

Bowdoinham Demonstration Project Proposal

Temporary All Way Stop at Intersection of Main Street (Route 125) and River Road (Route 24)

4.22.26

Summary

In response to limited visibility when approaching the Route 24 intersection from Lower Main Street—specifically when looking north, where sightlines are obstructed by the Masonic Lodge building. The Town is proposing to install a temporary all way stop controls.

- 4 additional stop signs for doubled up placement at the new stop conditions on north and south bound Route 24 approaches to the Main Street intersection. Please note 2 will be blinking LEDs;
- 6 all-way stop placards;
- 3 Stop Ahead signs;
- 2 Flashing Stop Ahead signs on new approaches;
- 4 New Traffic Pattern Ahead signs;
- Changing the lens of the hanging flashing beacon to red on all sides; and

The installations will seek to stop traffic in all directions, giving drivers the safest directive and peace of mind as they navigate this intersection during our busy spring and summer months. The project is temporary as we seek a permanent solution.

Purpose

The purpose of the project is to test the suitability of an all-way stop at this location to mitigate the safety risks associated with the sight-distance constraints that exist at this intersection. We will use this project to test the operation of an all-way stop, and gain feedback from the community on how it will be received and get input on how to improve upon a more permanent installation.

Need

Sightline impairment at the intersection of Lower Main Street and Route 24 has been an ongoing issue in the community. The town has invested in and deployed a speed feedback sign north of the intersection, but more needs to be done to make drivers feel safe navigating across Route 24 from Lower Main Street. The sightline impairment is caused by a permanent structure, the Masonic Lodge, located right up against Route 24.

With the kickoff of a multitude of summer events being hosted at the park, from weekly Saturday Farmers' Markets, the Summer Sundays Concert Series, Open Farm and Studio Day in July, the Tour de Bowdoinham charity ride in August, our annual

Celebrate Bowdoinham weekend in September and a very busy food pantry, vehicle traffic to the park is at an all-time high making this is an opportune time to implement the project.

The town has hosted several site visits with Maine DOT staff to review options for this concern. During the 2025 VPI study the idea of turning Lower Main Street into a one-way as a solution for the issue was met with significant opposition specifically from the boating community where longer boats are physically limited to accessing the park only via Lower Main Street. Without being able to redirect traffic, an all way stop is being proposed.

Conceptual Design

Currently there are already two stop signs deployed on Main Street at either side of its intersection with Route 24. One located on the northeast corner on lower Main Street next to the Masonic Lodge and another diagonally across the street at the bottom of Main Street at the Cannon Park.

The project will include adding four new stop signs doubling up placement 4 at the new stop conditions on north and south bound Route 24 approaches to the Main Street intersection. Two of which (one for either approach) are solar LED Flashing stop signs which will be provided by DOT. Further, all way stop placards will be placed at all six stop signs, the four new stop signs and the two existing ones on lower and upper Main Street.

For Main Street Extension and River Road south approach, the Town will install the temporary stop signs directly in the pavement rather than using raised islands for the duration of this experiment. The Town agrees to promptly repair or replace any signs that are damaged or struck during the trial period. Additionally, on-street parking in the immediate vicinity of these signs will be removed to ensure proper sight lines and safety standards.

Additionally, three new traffic pattern signs will be placed along Upper Main Street, on Route 24 towards Brooklyn Bridge and another towards the Country Store on Route 24. Moving closer to the intersection, three static (non-flashing) stop ahead signs will be placed after the new traffic pattern signs, these include one along Upper Main Street and one on either side of the intersection along Route 24. In addition, two flashing stop ahead signs will be placed on either side of the intersection on Route 24 to double up those signage locations to have one flashing and one not flashing stop ahead signs. Stop bars will also be stenciled at all four stops at the intersection from all directions.

Please see the image below for more details.



- Stop signs R1-1

 Stop Ahead flashing W3-1*

 Stop bar
- Stop LED flashing R1-1*

 Stop Ahead Static W3-1

 ALL WAY Plaque R1-3

 New Traffic Pattern W23-2

All signs 36x36

*DOT to lend us & Bham to install on 4x4 posts

Also during the demonstration project the Rt. 24/125 intersection sign located at the Rt 24/Main Street intersection will be moved back at least 150 to 300 feet north of the intersection behind a guardrail near the Country Store on its own post. See images below.



This project is intended to be temporary. Signage will be removed no later than September 18, 2026 or sooner by Bowdoinham staff.

Traffic Safety During Installation and Removal

This project will have minimal needs for members to be exposed to hazards in the travel lane. The Bowdoinham Road Commissioner will have staff on hand with a town vehicle to control traffic. The project team will use cones near any area where people are working. At least one person will be tasked with simply monitoring traffic and helping to keep project installers safe. All persons on site during installation and removal will wear high-vis vests. There will be minimal impact on vehicular traffic at the sites during installation or removal.

At all approaches the following traffic controls will be used:

ROAD WORK AHEAD sign
ONE LANE ROAD AHEAD sign
FLAGGER sign
Flaggers

Timeframe

We aim for an installation date of May 15, 2026 lasting no later than September 18, 2026.

Metrics

The effectiveness of the installation will be measured by feedback solicited through our bimonthly newsletter, enewsletter, Facebook page, and signage at the intersection with a QR code leading visitors to an online survey. Further, we'll also monitor any change in crash rates at the intersection. Lastly, we will monitor for queue lengths, observed motorist behavior, and compliance with the new stop signs a total of 10 times in 2 hour increments over the weekend, work day morning, lunch and evening times. Feedback will be incorporated into the design of the permanent solution. The Town will compile a report regarding the demonstration project after the installation is removed and will disseminate that report to MaineDOT and other relevant local entities.

Maintenance Plan

The project will be monitored regularly by members of the project team, and any knocked down signage will be replaced by project team members within 48 hours of a report. Bowdoinham will do what it can to support keeping the installation in good condition.

Public Notification

Bowdoinham will use its bimonthly newsletter which is sent to all residents as well as our Facebook page with 1,500 followers, and weekly enewsletter to notify the public about the project and gather feedback. In addition, the Town will install signage at the

intersection with a QR code leading visitors to information on our website as well as to the online survey. Additional measures to inform the public will be implemented as needed and requested by the public. All public comments and concerns will be directed to the Director of Planning and Development.

Approval and Permission:

The project will not move forward without Town of Bowdoinham and Maine DOT approval.

Purchase of Materials

The Town of Bowdoinham will purchase the materials for the projects.

Cost

- \$252.00 = (14) 4'x4' posts (\$18/ea)
- \$317.82 = (3) Stop signs (R1-1 36" Stop Sign) (\$105.94/ea)
- \$307.50 = (3) Stop Ahead signs (W3-1 Stop Ahead Symbol) (\$102.50/ea)
- \$370.00 = (4) New Traffic Pattern Ahead signs (W23-2 New Traffic Pattern Ahead) (\$92.50/ea)
- \$117.90 = (6) All way stop placards (R1-3P All Way) (\$19.65/ea)
- \$1,000 traffic light lenses change out (estimated)

Total: \$2,365.22

Please note that the project costs have increased by \$1,000 to address the hanging blinking light. If we could not change the light, it would require an additional blinking stop sign on Upper Main Street.

Contact

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