



Town of Winchester

SS4A Committee

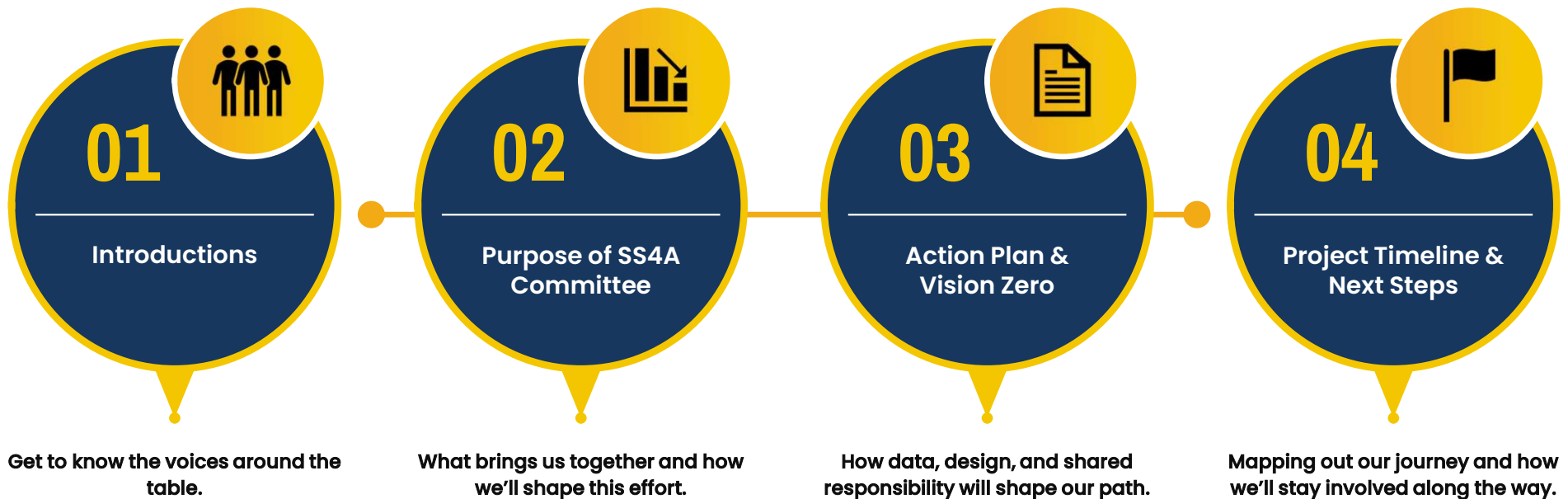
Tuesday, October 7, 2025 at 2pm



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Agenda for Today's Meeting



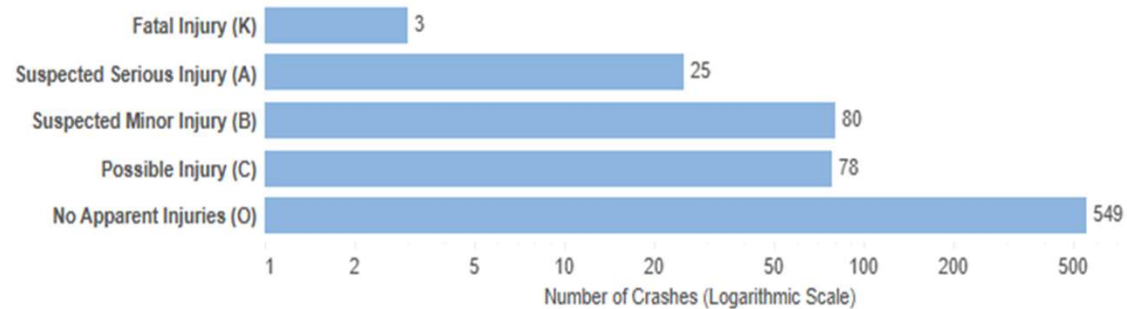
Introductions

- Please share your:
 - First and last name
 - Title (if staff)
 - Address (if resident)
- Optional: One thing you would like to see happen/change resulting from our work here together



Why are we here?

Injury Status of Crashes



Crash Severity	Crashes	% of All Crashes
Fatal Injury (K)	3.0	0.41%
Suspected Serious Injury (A)	25.0	3.40%
Suspected Minor Injury (B)	80.0	10.88%
Possible Injury (C)	78.0	10.61%
No Apparent Injuries (O)	549.0	74.69%
Grand Total	735.0	100.00%

- Data for the “Last 3 Years” from 1/1/2022 to 8/31/2025
- Only in Winsted/Winchester
- Retrieved via UConn Crash Data Repository
- <https://www.ctcrash.uconn.edu/dashboards/CAST-MMUCC.html>

Committee Purpose

- A roundtable of residents and staff from different backgrounds and specialties.
- Forum for open discussion of traffic safety issues and community concerns.
- Guide the Town's future consultant on priorities, including:
 - Identifying corridors and intersections of concern.
 - Highlighting vulnerable road users (pedestrians, cyclists, seniors, children).
 - Sharing local knowledge about crash patterns, near-misses, and safety “hot spots.”
 - Recommending strategies for safer roadway design and operations.
 - Weighing trade-offs between cost, impact, and feasibility.
 - Promote community buy-in and transparency throughout the process.



Safe Streets for All

- Safe Streets for All (SS4A) is a U.S. Department of Transportation program that funds local efforts to improve roadway safety.
- Support communities in developing strategies that reduce fatalities and serious injuries on roads.
- SS4A provides funding for:
 - **Planning and Demonstration** – data analysis of local crashes, mapping high-risk corridors, identifying strategies, etc. tailored to Winchester.
 - **Implementation** – roadway surface improvements, crosswalks, parking improvements bike lanes, intersection redesign, traffic calming, improved lighting/signage, etc.
- A community must first have an adopted Action Plan to be eligible for future SS4A implementation grants.



What is an Action Plan?

- A formal planning document with 75-150 pages.
- Includes:
 - Crash data analysis and trends.
 - Maps and graphics showing high-crash corridors and intersections.
 - List of priority projects (short-, medium-, and long-term).
 - Strategies and policies to improve safety.
 - Implementation section: cost estimates, funding options, and timelines.
- Designed to be easy to reference for future funding applications.
- Developed by specialized consulting firms (transportation planners, engineers, safety analysts, and public engagement specialists).



What is Vision Zero?

- A roadway and traffic management strategy.
- Core principle: No traffic death or serious injury is acceptable.
- Focuses on system design, not just individual behavior:
 - Safer street layouts and intersections.
 - Speed management.
 - Infrastructure for people walking, biking, and driving.

TRADITIONAL APPROACH	VS	VISION ZERO
Traffic deaths are INEVITABLE		Traffic deaths are PREVENTABLE
PERFECT human behaviour		Integrate HUMAN FAILING in approach
Prevent COLLISIONS		Prevent FATAL AND SEVERE CRASHES
INDIVIDUAL responsibility		SYSTEMS approach
Saving lives is EXPENSIVE		Saving lives is NOT EXPENSIVE



Return on Investment Examples

SS4A Grant Type	Activity	Relevant SS4A Objective(s)	Project Cost	Town Match	SS4A Award
Planning	Create an Action Plan	Identify roadway safety problems and strengthen a community's approach through projects and strategies that address the most significant safety risks.	250,000	50,000	200,000
Implementation	Redesign and reconstruct <i>Intersection A</i>	Improving the safety of intersections by considering innovative design changes, improved delineation, and advanced warning.	1,300,000	260,000	1,040,000
Implementation	Reroute and construct <i>Road B</i>	Carrying out speed management strategies, such as implementing traffic-calming road design changes; addressing speed along key corridors through infrastructure; etc...	3,600,000	720,000	2,880,000
Implementation	Add sidewalks to <i>Road C</i>	Installing pedestrian safety enhancements, including closing network gaps with sidewalks or trails, crosswalk visibility enhancements, etc...	450,000	90,000	360,000
Implementation	Reconfigure <i>Main Street</i>	Multiple	16,000,000	3,200,000	12,800,000
Totals			21,600,000	4,320,000	17,280,000

Return on Investment

- $\text{ROI} = \text{SS4A Award} / \text{Town Match}$
- $\text{ROI} = \$17,280,000 / \$4,320,000 = 4$
- Leverage Ratio = 4 to 1 (80%/20%)
- Meaning for every \$1 the town invests; it receives \$4 in federal grant funding.
- Using the previous examples, the SS4A grants multiply the Town's investment, turning \$4.3M in local funds into over \$21.0M in total project value.



Project Timeline

Milestone	Approximate Date
Issue Consultant RFQ	October 2025
Select & Engage Consultant	December 2025
Complete Draft Action Plan	By June 30, 2026
Complete Final Action Plan	By June 30, 2027
Adopt Action Plan	By October 1, 2027
SS4A Final Report Due	By December 31, 2027
Our meetings will be held intermittently by the consultant.	



Town of Winchester

Thank you for coming!

Next Meeting: To Be Determined



Slides will be posted at:
www.townofwinchester.org



Informational FAQs

Question: Can we pave roads with SS4A money?

Answer: No, not routine repaving or general maintenance. SS4A isn't designed to fund basic resurfacing projects. However, paving can be an eligible cost if it's part of a larger safety improvement project identified in the Town's Action Plan. For example, if a project involves narrowing lanes, adding sidewalks, improving crosswalks, or redesigning intersections to reduce crashes, then paving associated with those roadway modifications is eligible. In other words, while we can't pave for the sake of paving, we can include paving as part of a safety-driven redesign.



Informational FAQs

Question: To what extent can SS4A Planning funds be used for engineering?

Answer: SS4A Planning funds can cover preliminary engineering and conceptual design work that supports the development of a Safety Action Plan and/or future Implementation Grant. However, they cannot be used for detailed design or construction-level engineering.

Informational FAQs

Question: Can SS4A funds be used to fix Main Street?

Answer: Potentially, yes. The Town's selected consultant will conduct a town-wide roadway safety audit, not just focus on one road. However, if the audit finds that most safety concerns are concentrated along Main Street, the Town could apply for a future Implementation Grant to fund improvements there. However, this caliber of project may require a Supplemental Planning Grant.

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Informational FAQs

Question: To what extent can SS4A money be used to fix Main Street (or any street)?

Answer: A future SS4A Implementation Grant could help fund a full reconfiguration of Main Street — for example, lane narrowing, “nose-in” parking, bike lanes, wider sidewalks, improved crosswalks, upgraded lighting, and new pavement markings. However, any such project would require significant coordination and approval from CTDOT, as well as a substantial local funding match from the Town. Again, this caliber of project may require a Supplemental Planning Grant.

Informational FAQs

Question: Can SS4A funds be used to hire more police officers?

Answer: No, SS4A funds cannot be used for personnel costs such as hiring or paying police officers. The program focuses on planning and infrastructure improvements that reduce crashes and improve roadway safety, not ongoing operational or staffing expenses.

Informational FAQs

Question: Who else is working on a SS4A Planning Grant in Connecticut?

Answer: There are various entities:

City of Bridgeport	Town of Canton
City of Danbury	Town of Fairfield
City of Hartford – Department of Development Services – Planning Division	Town of Glastonbury
City of Middletown	Town of Greenwich
City of Norwalk	Town of New Milford
City of Torrington	Town of Newington
Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments	Town of Newtown
Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments	Town of Ridgefield
Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation	Town of West Hartford
Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments	Town of Westport
Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments	Town of Wethersfield and Rocky Hill
Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments	Town of Winchester
Town of Bethel	University of Connecticut

Informational FAQs

Question: Are there examples of other towns' Action Plans?

Answer: Yes, here are some other examples in New England:

1. Westport, Connecticut - <https://tinyurl.com/k3rsrvpd>
2. Kennebec, Maine - <https://tinyurl.com/mr3hnckp>
3. Southern New Hampshire - <https://tinyurl.com/mv83tmd4>
4. Middletown, Rhode Island - <https://tinyurl.com/2xrdwx36>