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. Initially scheduled for spring 2022, it is now expected to begin spring 2023.

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. See the following page for components of the Downtown Project listed by funder.

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 components of this project to move forward without the need to borrow additional funds.

Project Budget
ESTIMATED Total Project Cost: $7,177,316
Total APPROVED Grants, Contributions, Reserves*: $7,177,316
Total POTENTIAL Grants to offset Town Allocation: $250,000

*Detail of Grants, Contributions, Reserves
Total State Grants (Maine Department of Transportation, Community Resilience Partnership): $675,000
Total Water District Contribution: $500,000
Town Reserve Fund Allocation (Road, Sidewalk, and Harbor Reserves) and General Fund Allocation: $1,717,000
POTENTIAL State Grants: $250,000

How is the Downtown Project going to happen?
Project surveying and preliminary engineering began in fall 2021 and public information and outreach events began December 2021.

Project design is underway now and construction is slated to begin in the spring of 2023.

All major construction is expected to be completed by late 2024, barring delays and material and labor shortages.
Increase Coastal Resilience
Constructing storm water catchment, detention, and treatment components adjacent to Main Street which will enhance overall storm water management being constructed along Main Street and will improve storm water quality and mitigate coastal flooding impacts caused by sea level rise and increased precipitation. Storm water system improvements will include improvements to the High St/Main St intersection to capture flows that currently dump onto Main Street and mitigate street flows so that the system can best function.

Enhance Public Wastewater Infrastructure
Addressing critical upgrades and resilience adaptations to the wastewater treatment system; extend the sewer line to allow for additional connections within the downtown service area.

Funded by the Economic Development Administration (EDA), Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT), Vinalhaven Water District, and the Town of Vinalhaven

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

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

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

Funded by the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) and the Town of Vinalhaven

- **Upgrade Downtown Parking Lot and Improve Boat Launch**
  - Reconstructing downtown parking lot to reduce flooding. Improving the downtown boat launch. Repairing/replacing bulkheads along downtown parking lot.

- **Prepare Net Factory Site for Eventual Repurposing**
  - Relocating Water District Offices and renovating existing structure for project support needs.

- **Improve Working Waterfront**
  - Improving Fish Plant commercial boat launch. Repairing/replacing bulkheads along Fish Plant parking lot.

Funded by Community Funded Projects / Congressionally Directed Spending – FY22 Federal Appropriations

- **Increase Coastal Resilience**
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- **Enhance Public Wastewater Infrastructure**
  - Addressing critical upgrades and resilience adaptations to the wastewater treatment system; extend the sewer line to allow for additional connections within the downtown service area.
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

Marjorie Stratton, Vinalhaven Town Manager
(207) 863-2042
townmanager@townofvinalhaven.org

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