

NEWPORT PLANNING BOARD & CITY COUNCIL JOINT SESSION

Monday, July 20, 2026



CITY OF NEWPORT



Comprehensive Plan Update

TONIGHT'S AGENDA

- 6:30-6:40 **Introductions & Recap of Where We Are In The Planning Process**
- 6:40-6:50 **Proposed Draft Vision Statement**
- 6:50-7:20 **Introduction of Tonight's Key Topics**
- 7:20-8:10 **Select Strategies for Discussion**
- 8:10-8:30 **Final Thoughts & Wrap Up**

PLANNING TEAM & ROLES

INTERFACE STUDIO *Planning & Urban Design*



MINDY WATTS



ASHLEY DI CARO



SCOTT PAGE



MARIA GONZALEZ



KYLEE PIERCE

NINIGRET PARTNERS *Economic Development*



KEVIN HIVELY

WOODS HOLE GROUP *Climate Resiliency*



BRITTANY HOFFNAGLE

TOOLE DESIGN *Transportation*



CATRINA MEYER

SINCE OUR LAST UPDATE WITH CITY COUNCIL & PLANNING BOARD

15 FOCUS GROUPS

158 PARTICIPANTS with 121 UNIQUE ATTENDEES

Housing Needs -----	10 (attendees)
Water & Natural Resources -----	15
Energy -----	7
Coastal Players -----	14
Flood Risk Neighborhoods -----	9
Transportation -----	15
Large Event Transportation -----	16
Parks, Recreation & Open Space -----	9
Community Services & Education -----	15
Cultural Institutions -----	7
Broadway Merchants -----	5
Thames Street Businesses -----	5
North End Neighbors -----	12
Historic Preservation -----	14
Development -----	4

3 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS (to date)

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

**WE'VE COMBINED THE 15 MAY FOCUS GROUPS
INTO 4 GROUPS FOR THIS ROUND**

MONDAY

**Joint Session with
City Council &
Planning Board**
6:30-8:30pm

TUESDAY

Focus Group A
9:30-11:30am

*Includes: Land Use,
Economic
Development, Housing*

Focus Group B
2-4pm

*Includes: City Services &
Facilities, Water
(Utilities),
Transportation*

North End & HEZ
5:30-7:30pm

WEDNESDAY

**Social Services
Situation Table**
9-10am

Focus Group C
1-3pm

*Includes: Open Space &
Recreation, Historic &
Cultural Resources*

Focus Group D
3:30-5:30pm

*Includes: Energy,
Natural Resources,
Natural Hazards &
Climate Change*

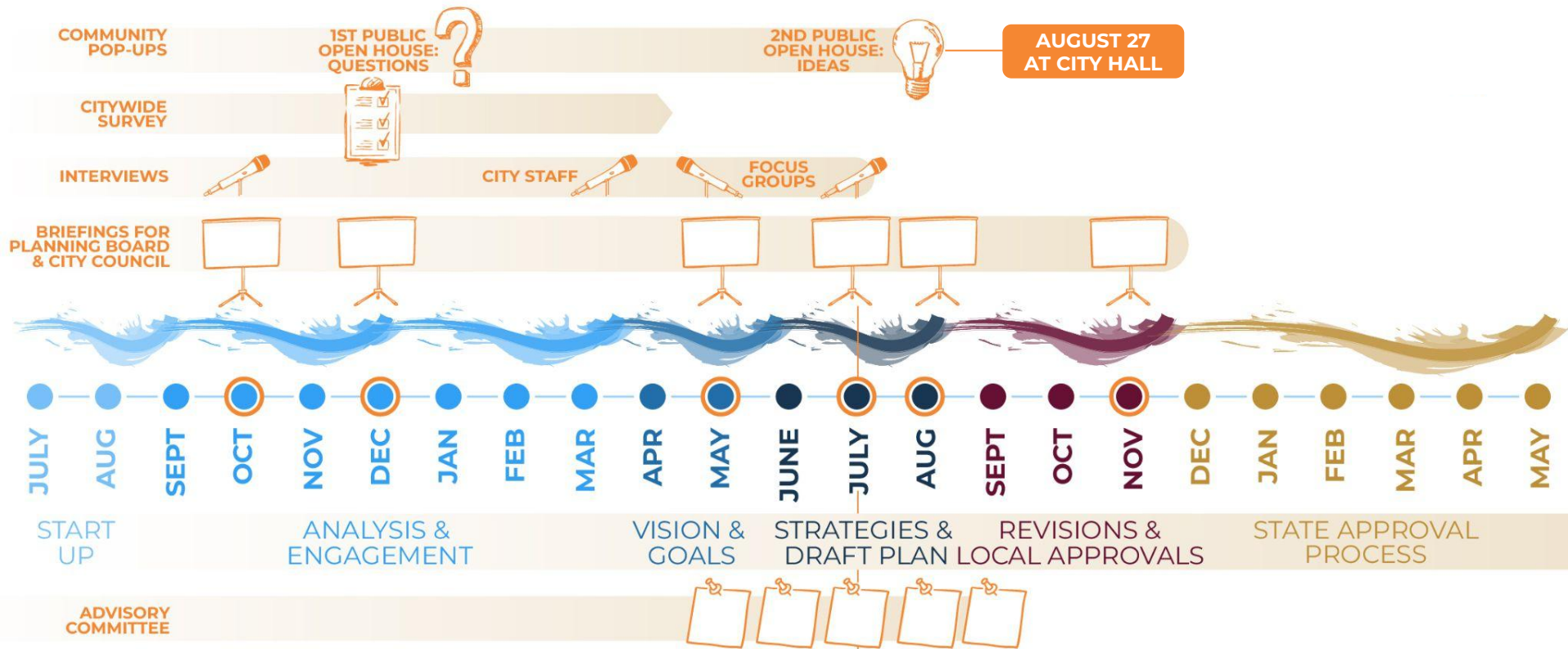
THURSDAY

**Advisory
Committee
Meeting #4**
9:30-11:30am

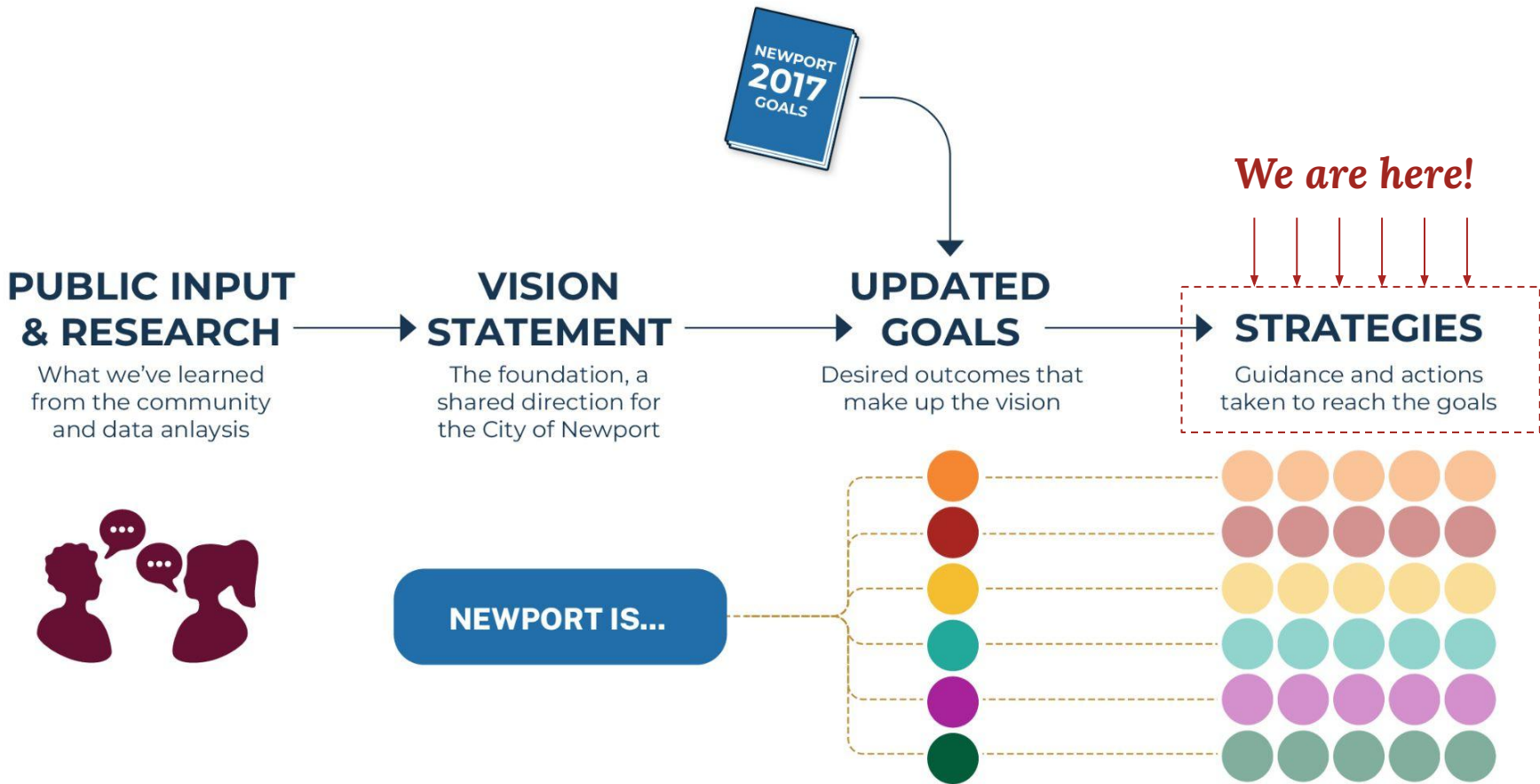
WE'VE DRAFTED VISION & GOALS, AND NOW WE'RE WORKSHOPPING STRATEGIES

6 Major Waves





WHAT IS THE FOCUS OF TONIGHT'S JOINT SESSION?



2017 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN VISION STATEMENT

FORMER VISION STATEMENT (2017):

The City of Newport is a **vibrant, forward-looking** and **welcoming** community built upon a **strong sense of place** and **cultural heritage**.

Residents and visitors alike enjoy the city for its **rich history, natural beauty, boating traditions, walkability, enticing downtown, community diversity**, and overall **quality of life**.

We are committed to charting a course for our future that embraces and encourages **innovative growth and development**, taking an active role in the **stewardship** of our **architectural and natural resources**, and an enhanced quality of life, all while we maintain our unique **historic and cultural assets** that are the foundation of our character.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR NEW 2037 VISION STATEMENT

- Previous vision statement did not mention **resilience** or **climate change**.
- **Housing affordability and availability** have become even more important with rising housing costs.
- **Acknowledge tensions** and need for balance within core issue areas:
 - **Quality of life for residents** and **tourism as economic driver**,
 - **Growth** and **preservation**
 - **Infrastructure needs** and **resource constraints**, etc.

FIRST DRAFT: NEWPORT 2037 VISION STATEMENT

The City of Newport is a **world-renowned** and **inviting coastal city** distinguished by its **rich cultural heritage** and **natural beauty**.

Its **outstanding quality of life for its residents** is balanced with its role as a **vibrant destination for visitors**.

It is dedicated to the **protection of its natural resources** while maintaining its identity and economy as an **authentic seaport** and encourages **innovative growth that complements its historic character**.

Newport is a forward-looking leader in **coastal resilience** and **sustainable practices** and a **collaborative partner** with the broader Aquidneck Island and the State of Rhode Island.

We are committed to maintaining a **diverse and walkable community** where **people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities can afford to live and thrive**.

KEY FEEDBACK FROM THE NEWPORT COMP PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NCPAC)

- **Too long and wordy**, make it shorter and to the point
- **Add a preamble** to ground vision in relation to **today's most pressing issues**
- Tourism and visitors are too prominent in the statement, needs to **focus on residents and the resident experience**
- **What does it mean to live and thrive?** Ability to work, learn, and find housing you can afford.

SETTING THE STAGE & CENTERING THE COMMUNITY (a preamble to the vision)

Though Newport is a destination that draws visitors from around the world, for us, **Newport is home - a quaint and close-knit island community.**

In this moment, as we envision the next 20 years in Newport's story, **we face real challenges that threaten life as we know it.**

Housing has become unaffordable for many. Year-round, living-wage jobs are hard to find. Congested streets make daily errands a drag. Visitors now stay where neighbors once lived. Land is limited, but development pressure is building. Meanwhile, extreme weather has become the norm, and aging infrastructure approaches a breaking point.

Looking to the future, we see that **Newporters must work together today to guide needed change, deepen bonds between neighbors, and protect this beloved place we so proudly call home...**

REVISED NEWPORT 2037 VISION STATEMENT (draft)

Going forward, Newport will be a city of **extraordinary coastal beauty and rich cultural heritage**, where an **exceptional quality of life for residents** is enriched by its role as a vibrant year-round destination.

We will remain committed to **protecting Newport's natural resources and authentic harbor identity**, while embracing **innovative growth that honors our historic charm**.

A forward-thinking leader in **resilience, sustainability, and connectivity**, we will ensure that Newport is a community where **people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities can live, learn, work, thrive, and enjoy the waters that surround our island home**.

THREE THREADS OR THROUGHLINES...

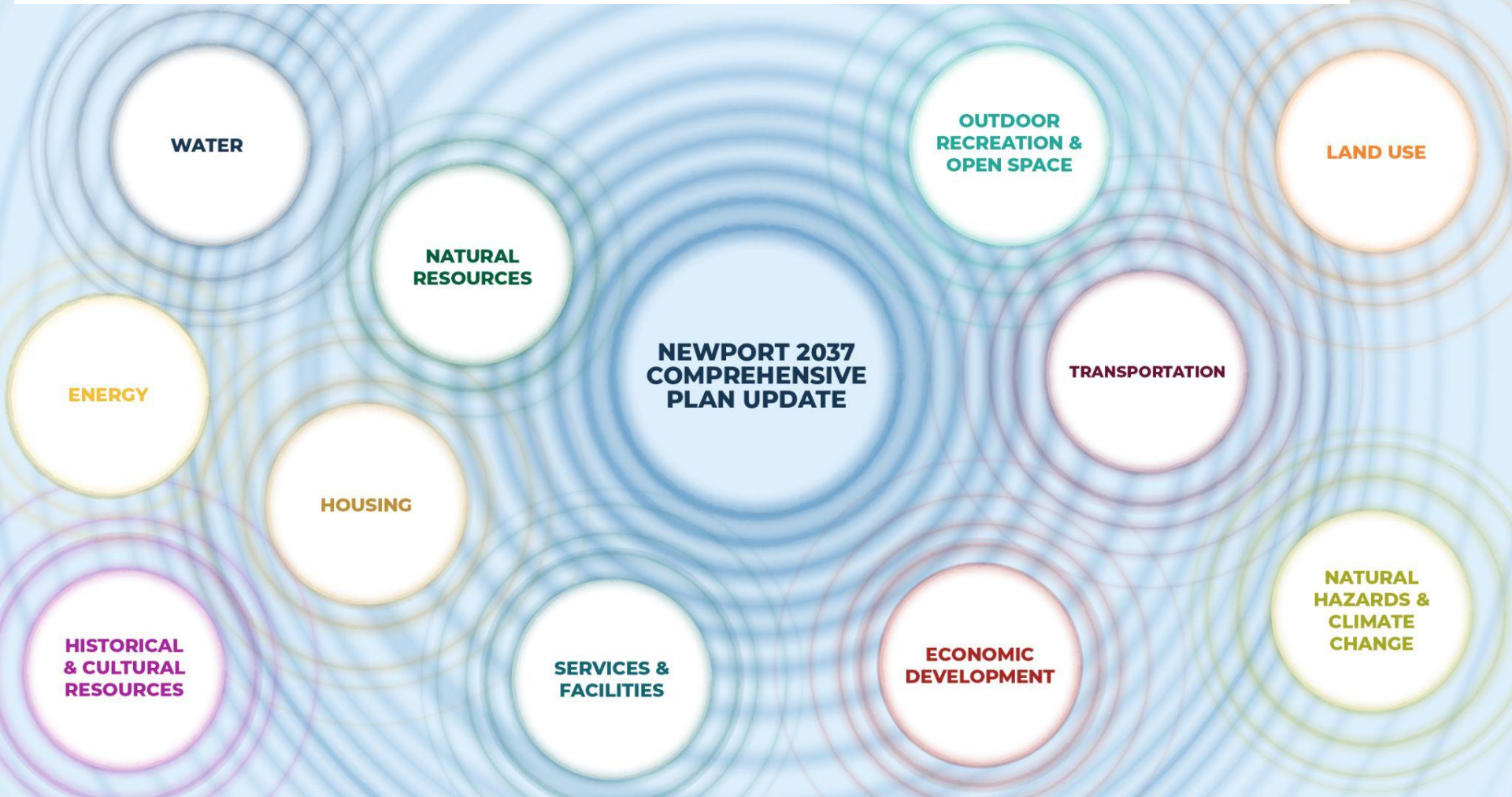
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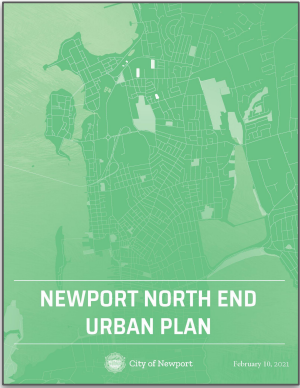
...THAT WEAVE THROUGH ALL 11 TOPICS IN THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



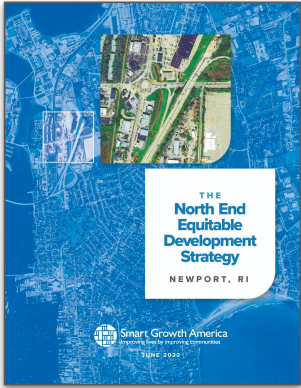
11 TOPICS MEANS THERE IS A LOT THE COMP PLAN MUST COVER

Some topics have the benefit of **recent plans full of fresh ideas** that Newport 2037 will incorporate and carry forward. (These are just a few.)

2021



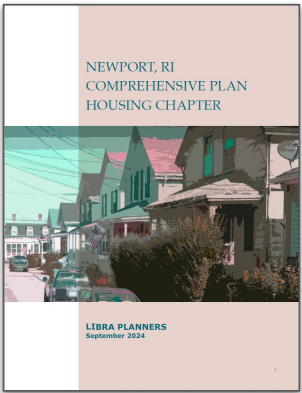
2022



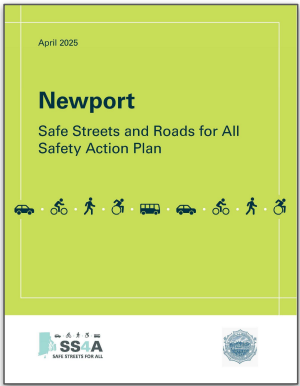
2023



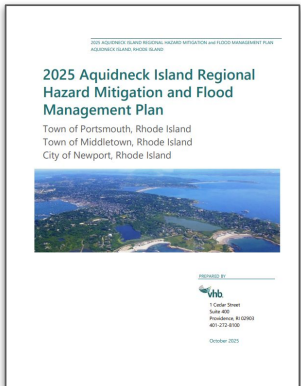
2024



2025



2025



2026

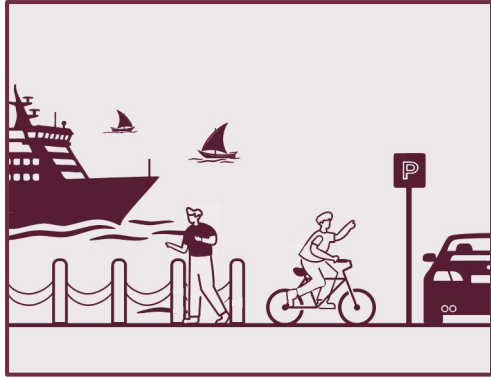


2026

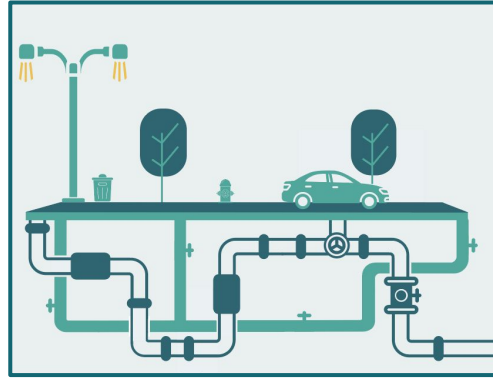


TONIGHT'S DISCUSSION WILL FOCUS ON A FEW KEY TOPICS

This allows us to **dedicate tonight to the most pressing issues raised by residents**, again and again throughout the process... all of which intersect with **tourism**.



*Transportation
& Circulation*



City Infrastructure



*The Economy &
Economic Development*

Pressures from **growing crowds stress each of these systems, threatening the Newport experience, the local community, and core service delivery...**

SOME PERSPECTIVE ON TOURISM IN NEWPORT

In many ways, the Newport we know and love **cannot exist without tourism.**

CITY REVENUES

- The Harborfront yields **11% of the property tax base on just under 5% of Newport's land area**
 - Ex. the Marriott pays the equivalent in property tax of 234 resident homes' in the 5th Ward
- Almost **one-half of the property tax is generated by non-residential residential property** which includes second homes and short-term rentals
- **Almost \$16M in revenue per year** is generated in taxes and fees associated with the visitor economy
- **The City has no industry sector in the near term that can produce that type of revenue generation**

EMPLOYMENT & BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Tourism is an important source of direct job creation, but not necessarily for Newport residents

- At least 35% of jobs in Newport are tourism-related, but only 20% of residents work in the those industries
- An estimated 18% of the 1,300 self-employed Newporters work in tourism-related jobs

SOME PERSPECTIVE ON TOURISM IN NEWPORT (continued)

But, **tourism is not monolithic.**

- Newport receives a variety of forms of tourists, each with a different financial and liveability impacts
 - **Overnight visitors, day trippers, cruise ship passengers, chartered bus tours,** among others

DEMAND-SIDE ESTIMATES

- **1,080 hotel room nights per day, per year for 2025** / 1,567 in July '25 (source: Smith Travel Service)
- **95,796 actual cruise ship passengers** FY 24 (source: FY27 city budget)
- Bridge traffic (estimates, based on Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT))
 - Sakonnet AADT **40K** (percent commute unknown at this time) (source: AI search)
 - Mt. Hope Bridge AADT **17K** (55% estimated commuters) (source: 2010 Toll Study)
 - Newport Bridge AADT **32K** (source: NP calculations based on FY26 RIBTA budget documents)
 - Peak to Trough (Dec to July = 406K or **13K additional per day in July**)

TOURISM SUPPLY-SIDE CAPACITY ESTIMATES (work in progress)

PLACES TO STAY 2,388 Hotel/Bed & Breakfast rooms in Newport <i>1,528 Hotel/Bed & Breakfast rooms in Middletown</i> 391 Newport registered STRs <i>467 State registered STR in Middletown</i>	NEWPORT HARBOR BOATING 938 moorings (308 rental moorings) 1,300 slips (capacity varies by boat size) Ferry passengers: 1,943 daily capacity • Seastreak: 596 • Block Island Ferry: 600 • Cruise RI Jamestown Newport Ferry: 747	AUTO-ORIENTED <i>16,000 total car parking spaces</i> 11,000 off-street vehicle parking spaces 5,000 public spaces
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Source: CoStar STR Report from Discover Newport + Interface/NP analysis, City of Newport Short-Term Rental Registry, RI Department of Business Regulation Short-Term Rental Registry.

Source: City of Newport Waterfront Commission 2025 Annual Report, 2024 Harbor Management Plan, [Seastreak.com](#), [BlockIslandFerry.com](#), [CruiseRI.com](#)

Source: 2023 Keep Newport Moving Transportation Master Plan

VISITOR PROFILE

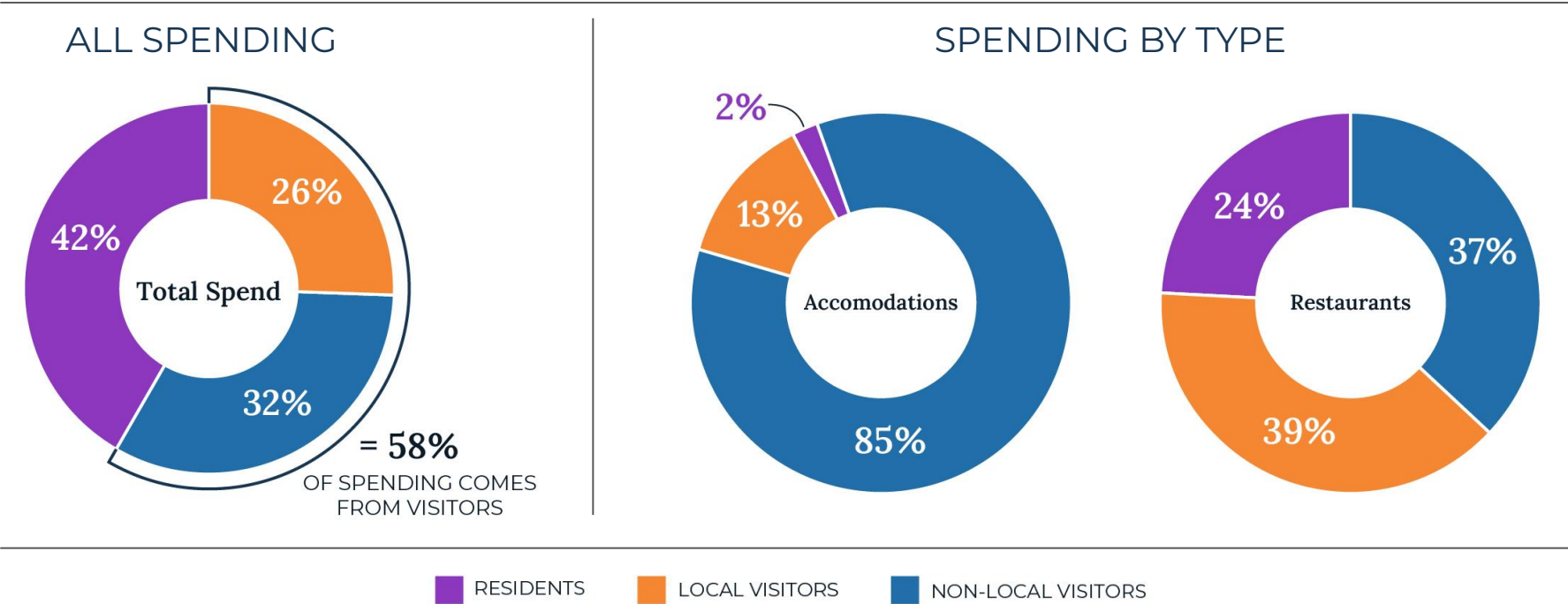
Based on visitor data, we can break down **people who spend money** in Newport into three categories:

1. **Residents** = Live in your home county
2. **Local Visitors** = Within 50 miles of your home county but are not residents
(*Providence County* and *Bristol County, MA* account for over 50% of local visitors)
3. **Non-Local Visitors** = Traveled more than 50 miles to your destination

Each of these groups has **different spending behaviors and impacts on the city budget & the Newport Experience...**

Visitors account for the majority of spending in Newport, especially for accommodations and restaurants.

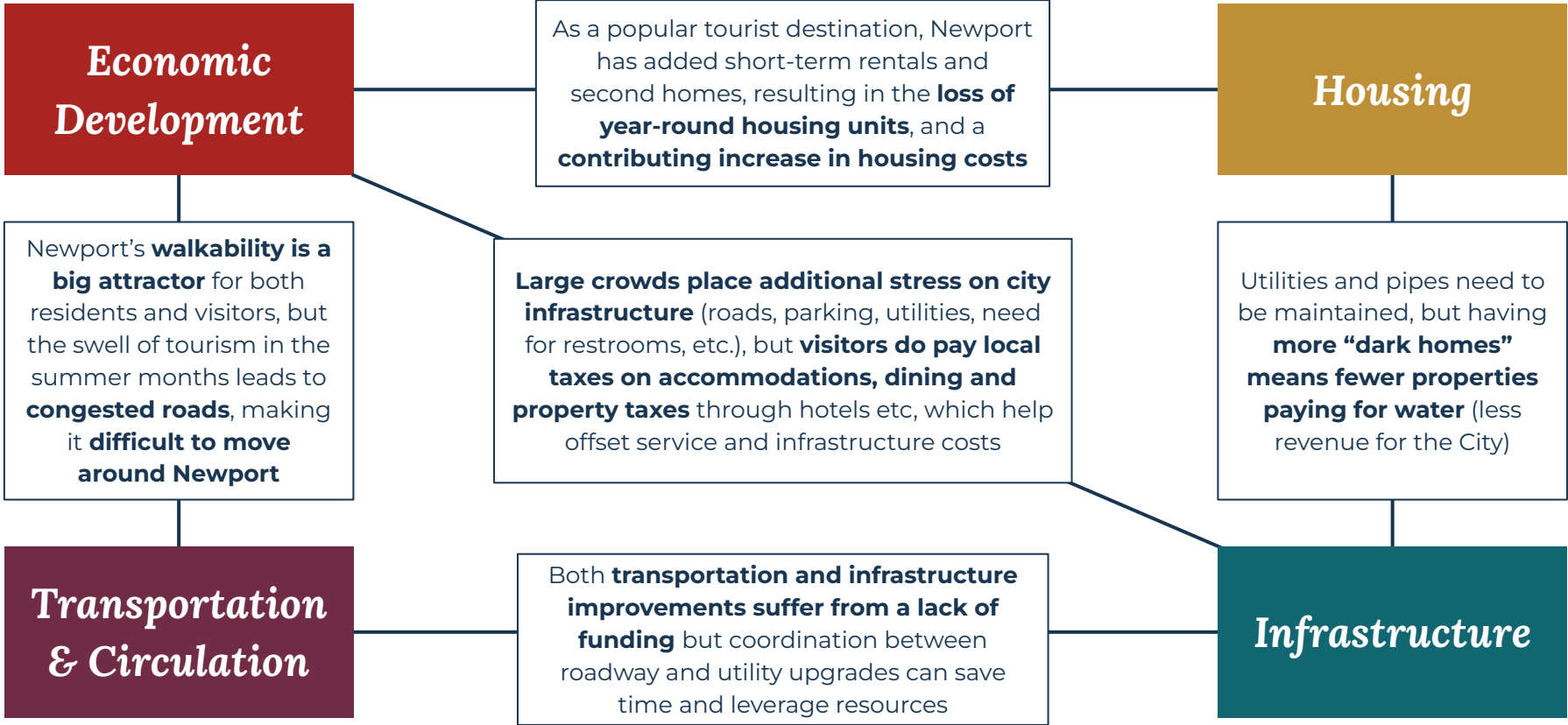
% of Total Spending in Newport



Source: Discover Newport - Zartico reports period 1/25 to 12/25

IN SUM, TOURISM IS A KEY DRIVER OF THE LOCAL ECONOMY

This plan must **manage the impacts** while protecting the best aspects of Newport.



LET'S PUT TOURISM IN NEWPORT IN CONTEXT

How does the City of Newport compare to other coastal destination cities in terms of **issues and tensions related to tourism?**

3 SETS OF CITIES

In the Region

Westerly | Martha's Vineyard |
Nantucket | Cape Cod

Other Island/Coastal Destinations

The Hamptons | St. Augustine, FL |
Key West

Discover Newport's Comparable Cities

Charleston, SC | Savannah, GA |
Annapolis, MD

A RANGE OF PAIN POINTS

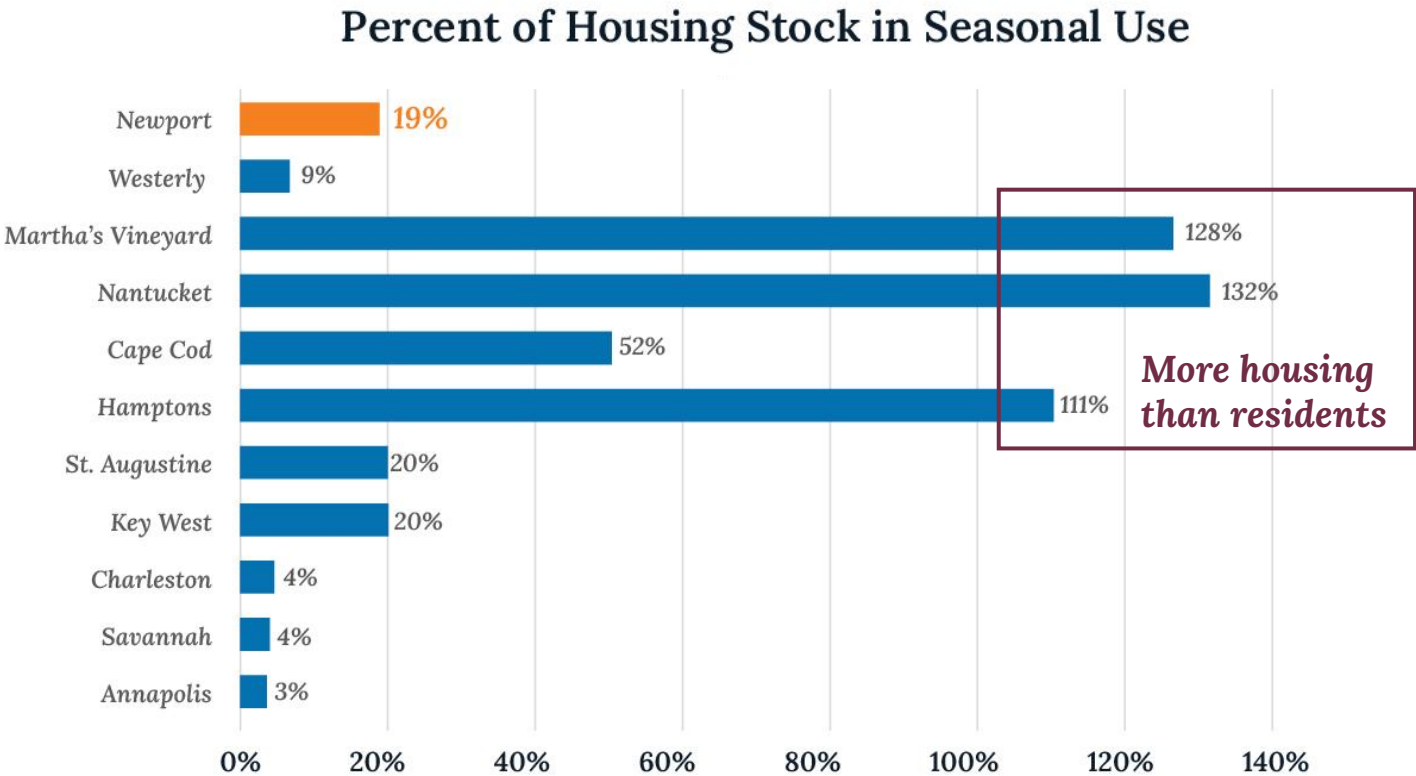
Tourism +

Housing Availability
Housing Affordability
Job Options & Wages
Infrastructure Demands
Traffic & Congestion

What's a healthy balance?
What can we learn from peer cities?

LET'S PUT TOURISM IN NEWPORT IN CONTEXT

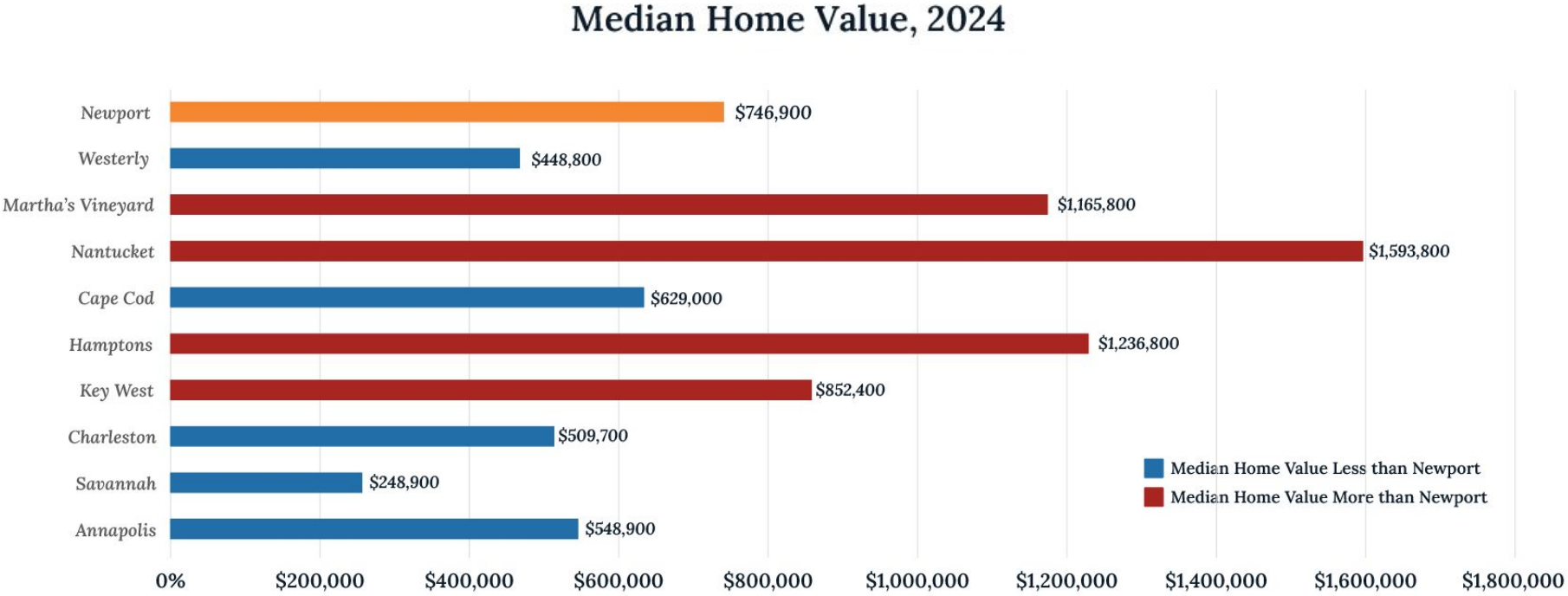
Newport's **seasonal housing is nowhere near the levels** of the Islands, the Cape, or the Hamptons...



Source: 2024 Newport Comprehensive Plan Housing Chapter, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimate Vacancy Characteristics, 2020-2024,

LET'S PUT TOURISM IN NEWPORT IN CONTEXT

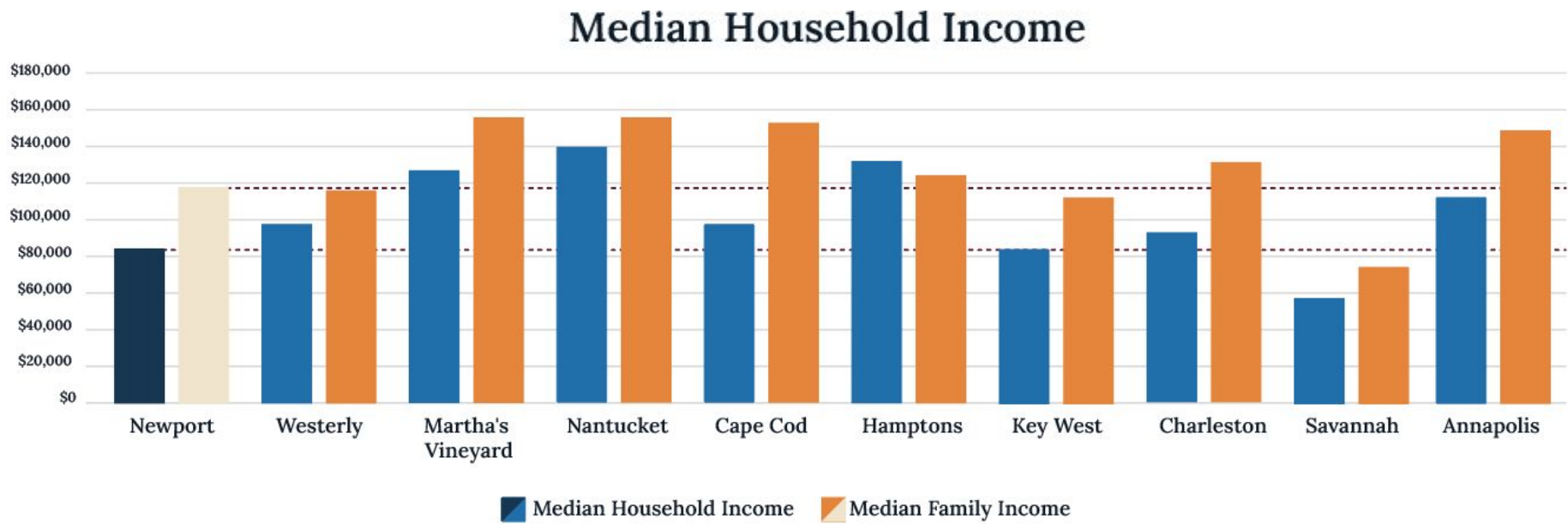
Compared to other coastal destination communities, **Newport's housing market - while expensive - is middle of the pack.**



Source: American Community Survey Five-Year Estimate Housing Financial Characteristics, 2020-2024
Note: Westerly excludes Weekapaug, Watch Hill, and Misquamicut due to data limitations.

LET'S PUT TOURISM IN NEWPORT IN CONTEXT

The problem is, Newport has **among the lowest resident incomes**, due in part to the share of lower-wage jobs in the tourism industry.



Source: American Community Survey Five-Year Estimate Vacancy Characteristics, 2020-2024

LET'S PUT TOURISM IN NEWPORT IN CONTEXT

Newport has **among the highest percentage of jobs in tourism** related industries.

Jobs By Sector

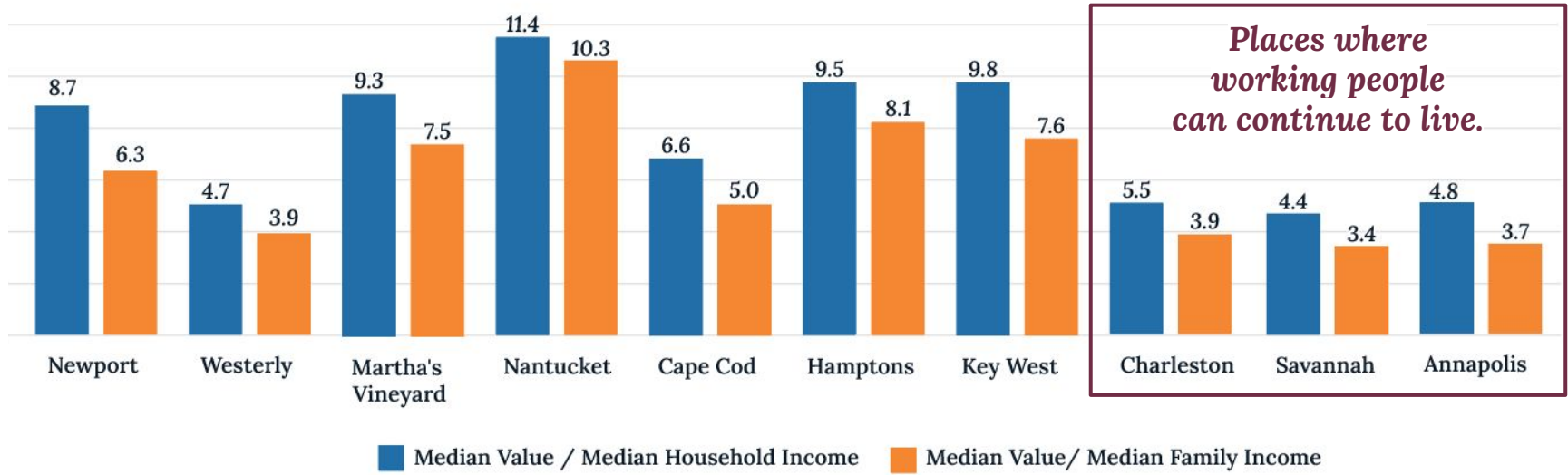
	Newport	Westerly	Martha's Vineyard	Nantucket	Cape Cod	Hamptons	St. Augustine	Key West	Charleston	Savannah	Annapolis
Total Jobs	10,831	7,801	7,891	6,570	87,424	19,593	22,205	18,662	113,300	97,382	26,290
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation	6%	4%	6%	7%	4%	4%	3%	3%	3%	1%	4%
Hospitality	29%	16%	9%	12%	14%	15%	20%	35%	15%	14%	13%
Retail	9%	15%	15%	13%	13%	11%	8%	9%	11%	11%	8%
Professional, Technical, and Information	8%	5%	6%	5%	8%	6%	3%	4%	13%	6%	12%
Goods Producing	4%	12%	14%	20%	12%	13%	5%	3%	4%	6%	4%
Education and Medical/Healthcare	25%	30%	22%	16%	25%	20%	50%	16%	34%	29%	12%

Source: NP calculations, OntheMap. [Census.gov](https://www.census.gov) for 2023

LET'S PUT TOURISM IN NEWPORT IN CONTEXT

Job mix and demand given Newport's relative affordability as a second home market **creates a big imbalance between the cost of housing and what locals can afford.** Typical rates are under 5x with national historic rates around 3.5x

Housing Value to Resident Income Ratio



Source: Ninigret Partners analysis of ACS 2024 5-Year Housing Values and Income Characteristics.
Note: Westerly excludes Weekapaug, Watch Hill, and Misquamicut due to data limitations.

Newport needs to find ways to **maximize revenue from tourism without compromising residents' quality of life** AND **find ways to diversify its economy so that the City becomes less dependent on tourism.**

We will discuss both issues and strategies related to:

Congestion Management

Infrastructure Burden & Improvements

Economic Diversification & The Newport Experience

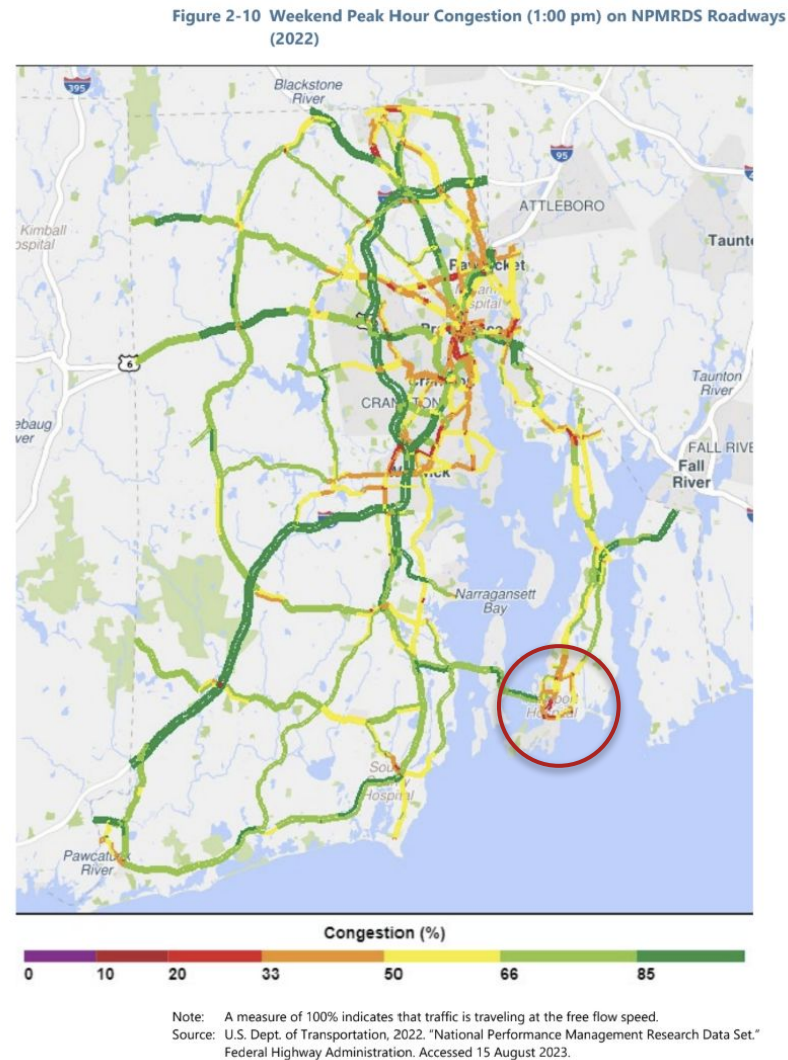
Congestion Management

Newport's summer-time congestion is a well-known issue.

On the weekends, the Downtown core is one of the most congested areas in the state.

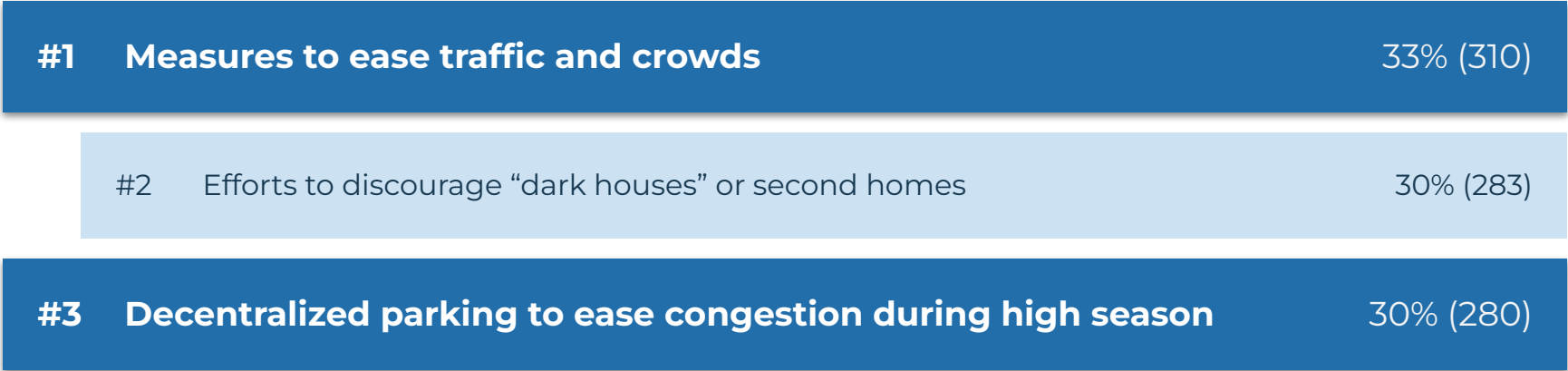


View from America's Cup Ave during Memorial Day Weekend 2025
(From Providence Journal, Kris Craig)



In the Newport 2037 Comprehensive Plan Survey, **congestion was a top priority** for survey takers.

Survey Question #3: What improvements would make the greatest impact on quality of life in Newport? *Choose up to 3.**



**Based on final survey results as of June 15, 2026*

THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL RECENT TRANSPORTATION PLANS

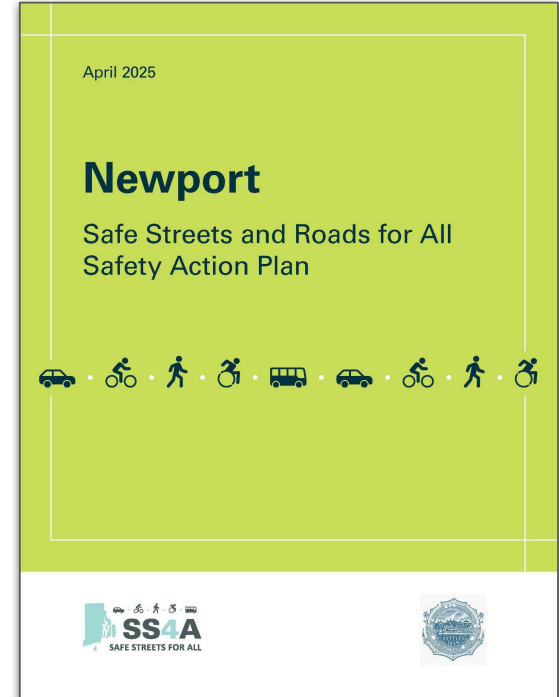
2023 Keep Newport Moving



2023 Ride Island Bike Plan



2025 Safe Street and Roads for All Safety Action Plan



WHAT'S ON THE TABLE FROM THESE PLANS? RE: CONGESTION

- **Improve Newport's vehicle parking management and information program** by communicating the parking options and real-time supply.
- **Create downtown vehicle parking zones** with different pricing/rates to discourage parking in the downtown core.
- **Start a vehicle intercept parking program** with connecting bus service to reduce the number of vehicles entering and circulating downtown.

MORE TO UNPACK HERE...

- **Pilot seasonal car-free streets**, including another weekend summer event that dedicates a high-activity street to biking, walking, and community programming by closing it to vehicles (such as Broadway Street Fair).

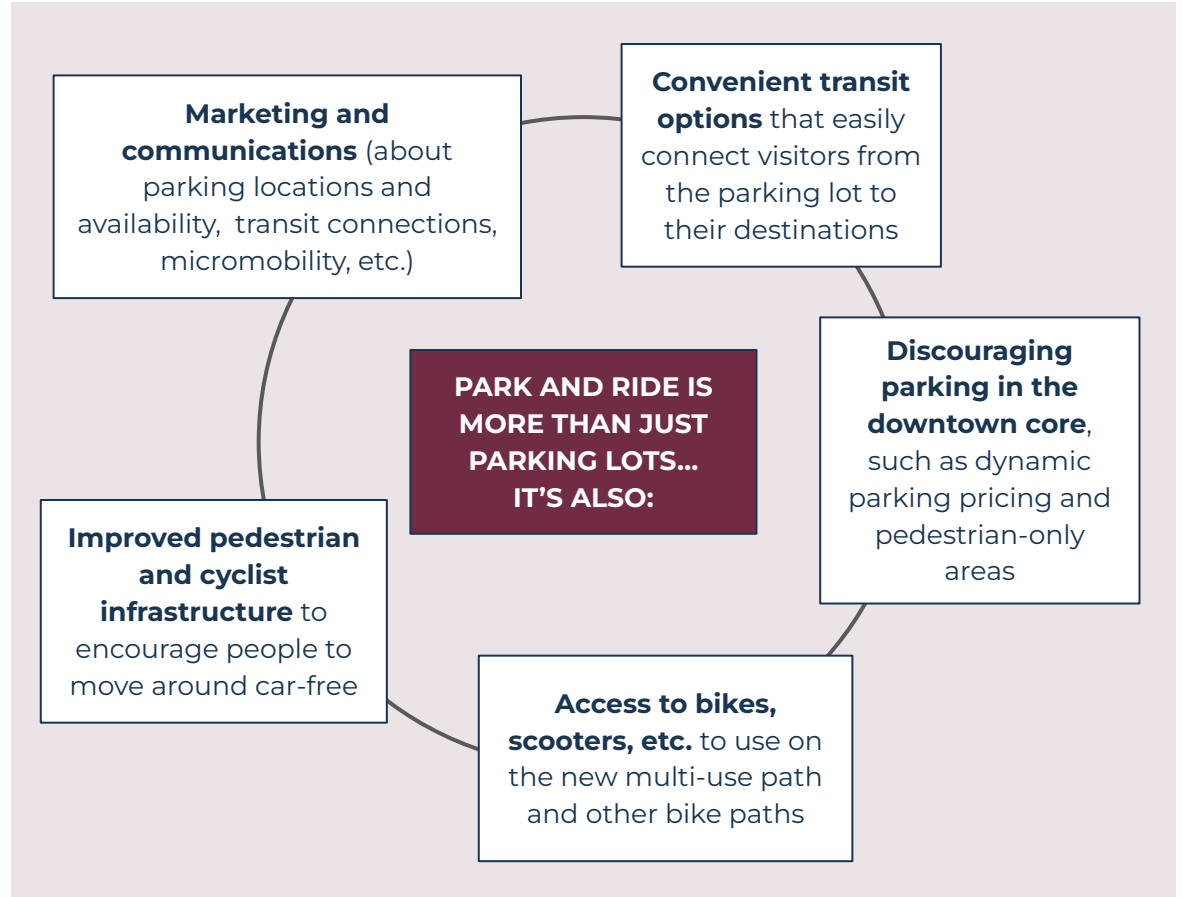
MORE TO UNPACK HERE...

- **Improve access to water transportation.** Explore expanding RIPTA ferry service by increasing frequency, adding stops, and/or adopting a longer service year.

STRATEGIES FOR CONGESTION MANAGEMENT

POTENTIAL STRATEGIES

Promote a “park and ride” culture that encourages visitors to park outside of downtown and use transit and micro-mobility to get to their desired destinations.

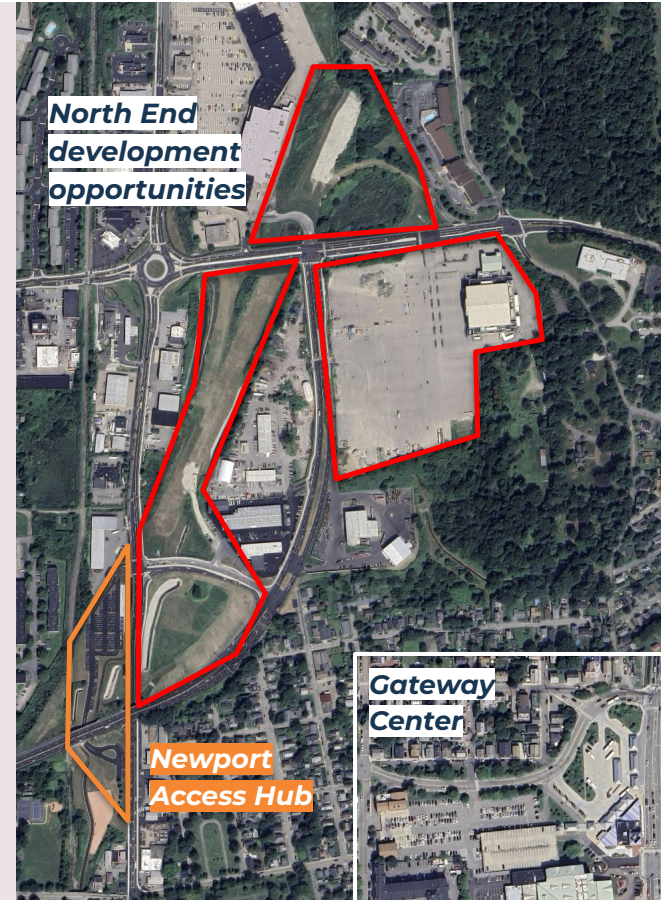


STRATEGIES FOR CONGESTION MANAGEMENT

POTENTIAL STRATEGIES

Identify additional areas for intercept parking lots and “parking districts.”

- Gateway Center has the potential to grow its car parking capacity with a **parking deck** and has great walkability to downtown and access to the bus network for visitors to use to get to popular destinations.
- The **North End development sites** offer opportunity for additional intercept parking, but any **parking should be thoughtfully integrated** into the design of any new development.



STRATEGIES FOR CONGESTION MANAGEMENT

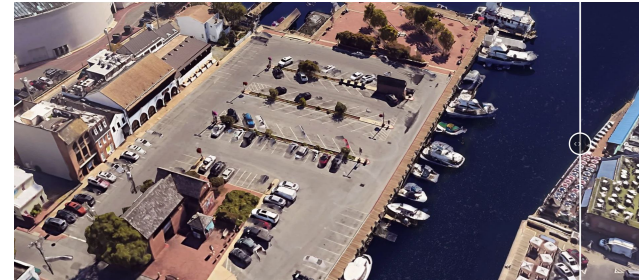
POTENTIAL STRATEGIES

Embrace Newport's walkable design with temporary, but regular, pedestrian-only zones during peak season that give people a reason (and an imperative) to get out of their cars.

- Pedestrian-only streets can also be used to give some much needed room for pedestrians during **big events, peak weekends, or during sudden influxes of visitors**, such as cruise ship dockings/offboardings.
- These temporary closures would need to be paired with **clear communication** about dates, timing, and where visitors can find available parking.



Pedestrian Street & Programming, 2x/week



City Dock Transformation, Annapolis, MD

Infrastructure Burden & Improvements

The City of Newport has made significant investments over the past few decades to upgrade its infrastructure to meet the capacity needs of both the year-round population and the summertime crowds. These improvements include:

DRINKING WATER

- \$85 million for major upgrades at **Station 1 Water Treatment Plant** in Newport and full replacement of the Lawton Valley Water Treatment Plant in Portsmouth completed in 2014
 - *The City of Newport also provides drinking water for its neighbors (Middletown, parts of the Navy and Portsmouth)*
- \$25 million to improve the flood resilience of the **South Easton Pond Dam** (ongoing project)

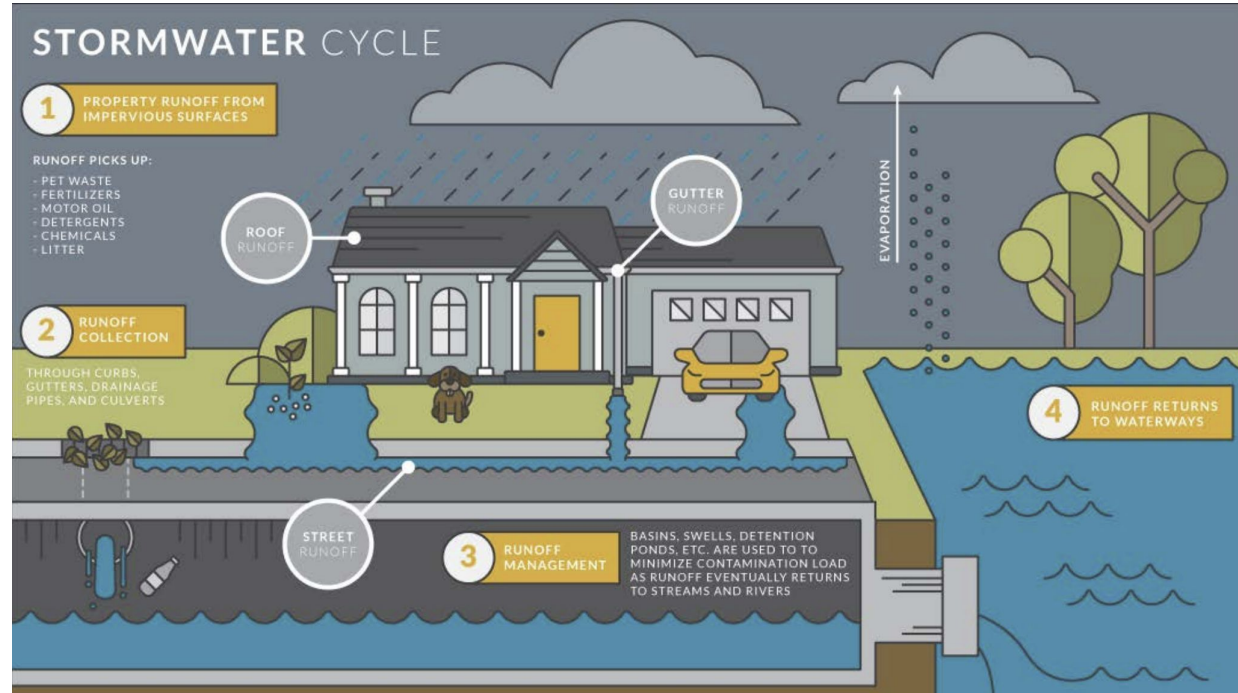
WASTEWATER

- \$50 million to increase wet weather capacity, improve operational efficiency, and enhance effluent quality at the **Water Pollution Control Facility** (between 2016 and 2019)
 - *This facility also serves a significant portion of Middletown.*
- \$8.5 million to improve resilience and performance of the **Long Wharf Pump Station** (2024-2025)

However, **stormwater** remains a significant issue for Newport.

Combined sewer overflows were once the leading water quality issue in Newport Harbor, but **stormwater runoff from streets and neighborhoods is now the leading cause of harbor pollution.**

In 2024, 8 out of 9 bacteria exceedance events were associated with rainfall (without a combined sewer overflow event).



Graphic from November 2025 Public Workshop with Department of Utilities

Source: Newport Department of Utilities CSO Control Program website (<https://utilities.newportri.gov/cso-control-program/>)

As the effects of climate change become more apparent, with increasingly frequent flooding events, it becomes more and more critical to **make the city's infrastructure more resilient.**

However, despite the large infrastructure bond passed in 2024, there is still a significant funding gap to address the City's needs.

Therefore, the City of Newport needs to find **a sustainable source of funding and revenue that can be used towards these upgrades.**



Photo of JT Connell Highway from Newport Daily News

STRATEGIES FOR INFRASTRUCTURE BURDEN & IMPROVEMENTS

POTENTIAL STRATEGIES

Explore funding mechanisms to create a **consistent source of revenue for infrastructure and facility upgrades**.

- Newport has struggled to fund its infrastructure needs with its current sources of revenue, so there is a **significant amount of deferred maintenance**, including several facilities (such as Public Works).
- Increased rain, flooding, and snowfall will only exacerbate the current issues, so finding new sources of funding will be a key priority for the City of Newport over the coming decades.
- Some mechanisms, like a development impact fee, may not be currently feasible and may need enabling legislation from the State.

STRATEGIES FOR INFRASTRUCTURE BURDEN & IMPROVEMENTS

POTENTIAL STRATEGIES

Explore ways to **fund the maintenance and upgrade of stormwater infrastructure** and discourage stormwater runoff.

- The Department of Utilities is currently undergoing a rate study that explores how to separate stormwater from the current sewer rate to become its own **dedicated stormwater fee billed based on hard surface area**.
- **Managing stormwater has been an increasingly critical aspect of city services**, especially with more frequent flooding events, and the City needs to upgrade its aging stormwater infrastructure.
- Stormwater is driven by hard/impervious surfaces that generate runoff, so **tying the cost of stormwater directly to the size of a property's hard surfaces better reflects the true cost of service**.

Economic Diversification

Newport needs to actively work toward creating a **more diversified economy** (more than the Navy and tourism) that creates a **more resilient job base and financial capacity for the community**.

Top issues include:

- Lack of appropriate spaces and places plus limited land for Newport's diverse start-up community and the Blue Economy to help build a non tourism tax base
- Limited ability to influence development directly with a range of development tools
- Having clear linkages for a range of residents to emerging opportunities in the Blue Economy, emerging businesses, and small business and entrepreneurship opportunities
- Managing tourism's negative and positive impacts on resident quality of life and visitor experience to keep Newport a destination community for talent, residents and visitors
- Spread seasonal economic activity across more of the calendar year to assist the survivability of small, local businesses during off-season
- Providing housing and amenity development attractive to a broad age range of potential residents and workers
- Support for business resiliency efforts since more than \$1.3B in property value is at risk with more than ½ of that total representing commercial property

WE'LL WALK THROUGH THESE STRATEGIES ONE BY ONE

POTENTIAL STRATEGIES

1. Create and preserve **spaces and places for a diverse economy**
2. **Create tools to drive economic development opportunities**
3. **Diversify tourism segments to be less summer / event driven** to put less stress on community infrastructure and **generate additional revenue** for the city and businesses across the year
4. Evaluate options to **improve support for workforce and entrepreneurial development** efforts across the community
5. **Actively manage the Newport experience** for liveability, desirability, and improved tourism .

Maximizing the potential of the Blue Economy in Newport requires a comprehensive approach that includes places, spaces, people, brand development, outreach, and land use - these strategies are designed to support Blue Economy development by being a framework for the city on economic development



Source: University of Rhode Island Magazine, Illustration by Cynthia McMillen

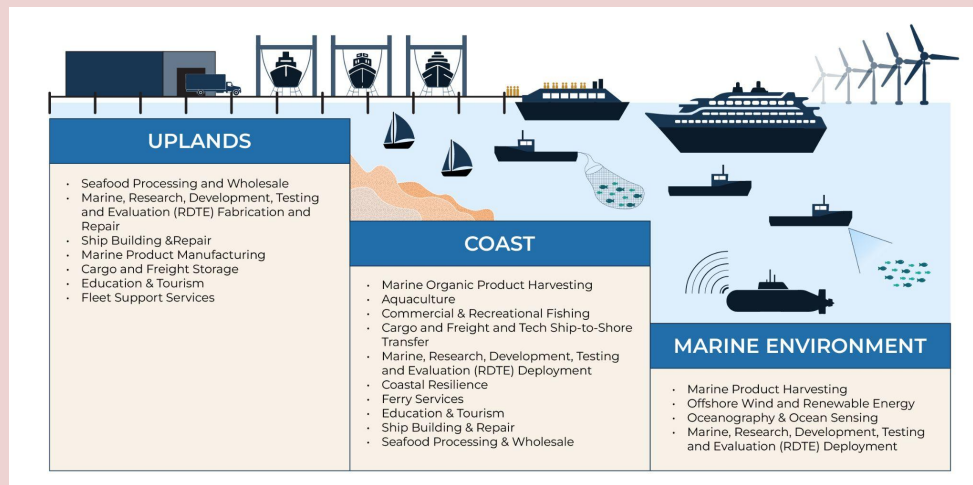
STRATEGIES FOR ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

POTENTIAL STRATEGIES

Create and preserve **spaces and places for a diverse economy.**

1. Amend zoning regulations to preserve space for water-dependent uses and discourage non-water dependent uses
2. Consider acquiring key properties (see toolkit recommendation)
3. Work with other Aquidneck Island communities to promote employment space preservation and development

The Blue Economy “ecosystem” operates along a transect, and maximizing opportunities requires considering linkages between land use and the water.



There are numerous precedents particularly from Florida on ways to manage the competition from higher value land uses for coastal properties.

STRATEGIES FOR ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

POTENTIAL STRATEGIES

Create tools to drive economic development opportunities.

1. Create a development entity to partner with private sector, acquire and assemble property, catalyze development, provide access to capital.
2. Initiate a city state multi-tax incentive package approach for North End development.

To create the development outcomes the city wants where market support is unclear or needs to be proven, the ability to participate in the market and reduce the risk can be an important tool.

The North End Plan is ambitious and will require **public-private partnerships and a capital stack with diverse revenues** to support the investment required to move the plan forward.



*Image from
North End Urban
Plan*

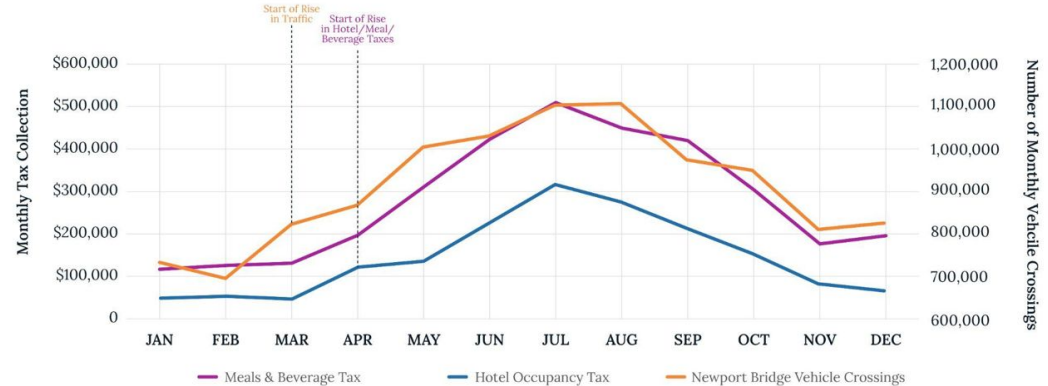
STRATEGIES FOR ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

POTENTIAL STRATEGIES

Diversify tourism segments to be less summer / event driven to put less stress on community infrastructure and **generate additional revenue** for the city and businesses across the year.

1. Evaluate with Discover Newport what market segment options exist and what economic infrastructure is needed to meet off season and less car intensive tourism segments
 - a. Business association meetings
 - b. Industry symposiums
 - c. Winter events

Newport's monthly Meals and Beverage Tax and Hotel Occupancy Tax revenue, as well as Newport/Pell Bridge traffic, highlight the degree of seasonality in the local population and economy.



Data Source: State of Rhode Island Department of Revenue Monthly Meal and Beverage Reports (2023) and Hotel Occupancy Tax (2023), Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority Annual Financial Plan Fiscal Year 2026

The success of the Blue Economy symposium and other industry association meetings has required some to move off-Island to hold these meetings to other communities also promoting Blue Economy potentially diluting Newport's brand in this market.

STRATEGIES FOR ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

POTENTIAL STRATEGIES

Evaluate options to **improve support for workforce and entrepreneurial development efforts** across the community.

1. Work with business and educational partners to monitor changes in the local economy and shifts in skill sets to ensure programming meets needs.
2. Ensure there is local capacity to deliver small business support programs in Newport.
3. Explore options with partners (Chamber, Foundations, etc) to provide business launch programs for underrepresented populations.

IYRS provides an excellent example of skilled trade development in a non traditional format. There are opportunities in other skill sets such as electronics, design where training options may be possible.



Source: Caitlin Wood Photography, from US Naval Institute, Navy History article.

STRATEGIES FOR ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

POTENTIAL STRATEGIES

Actively manage the Newport experience for liveability, desirability, and improved tourism.

1. See recommendations related to congestion, parking, and infrastructure.
2. Create cross agency dashboard related to the Newport experience - see recommendations re. above categories plus economic performance and costs
3. Work with Discover Newport on brand experience pain points for tourists where the city maybe able to have an impact

CONGESTION STRATEGIES

1. Promote a “park and ride” culture that encourages visitors to park outside of downtown and use transit and micro-mobility to get to their desired destinations.
2. Identify additional areas for intercept parking lots and “parking districts.”
3. Embrace Newport’s walkable design with temporary, but regular, pedestrian-only zones during peak season that give people a reason (and an imperative) to get out of their cars.
4. Plus recommendations from *Keep Newport Moving*.

INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGIES

1. Explore funding mechanisms to create a consistent source of revenue for infrastructure and facility upgrades.
2. Explore ways to fund the maintenance and upgrade of stormwater infrastructure and discourage stormwater runoff.

*Other Topics to
Touch On Tonight?*

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU
NEXT MONTH!**

*Opportunity to review potential
strategies for all 11 plan topics.*

Save the date

OPEN HOUSE
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

AUGUST 27TH, 2026 | CITY HALL | 5:30 TO 8:00 PM

Join us at our final Open House
to review strategies for the
future of Newport!



CITY OF NEWPORT
Department of Planning & Development

Newport 2037
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE