

## Resort Community Planning 2021 Work Plan

Committee of the Whole, March 3 2021

# Agenda

- Background
- Context
- Planning for the long term
- Balance Model
- Timelines



# WHISTLER

A place where our community thrives,  
nature is protected and guests are inspired.



# Key considerations in the Official Community Plan

- Builds on Whistler's enduring vision as a destination resort community
- Seeks to protect and reinforce what makes Whistler a special place to live and visit
- And guides Whistler's ongoing evolution within limits to growth
  - **Balance** the resort community such that sustainable visitation levels are targeted to provide a strong and stable economy within comfortable carrying capacity
  - Taking into consideration the **qualitative** aspects of Whistler's experience for residents and guests, and protection of Whistler's unique natural environment
  - And **quantitative** aspects such as infrastructure capacities and housing needs.

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# Pre-COVID - Some major focus areas

Community character

Recent pace and scale of  
community population  
growth and future trends

Effective climate change  
action

Future Population Growth  
– scale and mix

Affordability

Recent pace and scale of  
economic growth and  
future trends

Transportation &  
technology

Alignment with resort partners  
and provincial partners

‘Stretched’ community  
services / amenities  
(housing, schools,  
recreation)

Effectiveness of current  
limits to growth

Resilience to wildfire and  
changing weather patterns

Fiscal impacts

Regional growth

...

# Pandemic overlay

- Issues have been exacerbated and become more important
  - ✓ Community mental health and wellbeing
  - ✓ Local business survival
  - ✓ Tourism Sustainability
- COVID has enabled us to see more clearly what needs to be improved and preserved

Sense of belonging and inclusion  
Importance of local businesses  
**Diversification of our tourism offerings**  
Outdoor space & recreation infrastructure needs  
Affordable housing  
Social program needs

# A Strategic Recovery - Sustainable Tourism Community

- Pandemic also provides an opportunity to consider how we could realize parts of the vision in an 'accelerated' way as we build a strategic recovery plan



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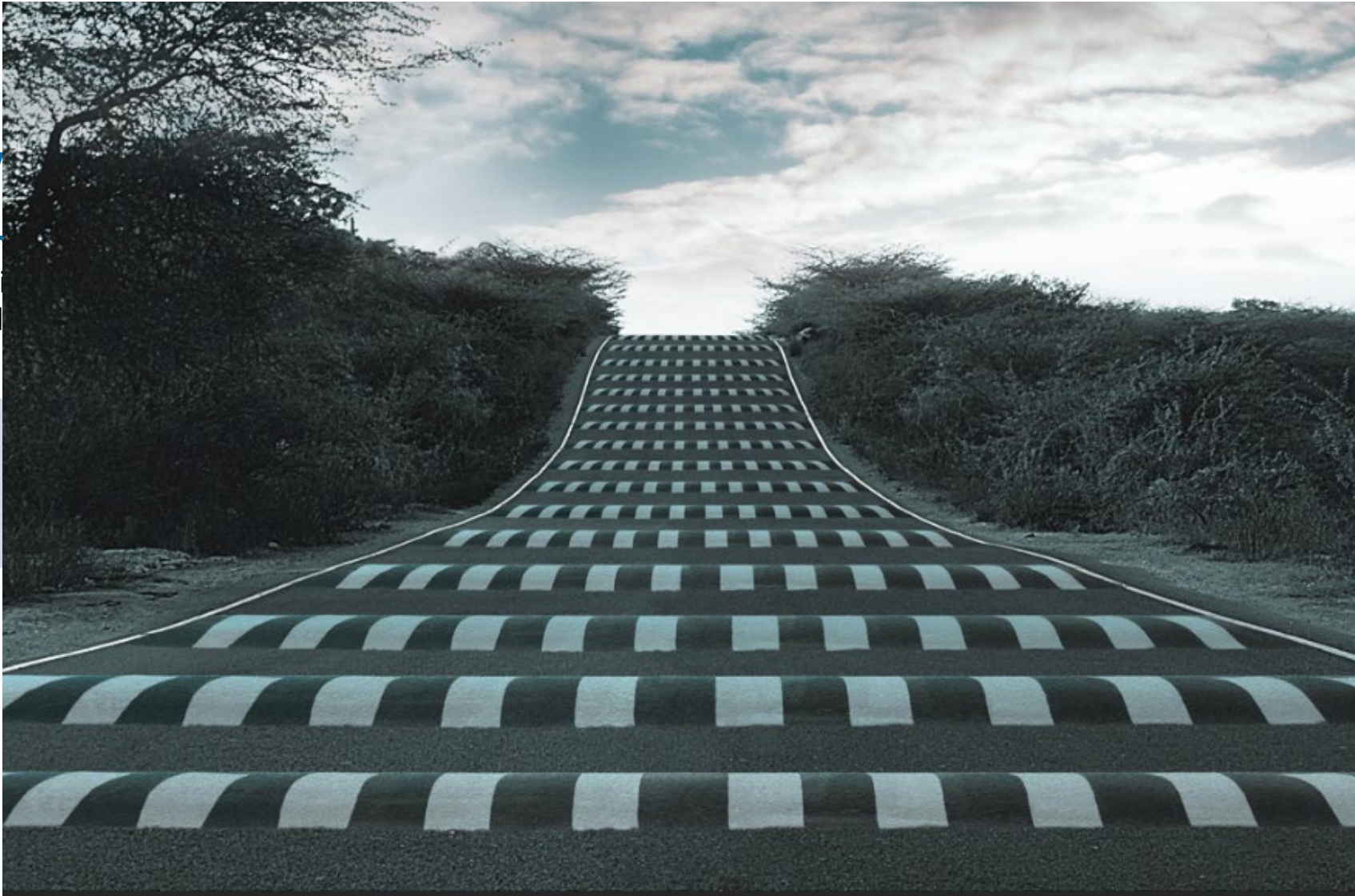
# Long Term community planning

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# Key Deliverables as defined with the SPC



# Striking a balance

**SENSE OF PLACE**



**THRIVING COMMUNITY**



**NATURAL  
ENVIRONMENT**



**VIBRANT & AUTHENTIC  
RESORT**



# Agenda

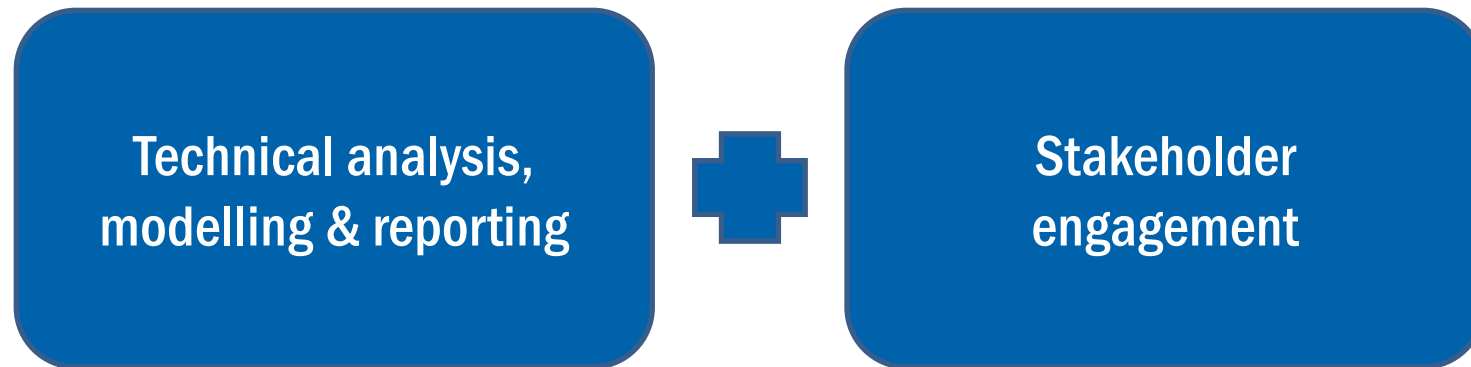
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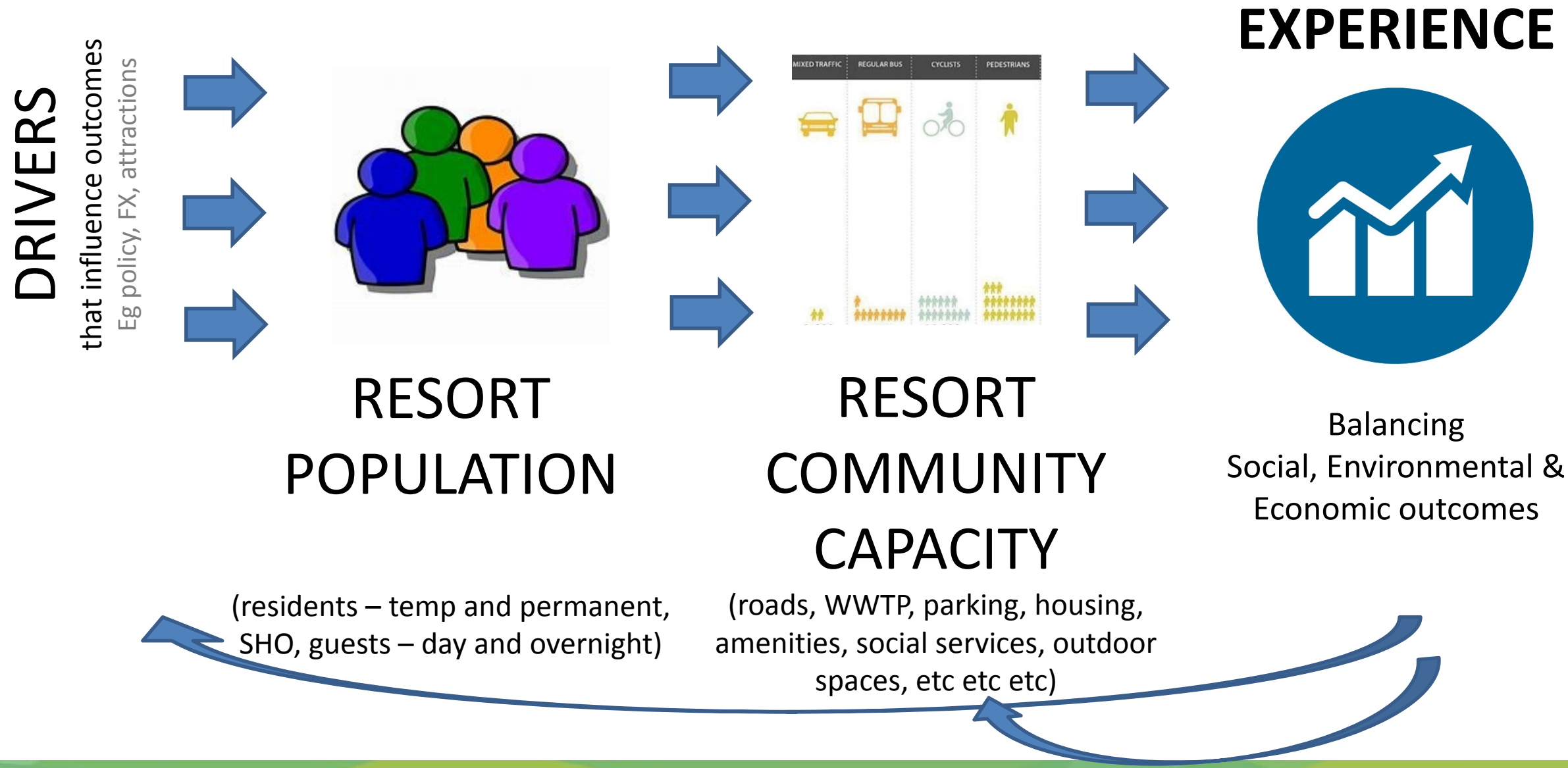
# Key Questions We Intend to Answer

1. What is Whistler's population today and how did we get here?
2. What does community and economic performance look like with this population? Where has Whistler already exceeded its carrying capacity?
3. What might future performance look like under different population scenarios?
4. What are the attributes of population that best strikes a balance between community and economic goals and capacity?
5. What can the RMOW and resort and community partners do to influence our evolution so that it reflects those attributes? What can be done to mitigate negative impacts and amplify positive ones?

# How We Will Answer These Questions



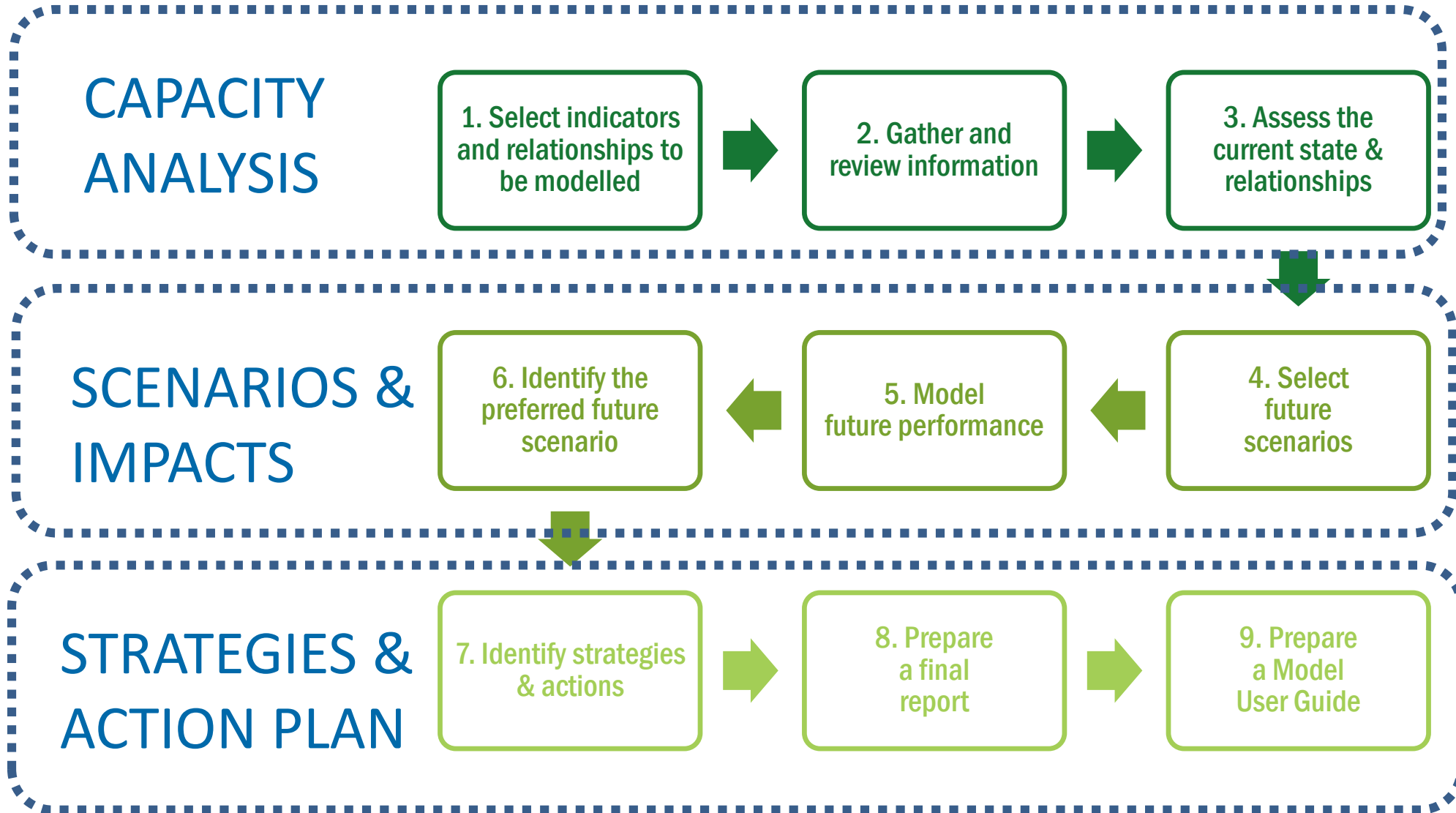
# The Balance Model



# Objectives of the Balance Model

- Provide an overview of the various **influencers of community growth** in Whistler
  - ✓ Ensure a deeper understanding of influences on the community's evolution
- Understand **possible future scenarios** and their impacts on the community
  - ✓ Analyze impacts on housing, land use, population, economy and services with defined opportunities and risks of each
- **Inform** determination of specific targets for each of the key metrics
  - ✓ Support the committee in the determination of strategic opportunities or policy directions for Council consideration
- Create an integrated modelling tool for use by the Community in the future for ongoing analysis and evaluation of progress.

# Work Plan



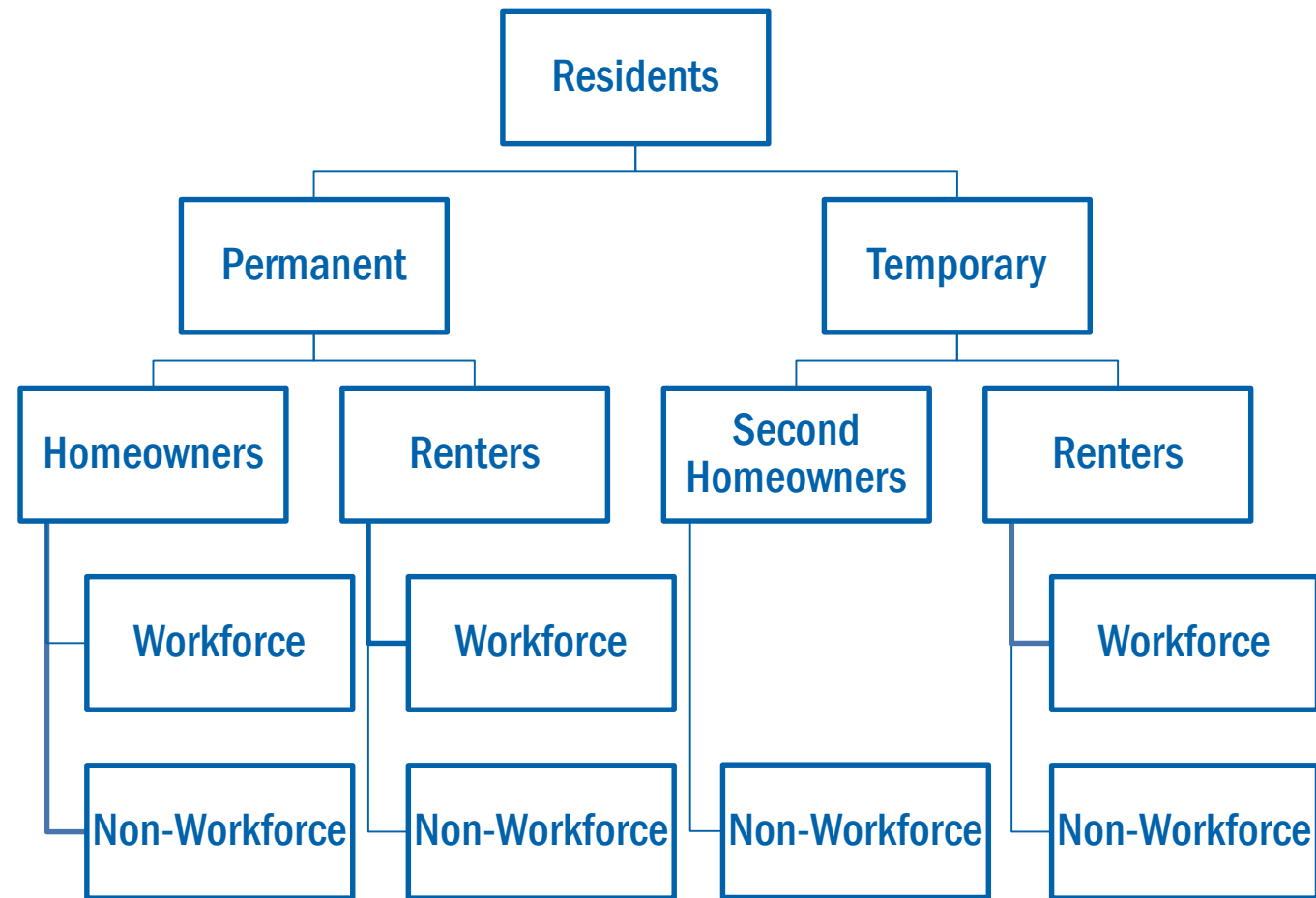


# Population Segments

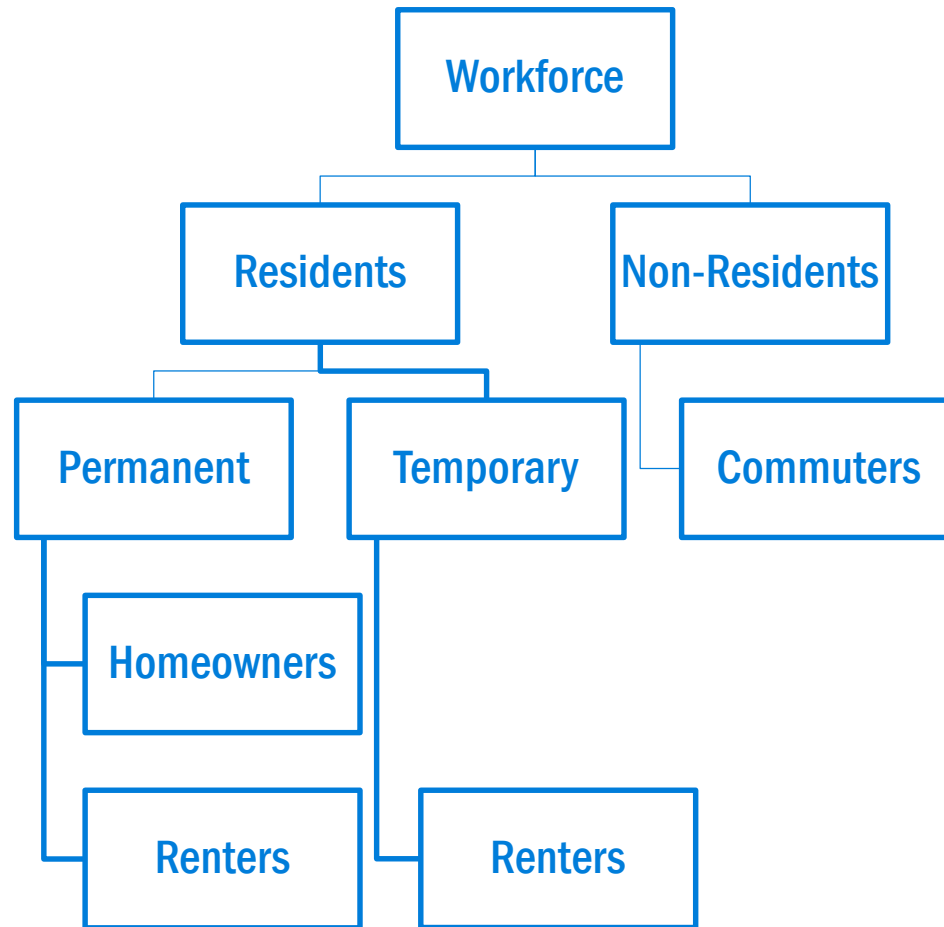
**Residents**

**Non-Residents**

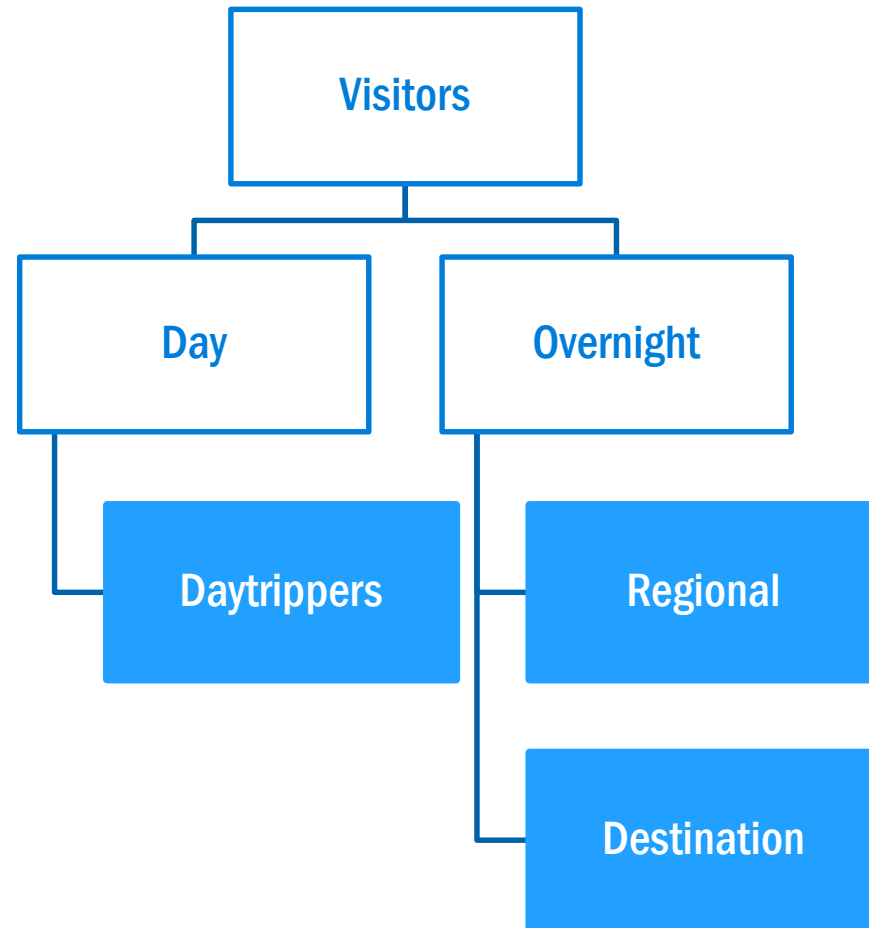
# Resident Segments



# Workforce Segments



# Visitor Segments



Seasonal variation in population

- Annual visitation
- winter & summer max days

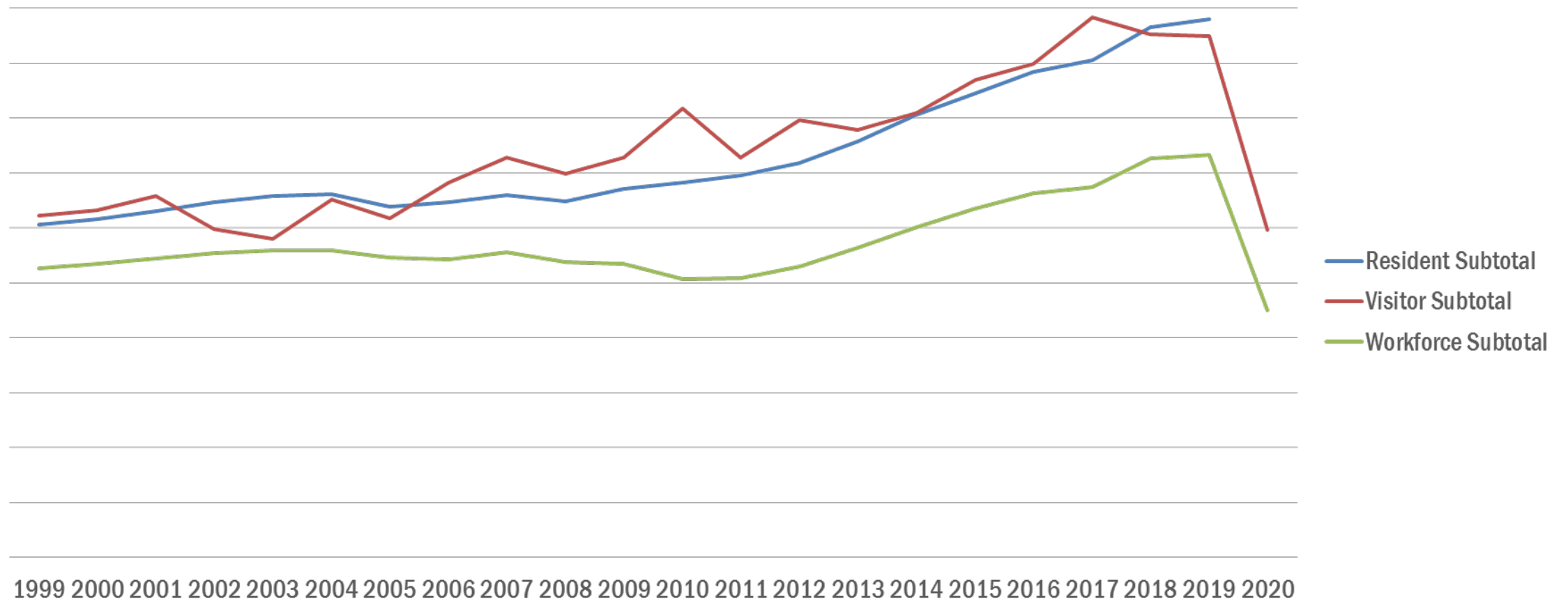
# Potential Influencers of Growth

- Population & Demographics
- Economic factors
- Real estate pricing
- Weather conditions
- Global tourism trends
- Resort investments



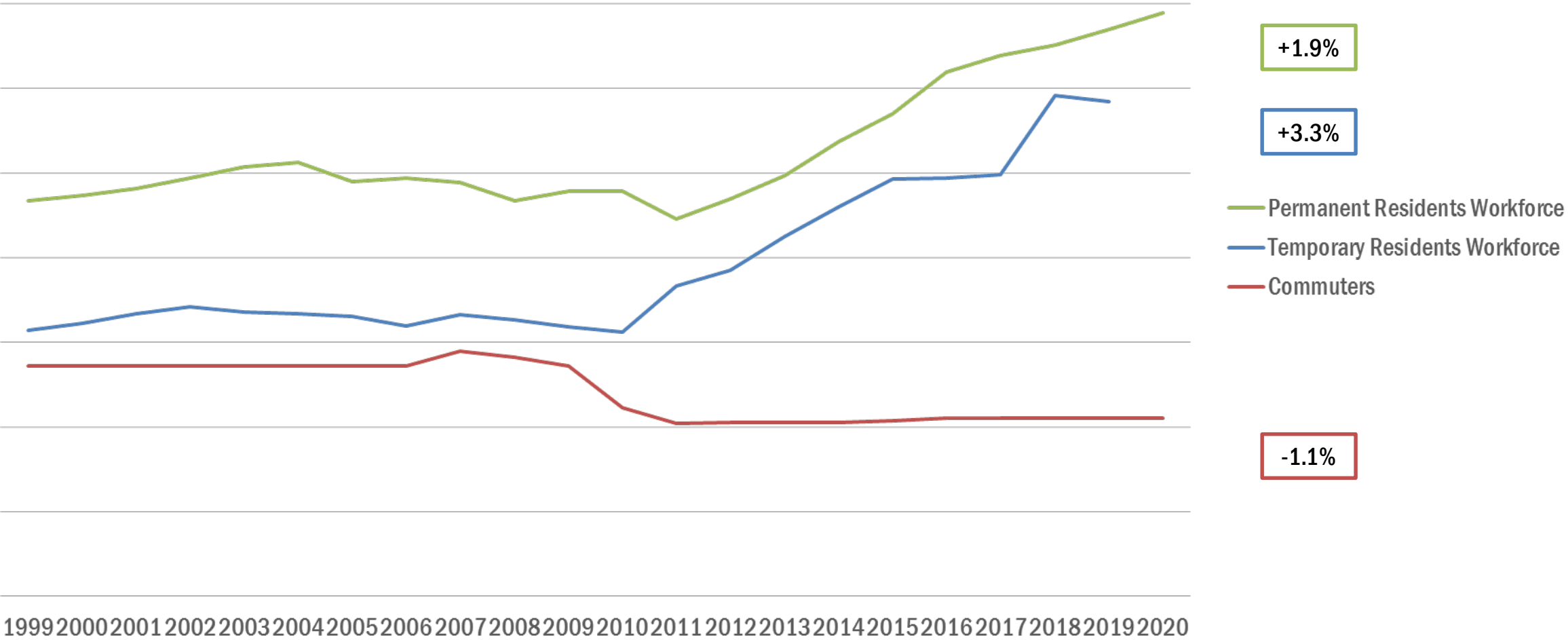
# Population segments

Whistler Workforce, Residents, and Average Daily Visitors (1999 – 2020)



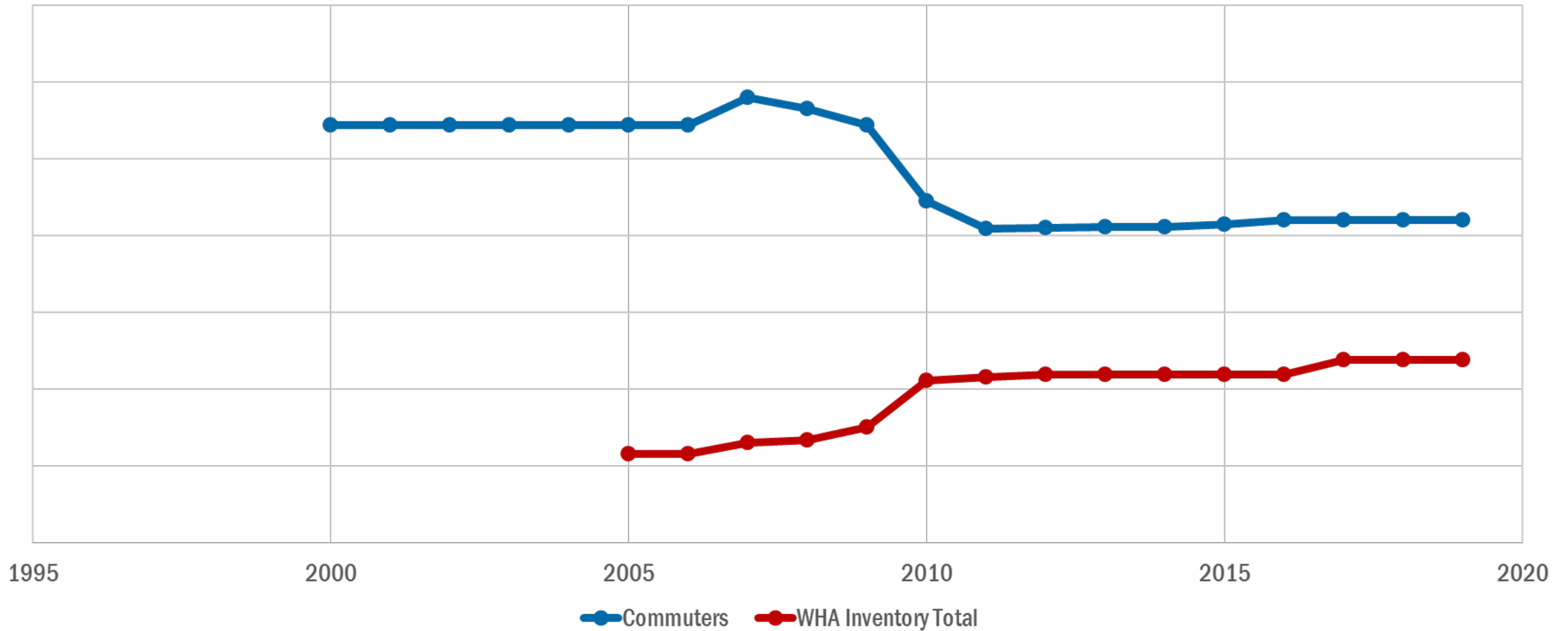
# Trends in Workforce Population

Whistler Workforce (1999 – 2020)



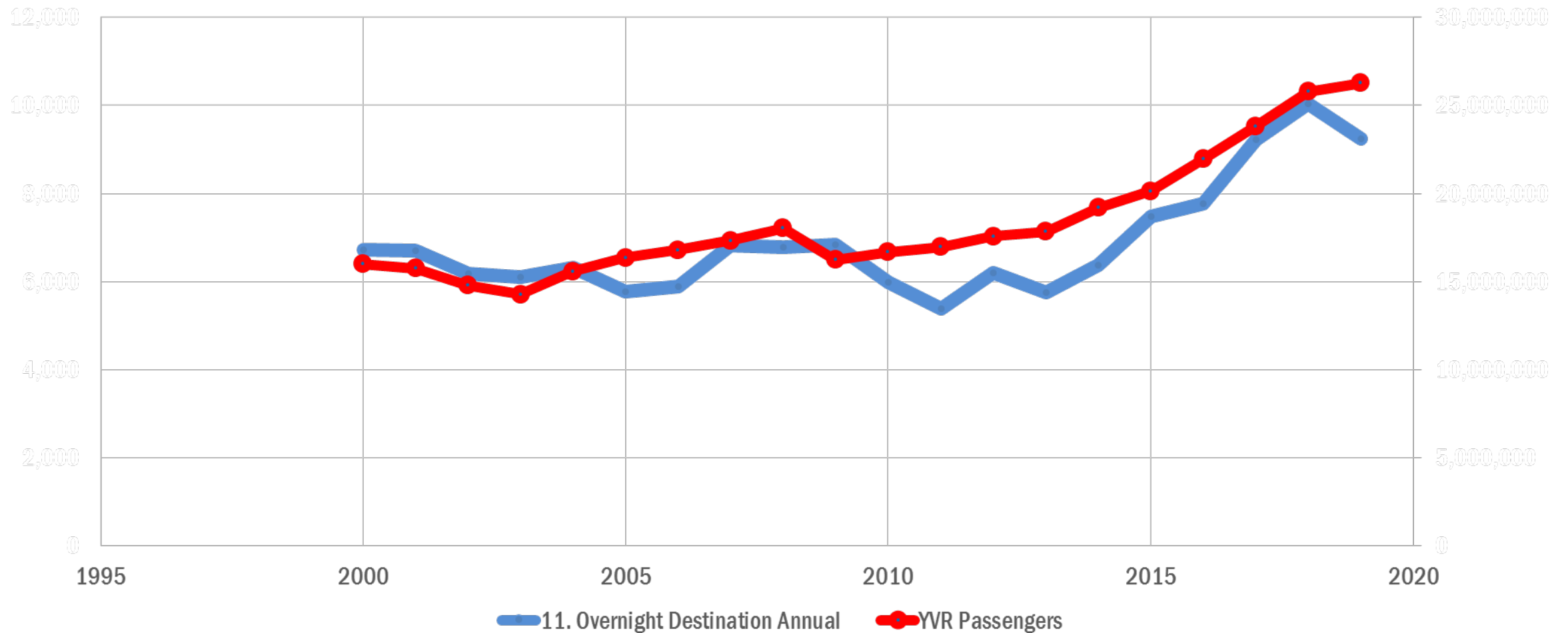
# Employee housing inventory influence

Cross Tabulation with Commuters and WHA Inventory Total (2000 - 2019)

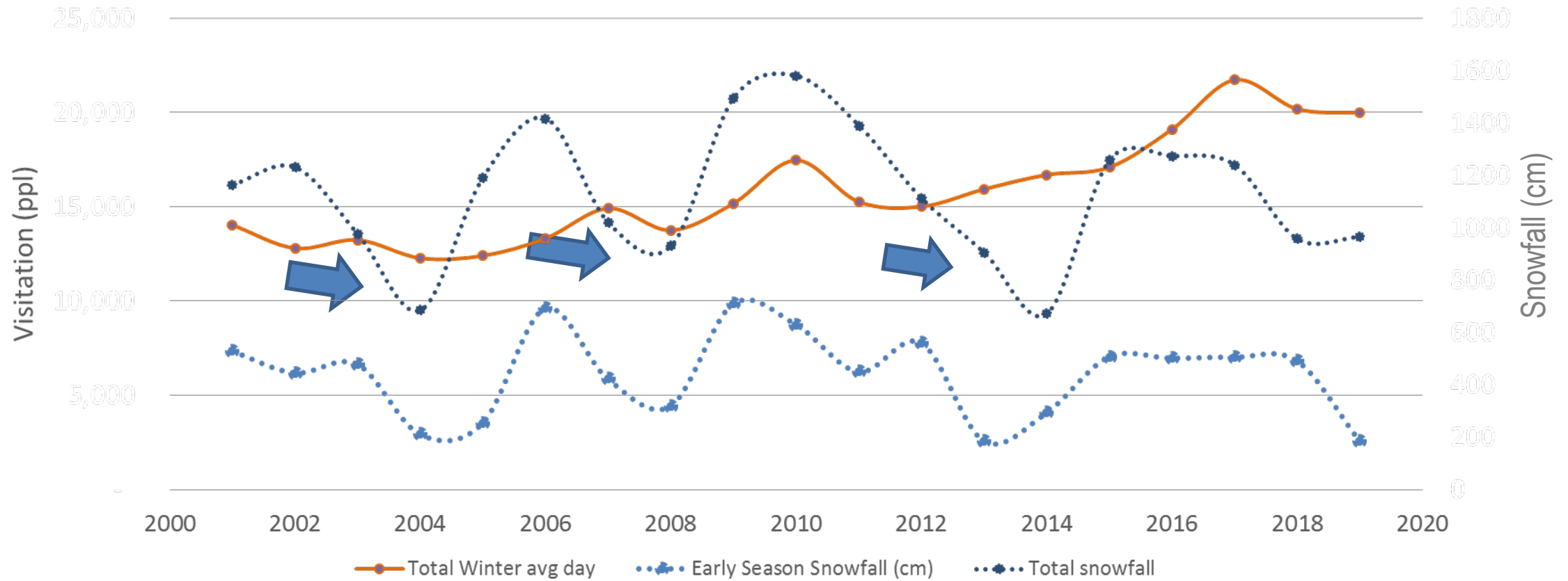


# Examples of correlations

Cross Tabulation with Overnight Destination Annual and YVR Passengers (2000 - 2019)



# Impacts of Snowfall





# Potential Influencers of Growth

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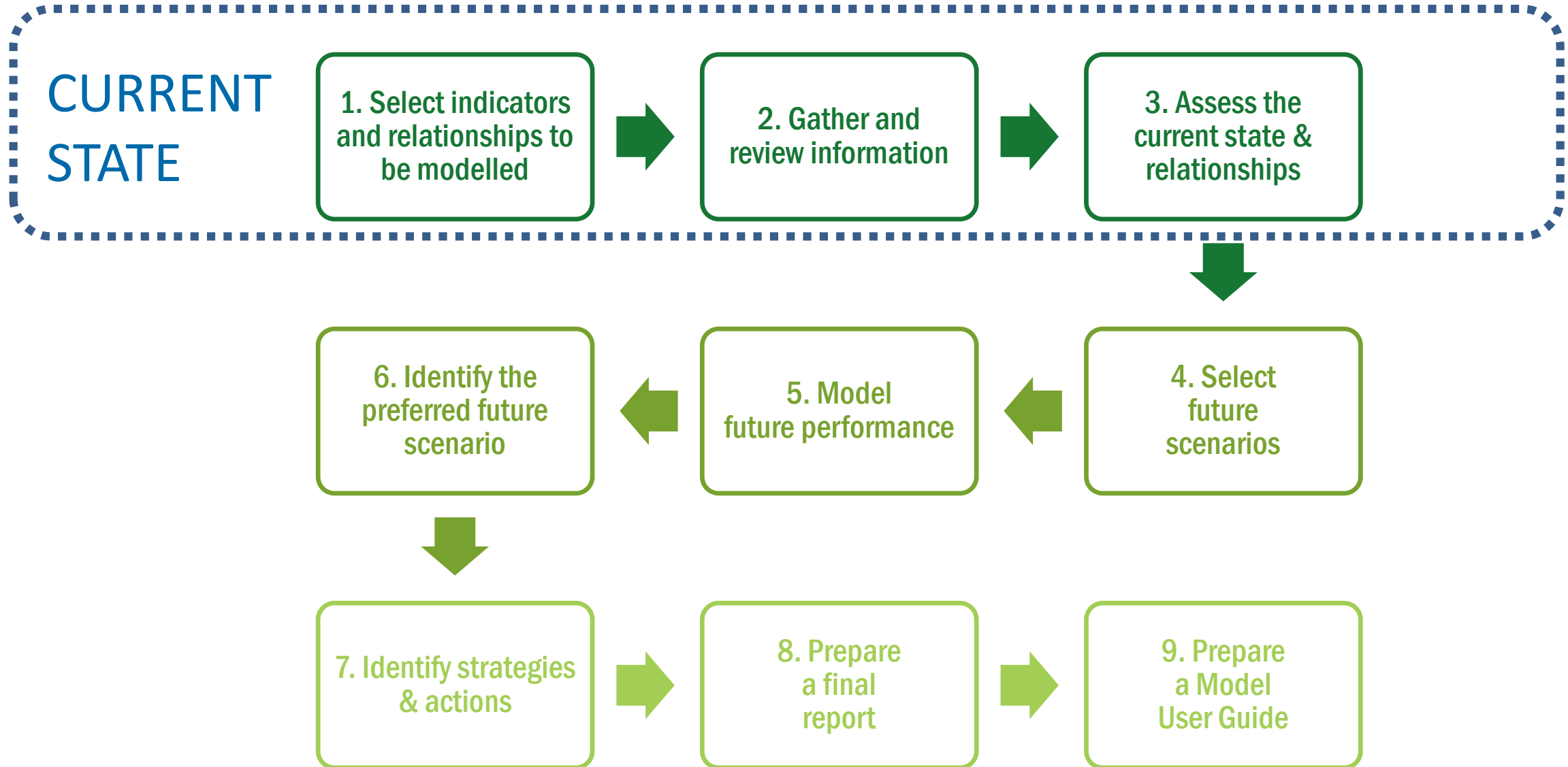
# Measuring Carrying Capacity

- We want to know Whistler's comfortable carrying capacity, as measured by performance across the community's vision characteristics:
  - Sense of Place
  - Environment
  - Community
  - Tourism Economy

# Breadth of indicators to be measured to consider balance



# Work Plan Recap – We are here



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# TIMELINES

CURRENT CAPACITY ANALYSIS

SUMMER

SCENARIOS & IMPACTS

FALL

STRATEGIES & ACTION PLAN

EARLY  
2022

# Community Engagement

- Information sharing and broad collaboration
- Looking for community input on:
  - ✓ Future scenarios
  - ✓ Target setting
  - ✓ Strategies and Action planning
- Opportunities with community + Recovery Working Group + Committees



# WHISTLER

A place where our community thrives,  
nature is protected and guests are inspired.





# Thank you

