine-member Downtown Committee responsible for drafting the Master Plan.

Whether or not we work or live on Main Street, we all use and access the services provided there. The infrastructure improvements included in the Downtown Project are designed to benefit all of Vinalhaven by providing what we need to stay safe, make a living, and make a life here on the island.

Who can I talk to about this project?

*Send general questions and concerns to
downtownproject@townofvinalhaven.org
or contact*

Andrew Dorr, Town Manager
(207) 863-2042
townmanager@townofvinalhaven.org

Direct questions and concerns about Water Main construction to the Vinalhaven Water District

Will Calkins, Superintendent
(207) 975-2189

wcalkins@mainewater.com
or

Pam Alley, Water District Chair
(207) 863-2530
psflyingcow@yahoo.com

If you have specific questions and concerns related to project engineering...

Schedule a conversation with Brent Bridges, contract engineer at Woodard & Curran, by contacting
downtownproject@townofvinalhaven.org

How can I learn more?

Visit the Town's Capital Projects webpage
www.townofvinalhaven.org/capital-projects

Read the 2019 Downtown Master Plan or
The Downtown Master Plan Summary
available to download at
www.townofvinalhaven.org/downtown-committee

