



WHAT IS THE MRPC/MART SAFETY ACTION PLAN?



APPROACH

Zero is our goal. A Safe System is how we get there.

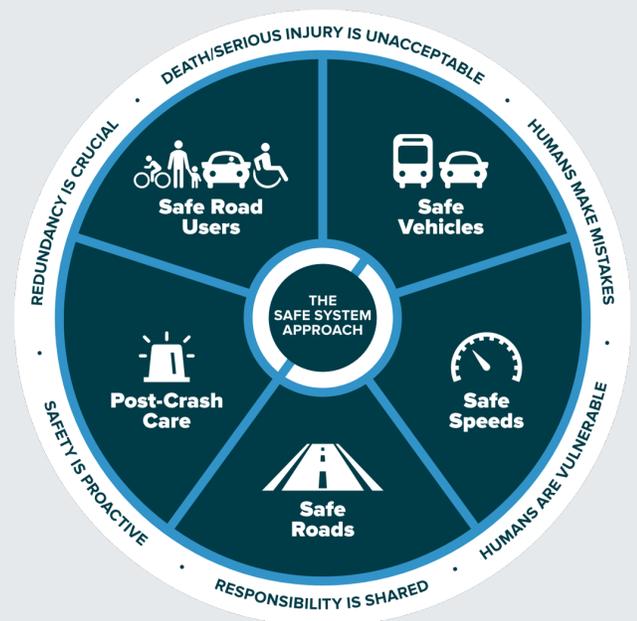
The purpose of the Safety Action Plan is to improve roadway safety by significantly reducing or eliminating roadway fatalities and serious injuries through the development and implementation of plans that focus on the needs of all users:

pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, public transportation users, micro-mobility users, and commercial vehicle operators. The project will identify strategies to improve safety outcomes in the communities of the MRPC region: Ashburnham, Ashby, Athol, Ayer, Clinton, Devens, Fitchburg, Gardner, Groton, Harvard, Hubbardston, Lancaster, Leominster, Lunenburg, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston, Shirley, Sterling, Templeton, Townsend, Westminster, and Winchendon. Several communities not part of the MRPC, but served by MART, will be addressed by the Safety Action Plan for issues of transit safety only: Barre, Bolton, Boxborough, Hardwick, Littleton, and Stow. Our efforts are also being undertaken in coordination with abutting regional planning councils and transit providers.

The Safety Plan will develop the tools to help strengthen the region’s approach to roadway safety and save lives. It will also include a list of short-, mid-, and long-term projects that will be eligible for implementation and supplemental planning funds through the Federal Highway Administration’s (FHWA) Safe Streets for All (www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A) and other federal grant programs. The project team, which combines MRPC and MART staff as well as planning and outreach consultants from WSP, will work to hear the needs of residents, business owners, and daily commuters to understand their experiences and concerns through multiple opportunities for input and comment. By collaborating with community members and leveraging new data-driven analytic methods, the project team will work to uncover the root causes of crashes, identify the areas of highest risk, and develop a prioritized investment plan and policy strategies that will create a safer transportation system for all users.

WHAT IS VISION ZERO?

The Safety Action Plan will implement Vision Zero (highways.dot.gov/safety/zero-deaths) in the MRPC/MART communities. The goal of Vision Zero is to eliminate roadway fatalities and serious injuries by transforming how the system is designed, operated, and managed. Vision Zero recognizes that roadway users will make mistakes. Rather than trying to perfect user behavior, this shift in approach seeks to create a system that integrates multiple, redundant layers of safeguards so that unavoidable human errors are accommodated to avoid severe injuries or fatalities. Vision Zero is based on a shared responsibility between system designers and users to change the safety culture on our roadways and has generated significant reductions in roadway tragedies across the globe.



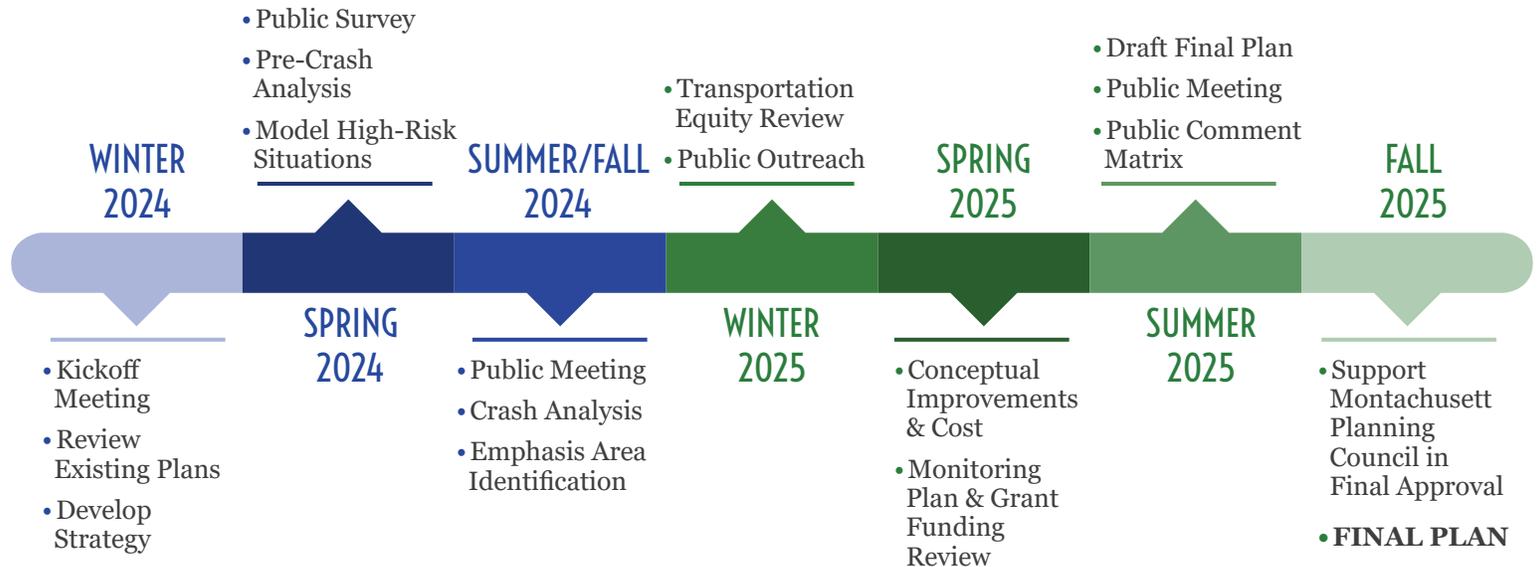
HOW DID WE GET HERE?

The Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant Program, established under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), allocated \$5 billion to be distributed towards enhancing roadway safety outcomes over a five-year period (2022 to 2026). This funding supports the MRPC/MART Safety Action Plan – one of multiple such efforts being undertaken throughout the State of Massachusetts and across the United States.

Major aspects of this project include:

- » Developing a data-driven understanding of existing conditions
- » Site-specific (reactive) and systemic (proactive) analysis of crashes
- » Undertaking meaningful public engagement that attempts to reach and welcome a diverse range of stakeholders, with an emphasis on equity and outreach to traditionally underserved communities
- » Merging our technical analysis with the shared experiences of community members to create a Vision Zero approach that includes a prioritized list of recommended projects, along with overarching policies and strategies designed to significantly reduce roadway tragedies throughout the MRPC/MART Region

ANTICIPATED PROJECT TIMELINE:



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The community is a vital partner in this process, and we want to hear about your lived experience of traveling in the MRPC/MART region. We invite you to send us an email to submit comments and questions or sign up for periodic email updates about the project. Please visit the project website to learn more about this project.



safetyactionplan@mrpc.org



www.mrpc.org/safetyplan.html

Information regarding MRPC's commitment to diversity, civil rights, and maintaining an open public process, welcoming to all can be found at: <https://www.mrpc.org/home/pages/title-vi-policy-and-procedures>.