

If you would like to speak, please  
sign in!

# South Berwick Traffic

Public Hearing

September 19, 2023

South Berwick Town Council



# Agenda: South Berwick Traffic

## Presentation

- History
- Recent Milestones
- Survey results
- Study results
- Recommendations
- Long term improvements
- Next Steps

## Resident Input

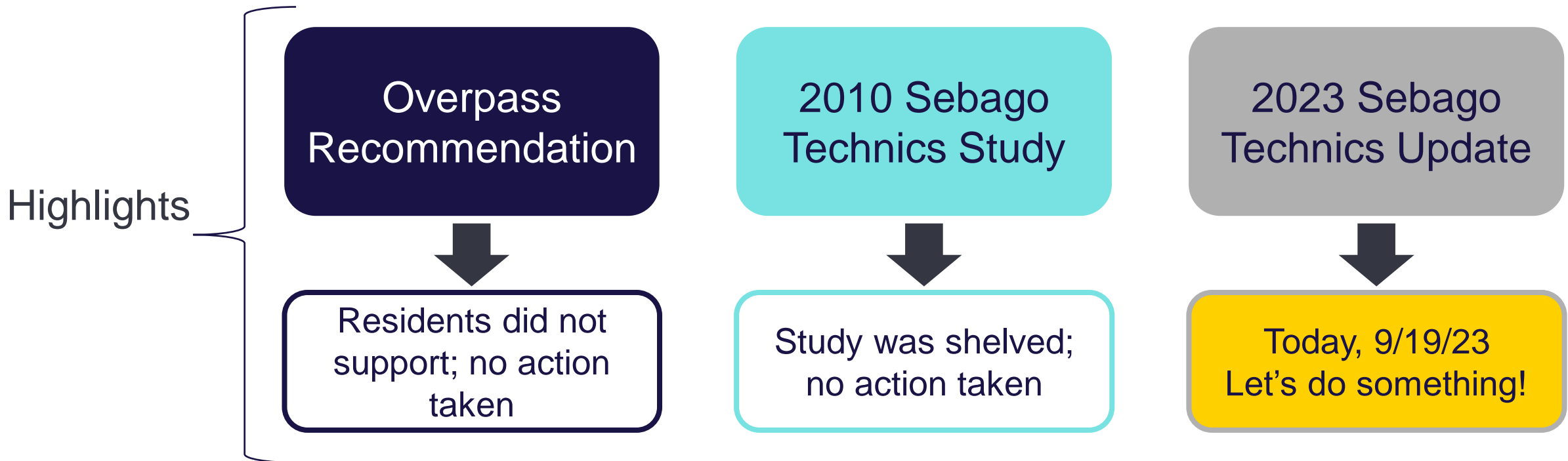
What scenario do you prefer?

- Traffic lights at Portland/Main & Main/Rt 236
- Roundabouts at Portland/Main & Main/Rt 236
- No change/do nothing

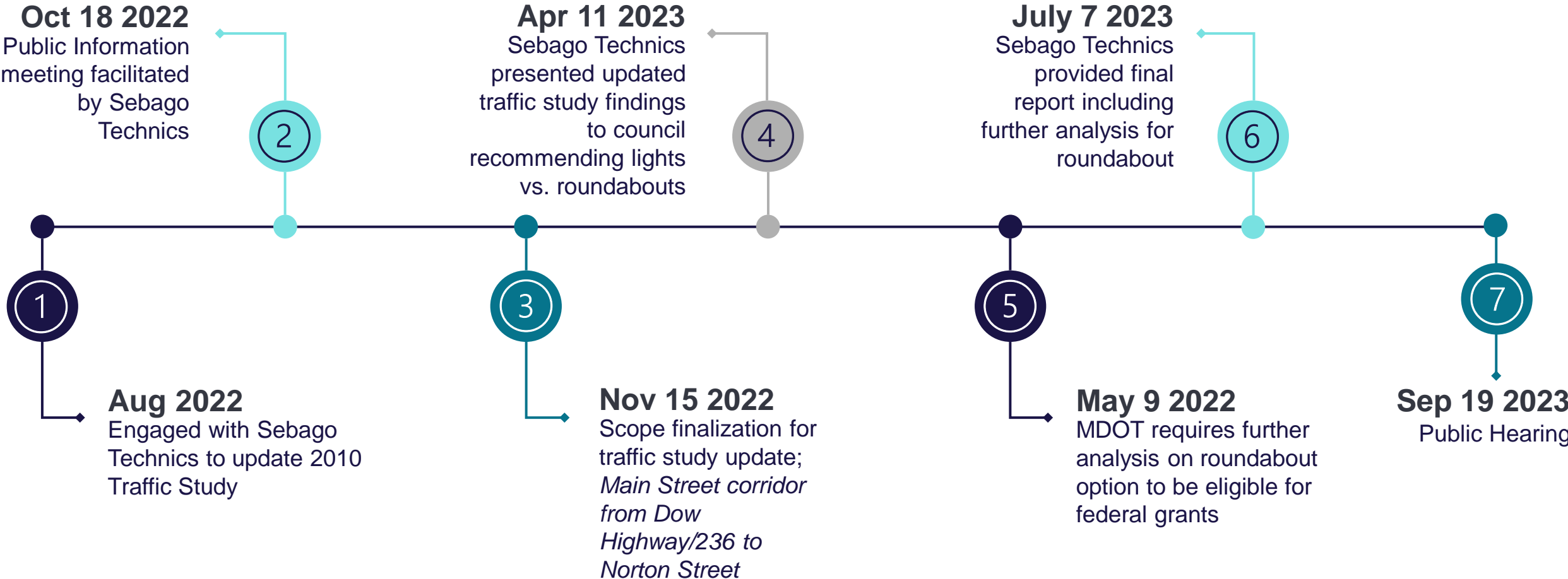


# History

- 17 traffic studies completed in South Berwick since 1985



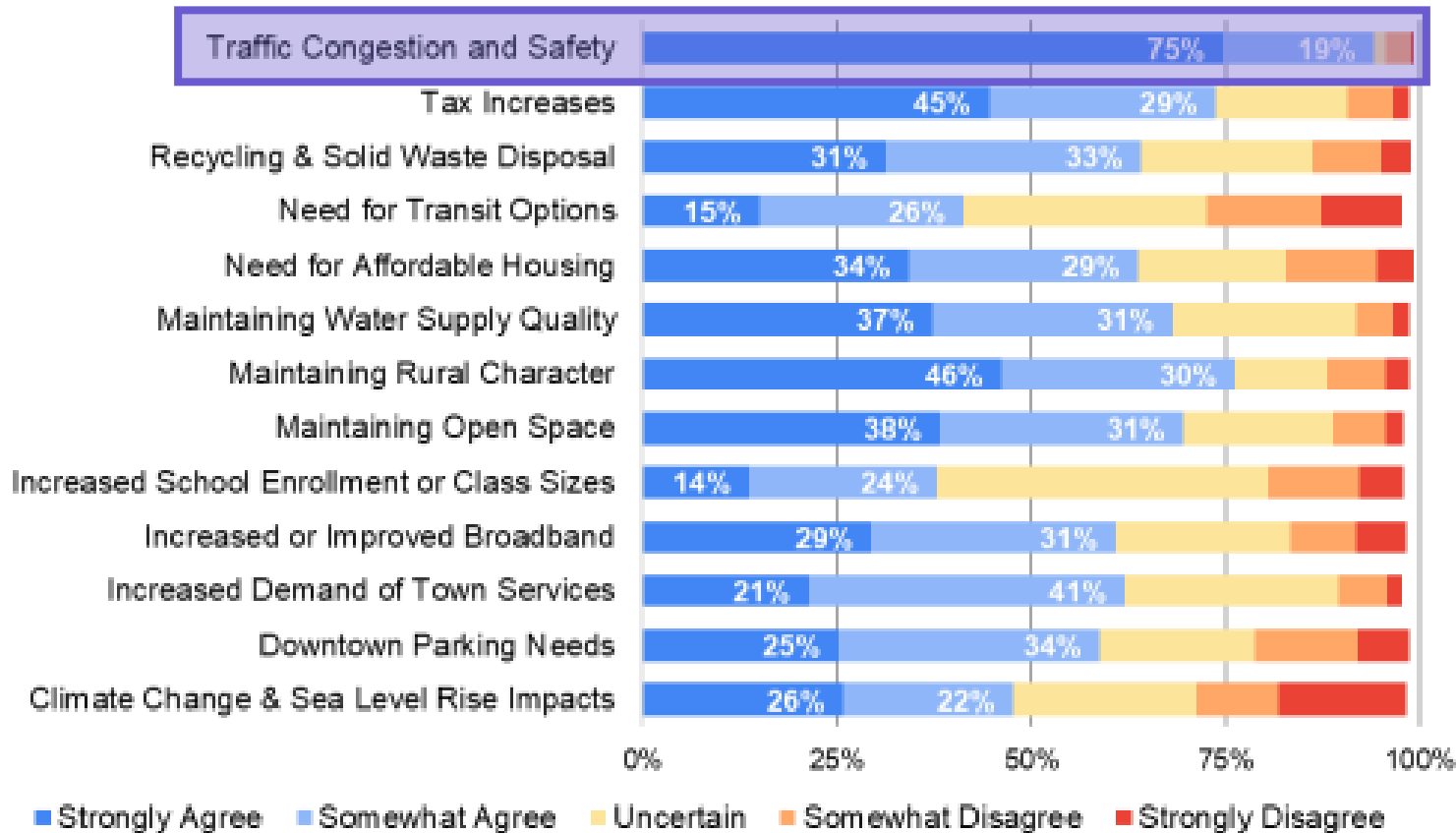
# Recent Milestones



# Traffic congestion & safety has been a challenge for decades

Results from 2022 Community Opinion Survey for Comprehensive Plan

**“\_\_\_\_\_ is a serious challenge facing South Berwick in the next 5 years.”**



- In 2022:
  - 75% strongly agree
  - 19% somewhat agree
- In 2003:
  - 80% strongly agree
  - 15% somewhat agree

*Sentiment has remained the same for almost 20 years!*



# Traffic is a concern for all age groups

Results from 2022 Community  
Opinion Survey for  
Comprehensive Plan

**“\_\_\_\_\_ is a serious challenge facing South Berwick in the next 5 years.”**  
**By Age Group**



- Almost all respondents agree that Traffic Congestion and Safety is an issue, regardless of age.



# Key Takeaways from 2023 Sebago Technics Study

## Sebago Technics confirmed what we already knew

- ✓ Speeding is problematic at times
- ✓ Traffic calming is a high priority
- ✓ Significant amounts of traffic make intersection movements challenging
- ✓ Corridor lacks pedestrian visibility
- ✓ Pedestrians and bikers do not feel safe



# Recommendations from 2023 Sebago Technics Study

Traffic lights at both intersections will provide **greatest flexibility**



Ability to retime signals as traffic patterns grow & change



Ability to coordinate the two signals to optimize traffic through the corridor



Greater retainage of parking in vicinity of downtown business

Roundabouts **not recommended**

- Portland & Main  
Not enough space for future growth of traffic volumes

- 236 & Main  
Geometric and space constraints

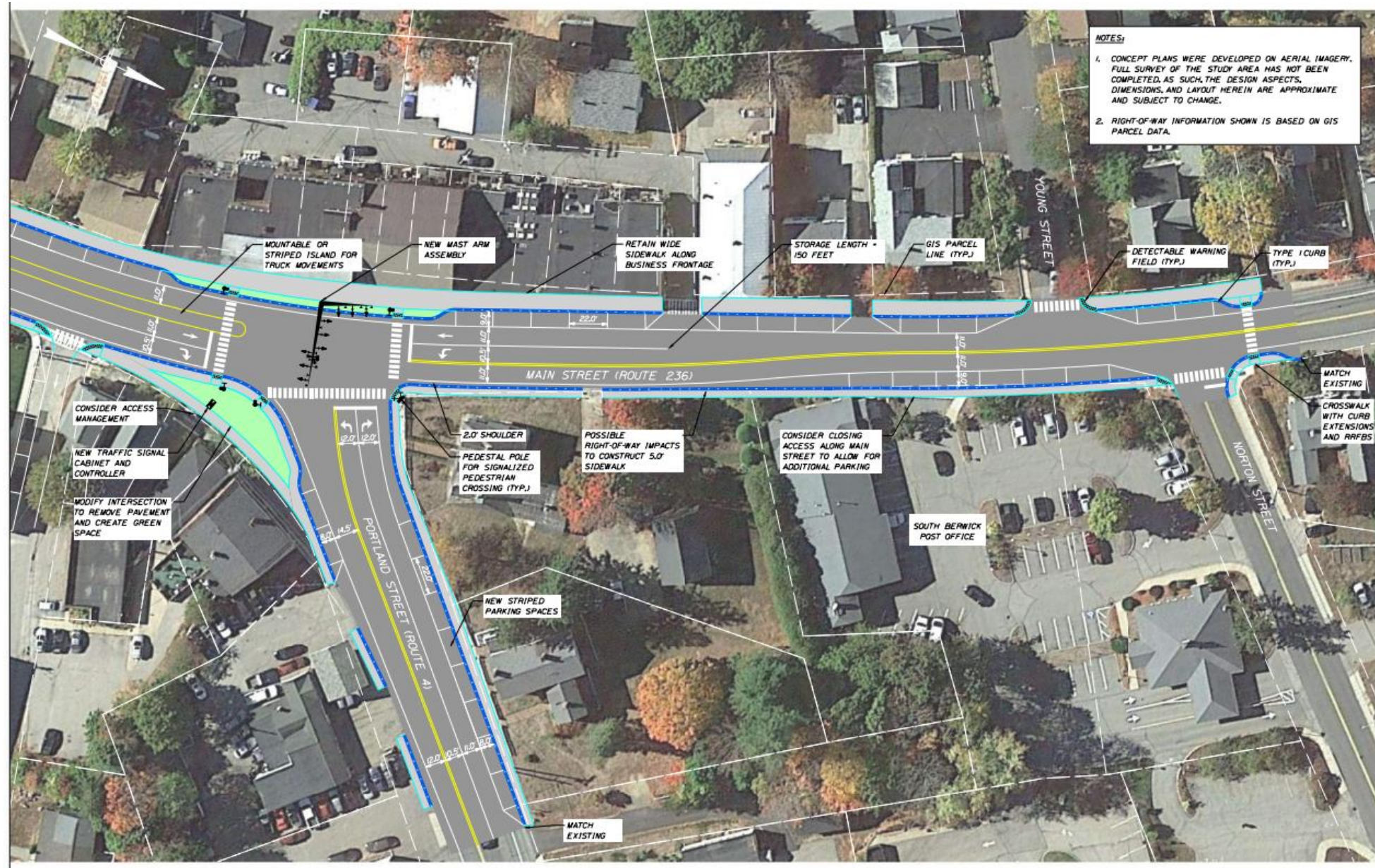




# Concept Plans: Portland & Main Street

See page 62 of [7/11 support docs](#)

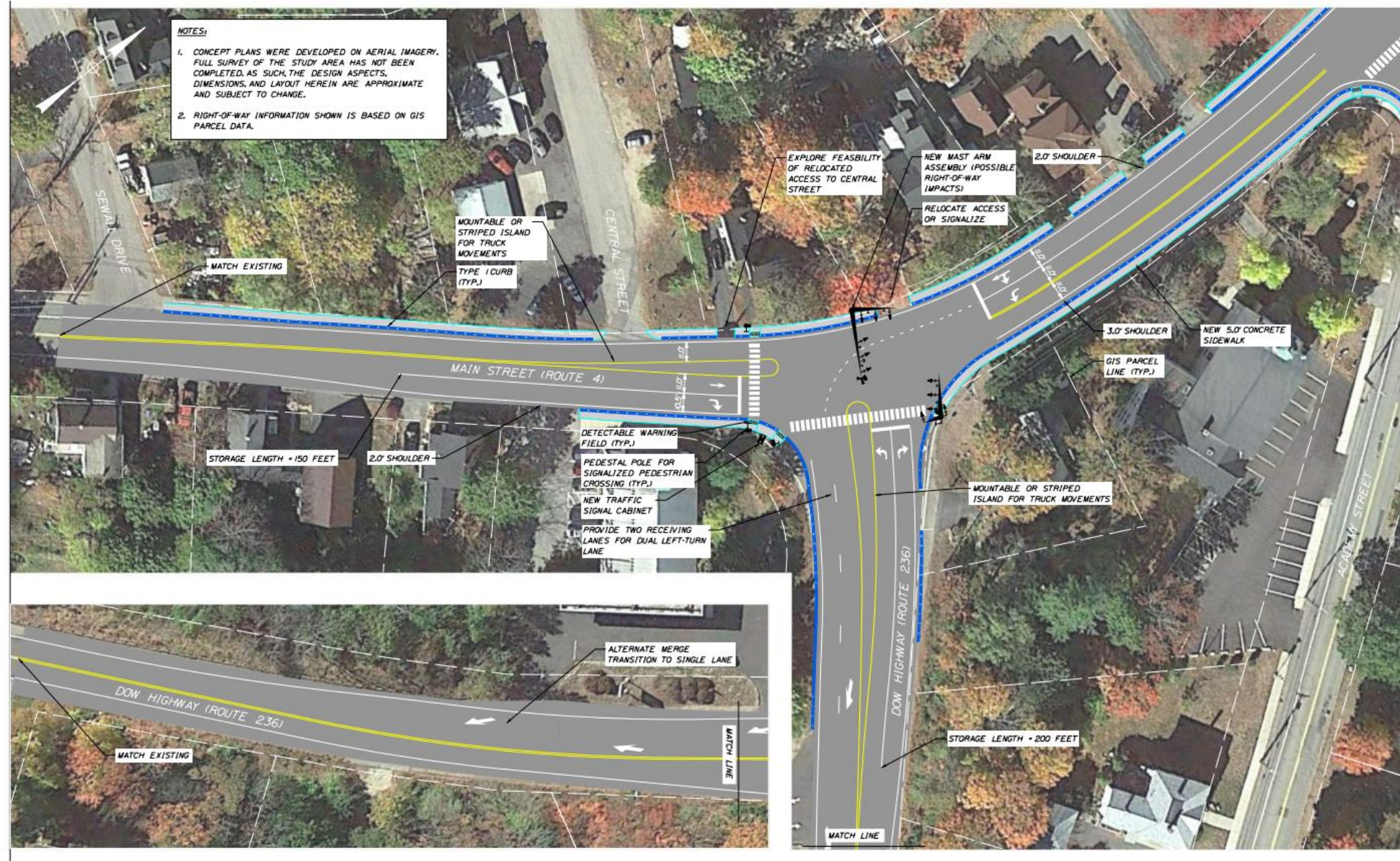
Schematic only;  
detailed design  
phase TBD



# Concept Plans: 236 & Main Street

See page 59 of [7/11 support docs](#)

Schematic only; detailed design phase TBD



# Long term improvements with traffic lights

- Reduction in diverted traffic through **local neighborhoods**
- **Pedestrian phase** that operates with **stopped vehicles** as opposed to yield
- **Retain wide sidewalks with greenspace**, creating room for planters, benches, banners, etc.



- **Improved response time** for emergency vehicles through corridor
- Coordination between signals to **optimize traffic flow**
- **Increased visibility for pedestrians** at unsignalized crosswalks using rectangular rapid flashing beacons

# Partnership with Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT)

If project is approved by Town Council, the state will fully support the project

- MDOT will allow South Berwick to skip the conceptual design phase because the Sebago Technics report has met the conceptual design requirements
  - Saves South Berwick money and time
- MDOT will advance funding toward preliminary design & construction of South Berwick traffic project
  - Move budget from FY26 to FY24, expediting process
  - Estimated cost for preliminary design is ~\$500K and requires a 20% match by the town
  - South Berwick contribution would be \$100K (funded from TIF, not from tax dollars)
- MDOT will be the project manager, oversee RFP for construction services, and overall process



# Next Steps & Go Forward Process

- On 9/26/23, Town Council will vote on whether or not to move forward with traffic project after 9/19/23 public hearing

If an affirmative vote from council:

- Kick off design efforts with MDOT
- Public hearing(s) as design develops
- Add page to town website for traffic project



# Public Hearing Rules of Order

According to South Berwick Town Council  
Rules of Order



## Comments will not be taken that:

- Disparage individual Town Councilors, Town staff or other citizens
- Address specific situations that are in litigation, including situations, where the Town is a party to the litigation
- Pertain to any personal disputes between themselves and other residents
- Make any comments referencing support or opposition for any candidate for political office or political causes
- Bring forward any complaints about a municipal elected/appointed official, a town employee, or another citizen. All formal complaints must be submitted to the Town Manager in writing.

1

Sign in if you would like to speak

2

State your name & address

2

1 opportunity to speak per person

4

3 minutes per person  
(timer utilization)

5

No comments will be taken after 9 pm

6

No questions will be taken



# Public Input

1

Sign in if you would like to speak

2

State your name & address

3

1 opportunity to speak per person

4

3 minutes per person  
(timer utilization)

5

No comments will be taken after 9 pm

6

No questions will be taken

## What scenario do you prefer?

Scope is Main/Portland & Main/246 intersections

Traffic lights

Roundabouts

No change