

Town of Harrison

Comprehensive Plan Kick Off

December 9th, 2025

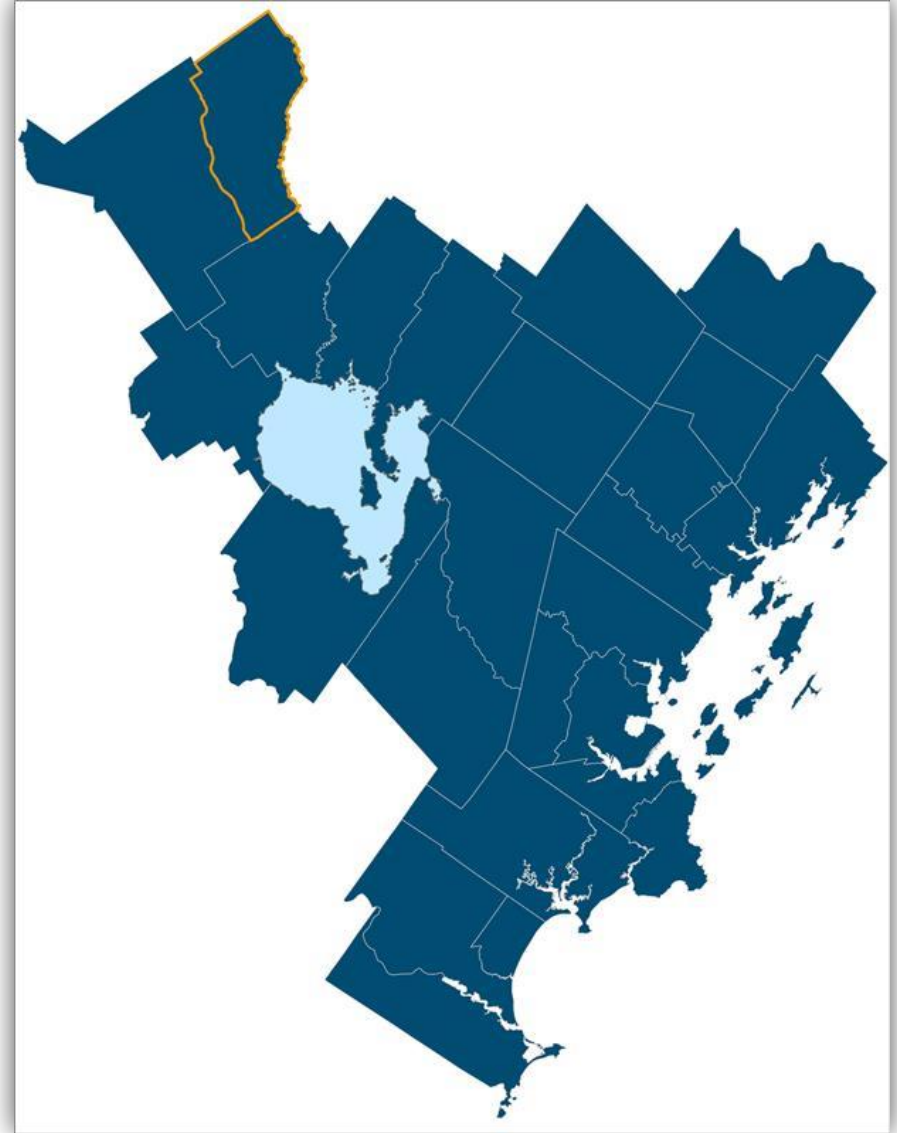


Who is GPCOG?

The Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG) is:

- A Membership Organization
- A Metropolitan Planning Organization
- An Economic Development District

We help municipalities of all shapes and sizes plan for their future.



Meet Your Project Management Team



Paul Johnson

The Project Principal

- Director of GPCOG's Economic & Community Development Department
- Previous member of the Scarborough Town Council
- Previous small business owner with two decades of entrepreneurial experience



Shannon Chisholm

The Project Manager

- Senior Planner
- Master's Degree in Policy, Planning, & Management from the USM
- Previous Assistant Planner for the City of Saco
- Over three years of municipal planning experience

Meet Your Data & Engagement Teams



Rick Harbison

*Senior Planner
&
Data Manager*



Lucy Sinclair

Data Analyst



Shukria Wiar

*Senior Planner
&
Engagement
Manager*



Maggie Johnson

*Community
Engagement
Coordinator*



Becca Hoskins

*Communications
Specialist*

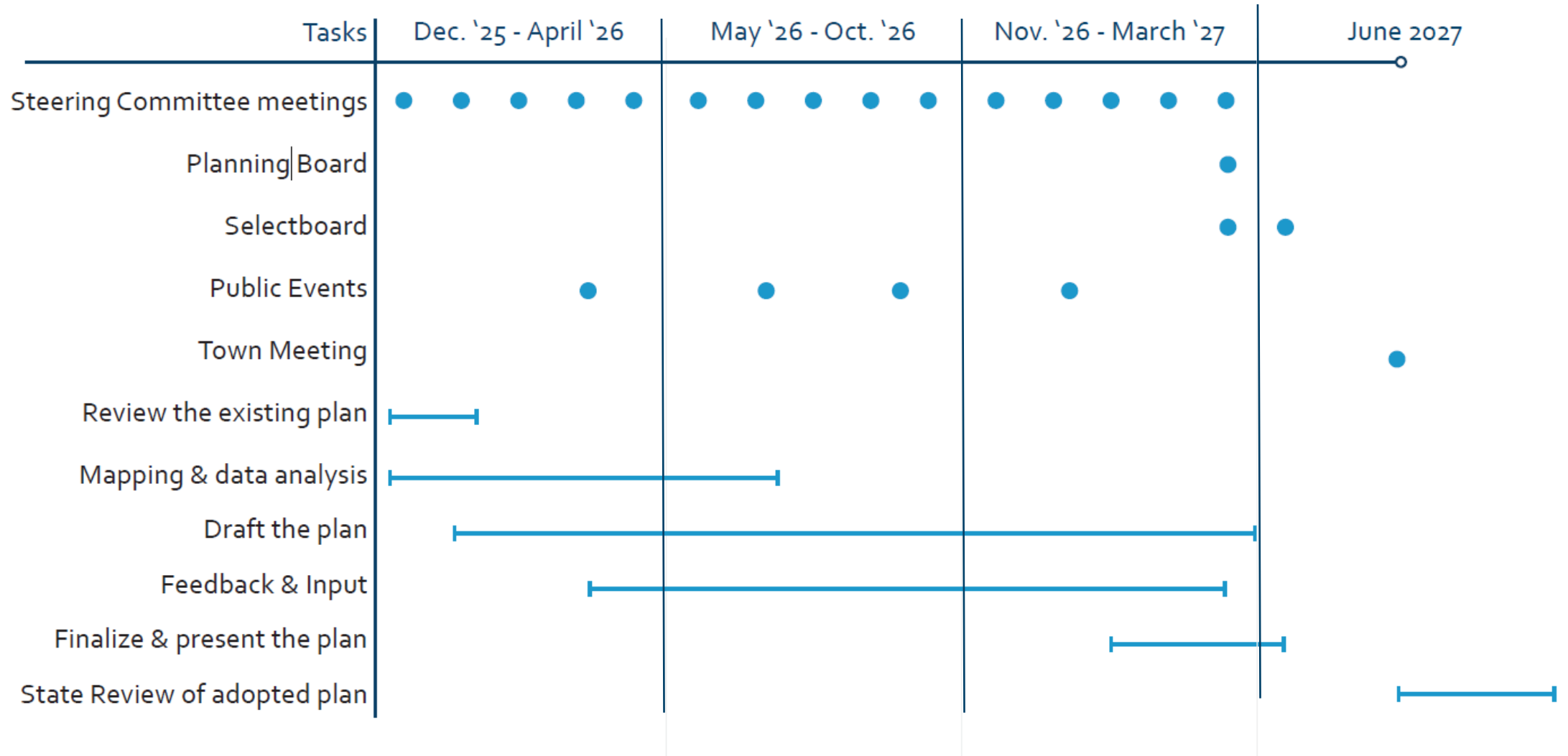
What is a Comprehensive Plan?



Comprehensive Planning in Maine

- **The State of Maine's Growth Management Act requires communities to have a comprehensive plan.**
- A comprehensive plan is a document that:
 - expresses a community's long-term vision for the future.
 - serves as a base for capital improvement planning.
 - Provides the foundation for community actions, policies, and regulations.
- Communities with comprehensive plans older than 10 years:
 - May be ineligible or given a lower priority for grant applications.
 - May be susceptible to legal challenges to their impact fees or zoning ordinance.

Comprehensive Plan Timeline



Public Engagement Priority - Community Survey

- Committee work to start in January.
- First draft to be complete by _____.
- Survey will be active from May to August 2026.
- Year-round and summer-time residents can provide input.



Parallel Activities

What can we work on in the meantime?

2009 Harrison Comprehensive Plan

- Review previous plan
- Identify likes and dislikes
- Complete redline activity

Drafting Background Chapters

- Some chapters will not meaningfully differ from 2009.
- GPCOG staff will update and draft these chapters using available data sources

Today's Objectives

Establish and/or understand:

1. Norms
2. Decision Process
3. Meeting Workload
4. Subcommittees/Working Groups

Contact Information

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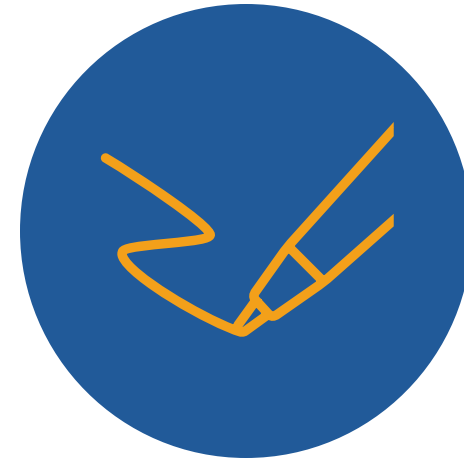
Creating a New Vision Statement



2009 Harrison Comprehensive Plan

There is no specific vision statement in the previous plan. The following sentence from the introduction comes closest:

“Together, we can keep Harrison a town we are proud of for current and future generations.”



2027 Harrison Comprehensive Plan

It's up to you to decide!