

# SAFE STREETS FOR ALL SAFETY ACTION PLAN

Stakeholder Focus Groups

February 2025



Athens-Clarke County Unified Government

Safe Streets and Roads for All

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# Agenda

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Introductions



Focus Group Purpose



Project Overview



Group Discussion



Next Steps



# Focus Group Purpose

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## Inform

Inform community stakeholders about ACCGov's Safe Streets and Roads for All Safety Action Plan (SS4A SAP).

## Gather

Gather feedback on transportation safety challenges, issues, concerns, and priorities facing the ACC community.

## Spread

Spread the word about ACCGov's SS4A SAP and upcoming engagement opportunities.





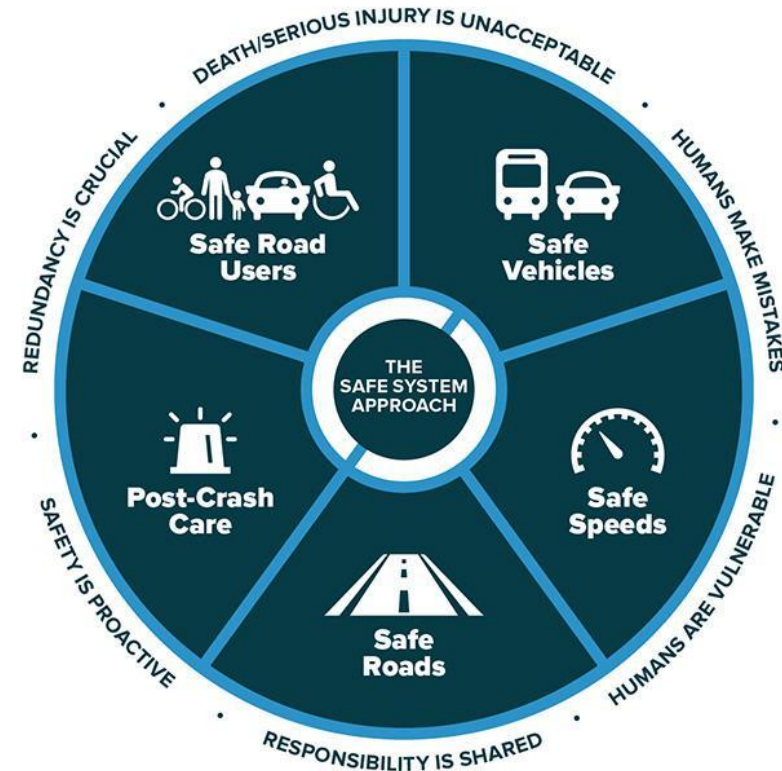
# Project Background





# SS4A Program Overview

- USDOT initiative established by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
  - Reduce roadway fatalities and serious injuries
- Safe Systems Approach
  - Prevent crashes from happening in the first place
  - Minimize the harm caused when crashes do occur
  - Focuses on human mistakes and human vulnerability
- 2023 – ACCGov awarded a \$1M planning grant



Source: FHWA.



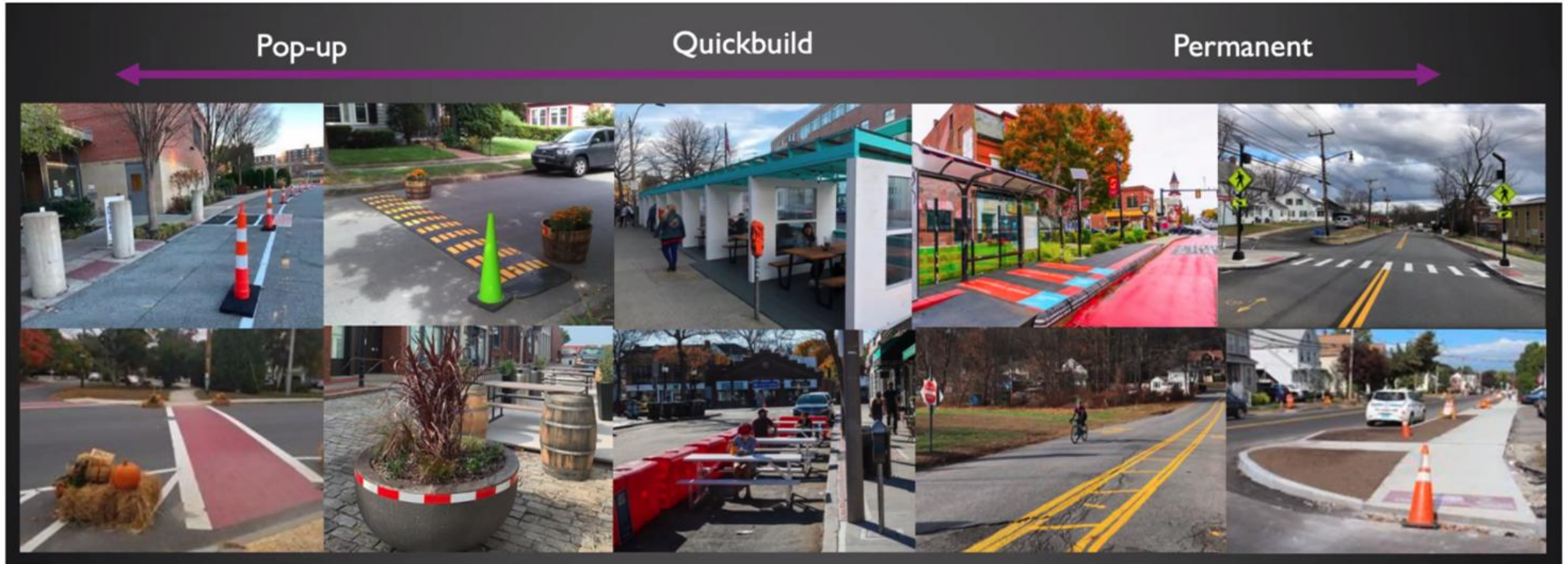
# What is a Safe Street?

- Accommodates all users and their abilities
- Provides designated infrastructure for all travel modes
- Typically includes:
  - High Visibility Signage & Markings
  - Protected Crossings
  - Narrow Travel Lanes
  - Appropriate Speeds
  - Visual Cues
  - Shorter Distances
  - Lighting & Visibility



Source: City of Austin, TX

# What is a Safe Street?



Source: City of Baltimore, MD





# Safe Streets and Speed Risks



Source: FHWA





# Proven Safety Countermeasures

## Bicycle Lanes



## Roundabouts



## Backplates with Retroreflective Borders



## Longitudinal Rumble Strips



## Road Diets



# Why in Athens?

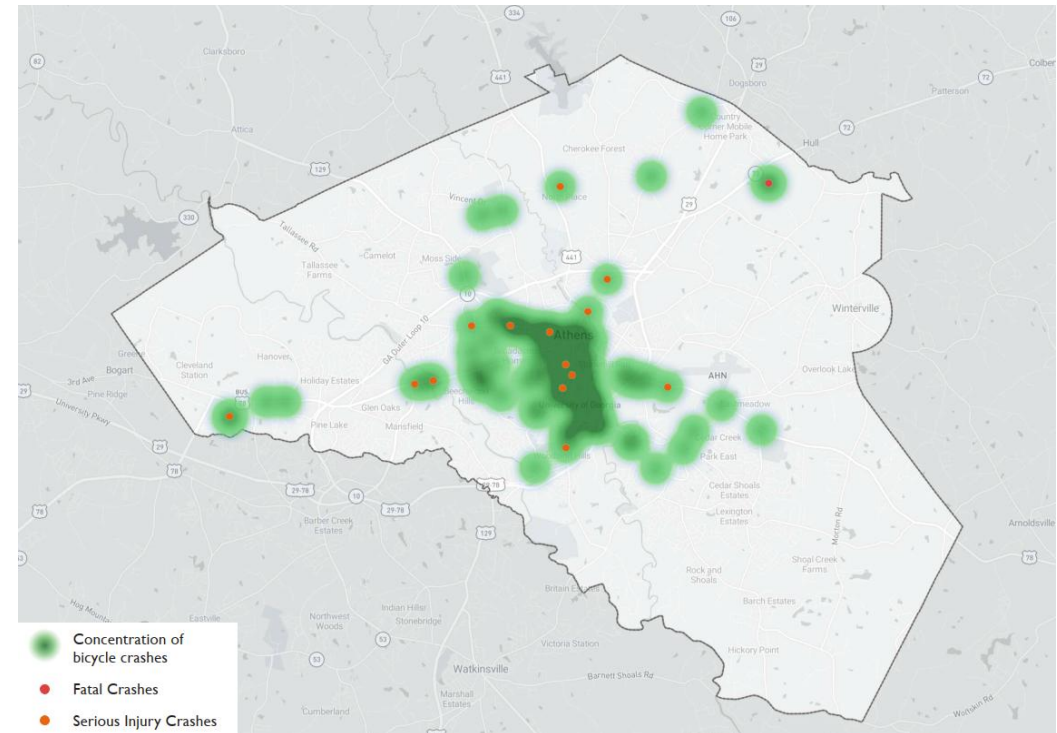
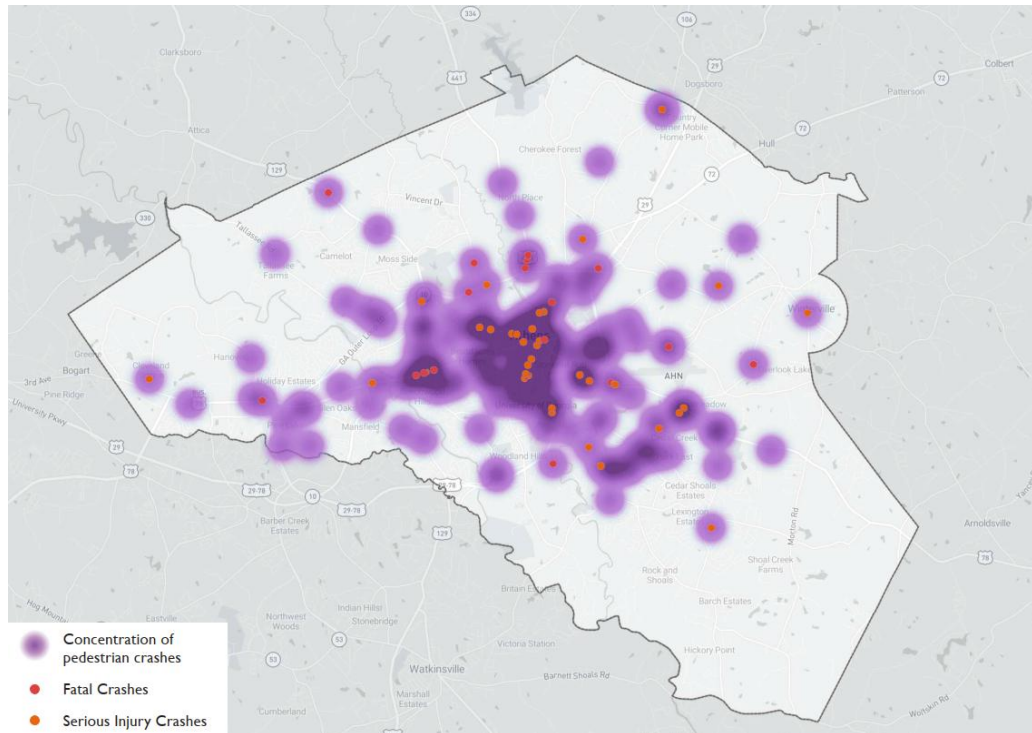
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- Annual average of 14 fatalities
- Annual average of 57 serious injuries
- 23 roadway fatalities in 2021
  - 5 pedestrians
  - 1 bicyclist
  - 17 drivers
- 50 serious injuries in 2021
  - 6 pedestrians
  - 2 bicyclists
  - 42 drivers
- Supports **FY23-25 Strategic Plan**
  - Goal Area 5: Safely Move Around Athens
  - Goal Area 6: Built and Natural Infrastructure
- Supports **Vision Zero Resolution**, adopted August 2022
  - Goal of eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2037





# Why in Athens?



# SS4A Planning Process



## Listen to Community Members

Gather a broad range of community input on roadway safety and behaviors, especially the needs of vulnerable road users (VRU) such as pedestrians and bicyclists.



## Identify High Crash Locations

Locate the roadway segments and intersections with the most severe injury and fatal crashes. Rank locations to determine those best suited for safety improvements.



## Understand Crash Factors

Identify factors that contribute to crashes in Athens-Clarke County, especially, severe injury and fatal crashes and those involving vulnerable road users (VRU).



## Recommend Solutions

Create a countermeasure toolkit that local road safety practitioners can use to improve safety across the network.



## Identify Implementable Projects

Identify projects for the top locations in the county to prioritize projects for federal funding.



## Prepare for Funding Opportunities

Set Athens-Clarke County up for future funding opportunities to implement projects.

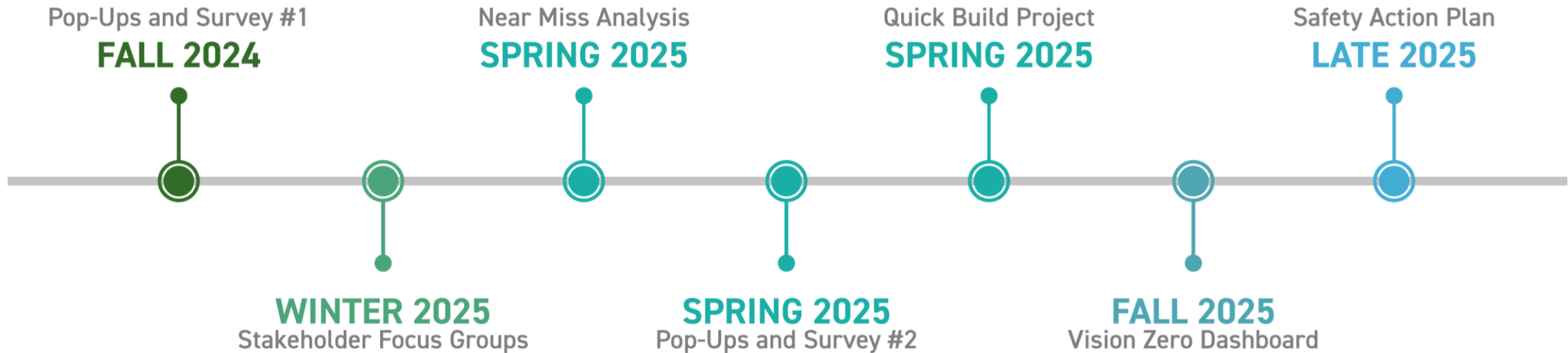




# Project Schedule

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## Key Project Components





# Group Discussion





# Discussion Questions

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- 1) Tell us about yourself and your role in the community.
- 2) How do you, your staff, customers, or community members usually get around the County? (e.g., car, transit, walking, biking, wheelchair, etc.)
- 3) What is your vision for transportation safety in Athens-Clarke County? (e.g., lower speeds, fewer crashes, better access, safer road design, etc.)
- 4) What are the biggest transportation safety concerns in your community?
- 5) What challenges make it hard to improve transportation safety in your community? (e.g., enforcement, language barriers, etc.)
- 6) What does a safe street in Athens look like to you? (e.g., slower speeds, multiple travel options, accessible transit stops, etc.)
- 7) Which types of transportation improvements matter most to you? (e.g., roads, intersections, sidewalks, bike lanes, transit access, accessibility, etc.)
- 8) Are there examples of good road design or safety features you'd like to see more of?
- 9) Are there specific locations with safety issues you'd like to highlight? (e.g., intersections, bike/pedestrian paths, road corridors, etc.)
- 10) Is there anything else you'd like to share about transportation safety and accessibility in Athens-Clarke County?





# Next Steps







# Next Steps

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## Summer 2025

- Hold community pop-up events
- Launch second online survey
- Install temporary demonstration projects

## Fall 2025

- Project recommendations

# Adjourn

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THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

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SCAN FOR PROJECT WEBSITE



Project website: [www.ACCGov.com/safeststreets](http://www.ACCGov.com/safeststreets)

