

NMCOG Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Advisory Committee #1



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Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions (15 min)
2. Project Overview and Timelines (15 min)
3. Role of the Advisory Committee (10 min)
4. Visioning Discussion (30 min)
5. Public Engagement and Setting Future Engagement and Meeting Dates (15 min)
6. Closing and Final Questions (5 min)



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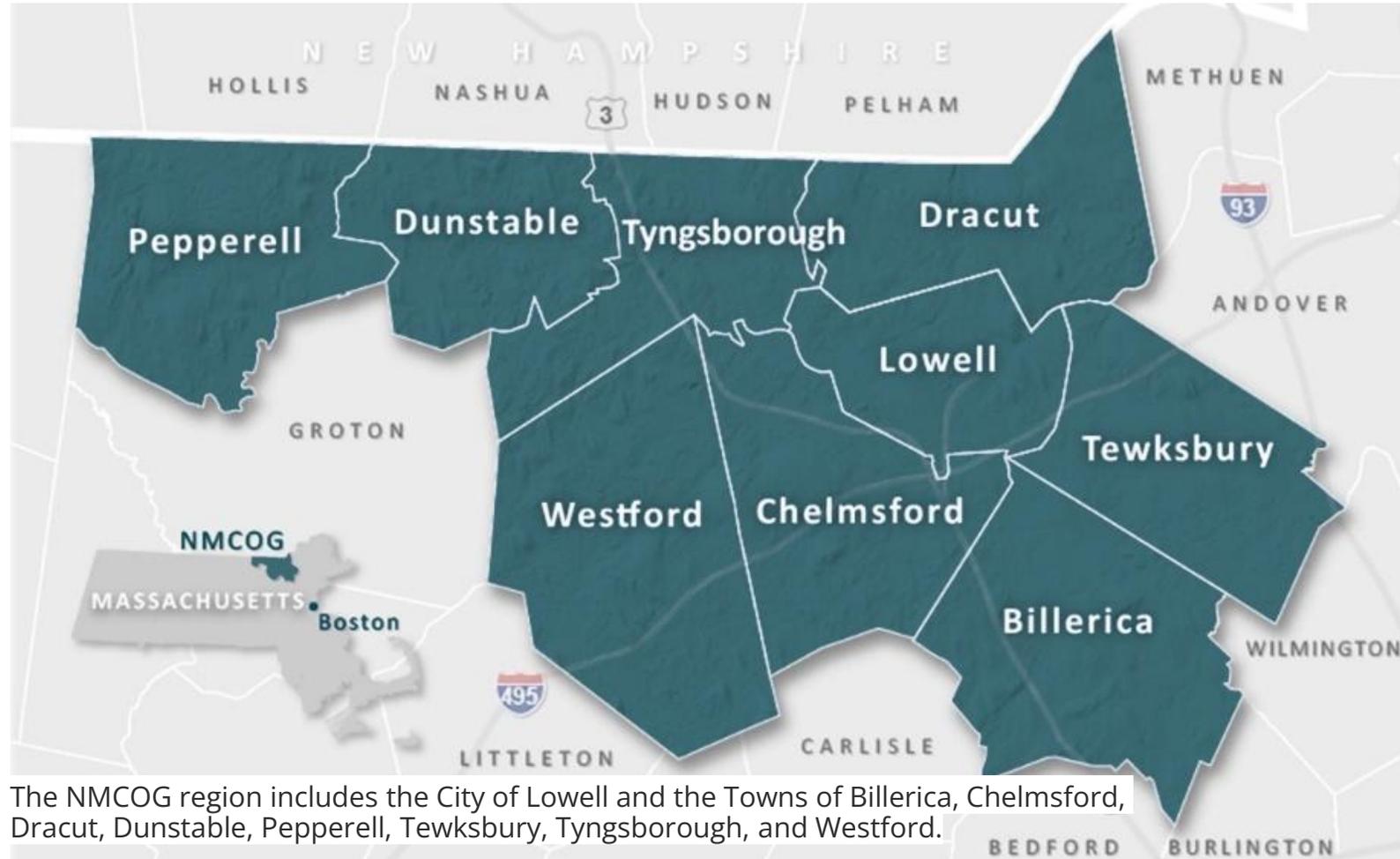
Welcome and Introductions

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About NMCOG

- Regional planning agency for established in 1963
- 18-member policy board with representatives from nine municipalities in Greater Lowell
- Purpose: to increase the municipal capacity, foster regional cooperation and coordination, including providing local and regional planning services to member communities



The NMCOG region includes the City of Lowell and the Towns of Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Pepperell, Tewksbury, Tyngsborough, and Westford.



Introductions

Please share...

- Name
- Organization
- Community/ies Representing
- Connection to Bike/Ped Issues



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Group Norms

1A



Group Norms

- Step up, step back (encourage balanced participation)
- Use “I” statements when sharing perspectives
- Listen actively and respectfully
- Stay solution-oriented and collaborative
- Honor diverse perspectives and lived experiences
- Keep equity and inclusion at the forefront



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Project Overview and Timelines

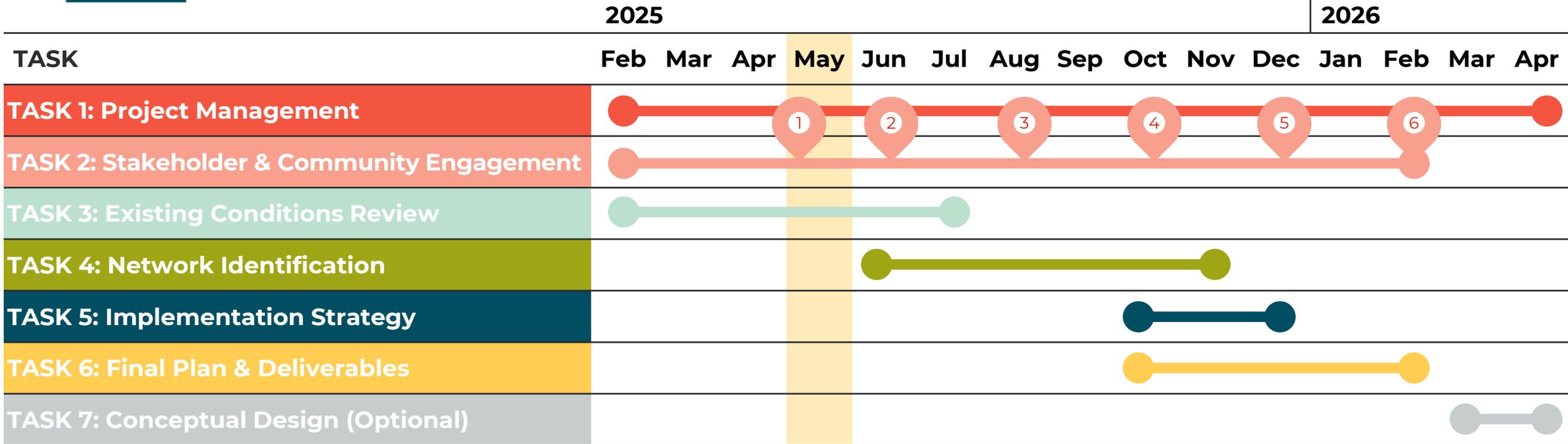
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Project Objectives and Tasks

| Objective | Relevant Tasks |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Document the existing bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure across the region | Task 3: Existing Conditions Review Task 4: Network Identification |
| 2. Engage residents and stakeholders in developing a shared vision and goals for the network; | Task 2: Stakeholder and Community Engagement |
| 3. Propose a new and enhanced bicycle and pedestrian network to connect people to destinations, while also allowing for recreational use; | Task 4: Network Identification Task 5: Implementation Strategy |
| 4. Develop and prioritize implementation strategies , identify implementation partners, and funding sources; | Task 4: Network Identification |
| 5. Forefront equity and accessibility throughout the planning process and within the final product; | Tasks 1-7 |
| 6. Incorporate visual representations to effectively communicate the vision and potential of the network; and | Tasks 2-7 |
| 7. Optionally, develop conceptual designs for one or two priority links within the network to kickstart implementation. | Task 7: Conceptual Design for Priority Links |

Schedule



 = Advisory Committee Meetings

Where will NMCOG be at the end of this effort?



Comprehensive review of relevant past plans and policies and analysis of existing facilities and regional priorities



A recommended **bicycle and pedestrian network** with priority corridors for people of all ages and abilities



A **toolbox** of recommended bicycle and pedestrian treatments, facility types, and infrastructure



An **implementation strategy** and **prioritization matrix**, along with funding source options for planning and constructing the projects



One final **Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan**



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Role of the Advisory Committee

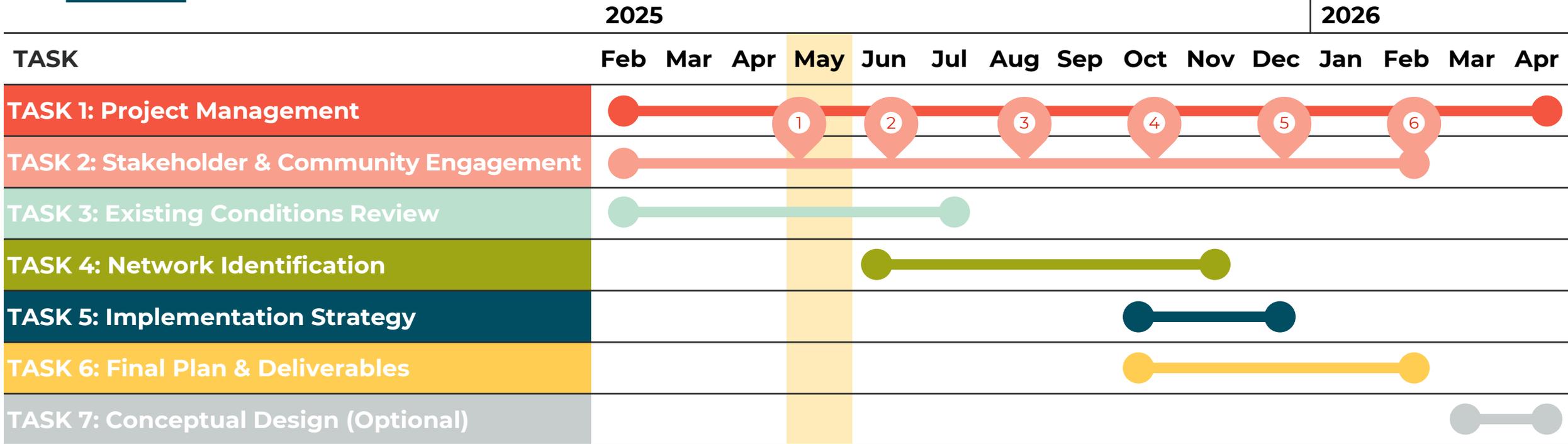
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Your Expertise

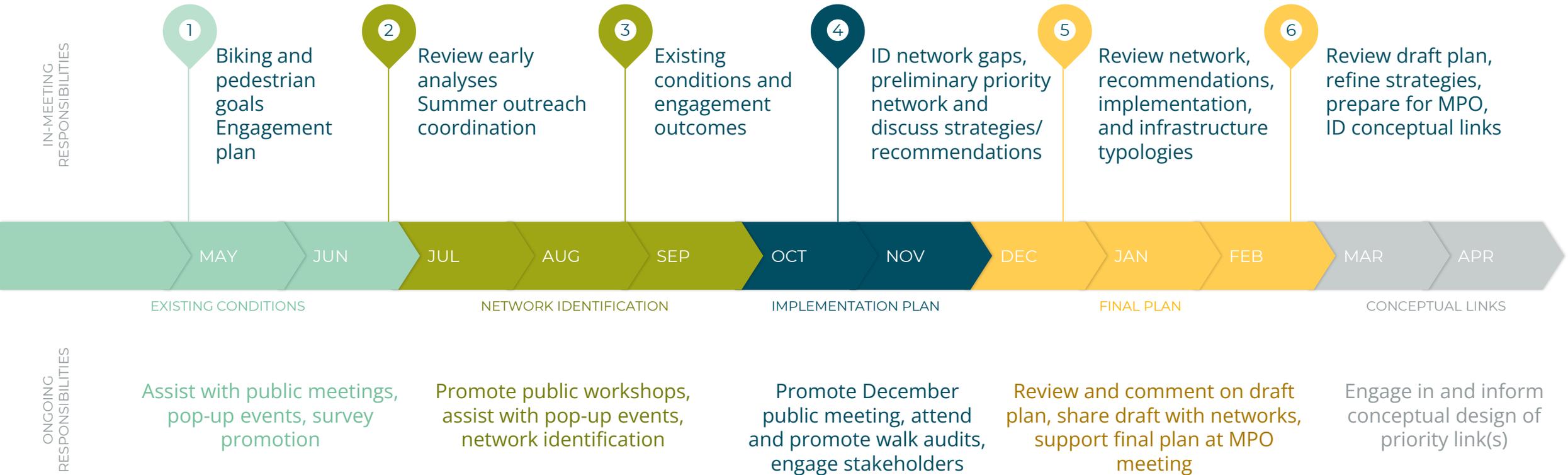
- Regular pedestrians, runners, and cyclists in all NMCOG communities
- Property managers, business owners, and
- Advocates for safe streets, community paths, rail trails, and more
- Experience with Vision Zero (and the Greater Lowell Vision Zero Plan)
- Planners, architects, engineers, and technical experts in transportation and mobility planning
- Planning Board, Bike Committee, and Pedestrian Committee members
- Travellers and expats with bike/ped experience in countries with varying bike/ped infrastructure
- Representatives of neighborhoods and volunteers connected with residents across the region

Schedule



 = Advisory Committee Meetings

Supporting the planning process





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Visioning Discussion: Setting the Foundation

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Now we want to hear from you!

- 5 min: **Regroup and Toole to present the draft goals**
- 10 min: **Thoughts on the draft goals?**

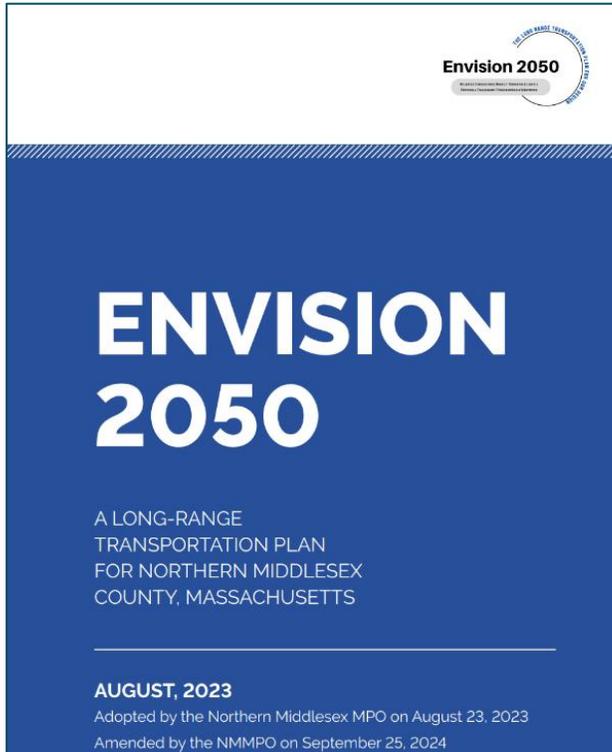
Format:

- Zoom breakout groups
- Each group will have a facilitator
- Facilitator and/or participants can add thoughts to the Miro board



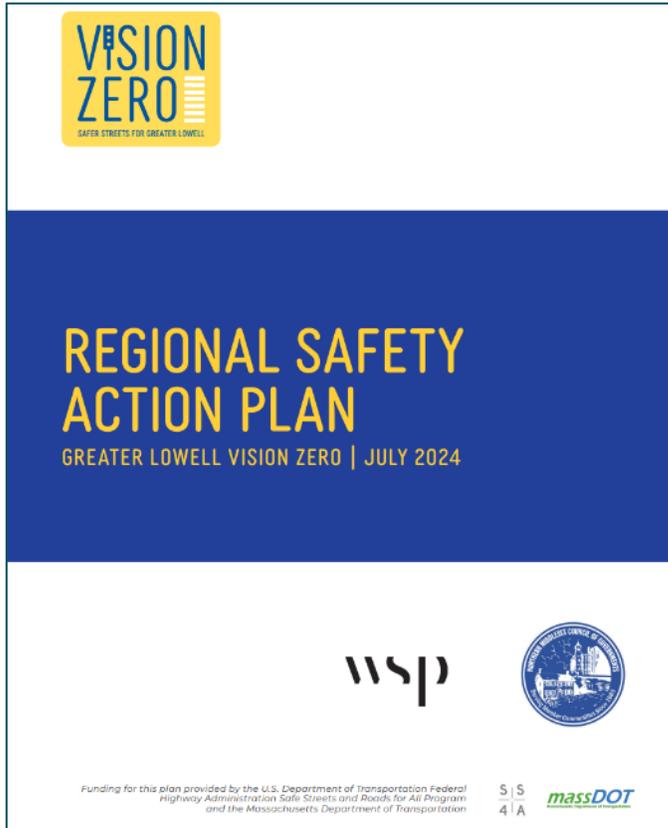
[Bit.ly/BikePedAC1](https://bit.ly/BikePedAC1)

Goals from Past Plans



1. Improve the safety of the transportation system for all users;
2. Ensure that the transportation network supports economic development and accommodates future economic growth;
3. Minimize and mitigate the impacts of the transportation system on the environment, including air quality, water quality, wildlife, and climate change;
4. Provide fair and equitable transportation access and service quality for all communities.

Goals from Past Plans



1. Vision Zero Commitment: The Northern Middlesex Metropolitan Planning Organization (NMMPO), in pursuit of a safer and more sustainable future for the Greater Lowell Region, formally commits to achieving Vision Zero by the year 2050.
2. Foster collaboration to maintain and build safe transportation infrastructure, ensuring all stakeholders—government agencies, engineers, urban planners, and community groups—work together to prioritize safety in design, construction, and maintenance projects.
3. Support equitable and inclusive transportation safety practices within all aspects of traffic management and infrastructure development

DRAFT Vision & Goals

Vision

The Northern Middlesex region is a cohesive region where people walking, rolling, bicycling, wheeling, and taking transit feel safe and comfortable across the region's nine municipalities. People using active modes of transportation for travel and for recreation is the norm in the region, and more people choose active modes.

Goals

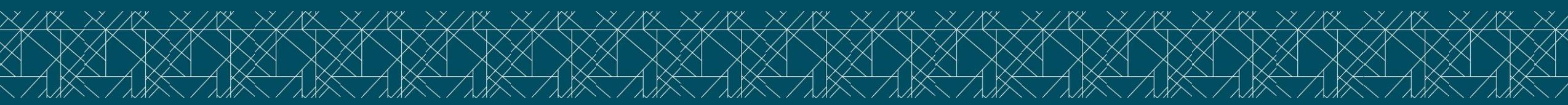
1. Promote safe and comfortable facilities
2. Develop a cohesive and connected network
3. Increase walking and bicycling for both recreational and utility purposes
4. Ensure equitable and accessible access to facilities

Public Engagement & Setting Future Engagement and Public Meetings



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Upcoming Engagement

Email distribution list

- Encourage signups
- nmcog.org/glbikepedplan

Region-wide survey

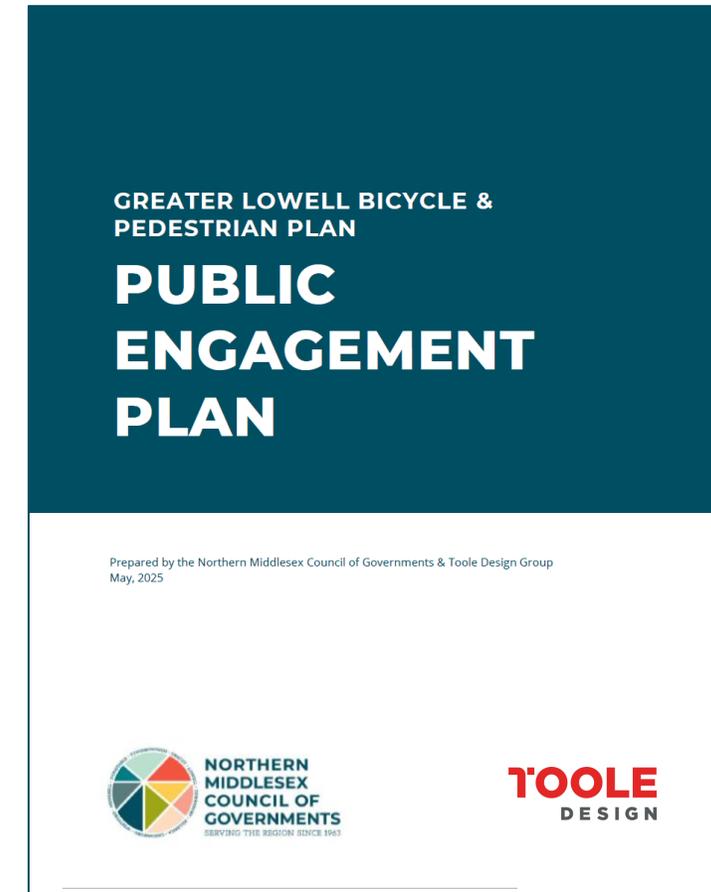
- Mid-May through June
- Help promote the survey

June-August pop-up events

- Table with us! Amanuel will share a sign-up sheet

July public workshops

- Invite your networks, assist at meetings (greeters, registration, note-takers, facilitators)





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Closing and Final Questions

6

