



1st DRAFT of Vision and Roadmap

This first draft of the Katahdin Gazetteer Roadmap to the Future is a living document. This is YOUR region; put your fingerprints on this to make it YOUR vision and way forward. We welcome you to provide feedback. Let us know what we've gotten right, and what we need to make more right. We invite you to reflect on who and how. Who else should be listed as an action-taker? What other resources are needed to make action happen? What actions can be taken together to have a greater impact?

This draft vision and action plan is created from one on one conversations, postcards, surveys, community conversations, visual prompts and input from vision workshop gathered over the past eight months. We organized your ideas, reflections, and hopes into **Six Big Ideas**, each of which have several ideas and action items attached. Also from your expression of your values and principles, we present **5 Guiding Principles** that are intended to guide our actions as we rebuild this region.

For more information and upcoming meeting invitations, follow the Katahdin Collaborative on Facebook, or visit www.KatahdinCollaborative.org.

First DRAFT – Katahdin Gazetteer Vision + Action Plan
December 4, 2018

Send comments via email to KatahdinGazetteer@gmail.com by **DECEMBER 14, 2018**

Guiding Principles for the Future

Connected

- o Think, coordinate, and build as a region.
 - o Improve communication - both the practice of listening and sharing across differences, as well as sharing information across businesses, towns, etc.
 - o Tolerate inconvenience (i.e. getting to another town for a meeting) in order to build new and stronger relationships that will help everyone succeed in the long run.

World Class

- o It's what the region was and can be again, just not built on the same industry or patterns. It will require learning and building anew.
- o From internet and forest products to porch sitting - the region can be on par with the best around the world.

Welcoming

- o Attitudes, behaviors, and signage all need to be welcoming to new locals and visitors to help them have joyful experiences and want to continue making memories here for a lifetime
- o It's on everyone in the region to do this: from those in hospitality + tourism to those in our municipal governments and everyone on their front porches.

Moxie

- o Be determined and energetic to make these things happen. This will take active participation by people at all levels of the community - from volunteers to leaders, public and private.
- o Make the experience energetic, exciting, and something people want more of!
- o Distinctively different

Enduring

- o From what people experience traveling into the region to the memories made here, we need to learn how to maximize the experience people are coming here for - generally, clean air, clear skies, bountiful nature, and beauty.
- o Keep building upon emerging opportunities for high-value forest products.

Six Big Ideas (in summary)

Make the Katahdin Region a Global, Year-Round Outdoor Destination

Coordinate, clarify, and build upon the opportunities that already exist in the region to make the region a global destination - visible and well known for its quality experiences from wilderness to front country.

Future-proof the region

There will be a time in the not-so-distant future when the Katahdin region will no longer be in survival mode - when the region reaches the tipping point and feels the pressure of the many people wanting to own a piece of this place. At that time, it will be critical for a plan to already be in place for how to manage growth, and keep the region from being loved to death, so as not to degrade and lose the assets and people's reasons for living in and visiting this place and to maintain the local competitive advantage.

Be a place that supports and attracts people of all ages

Relatively easy opportunities have been identified to begin meeting needs of people of all ages in the region. Seizing these opportunities as well as tackling the more complicated issues can be successful if interest grows and involvement continues by neighbors across the region.

Grow Local Jobs and a New Regional Economy

There are currently unmet needs which are opportunities for new, good jobs, as well as new opportunities to build a diverse, regional economy that both serves those living here in the region, as well as exporting to the rest of the state, country, and the world.

Grow the next wave of forest product manufacturing for a global economy

The groundwork is being laid to serve the region the opportunity to repurpose industrial sites for the production of high value forest products that the world wants.

Grow walkable villages that serve as gateways to the wilderness

There is an opportunity for the Katahdin region to better utilize the existing downtowns to earn more tourist dollars, bolster the wilderness experience, and attract workers and industry.

MAKE THE KATAHDIN REGION A GLOBAL, YEAR-ROUND OUTDOOR DESTINATION

Coordinate, clarify, and build upon the opportunities that already exist in the region (Katahdin, Baxter State Park, Snowmobile Trails, Butler Conservation Trails, and more) to make the region a global destination - well known for its quality experiences from wilderness to front country.

1. Develop coordinated message and campaign for the region.

Action: Create and present a single message and visual identity to the world for the region that integrates pride of local identity with search analytics. Work with a Maine based branding agency with previous, deep experience in the outdoor space and global markets.

Who: Katahdin Collaborative, Chamber, KTP, and Branding Agency

Action: Create a visitor concierge service for the region. Businesses owners in the region made clear that visitors don't want to do extensive research before arriving and want a locally, knowledgeable human to help them plan their trip.

Who: Katahdin Tourism Partnership or Chamber

2. Explore creating a Moose Park + Research Institute.

Action: Begin a conversation with UMaine, and Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to explore the concept further.

Who: Katahdin Collaborative

3. Prepare residents and workforce for exceptional customer service.

Action: Start a Community Destination Academy – a professionally led workshop series with direct financial and technical assistance to support implementation of local destination development projects.

Who: Northern Forest Center in partnership with municipalities, Chamber, KTP, Maine Office of Tourism and local businesses.

4. Develop iconic system of wayfinding signage.

Action: Crowdsource ideas for a set of iconic and distinctive signage using locally sourced materials that respects local ideas and preferences, and also understands visitor needs.

Who: Our Katahdin as manager of crowdsourcing process.

5. Improve clarity and accessibility of recreational assets.

Action: Design or update a regional guide to make it easier for users to know how to recreate respectfully. Include a specific section for people looking to recreate with their dogs and one for families.

Who: TBD

6. Clarify and better communicate the rules at Baxter State Park.

Action: Baxter State Park convene conversations with business and trail community to find out or confirm largest pain points for accessing and using the park by visitors and solicit suggestions for remedies.

Who: Baxter State Park

Action: Rename the “parking pass” to “Katahdin Access Pass” to clarify the need for a pass to hike Katahdin. Make it easy for visitors and businesses supporting visitors to explain what is needed in order to make use of all of Baxter’s grandeur. Keep it simple in terms of what visitors see, keep the complications and nuances behind the scenes in the BSP office.

Who: Baxter State Park

7. Develop a regional lodging strategy.

Action: Assess current offers, capacity, and usage. This may be possible to do internally, before engaging consultants.

Who: Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce, KTP, Maine Office of Tourism

8. Assess growing yurt villages or other unique structures that provide views of the night sky and inexpensively add more rooms.

Action: Visit some other yurts in the Northeast - Maine Forest Yurts in Durham, ME; Frost Mountain Yurts in Brownfield, ME to learn more about feasibility in Katahdin region

Who: TBD

Action: Identify suitable areas for groups of 3 yurts with some privacy from each other.

Who: TBD

9. Expand, connect, promote, and enhance all of the trails in the region.

Action: Convene a regional trail development collaborative

Who: Snowmobile clubs, The Nature Conservancy, Butler Conservation

Foundation, Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, Baxter State Park, NEOC, Private Land Owners

10. Assess building a warming hut and trail network throughout the region.

Action: Study the cost and market opportunity to create such a trail and hut network

Who: Butler Conservation Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, KTP

11. Make all-ages and abilities outdoor activities a key idea.

Action: Convene a subgroup of the trail development collaborative (action item for #5 above) focused on all-age and ability access.

Who: Snowmobile clubs, The Nature Conservancy, Butler Foundation, Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, Baxter State Park, NEOC, Private Land Owners

12. Build gorgeous, distinctive parkways to the monument.

Action: Secure funds to hire a team that is led by urban designers and includes engineers, and landscape architects, to design the new parkway.

Who: Friends of Katahdin Woods + Waters

Action: Secure funds to build the parkway.

Who: Friend of Katahdin Woods + Waters

13. Build new national events.

Action: Explore hiring a regional event director

Who: Chamber, KTP, Municipalities, Snowmobile and ATV Clubs

Action: Identify, design, and implement new signature regional events.

Who: New regional event director

14. Add programming and other activities to support world-class experience.

Action: Crowdsource histories and tape up around town before creating more expensive and time-consuming options, similar to “Museum in the Streets” but sourced from local stories and typed up on 8.5 x 11 paper.

Who: Libraries + volunteers

FUTURE-PROOF THE REGION

There will be a time in the not-so-distant future when the Katahdin region will no longer be in survival mode - when the region reaches the tipping point and feels the pressure of the many people wanting to own a piece of this place. At that time, it will be critical for a plan to already be in place for how to manage growth, and keep the region from being loved to death, so as not to degrade and lose the assets and people's reasons for living in and visiting this place and to maintain the local competitive advantage. Growth, if not managed, can not only degrade natural assets, but it can also add a burden to the tax base. However, if done well, new growth and development can support the continued creation of local wealth, including yielding funds for education, infrastructure, and other local needs. Focusing investment into downtown and village areas in a way that builds on traditional development patterns is critical to maintaining a healthy financial future. The region can strive for a built environment that is as wonderful as the natural environment to help to maximize and extend the experience and help communicate the beauty and grit that defines this region.

1. Build the region in ecologically intelligent ways.

Action: Conduct a resiliency study to determine vulnerabilities and strengths of the region

Who: Katahdin Collaborative

2. Build industry that respects natural resources.

Action: Have proactive community dialogues about future industrial development and what is acceptable where.

Who: Our Katahdin

Action: Build authentic relationship with the Wabanaki tribes and work together to protect the region's rivers and streams.

Who: Our Katahdin, Municipalities

3. Support the continuation of local building traditions and patterns.

Action: Integrate forward-thinking land use planning concepts into current Comprehensive Planning efforts within the towns to protect and enhance the region's assets.

Who: Municipalities, EMDC

Action: Adopt form-based codes within Katahdin region towns to protect and enhance the current assets.

Who: Municipalities

4. Focus development onto existing infrastructure and protect the tax base.

Action: Explore the creation of historic districts.

Who: Municipalities, Katahdin Collaborative

Action: Explore the creation of TIF districts. Tax increment financing (TIF) is a public financing method that is used as a subsidy for redevelopment, infrastructure, and other community-improvement projects.

Who: Municipalities, Katahdin Collaborative

5. Avoid the false promise of road expansion projects.

Action: Include in town Comprehensive Plans the goal of maintaining 2-lane roads and exploring low-cost, locally grown public transportation options as population and traffic pressures increase.

Who: Municipalities, EMDC

6. Plan carefully for development at interchanges that reflect the spirit of the region and support local businesses.

Action: Create a master plan for interchange areas working closely with Medway, Sherman, and Island Falls and draft form-based zoning or contract zoning

Who: Municipalities, KTP

7. Make rules that ensure chain development is packaged well.

Action: Adopt form-based codes within Katahdin region towns to protect and enhance the current assets.

Who: Municipalities

8. Be strategic about parking.

Action: Begin educating leaders and citizens on best parking practice to lay the groundwork for effective parking and transportation decisions.

Who: Katahdin Collaborative

9. Invest in public transportation options.

Action: Explore pilot opportunities for public transportation through grants and corporate partnerships

Who: Katahdin Collaborative

10. Build a leadership corps.

Action: Explore regional capacity building

Who: Katahdin Collaborative, Network Partners, Maine Community Foundation, Maine Development Foundation, Northern Forest Center.

BE A PLACE THAT SUPPORTS AND ATTRACTS PEOPLE OF ALL AGES

Relatively easy opportunities have been identified to begin meeting needs of people of all ages in the region. Seizing these opportunities as well as tackling the more complicated issues can be successful if interest grows and involvement continues by neighbors across the region.

1. Organize a concierge service for the region that serves both newcomers and aging, seasonal residents.

Action: Develop business plan

Who: Entrepreneurial individuals with support from CEI, Katahdin Region Higher Education Center, SCORE

2. Create family friendly organizations.

Action: develop a family friendly pledge for businesses and organizations to adopt in the region that includes model policies for parental leave, and support for flexible schedules to meet the many demands of parents.

Who: Community task force with representation from local businesses and parents

Action: Ask local businesses and community spaces to be nursing friendly. Provide them with a window cling that signals that nursing is allowed and accommodated in their building.

Who: Millinocket Hospital and Katahdin Valley Health Center

3. Connect retirees with families needing child care.

Action: Explore options such as nanny-sharing agreements

Who: Motivated older residents

Action: Explore co-locating childcare with assisted living communities.

Who: Care providers including Katahdin Valley Health Center

4. Provide wonderful in-town housing options for seniors.

Action: Attract graduated care facilities for older people who are in different stages and have onsite daycare.

Who: Municipalities, Thrive Penobscot

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Action: Encourage different kinds of housing, for people seeking extended family experience

Who: Municipalities and developers

Action: Develop strategies for shared housing arrangements where people can provide either resources or sweat equity. Such as millennial roommates for baby boomers.

Who: Thrive Penobscot

5. Create places for people to gather.

Action: Create dog parks - Fence off empty downtown lot with a large dog and small dog area.

Who: Municipalities + Volunteers

Action: Encourage third places (spaces that aren't work or home) – coffee shops, book stores, cafes and associated outdoor seating

Who: Municipalities, building owners, brokers

Action: Create a pop-up dance hall with snack bar

Who: Community volunteers, high school student project

6. Pilot more cultural events and activities.

Action: Create a regional activities committee that tries new events and promotes them across the region. Suggestions include a Senior College Co-op (people teach their peers on a subject or skill they know well), book clubs, gentle outdoor activities for older folks (biking, cross-country skiing, walking, etc), potlucks, coffee meetups, amateur improv, dancing.

Who: Libraries, rec departments, churches, schools

7. Expand access to healthy local food.

Action: Grow community gardens such as the one in Patten. Consider empty downtown lots.

Who: Community volunteers and municipalities (water)

Action: Start a CSA (community supported agriculture) program

Who: Motivated residents, Thrive Penobscot, a local farm

8. Create community centers that bring together people of all ages.

Action: Invite more people to participate in already existing activities even if they are typically only for club or membership driven organizations. It's a win/win.

Who: Clubs, Activity Committees

Action: Conduct study on several potential sites for the construction of a community center.

Who: Katahdin Collaborative

9. Innovative, place-based education in public schools

Action: Convene a task force to study and make recommendations on a range of opportunities to implement place-based education in the region's schools. Task force should include students, teachers, administrator, and community members.

Who: School administrator to initiate, Katahdin Learning Project

10. Positive programs and places for teens

Action: Explore regional capacity building

Who: Katahdin Collaborative, Network Partners, Maine Community Foundation, Maine Development Foundation, Northern Forest Center.

GROW LOCAL JOBS AND A NEW REGIONAL ECONOMY

There are currently unmet needs which are opportunities for new, good jobs, as well as new opportunities to build a diverse, regional economy that both serves those living here in the region, as well as exporting to the rest of the state, country, and the world.

1. Investigate how to better support regional economic development through a strategic, organizational approach.

Action: Conduct customer research with businesses in the region to understand what's working with the chamber and what the pain points are.

Who: Chamber or designee or advisory committee (TBD)

Action: Assess whether the chamber can address key points raised through customer research.

Who: Chamber or designee or advisory committee (TBD)

Action: Seek training on approaches to regional economic development
- online and in-person

Who: Chamber, KTP, Municipal Officials

Action: Initiate a quarterly B2B breakfast

Who: Chamber

2. Become a training center for the building trades.

Action: Provide technical education in the building trades, including apprenticeships and mentorships.

Who: Katahdin Region Higher Education Center

Action: Help facilitate a co-op to cover insurance coverage to help reduce costs associated with running a business.

Who: Katahdin Region Higher Education Center

Action: Host workshops for residents to learn more about building rehabs

Who: Katahdin Region Higher Education Center

Action: Build a tool library for both amateurs and professionals to access
Who: Public Libraries

Action: Explore opening a ReStore with Habitat for Humanity
Who: TBD

Action: Explore replicating Learning Works' Youth Building Alternatives in local schools <https://www.learningworks.me/our-programs/youth-building-alternatives/>

Who: School districts and Katahdin Region Higher Education Center

3. Attract and train people for health care jobs.

Action: Support Katahdin Region Higher Education Center and its efforts to recruit local students for the Medical Assistants.

Who: Katahdin Region Higher Education Center, Katahdin Valley Health Center, School Districts, Live + Work Maine

Action: Promote the region to potential expensive urban markets that may have trained workers looking for an affordable, beautiful, and exciting place to live.

Who: Live + Work Maine, Katahdin Valley Health Center

4. Build and connect high speed internet (100up/100down or better) across the region.

Action: Create tri-town utility co-op and consider expanding to include northern regional neighbors

Who: Millinocket, East Millinocket, Medway

5. Create a local investment/loan fund

Action: Form a Katahdin Region Fund that administers microloans as well as more traditional funding opportunities

Who: Penquis, CEI, Northern Forest Center, Environmental Funders Group

6. Work to grow aquaculture, agriculture and value-added products

Action: Identify lands appropriate for various sustainable agricultural uses that are yielding high value crops including: small diversified farms, rice, hops, hemp, and more.

Who: TBD

Action: Support the startup of a local brewery through outreach, cheerleading, and funding

Who: Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce, Maine Brewers Guild, Our Katahdin, Community Members

Action: Host “value added products” showcase and workshop to help raise awareness and open pathways to more people creating.

Who: Katahdin Region Higher Education Center, Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce

7. Develop grid scale solar.

Action: Study grid-scale solar farms as a region. Visit other towns with solar farms and talk with ReVision Energy

Who: Katahdin Collaborative, Our Katahdin, Municipalities

8. Attract new industry targeted for existing industrial and mill buildings.

Action: Support Our Katahdin’s efforts to clear the way for redevelopment of the Millinocket mill site.

Who: Katahdin Collaborative, Municipalities, community members, philanthropists

Cost: \$1.3 million tax lien

Action: Work with FOR/MAINE to assess mill sites and identify new opportunities.

Who: Municipalities, FOR/MAINE

Action: Host a brainstorm party at Island Falls mill yard with pop-up food, beverage, and retail. Provide opportunities for visitors to write in what they wish was available on the site.

Who: Town of Island Falls, Real estate broker, Food trucks, Crafters and makers

GROW THE NEXT WAVE OF FOREST PRODUCT MANUFACTURING FOR A GLOBAL ECONOMY

The groundwork is being laid to serve the region the opportunity to repurpose industrial sites for the production of high value forest products that the world wants.

1. Evaluate existing manufacturing sites in each community to critically analyze new manufacturing opportunities consistent with highest and best use of the land.

Action: Follow along The Forest Opportunity Roadmap that will have outlined certain basic steps to take for idled manufacturing facilities and will identify resources to assist communities in moving forward.

Who: Katahdin Collaborative, FOR/MAINE, Our Katahdin, Municipalities

Action: Start conversations in each town to clarify what the community wants and what it doesn't want - including how new manufacturing interacts with rivers and streams.

Who: Katahdin Collaborative, FOR/MAINE, Our Katahdin, Municipalities

Action: Set appropriate expectations, they may be 10-20 year technologies, not ones that last for the next century

Who: Katahdin Collaborative, FOR/MAINE, Our Katahdin, Municipalities

Action: Work with existing owners of such manufacturing sites to evaluate past use, potential areas for environmental remediation and potential reuse.

Who: Katahdin Collaborative, FOR/MAINE, Our Katahdin, Municipalities

Action: Develop a plan of action, such as seek Maine DEP Brownfield Planning Grants or Volunteer Remediation Action Plan (VRAP) that will identify areas of concern and then proceed towards seeking remediation grants.

Who: Katahdin Collaborative, FOR/MAINE, Our Katahdin, Municipalities

2. Strengthen the region's capacity for positive economic development activity.

Action: Create an inventory of available manufacturing sites that includes all attributes that a potential developer would want to know.

Who: Katahdin Collaborative, Our Katahdin, Municipalities

Action: Create a community-based group of citizens who can reach out to potential developers to convince them of the benefits of locating in the community.

Who: Katahdin Collaborative, Northern Forest Center Our Katahdin, Municipalities

Action: Develop talking points that illustrate the positive benefits of locating into the community. Also, work to identify weaknesses and develop a plan of action to address each weakness.

Who: Katahdin Collaborative, FOR/MAINE, Our Katahdin, Municipalities

Action: Create a web-based marketing tool that provides as much information regarding the Town as possible. Have easy to find contact information and a phone number and e-mail address that will be answered in a timely manner.

Who: Katahdin Collaborative, FOR/MAINE, Our Katahdin, Municipalities, Design Lab

Action: Develop a list of community, state and federal based incentives for a developer.

Who: Katahdin Collaborative, FOR/MAINE, Our Katahdin, Municipalities

Action: Cultivate relations with existing businesses, existing economic development agencies and attend conferences, etc that enlarges the circle of influence for the community.

Who: Katahdin Collaborative, Our Katahdin

Action: Get involved with other efforts underway in the Region and State such as EMDC, Forest Opportunity Roadmap-Maine (FOR Maine), Regional Broadband Utility. This pilot project located in East Millinocket, Medway and Millinocket will be poised to lead the way for others to create similar utilities in the Katahdin Region.

Who: Municipalities, selectmen, community organizations

3. Prepare the towns to meet the needs of new industry.

Action: Conduct a Housing Study. Consider evaluations of housing to look at housing needs and existing availabilities. Consider historical/ existing properties and those properties that are beyond rehabilitation. If the communities look to anticipate the need and user demands and proceed to work toward this future goal, the hope would be to have relevant housing that increases the median housing value and thereby decreasing the overall tax rate for the Town.

Who: Northern Forest Center, Municipalities

Action: Support School Excellence Programs. Work with the local schools to ensure quality education for the youth of the community and one that provides the greatest opportunity for graduates to succeed in skilled jobs or higher education. Work with Katahdin Regional Higher Education Center (KRHEC) to ensure their success in providing higher education access to the region.

Who: Residents, local businesses

4. Continue to fortify relations between industrial and recreational use of lands.

Action: Investigate a program that incentivizes owners to allow recreational use. Such incentive could be in the form of tax relief incentive that would need State legislative authorization.

Who: Katahdin Collaborative

GROW WALKABLE VILLAGES THAT SERVE AS GATEWAYS TO THE WILDERNESS.

There is an opportunity for the Katahdin region to better utilize the existing downtowns to earn more tourist dollars, bolster the wilderness experience, and attract workers and industry. Today's travelers include both extreme and soft adventurers, all who are looking for good food, and interested in local people, culture, and history. Similarly, a growing percentage of the population is interested in walkable communities, with a certain amount of curb appeal and activity. The region's downtowns are a critical piece of the economic prosperity of the region.

1. Fill the gaps along the street.

Action: Conduct a resiliency study to determine vulnerabilities

Who: Katahdin Collaborative, Municipalities

Action: Secure sheds through the Amish and locate them on vacant lots in the downtowns, with the buildings pulled up to the sidewalk.

Who: Our Katahdin

2. Keep historic/existing buildings standing and market them.

Action: Identify a well-connected local person or organization to promote available buildings to regional organizations or established businesses across the state.

Who: Katahdin Collaborative, Northern Forest Center

Action: Gain control of old buildings so when new business is looking for space, there is a clear and direct path forward.

Who: Our Katahdin, Northern Forest Center

3. Allow many hands to shape downtowns and neighborhoods.

Action: Just say yes to ideas.

Who: Board of Selectmen, town managers, all towns

4. Expand in-town trails and seating.

Action: Work with local volunteers to identify potential trail opportunities.

Who: TBD

5. Make development easy in the downtowns.

Action: Do an audit of the development approvals process to identify places where the process can be simplified and improved.

Who: Municipalities

6. Make streets that are great for people and retail.

Action: Test the idea of returning Millinocket’s Main Street to a two- way traffic pattern by installing temporary stop signs and changing the traffic light to a blinking red.

Who: Department of Transportation and town of Millinocket

Action: Test the idea of a two-way Main Street in Millinocket by using black paint to cover diagonal parking spaces and using white paint to strip on parallel parking spaces. Remove the do not enter sign from the corner of Poplar Street and Penobscot Avenue. Advertise the change in advance and put up “change in traffic pattern” signs to notify people.

Who: Department of Transportation and town of Millinocket

Action: Redesign the confusing and high-speed road pattern that occurs at the approach to East Millinocket so if and when funding becomes available, the town is prepared to advocate for the kind of improvement that will attract more people and improve the retail.

Who: Department of Transportation and town of East Millinocket

Action: For main streets, including Sherman Station, Sherman Mill, Patten, Stacyville, and Island Falls consider planting large street trees or adding planters or other vertical elements in the summer within the core of the villages to help slow down vehicles and add greenery.

Who: Municipalities

7. Direct any infrastructure dollars into downtowns.

Action: Read and learn about the “Strong Towns” approach to doing the math. <https://www.strongtowns.org/journal/2017/5/23/what-kind-of-math-do-our-cities-need-now>

Who: Everyone

Action: Direct all available infrastructure funds into downtown projects that will help support additional private investment and make the downtowns exciting, safe, and comfortable for all ages.

Who: Municipalities, State Agencies, Philanthropic Efforts

Action: Get involved with LUPC - Land Use Planning Commission to understand opportunities and liabilities of proposed changes for allowable development in unorganized territories. Make sure your perspective, needs, and wants are represented in the decision-making process before you get things you don't want or can't afford.

Who: Community members, municipalities, Millinocket Hospital

8. Spiff up the downtowns while retaining the moxie.

Action: Provide financial support to assist with higher initial capital cost of wood over vinyl siding in targeted, high visibility neighborhoods

Who: Community Financing Institutions

Action: Secure CDBG funding to support a Facade Grant programs in the towns.

Who: Our Katahdin and/or EMDC

Action: Raise capital to provide 1 to 1 match for CDBG Facade Grant program for Main Street businesses and in-town homes to remove vinyl facades (the side of the building facing the street) and replace with locally-sourced wood.

Who: Our Katahdin and/or EMDC

9. Relocate municipal buildings, educational facilities, offices, and other uses into village areas.

Action: Relocate area institutions into downtowns.

Who: Municipalities, Baxter State Park, Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument

10. Site and install charging stations.

Action: Seek funding or grant opportunities for installing electric charging stations.

Who: Our Katahdin and/or EMDC in collaboration with Municipalities

11. Explore bike shares in downtowns

Action: Create a bike share plan, build a volunteer team, set up a facebook page, and begin!

Who: A local citizen who is ready to spearhead a fun project.