

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



Introductions



Focus Group Purpose



Project Overview



Group Discussion



Next Steps



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Focus Group Purpose

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.



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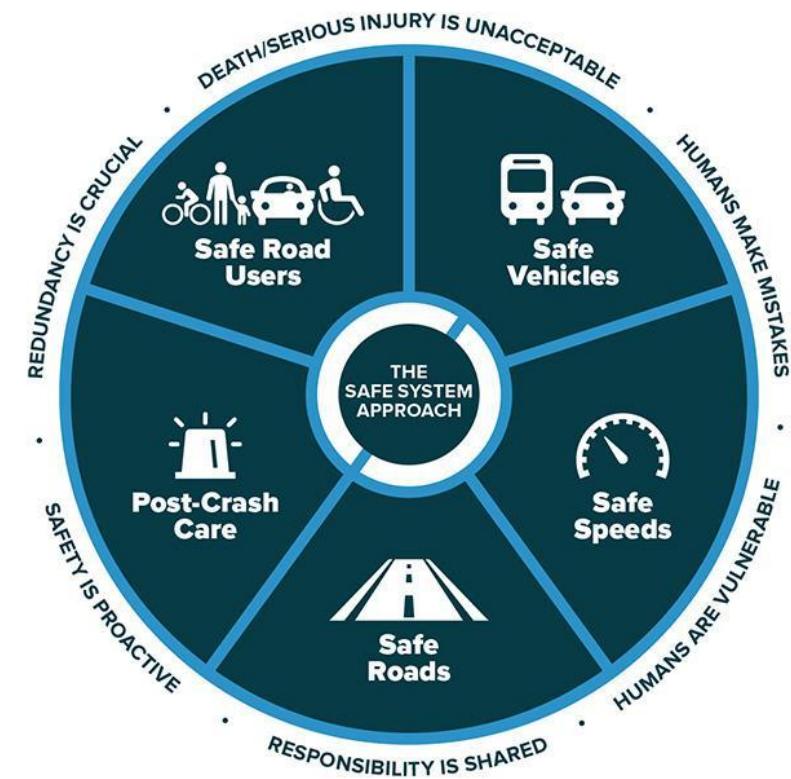
Project Background



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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?

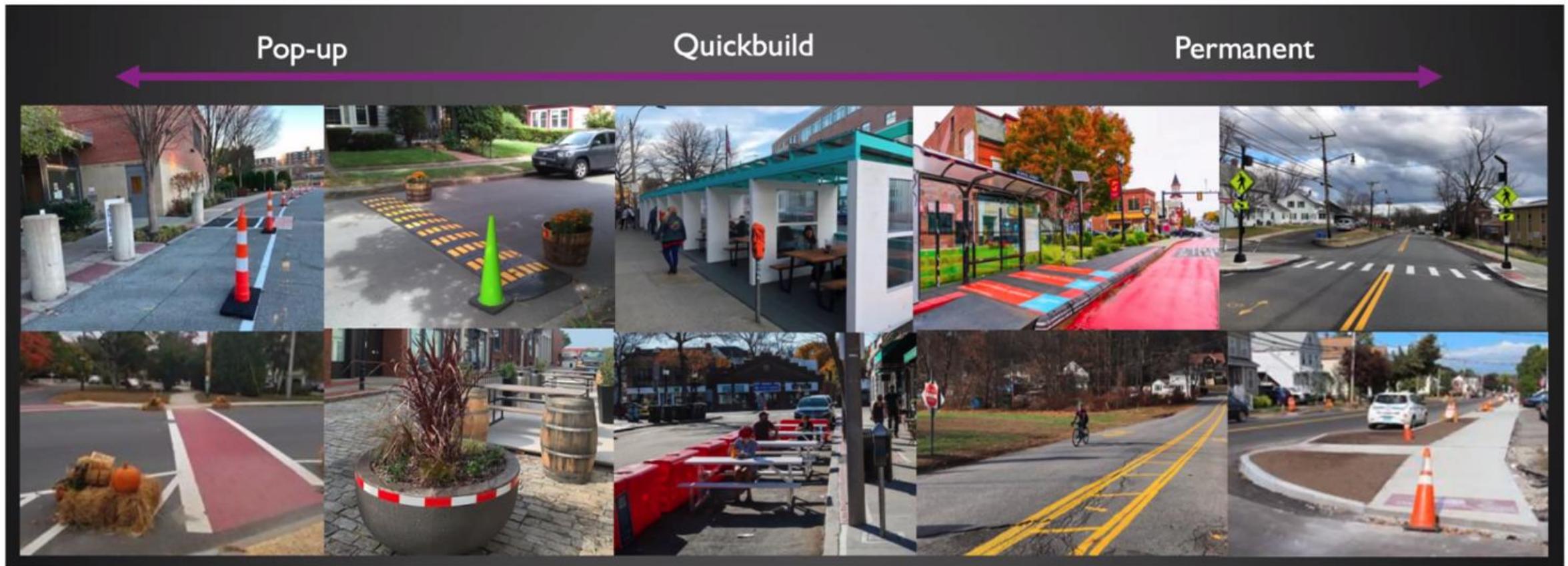
- Accommodates all users and their abilities
- Provides designated infrastructure for all travel modes
- Typically includes:
 - High Visibility Signage & Markings
 - Protected Crossings
 - Narrow Travel Lanes
 - Appropriate Speeds
 - Visual Cues
 - Shorter Distances
 - Lighting & Visibility



Source: City of Austin, TX



What is a Safe Street?

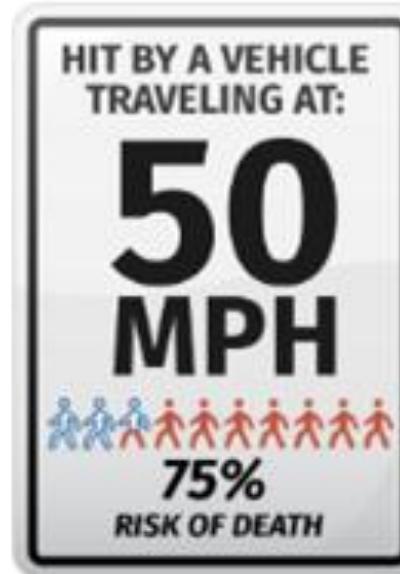


Source: City of Baltimore, MD



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Safe Streets and Speed Risks



Source: FHWA



Proven Safety Countermeasures

Bicycle Lanes



Roundabouts



Backplates with Retroreflective Borders



Longitudinal Rumble Strips



Road Diets



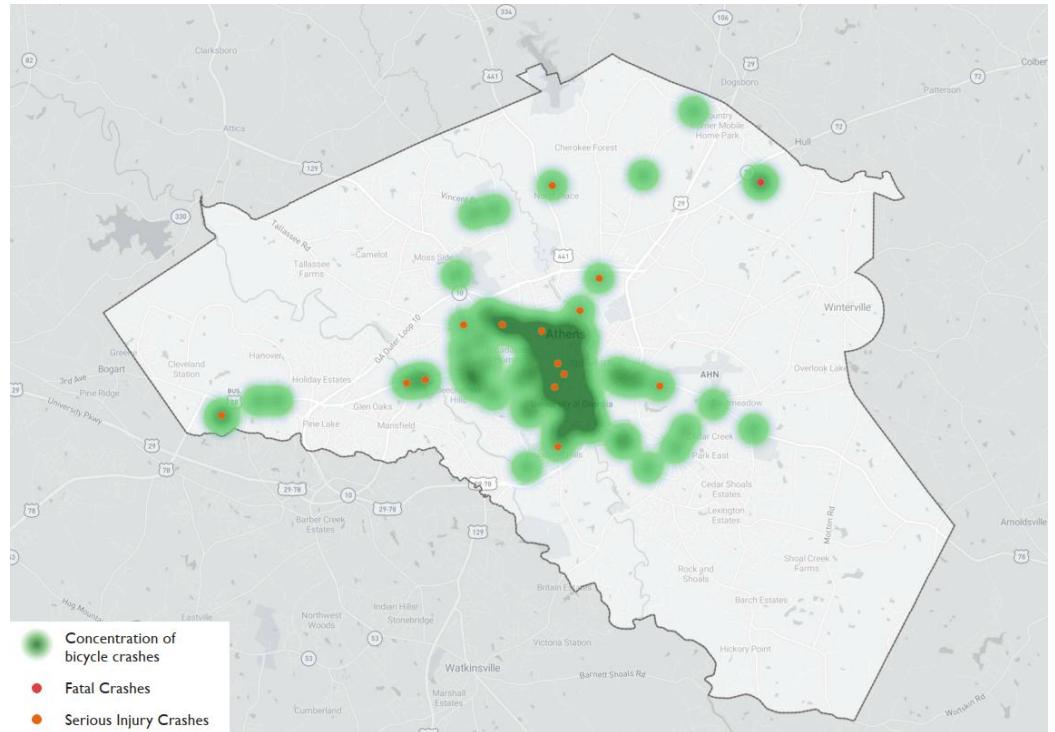
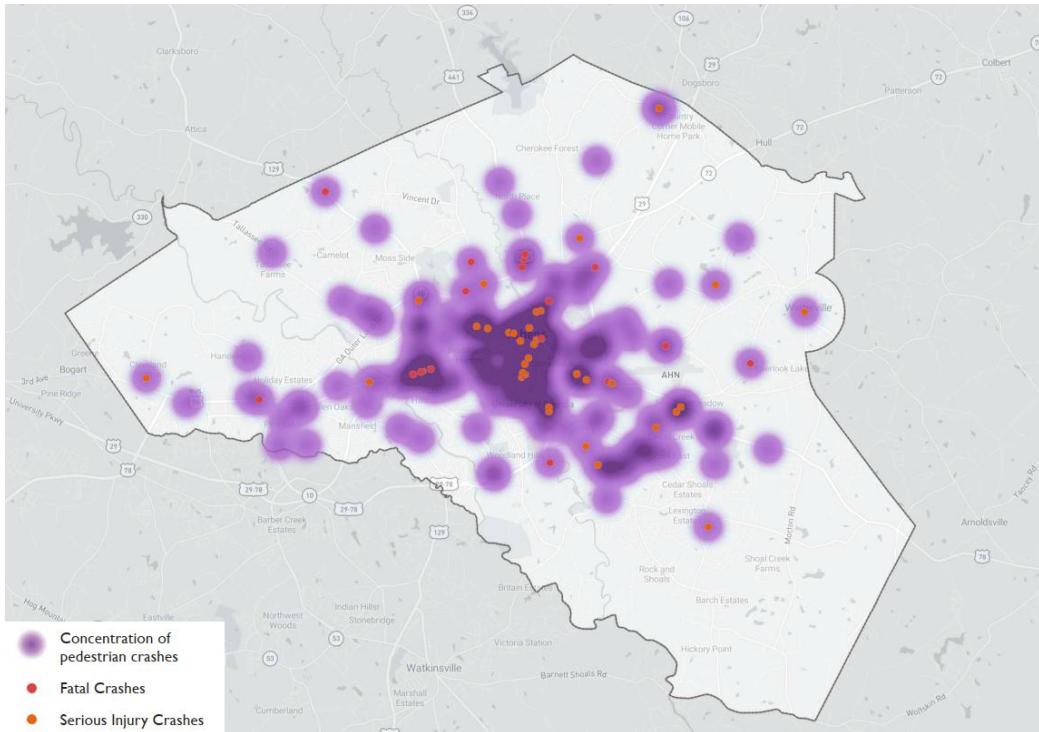
© NYC DOT

Why in Athens?

- 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?



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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.



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Project Schedule

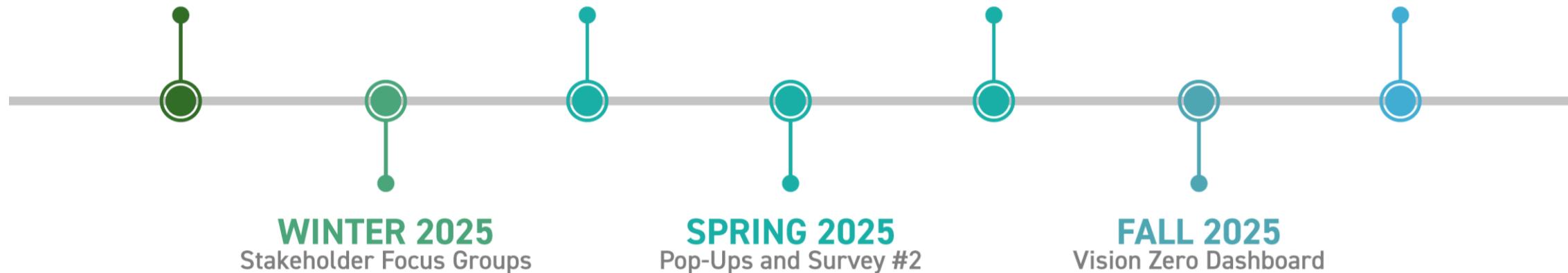
Key Project Components

Pop-Ups and Survey #1
FALL 2024

Near Miss Analysis
SPRING 2025

Quick Build Project
SPRING 2025

Safety Action Plan
LATE 2025



Group Discussion



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Discussion Questions

- 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



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Next Steps

Summer 2025

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

Fall 2025

- Project recommendations

Adjourn

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

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SCAN FOR PROJECT WEBSITE



Project website: www.ACCGov.com/safestreets



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