



A Comprehensive Plan
for Monroe County

Monroe County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Meeting

January 29, 2026



ADAM J. BELLO
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

EDR
a better environment

Agenda

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Welcome + Introductions

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Plan Evolution and Guiding Framework

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Next Steps

Welcome & Introductions

Plan Evolution and Guiding Framework



Framework Transition

ARPA Focus Areas

- » Economic Recovery
- » Workforce Development
- » Infrastructure Improvements
- » Sustainability
- » Public Health and Wellness
- » Public Safety

2023 Plan Framework

- » People and Communities
- » Economic and Workforce Development
- » Ecology and Environment
- » Connected Systems
- » Community Health

The Four Pillars

- » Economic and Workforce Development
- » Infrastructure
- » Public Health
- » Public Safety

Monroe County Recovery Plan

The ARPA-funded community survey and targeted in-person and virtual public feedback sessions identified six top focus areas

Economic Recovery

- Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBEs)
- Job Training
- Job Programs and Small Business Support

Workforce Development

- Job Training and Recruitment
- Removing Barriers for Workers - Childcare, Transportation, Etc.
- Support for Businesses/Individuals from Black and Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) Communities

Infrastructure Improvements

- Broadband/ Internet Access - address the digital divide
- Water and Sewer
- Children's Detention Center; Park Facilities - Safety Lights, Bathrooms, Parking

Sustainability

- Energy Efficient Upgrades - Buildings, Vehicles, Homes, Renewable Energy Sources
- Bike Infrastructure; Green Space
- Public Transportation - Increased Options and Routes; Urban Farms

Public Health and Wellness

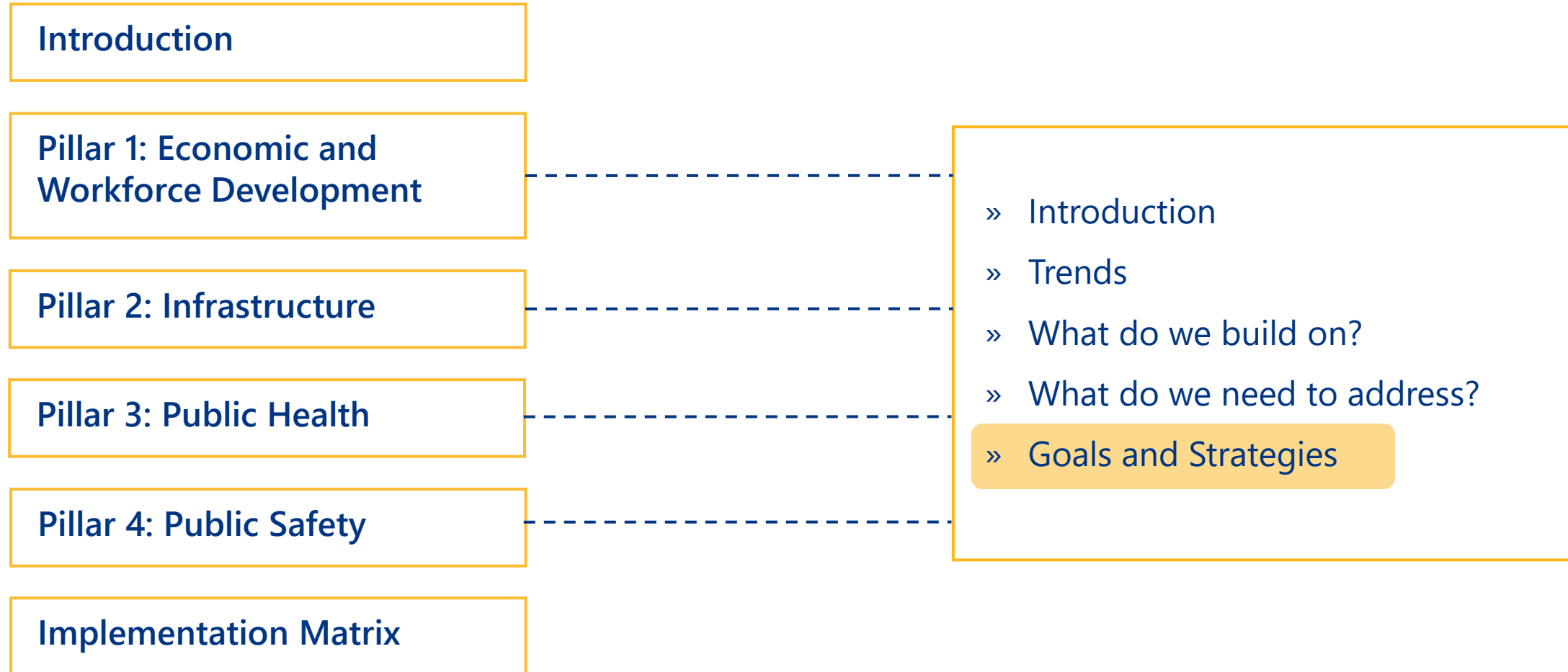
- Mental Health - Awareness, Services, Staff, Emergency Response, School
- Homeless Services
- Food Security

Public Safety

- Mental Health - Emergency Response, First Aid Training, Professional Recruitment
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Restorative Justice - Mediation, Youth Programming

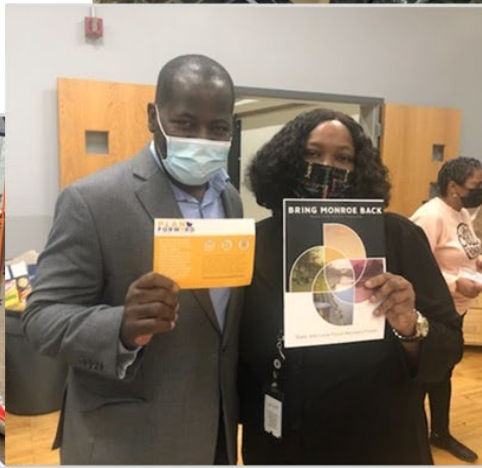
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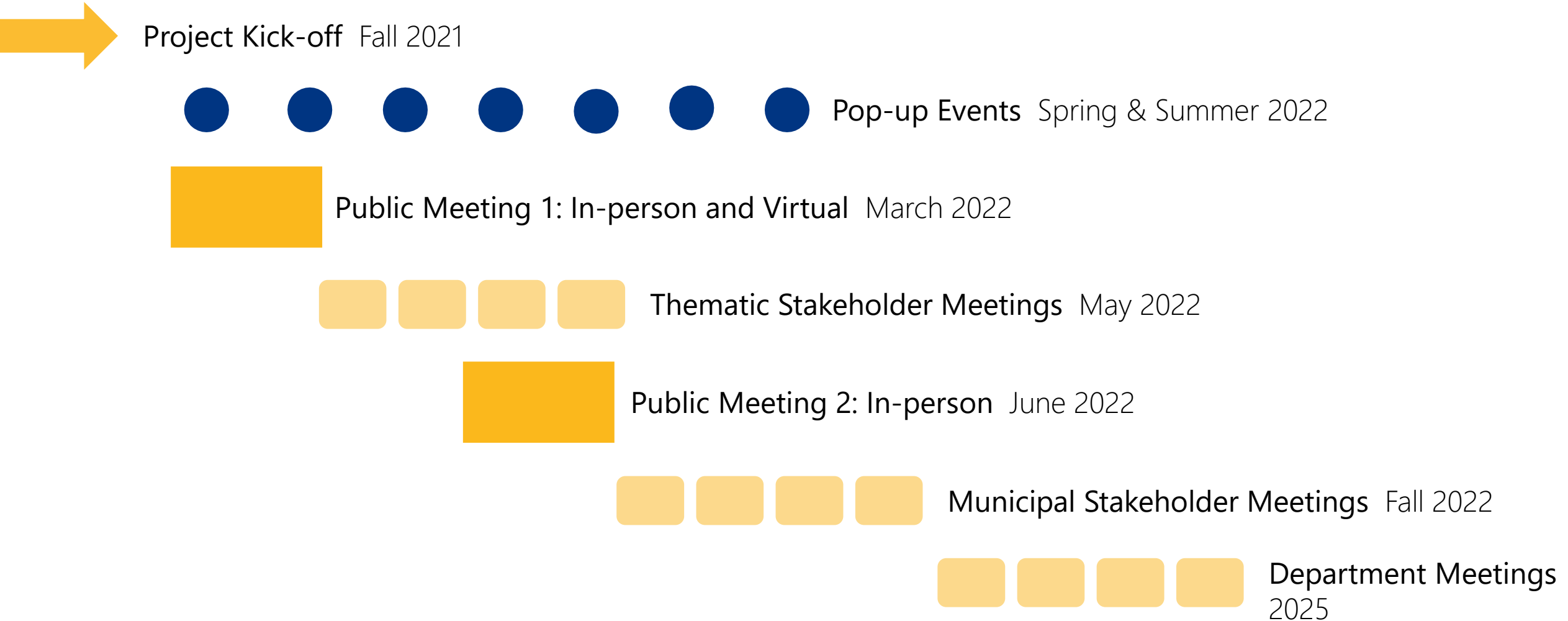




Community Engagement



Community Engagement Timeline





Economic and Workforce Development



1. Economic and Workforce Development

ARPA Focus Areas

- » Economic Recovery
- » Workforce Development

Key Engagement Findings

- » Support for affordable housing throughout Monroe County
- » Solutions for underemployment
- » Need for supportive services for un- and under-employed workers
- » Expand high-tech industry
- » Need to identify and prepare sites for future economic development
- » Creative ways to support entrepreneurs in the County

1. Economic and Workforce Development

Trends

- » Economically competitive places perform well with unique combinations of growth indicators.
- » Boosting educational attainment is critical to competitiveness in an increasingly complex, global economy.
- » Widening gap between high-wage and low-wage earners highlights the changing nature of work, necessitating different skillsets for the future workforce.
- » Household configurations and lifestyle preferences are changing, and housing development can change to meet new consumer needs.

What Do We Build On?

- » Economic Transformation
- » A High Quality of Life
- » Position in the Smart-I Corridor (High-Tech Manufacturing)
- » Untapped Potential of the Transportation Network
- » Agriculture-Driven Economics

What Do We Need to Address?

- » Underemployment
- » Need for Strategic Sites & Power Capacity
- » Retaining and Attracting Future Residents
- » Need for Housing

Goals

- » Develop the workforce and support entrepreneurship
- » Create places that enhance quality of life
- » Enhance housing access and quality
- » Strengthen existing and growing economic sectors while investing in emerging industries
- » Identify and prepare suitable sites for development

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Infrastructure



2. Infrastructure

ARPA Focus Areas

- » Infrastructure Improvements
- » Sustainability

Key Engagement Findings

- » Accessible transportation throughout Monroe County
- » Prioritize safety for all road users
- » Utilize active transportation approaches
- » Enhance trail connectivity

2. Infrastructure

Trends

- » Monroe County's land has urbanized at a faster rate than its population growth.
- » Boosting educational attainment is critical to competitiveness in an increasingly complex, global economy.
- » Transportation systems are facing new safety challenges.
- » Ongoing changes in regional freight operations.

What Do We Build On?

- » A Comprehensive Transportation Network
- » Water Resource Protection
- » High-Quality Parks & Trails System

What Do We Need to Address?

- » Monroe County's Resilient Future
- » The Infrastructure-Land Use Connection
- » Multimodal Infrastructure
- » Broadband Access

Goals

- » Invest in 21st-century infrastructure
- » Protect water resources
- » Improve waste management and recycling practices
- » Invest in and diversify the transportation system

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A photograph of a farmers market stall. In the foreground, several blue plastic crates are filled with ripe, red tomatoes. Behind them, other crates contain green and red apples, and bunches of red and green grapes. The stall is set up on a wooden table. In the background, more tables with various fruits and vegetables are visible, creating a vibrant and healthy atmosphere. The ground is paved with bricks.

Public Health

3. Public Health

ARPA Focus Areas

- » Public Health and Wellness
- » Sustainability

Key Engagement Findings

- » Building equitable neighborhoods
- » Focusing on healthy environments
- » Mental health and trauma resources
- » Support preventative and culturally-responsive care
- » Address food insecurity
- » Data-driven approaches

3. Public Health

Trends

- » Monroe County continues to struggle with the impacts of substance use disorders.
- » Environmental health hazards are concentrated in Monroe County's older neighborhoods.
- » Recognition of the value of integrating mental health services into other social service provision programs.
- » Monroe County is aging; Residents aged 60 years or older make up 25% of Monroe County's population.

What Do We Build On?

- » Healthy Environments
- » Mental Health Service Expansion and Integration
- » Preventive Care and Chronic Disease Prevention and Management

What Do We Need to Address?

- » Substance Use Disorders
- » Health Equity
- » Food Insecurity
- » Age-friendly Communities

Goals

- » Provide integrated mental and physical care to residents in need
- » Prevent substance use and subsequent substance use disorders
- » Mitigate environmental health hazards
- » Support policies and programs that improve access to nutritious foods
- » Foster an age-friendly Monroe County and supportive environment for older adults

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Public Safety



4. Public Safety

ARPA Focus Area

» Public Safety

Key Engagement Findings

- » Support for initiatives and programs that work to reduce violence and crime
- » Focus on early intervention and education approaches to crime reduction
- » Remove barriers to support services
- » Traffic and travel safety concerns throughout the County roadway network

4. Public Safety

Trends

- » Property crime has declined, and violent crime has remained steady over the last 25 years.
- » Climate change-induced emergencies are intensifying.
- » Human behavior increasingly drives traffic safety issues.

What Do We Build On?

- » Supportive Programs
- » Community Partnerships
- » Multi-Agency Collaboration
- » Traffic Safety Initiatives

What Do We Need to Address?

- » Diversify Crime Reduction and Prevention Approaches
- » Emergency Response
- » Public Safety Workforce Development and Recruitment

Goals

- » Reduce violent and property crime County-wide
- » Enhance emergency response capabilities and reduce response times
- » Build stronger police-community relationships
- » Strengthen disaster preparedness and community resilience
- » Build a diverse and talented public safety workforce
- » Significantly reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries across the County

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Next Steps

Draft Plan Development

January – March 2026

Final Plan Development

May – June 2026

April – May 2026

June – September 2026

Steering Committee and
Public Review

Plan Adoption



Thank you!

