

CHAPTER 9: TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal 9.1

Mansfield has a balanced, integrated transportation system that provides residents with viable options in getting from one place to another.

Measures of Effectiveness:

- Number of sidewalk/bikeway miles increases 20% by 2018
- Increase in miles of designated bicycle routes
- Town is designated as a Bicycle Friendly Community
- Bus routes have expanded to include the library
- Innovative transportation options have been developed to expand intra-town options
- New development includes Complete Streets
- Increase in lane miles of roadways in good condition
- Increased UConn and WRTD transit ridership
- Reduction in traffic congestion on Route 195 and other major arterials

Strategy A | Ensure that transportation improvements reflect community character and enhance quality of life.

ACTIONS	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES
<p>1. Implement traffic calming improvements to reduce vehicular speed and discourage non-local traffic.</p> <p>Priority areas include villages and local roads in the areas of UConn and Storrs Center. Consideration should be given to developing traffic calming techniques for collector roads to reduce traffic speeds.</p>	<p>DPW Transportation Advisory Committee Traffic Authority</p>	Ongoing	<p>Staff Time CIP</p>
<p>2. Update the Pavement Management System and develop a priority list of paving projects for implementation.</p> <p>Priorities should focus on preventative maintenance to keep roads in good condition. Substantial financial investment may be needed to address both preventative maintenance and significant repairs to roads that have already deteriorated beyond preventative measures.</p>	<p>DPW</p>	Ongoing	<p>Staff Time Operating Budget CIP Bonds</p>
<p>3. Periodically assess the Town's transportation needs.</p> <p>Transportation needs and priorities should be assessed every three to five years to address changes in development patterns and available resources. Priority projects identified in this Plan and through periodic reassessment should be incorporated into the Capital Improvement Program.</p>	<p>Transportation Advisory Committee PZC Town Council</p>	Ongoing	<p>Staff Time Volunteer Time CIP</p>

SHORT TERM = 2015-2019	MEDIUM TERM = 2020-2024	LONG TERM = 2025-2035
------------------------	-------------------------	-----------------------

ACTIONS	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES
<p>4. Coordinate transportation improvements with utility projects.</p> <p>As improvements are made to various utilities such as installation of new water or sewer lines, explore possibility of including transportation enhancements such as walkways and bikeways as part of the project or in conjunction with the project.</p>	<p>DPW Planning Transportation Advisory Committee</p>	Ongoing	<p>Staff Time Volunteer Time</p>
<p>5. Consider installation of roundabouts in place of traffic signals at major intersections that require upgrades.</p> <p>Examples of potential locations include the intersections of Route 275 and Separatist Road; Routes 195 and 275; Route 195 and North Eagleville Road; and North Eagleville Road and Hunting Lodge Road.</p>	<p>DPW Traffic Authority Transportation Advisory Committee</p>	Ongoing	<p>Staff Time CIP Grants</p>
<p>6. Consider the needs of users of all ages and abilities, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders, when planning, constructing and maintaining transportation improvements through the adoption of a ‘Complete Streets’ policy.</p> <p>Embedding the concept that streets are for everyone into the Town’s policies and regulations for design and maintenance of infrastructure will provide opportunities for incremental improvements as part of both major and minor projects. Guidance on developing a formal ‘Complete Streets’ policy is available at www.smartgrowthamerica.org.</p>	<p>Planning DPW Transportation Advisory Committee Traffic Authority PZC Sustainability Committee Town Council</p>	Short Term	<p>Staff Time Volunteer Time</p>
<p>7. Update Town’s Engineering Standards and Specifications to reflect local context and Complete Streets considerations.</p> <p>Roadway design standards and engineering specifications should be tailored to the character of the area in which they will be constructed. Examples include development of typical roadway sections that identify minimum/maximum pavement widths, pedestrian/bicycle facilities, stormwater facilities, etc.</p> <p><i>See Goal 2.4, Strategy B and Goal 2.6, Strategies B and C for additional actions related to updating Engineering Standards and Specifications.</i></p>	<p>Planning DPW Transportation Advisory Committee PZC Traffic Authority Town Council</p>	Short Term	<p>Staff Time Operating Budget CIP</p>

SHORT TERM = 2015–2019	MEDIUM TERM = 2020–2024	LONG TERM = 2025–2035
------------------------	-------------------------	-----------------------

ACTIONS	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES
8. Evaluate and update roadway classification system.	DPW Planning Transportation Advisory Committee PZC	Medium Term	Staff Time Volunteer Time
9. Monitor advancements in transportation technology such as personal flying vehicles and address through updates to policies and regulations.	Planning DPW PZC Town Council	Medium–Long Term	Staff Time

Strategy B | Develop an integrated network of sidewalks, bikeways and trails that connect residents with key community facilities and services.

ACTIONS	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES
1. Use the criteria identified in this chapter to prioritize bicycle and walkway improvements until the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan is completed.	PZC Transportation Advisory Committee Town Council	Ongoing	Operating Budget CIP Grants
2. Seek state and federal grant funding to support multi-modal enhancements to the transportation network. In addition to traditional grant funds, the Town should advocate for additional state and/or university funds to assist in meeting off-campus transportation demands related to expansion of UConn and ECSU.	Planning Transportation Advisory Committee PZC UConn Eastern Connecticut State University Town Council	Ongoing	Staff Time

SHORT TERM = 2015–2019	MEDIUM TERM = 2020–2024	LONG TERM = 2025–2035
------------------------	-------------------------	-----------------------

ACTIONS	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES
<p>3. Prepare and implement a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.</p> <p>The plan should be developed with extensive community input and adopted by both the PZC and Town Council. Recommended components include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Identification of primary north/south and east/west routes</i> • <i>Connections to surrounding communities</i> • <i>Strategies to allow for pedestrian and bicycle improvements to scenic roads</i> • <i>Connections to and expansions of the network of local and regional trails (see Goal 3.3, Strategy B for more information)</i> • <i>Use of sharrows</i> • <i>Education and enforcement strategies to improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists on roads without off-road walkways/bikeways</i> • <i>Community education campaign on the benefits of walking and biking</i> • <i>Criteria and process to evaluate proposed improvements and update the priority list identified in this Plan</i> 	<p>Planning Transportation Advisory Committee Sustainability Committee PZC Town Council</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>Staff Time Volunteer Time CIP Grants</p>
<p>4. Pursue designation as a Bicycle Friendly Community from the League of American Bicyclists.</p>	<p>Transportation Advisory Committee Sustainability Committee DPW Planning</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>Staff Time Volunteer Time</p>

Strategy C | Expand availability of alternative transportation options.

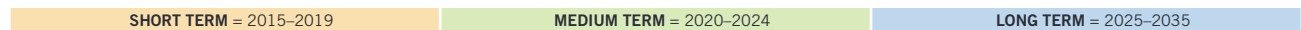
ACTIONS	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES
<p>1. Explore options to maintain and expand coverage of the WRTD and UConn bus systems.</p> <p>Initial priorities for expansion of bus service should include adding the library to the Storrs-Willimantic Route and extending the Route 32 route to loop through the Pleasant Valley/Mansfield Avenue area. Encourage neighboring communities and off-campus student housing owners/ developers to provide alternate transportation to UConn.</p>	<p>Transportation Advisory Committee Windham Region Transit District UConn Town Council</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Staff Time Volunteer Time Operating Budget</p>

SHORT TERM = 2015–2019	MEDIUM TERM = 2020–2024	LONG TERM = 2025–2035
------------------------	-------------------------	-----------------------

ACTIONS	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES
<p>2. Promote greater interconnection of existing transit systems, particularly better connections to CT Transit Routes to Hartford.</p>	Transportation Advisory Committee Windham Region Transit District UConn CT Transit Capitol Region Council of Governments	Ongoing	Staff Time Volunteer Time
<p>3. Explore alternatives to traditional public transit to expand transportation to areas not served by UConn and WRTD.</p> <p>Alternatives such as ride sharing apps and volunteer drivers should be explored as ways to increase mobility options for residents without access to personal vehicles or access to bus service. Potential obstacles include insurance liability/costs and competition from transportation businesses.</p>	Transportation Advisory Committee Human Services Town Council	Ongoing	Staff Time Operating Budget
<p>4. Coordinate closely with UConn and regional transit systems on transportation for high capacity events.</p>	Traffic Authority Resident Trooper Emergency Management	Ongoing	Staff Time Operating Budget

Strategy D | Participate in initiatives to improve the regional transportation network.

ACTIONS	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES
<p>1. Support regional efforts to address traffic impacts associated with UConn's expansion.</p> <p>The upcoming CRCOG/CTDOT corridor study of Routes 44 and 195 is one example of how Mansfield can work with surrounding communities to address traffic impacts using a multi-modal approach.</p>	Planning Transportation Advisory Committee PZC Town Council UConn Capitol Region Council of Governments	Ongoing	Staff Time Volunteer Time



ACTIONS	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES
<p>2. Support regional and interstate efforts to improve freight rail capacity and restore passenger rail service along the Central Corridor.</p> <p>If passenger rail service were to be reinstated, transportation plans would need to be updated to make connections between Mansfield Depot and key destinations, such as UConn and Storrs Center. Land use plans would also need to be reviewed and updated based on preferred uses and development patterns.</p>	<p>PZC Town Council</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Staff Time</p>
<p>3. Support efforts to improve Windham Regional Airport based on the recommendations of the Airport Master Plan.</p> <p>An updated master plan for the airport was completed in 2014.</p>	<p>PZC Town Council</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Staff Time</p>

