

AGENDA
JOINT WORKSHOP OF THE
SCARBOROUGH AND CAPE ELIZABETH TOWN COUNCILS
WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 7, 2024
RE: SAWYER STREET/ROAD – 5:30 P.M.
HYBRID MEETING
SCARBOROUGH TOWN HALL – 259 U.S. ROUTE ONE

TO VIEW TOWN COUNCIL MEETING & OFFER PUBLIC COMMENT:

<https://scarboroughmaine.zoom.us/j/81340527193>

TO VIEW TOWN COUNCIL MEETING ONLY:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCD5Y8CFy5HpXMftV3xX73aw>

- Item 1.** Call to Order.
- Item 2.** Those Present.
- Item 3.** Sawyer Street/Road Presentation.
- Item 4.** Adjournment.

MEMO

To: Scarborough Town Council
From: Jami Fitch, Sustainability Manager
Date: February 7, 2024
Re: Sawyer Street Resiliency & Spurwink Marsh Restoration

Background

Sawyer Street is a town road that crosses Spurwink Marsh and is shared with Cape Elizabeth. This road frequently floods during astronomical high tides and storm events.

Scarborough and Cape Elizabeth undertook a study in 2018 to understand what upgrades are needed to maintain a usable road given anticipated sea level rise. The study found that the Towns would need to invest several million dollars to significantly raise the road and increase the size of the existing road culvert. There are also environmental challenges to raising the road as the adjacent marshlands are federally protected as part of the Rachel Carson Wildlife Refuge.

Given the investments that are needed to upgrade other critical infrastructure in both municipalities, Scarborough and Cape Elizabeth are exploring removal of the portion of Sawyer Street that crosses the marsh. A [2022 workshop](#) with the Scarborough and Cape Elizabeth Town Councils indicated support for this approach. Sawyer Street residents also voiced support for road removal, pending improvements to Sawyer Street's intersection with Spurwink Road.

Funding Opportunity

Maine Natural Resource Compensation Program (MNRCP) - \$1.59M awarded

In late June 2023, MNRCP staff encouraged the Towns of Cape Elizabeth and Scarborough to apply for wetland restoration funds for Spurwink Marsh. The three-year project includes complete assessment, design, and implementation of Spurwink Marsh restoration and Sawyer Street removal. This funding opportunity became available after the Town's annual budgeting processes, so Scarborough was not able to commit sufficient matching funds for this opportunity. Scarborough's FY24 CIP included \$35,000 funds to match a different grant opportunity related to Sawyer Street. It was determined that the FY24 CIP funds could be reallocated to the MNRCP proposal, if funded.

Scarborough and Cape Elizabeth were notified in late 2023 that the Spurwink Marsh Restoration project will receive the full \$1.59M requested in the proposal.

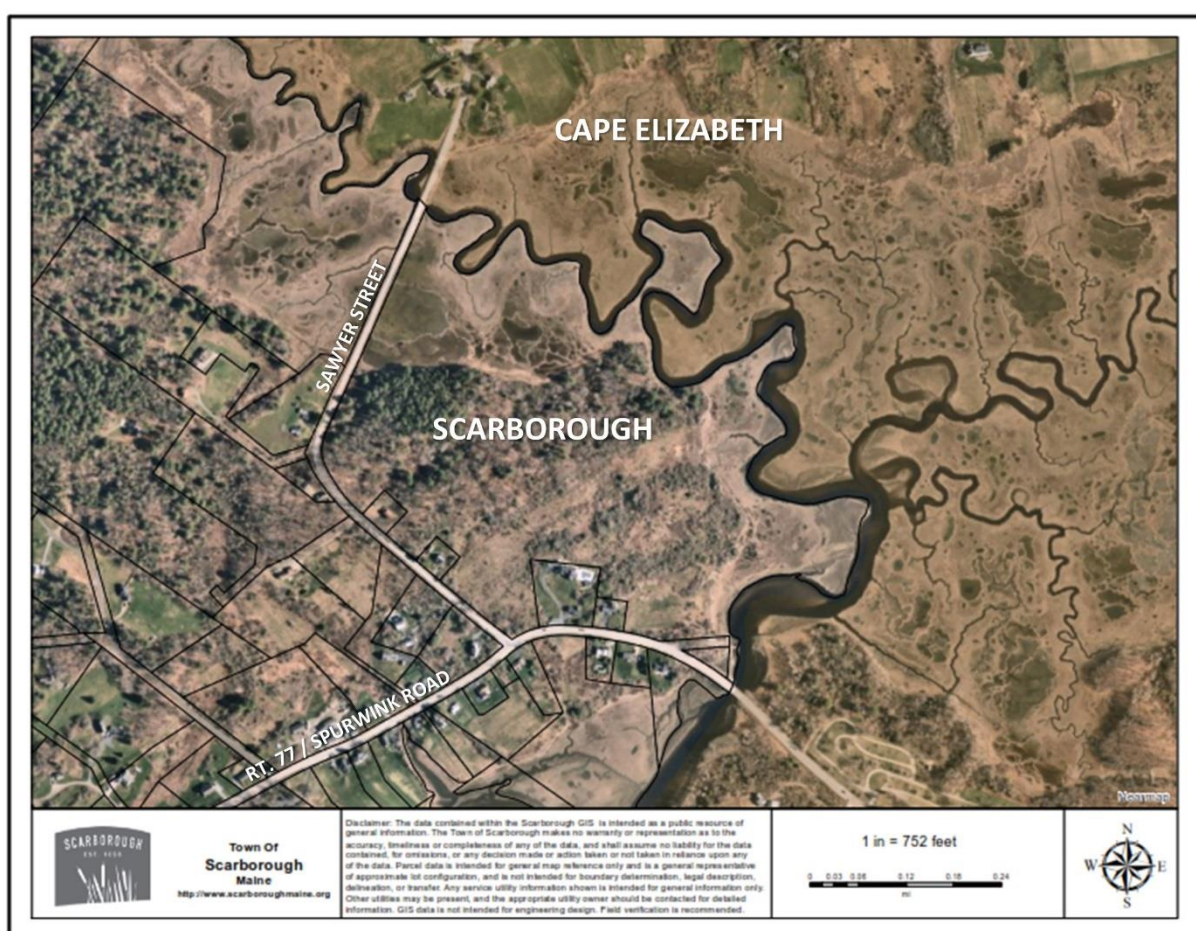
Engineering & Technical Services

Next Steps

To move forward with this project, Scarborough needs to allocate an additional \$150,000 to the project for construction of hammerhead turnarounds at the end of Sawyer Street, for a total of \$185,000 to match the \$1.59M grant. (Cape Elizabeth has already authorized \$185,000 for construction on their side of the marsh.) The MNRCP grant fully covers the cost to restore Spurwink Marsh and remove the 1,400-foot section of Sawyer Street that crosses the marsh. The grant funds cannot be used for road construction. This cost falls to the municipalities.

Scarborough and Cape Elizabeth should also enter into a memorandum of understanding to affirm each municipality's role in the project.

Figure 1. Sawyer Street Map



SAWYER STREET/ROAD REMOVAL

JOINT WORKSHOP OF THE SCARBOROUGH + CAPE ELIZABETH TOWN COUNCILS

FEBRUARY 7, 2024

SAWYER STREET/ROAD

CAPE ELIZABETH

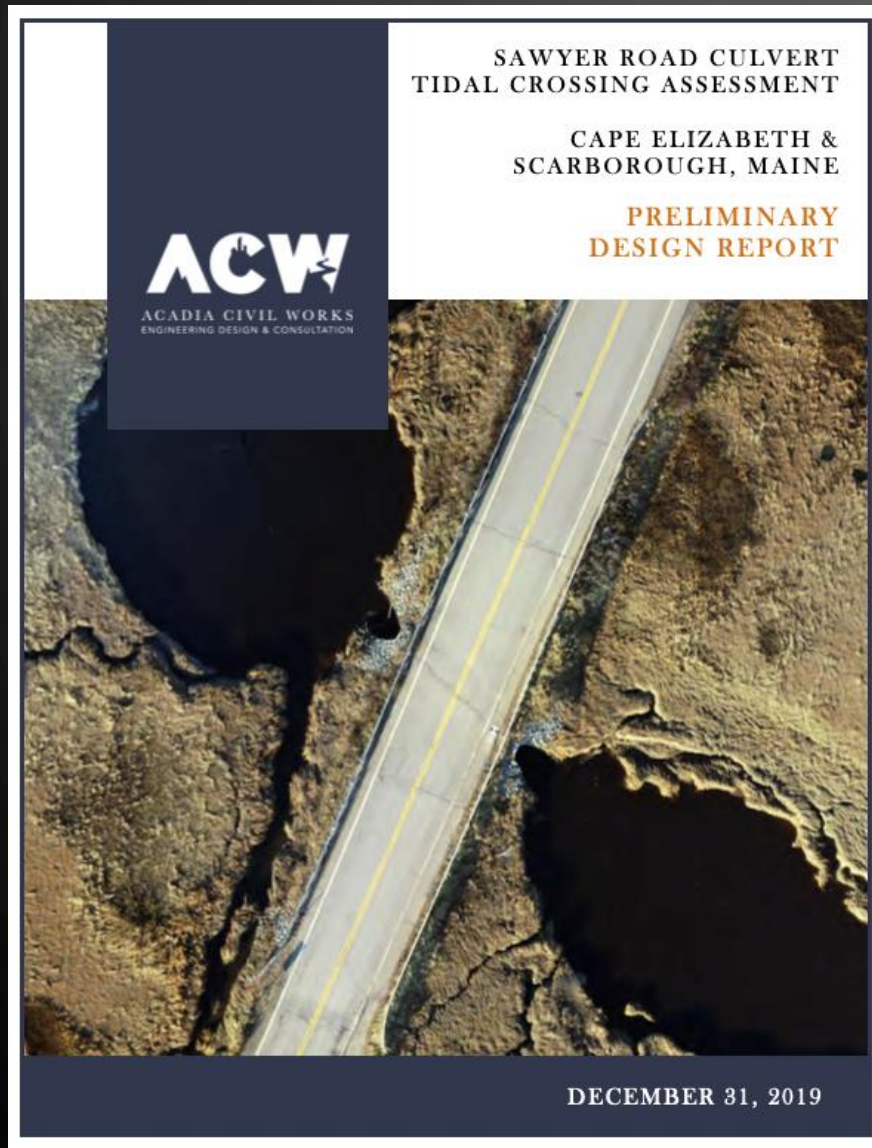
SCARBOROUGH

SPURWINK ROAD/RT. 77

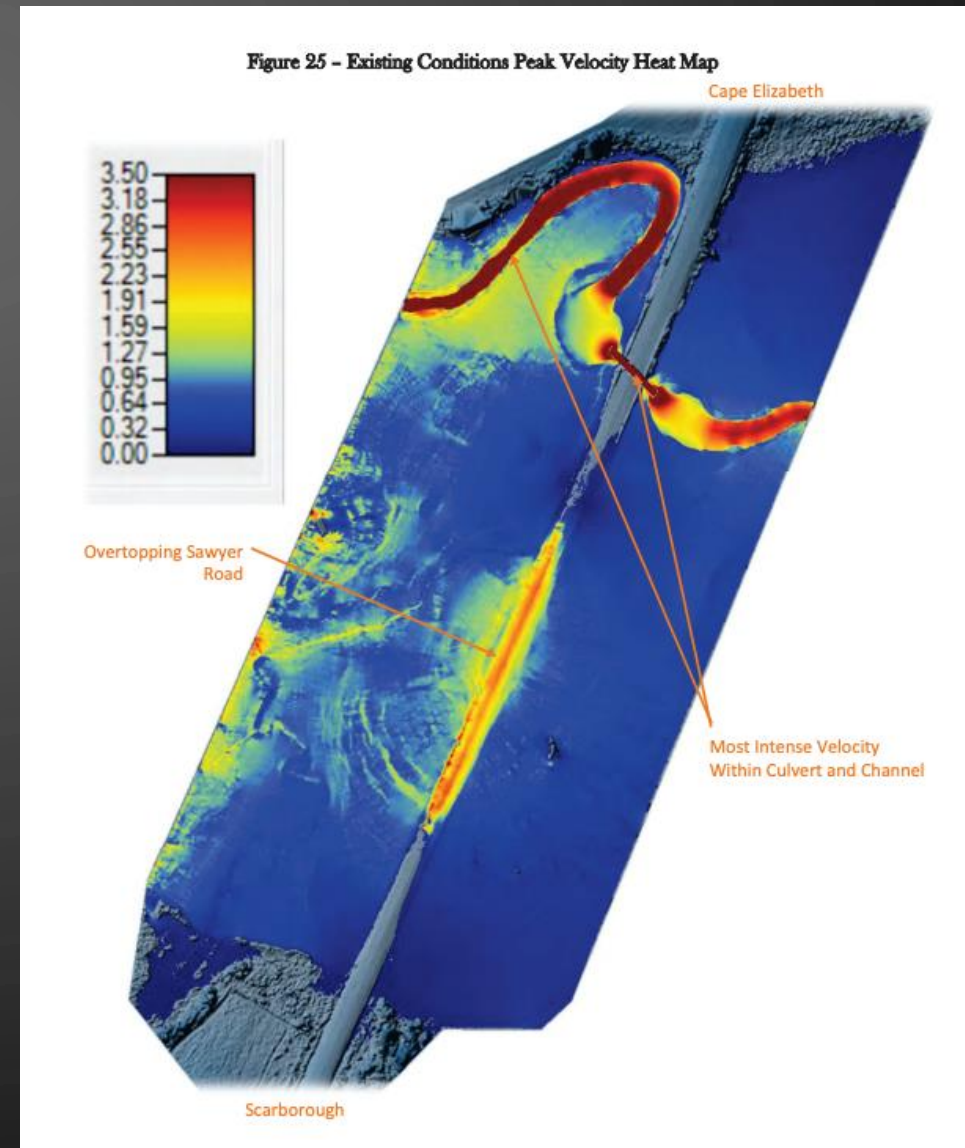
HOW DID WE GET HERE?

- 2015 CAPE ELIZABETH SEA LEVEL RISE VULNERABILITY STUDY
- 2019 CAPE ELIZABETH HABITAT AND CULVERT ASSESSMENT
- 2019 SAWYER ROAD CULVERT TIDAL CROSSING
- 2022 JOINT TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP
- 2023 MNRCP GRANT PROPOSAL





CULVERT REPLACEMENT: \$2M – 5.5M



ROAD WILL STILL FLOOD

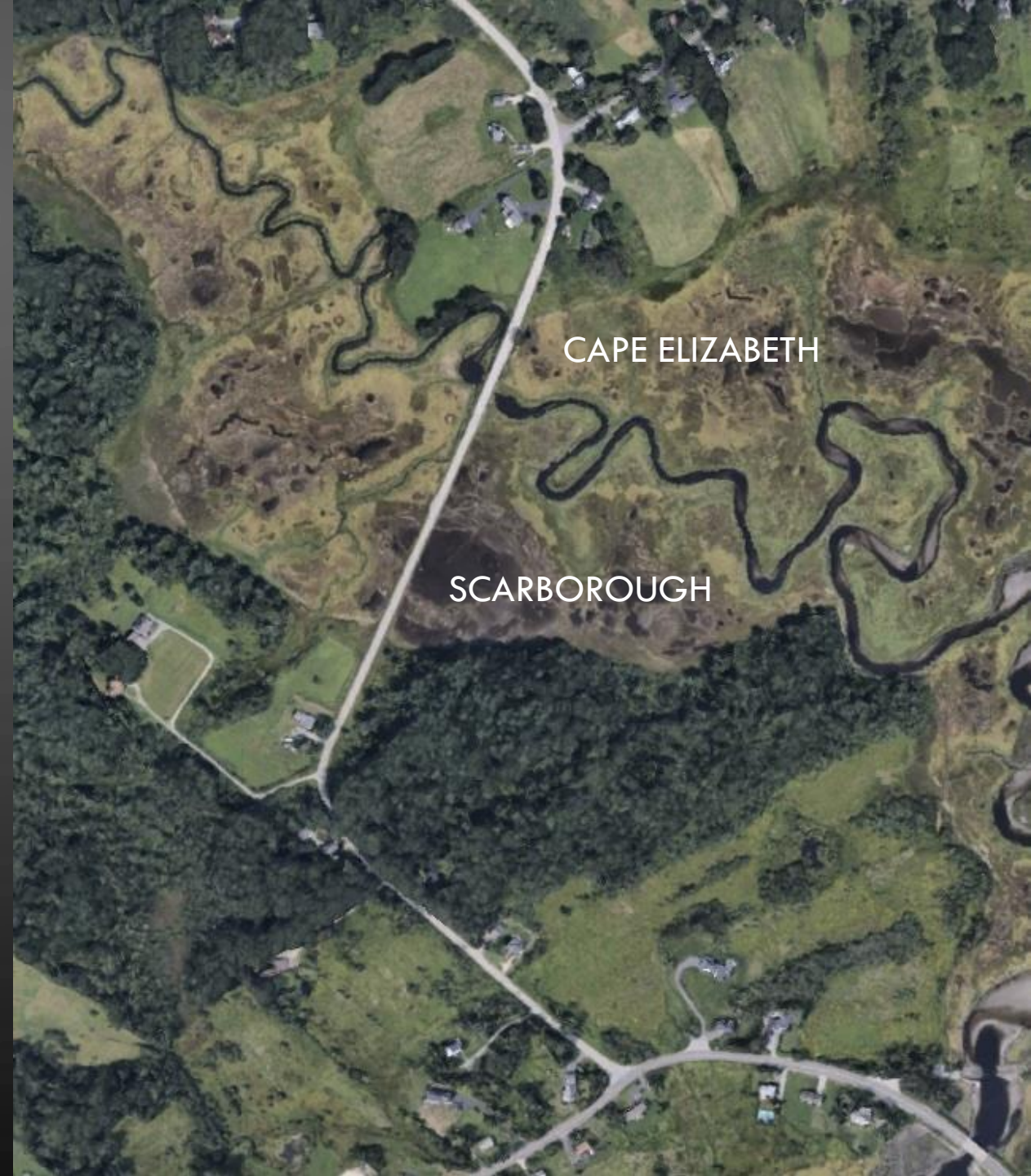
WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

- ✓ UPDATE SINCE THE 3/16/2022 JOINT WORKSHOP
- COMMIT TO MNRCP GRANT AWARD
- ADD CASH MATCH INTO BUDGET PROCESS
- INITIATE MOU TO ADMINISTER GRANT

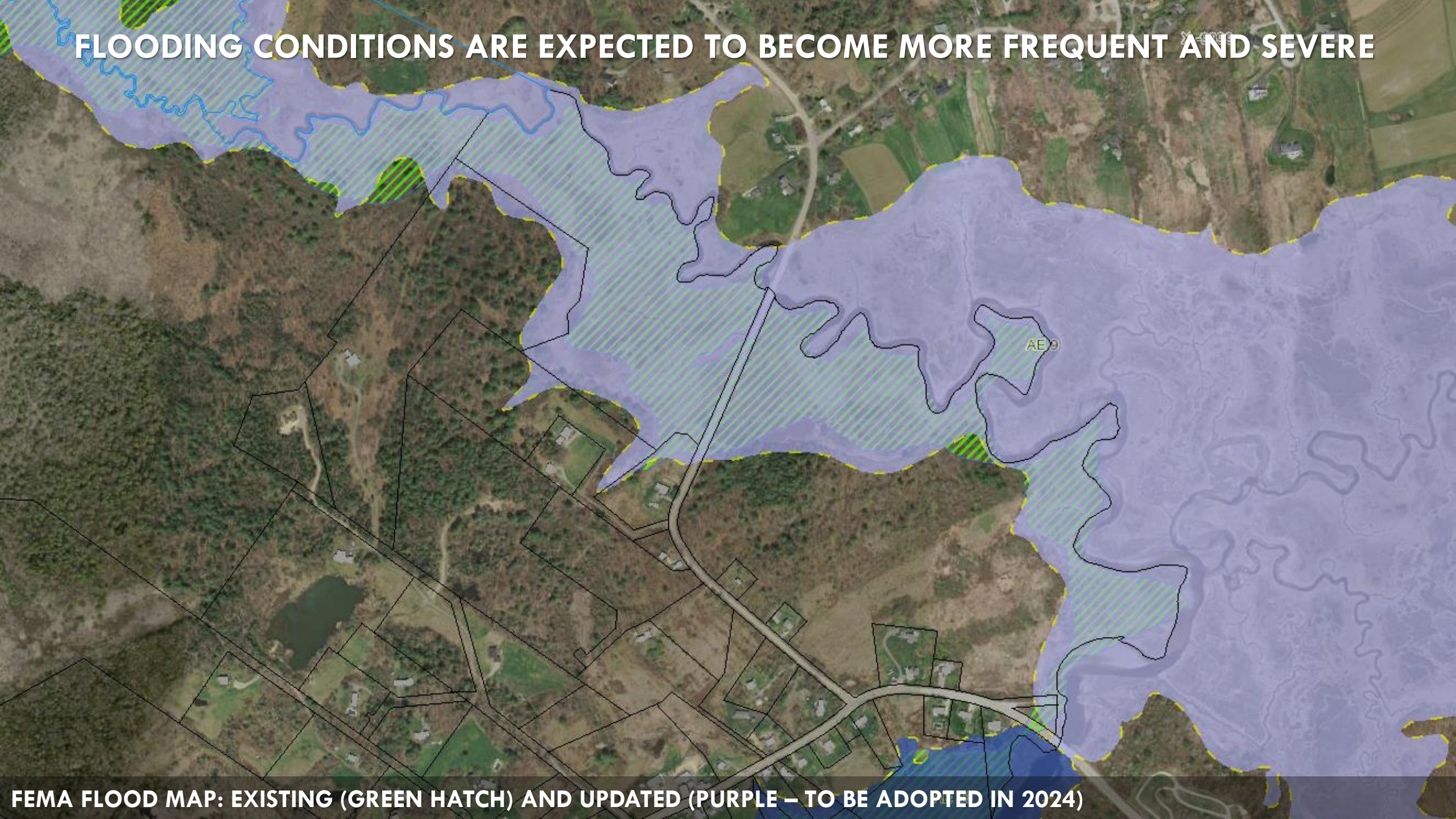


PROJECT SUMMARY

- THE TOWNS RECEIVED \$1.59M FROM THE MAINE NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION PROGRAM (MNRCP) TO REMOVE 1,400 FEET OF ROAD FROM SPURWINK MARSH
- 62+ ACRES OF SALTWATER WETLAND RESTORATION OR ENHANCEMENT (REQUIRES COMPLETE ROAD REMOVAL)



FLOODING CONDITIONS ARE EXPECTED TO BECOME MORE FREQUENT AND SEVERE



FEMA FLOOD MAP: EXISTING (GREEN HATCH) AND UPDATED (PURPLE – TO BE ADOPTED IN 2024)

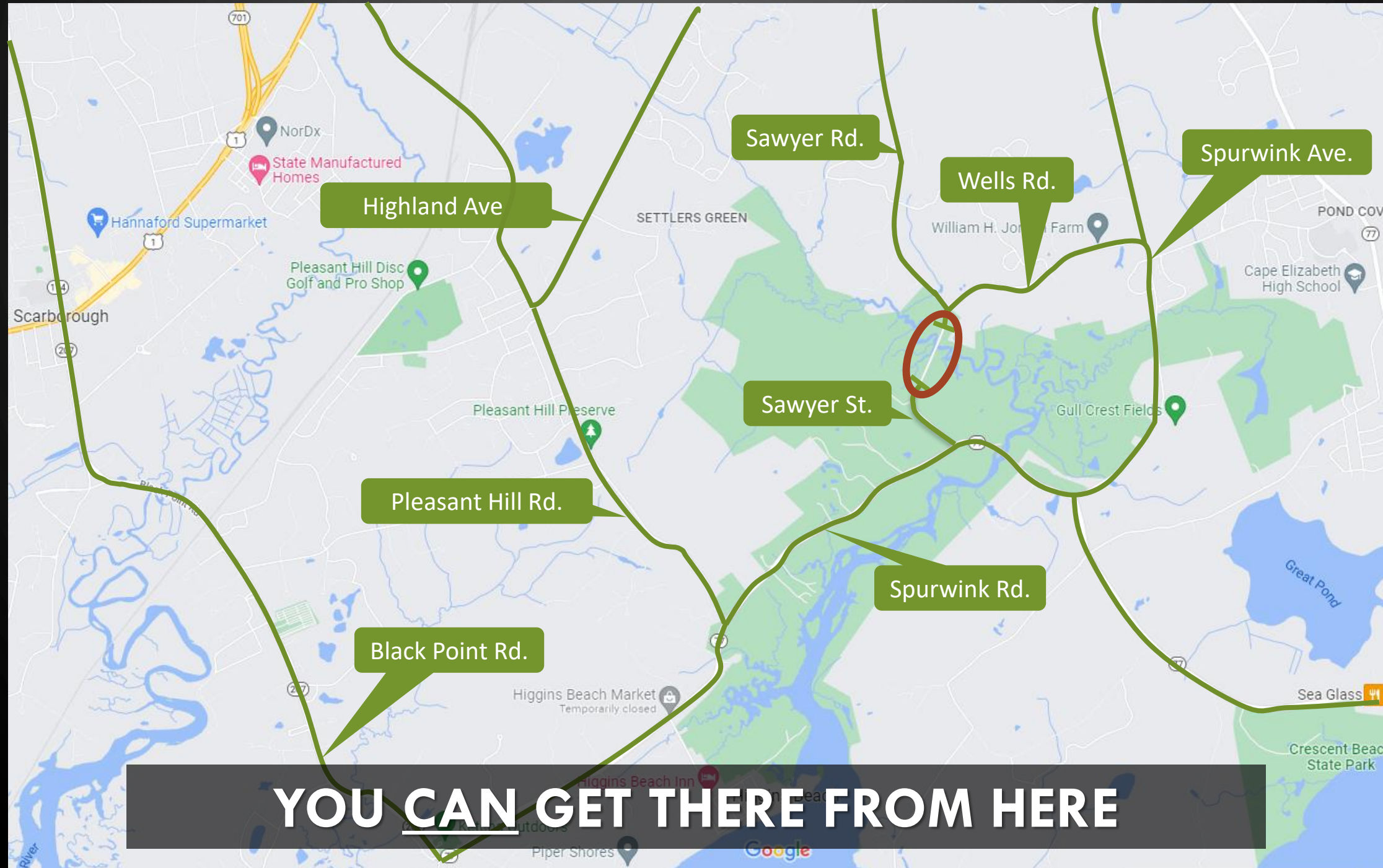
SAWYER STREET/ROAD – JANUARY 10, 2024



SCARBOROUGH VIEW



CAPE ELIZABETH VIEW



YOU CAN GET THERE FROM HERE

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES IN SCARBOROUGH

ROUTE 1



ROUTE 9 / PINE POINT ROAD



PAYNE ROAD



PLUS:

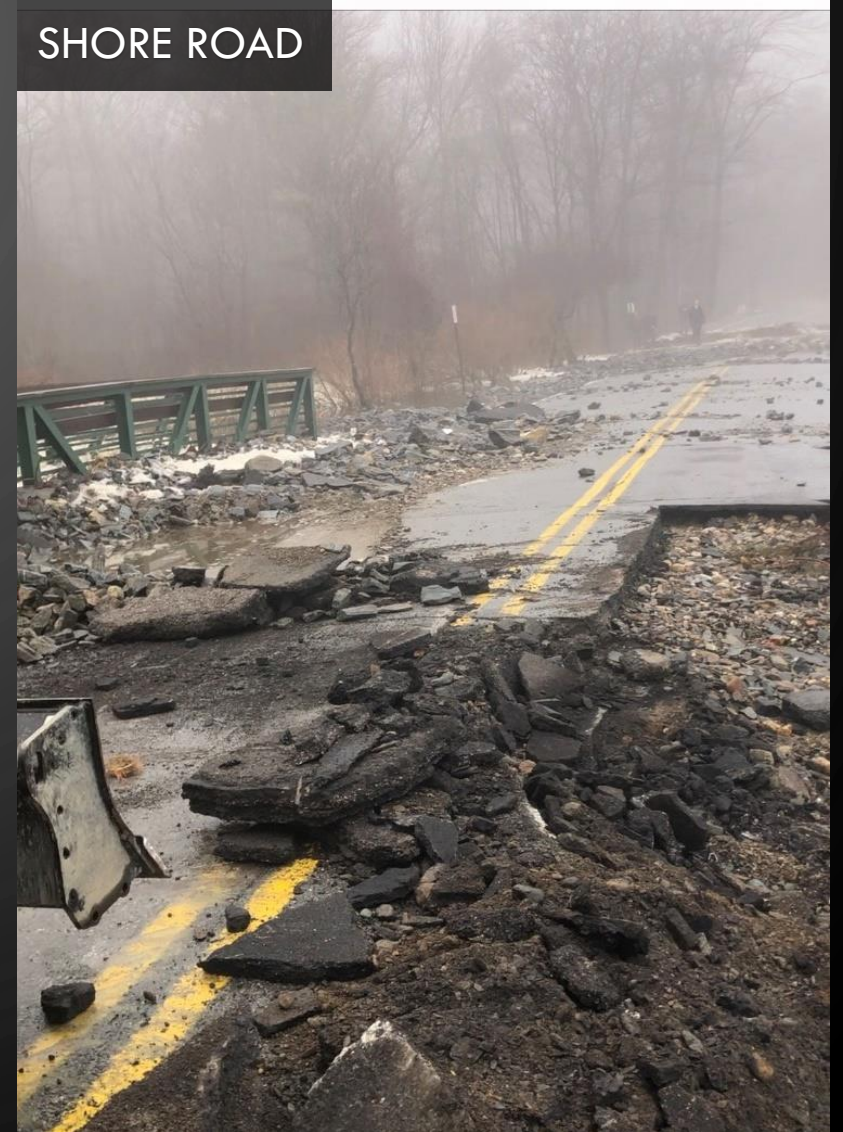
- BLACK POINT ROAD
- PINE POINT AREA
- HIGGINS BEACH AREA

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES IN CAPE ELIZABETH

SPURWINK AVE CULVERT



SHORE ROAD



**GIVEN INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS AND LIMITED FUNDING, DO YOU WANT
TO INVEST IN KEEPING SAWYER STREET/ROAD**

OR REMOVE IT?

BOTH COMMUNITIES HAVE HIGHER PRIORITIES.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

TO DATE:

- MARCH 2022 – JOINT WORKSHOP
*RESIDENTS NOTIFIED: SAWYER STREET
(SCARBOROUGH); SAWYER ROAD + WELLS
ROAD (CAPE ELIZABETH)*
- FEBRUARY 2024 – JOINT WORKSHOP
*RESIDENTS NOTIFIED: SAWYER STREET +
SPURWINK ROAD (SCARBOROUGH)*

MOVING FORWARD:

- SPRING + SUMMER 2024 – PUBLIC
MEETINGS IN BOTH COMMUNITIES



CRITICAL GRANT DATES

- 2024 (MARCH): CONTRACT ISSUED
- 2024 SPRING/SUMMER: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT/MODELING SCOPED
- 2024 - 2025 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT/RESTORATION PLAN PREPARED
- 2025 (DECEMBER) - 2026 (APRIL): IMPLEMENT MARSH RESTORATION
- 2026 (DECEMBER) - 2027 (FEBRUARY): ROAD REMOVAL
- 2027 (FEBRUARY - APRIL): ROAD BED REMOVAL
- 2027 (FEBRUARY - APRIL): ROAD BED ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION
- 2028 - 2035: ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

MNRCP GRANT: \$1,590,000

MUNICIPAL CASH MATCH: \$185,000 / COMMUNITY

SCARBOROUGH

- \$35,000 AUTHORIZED
- \$150,000 CIP REQUEST
- PROPOSE \$150,000 IN FY25 CIP

CAPE ELIZABETH

- UP TO \$250,000 AUTHORIZED
- \$185,000 CIP REQUEST
- PROPOSE \$75,000 IN FY25, FY26, FY27 CIP



NEXT STEPS

- AUTHORIZE ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT
- SIGN MOU
- APPROVE CASH MATCH