

V. RECOMMENDED PLAN

The highway and transit recommendations presented in this Plan are intended as guidelines for programming federal and state funds for regional transportation improvements, and identifying locations for further study. The recommendations are based on the severity of the deficiencies, the Transportation Plan's goals and objectives, the previous work and scheduling of projects by the State and COGCNV, and discussions with local officials (see Appendix A for local transportation priorities). The Plan emphasizes maintaining and improving the existing transportation system rather than constructing new facilities. Also, while the Region's highways will remain the focal point of its transportation system, the Plan seeks to enhance the role of public transportation services and ridesharing.

A. Highways

The primary objective of this section is to maintain and improve the Region's highway system with an emphasis on making better use of existing transportation facilities, while seeking to improve safety and reduce traffic congestion, energy consumption, and motor vehicle emissions. For both expressways and other highways, the maintenance of roads and bridges is the highest priority.

Highway recommendations are divided into the following categories: *Expressways*, *Major State Highways*, *Urban Highway Projects*, and *Commuter Services*.

1. Expressways

- *Interstate 84 East of Waterbury* (under construction) — Widen I-84 to three through lanes in each direction and modify interchanges between Rte 69 (Exit 23) in Waterbury to east of Marion Rd. (Exit 30) in Southington.
- *Interstate 84 West of Waterbury* — Widen I-84 to three through lanes in each direction and improve deficient interchanges from Rte 8 in Waterbury to the Housatonic River in Southbury, as recommended in the ConnDOT report, *I-84 West of Waterbury Needs and Deficiencies Study* (November 2001). An I-84 needs and deficiency study was also completed in the Housatonic region, the Danbury area. As a first step, ConnDOT is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for I-84 from Waterbury to the New York state line.
- *Interstate 84/Route 8 Interchange* — Complete a needs and deficiencies study of the interchange and implement recommendations. (Study is underway.) In addition to recommendations for replacing the interchange, the study is proposing downtown circulation improvements and better connections between the downtown and the expressways.

- Investigate the feasibility of re-designating Route 8 as an interstate to improve the visibility of Waterbury and the CNVR in the national and international marketplace.

2. Major State Highways

A high priority is given to state highway corridors with current or anticipated traffic congestion and high hazard accident locations. The findings and recommendations of previously studied corridors are also considered. Figure V-A1, located at the end of this section, shows the region's priority highway segments.

1. Route 10 in Cheshire

- In southern Cheshire, investigate improvements at Route 42 and sections north to the Route 70/68 junctions. Also evaluate operations between Cook Hill Road and Route 42.
- In northern Cheshire, investigate improvements in the vicinity of I-691 as well as between Maple Avenue and Sandbank Road.

2. Route 64 at Route 63 in Middlebury

- Reconfigure Route 64 and Route 63 between I-84 and the Route 64/Route 63 intersection as recommended in the *I-84 West of Waterbury Needs and Deficiencies Study*.

3. Route 73 in Waterbury and Watertown

Recommendations for this section are taken from the COGCNV *Route 73 Corridor Study Waterbury to Watertown* (1997):

- Replace the Tompkins Street intersection with Route 73 in Waterbury by reconnecting Huntingdon Avenue to Route 73 (to address the dog leg between Irvington Avenue and Tompkins Street).
- Realign Route 73 in Watertown in the vicinity of old railroad bridge abutment.
- Improve the Route 73 intersection at East Aurora Street/Aurora Street in Waterbury.
- Improve signal timing at Buckingham Street, Hillside Avenue, and Riverside Street/Davis Street in the Oakville section of Watertown.

4. *Route 69 in Waterbury*

- Improve Route 69 from Harpers Ferry Rd/ Pearl Lake Road to I-84

Recommendations for Route 69 from the COGCNV Study, *Route 69 Traffic Operations Study: Final Report* (2000)

- Route 69 from East Main Street to Manor Avenue – Widen Route 69 in this section and improve the lane configuration at the Route 69 and East Main Street intersection.
- Route 69 and Wolcott Street from Long Hill Road to Lakewood Road — Major upgrade including street widening for additional lanes, double turn lanes, and raised median dividers.
- Route 69 at Southmayd Road – Realign the Southmayd Road approach to Route 69 (Meriden Road).
- Other intersections — Implement other Route 69 study recommendations in Prospect, Waterbury and Wolcott.

5. *East Main Street in Waterbury in vicinity of Scott Road*

- Implement Scott Road improvements as planned for the I-84 Waterbury to Southington upgrade project.

6. *Route 70 in Cheshire*

- Evaluate traffic operations between Peck Lane and Route 10 and between I-84 and Marion Road.

7. *Route 63 in Naugatuck*

- Study traffic operations at major intersections between Cherry Street and Route 68.

8. *Route 63 in Watertown*

- Evaluate traffic operations in southern Watertown from the Middlebury townline to Bunker Hill Road.
- Evaluate downtown section between French Street and Echo Lake Road.

9. *Other Locations:*

- Chase Parkway (SR845) in Waterbury at the I-84 overpass.
- Route 6 in Thomaston in the vicinity of Route 8.
- Meriden Road in Waterbury at Frost Road east to Alexander Avenue.
- Route 68 in Naugatuck between Route 8 and Eagle Street.
- Route 67 in Oxford – implement geometric improvements as recommended in the *Route 67 Traffic Operations Study* for intersections along Route 67 in Oxford at Riggs Street/Route 42, Christian Street, and Old State Road #67/Echo Valley Road. Evaluate geometric improvements for the intersections at Old State Road #1.
- West Main Street in Waterbury in the vicinity of Route 8 and in the vicinity of the railroad overpass.

3. Urban Highway Projects

Urban highway projects consist of high priority highway improvements for major roads in the urbanized portion of the CNVR. Projects are proposed by local officials for the Federal Highway Administration's Urban Surface Transportation Program (Urban STP). COG ranks the projects based on the importance of the road, its condition, its safety, the amount of use it receives, and the proposed project's impact on surrounding land uses. COG's prioritized list of projects also reflects a funding balance between Waterbury and the rest of the urban area, each town's proportional share of the Region's Urban STP allocation, and the amount of Urban STP funding a town has already received.

The following set of priorities reflect COG's approved project rankings. Projects that have been completed, moved to another funding program, or cancelled are excluded from the list.

Waterbury Urbanized Area (Beacon Falls, Middlebury, Naugatuck, Prospect, Waterbury, Watertown, Wolcott, Woodbury)

1. Waterbury, Homer Street/Chase Avenue – Reconstruct and widen from Waterville Road to North Main Street
2. Waterbury, Aurora Street – Widen from Bunker Hill Road to Watertown Avenue.
3. Prospect, Scott Road I – Reconstruct and widen Austin Road connection to Nicholas Court.

4. Prospect, Scott Road II – Reconstruct and widen Nicholas Court to Maria Hotchkiss Road.
5. Naugatuck, Cross Street – Reconstruct and widen from Route 8 to Route 63.
6. Waterbury, Boyden Street Extension – Construct new road east to Bucks Hill Road.
7. Watertown, Sunnyside Avenue – Reconstruct from Falls Avenue to Waterbury City Line.
8. Prospect, Scott Road III – Reconstruct and widen Maria Hotchkiss Road to Route 69.
9. Watertown, Guernseytown Road I – Reconstruct from Eastwood Hall Road to Route 6.
10. Watertown, Sylvan Lake Road – Reconstruct from Buckingham Street to Frost Bridge Road.
11. Watertown, Guernseytown Road II – Reconstruct from Crestview Road to Skilton Road.

Bridgeport-Stamford Urbanized Area (Beacon Falls, Oxford, Southbury, Woodbury)

Oxford, Christian Street – Reconstruct and widen from Towner Lane to Robinson Lane.

New Haven UA (Cheshire)

Cheshire, Route 42 – Reconstruct and realign from Rosemary Lane to Broadview Road.

Hartford Urbanized Area (Thomaston)

There are currently no submitted or programmed CNVR projects.

4. Commuter Services

- Install “Park and Ride” signs along Interstate 84 and Route 8, and at other lot sites in the region, to increase driver awareness of the region’s commuter lot facilities.
- Expand the commuter parking lot located at Route 63 and Interstate 84 in Middlebury to accommodate demand.

- Continue monitoring the region's commuter parking lots to determine which lots warrant expansion or closing.
- Promote use of commuter services and expansion of commuter bus service from Waterbury to Hartford.
- Extend the planned rapid bus transit (BRT) on the Hartford to New Britain busway to Waterbury.

B. Local Bus Service

- Ensure continued and stable funding to cover operating expenses for the local bus service.
- Modify bus routes and schedules based on the recommendations of ConnDOT and COGCNV bus route studies.
- Install new bus stop signs at the designated stops.
- Install additional bus shelters, where feasible, at heavily used locations and repair or replace damaged shelters.
- Ensure up-to-date schedule and route materials and other marketing materials as well as the display of bus route information at key bus stops.
- Construct a new maintenance facility for the local bus service.
- In conducting planning studies for the proposed Waterbury multi-modal passenger center, ensure that impact on local bus service is minimized.
- Replace the local bus fleet in 2008, 2020, and 2032.
- Promote use of the CTTransit - Waterbury Region bus system.

C. Specialized Transportation — Minibus Services

- Provide stable funding for the regional minibus service for the disabled, including non-ADA transportation services, and JobLinks, the access-to-jobs transportation service.

- Encourage and facilitate coordination among local transportation service providers to increase efficiency and service capacities.
- Provide technical assistance to the Greater Waterbury minibus service for the disabled.
- Provide evening and Sunday service.

D. Rail

- Assist with the ConnDOT Waterbury Branch Line Study.
- Promote use through marketing of the Waterbury Branch line.
- Improve maintenance and security of the Waterbury train station.

E. Waterbury Intermodal Transportation Center

- Support continued study of an intermodal transportation center in Waterbury.
- Assist with federal and state environmental impact statement (EIS) processes.

F. Job Access and Reverse Commute Program

- Provide stable funding for JobLinks, the access-to-jobs transportation service for the four planning regions in Northwestern Connecticut.

G. Airport Facilities

- Continue the Waterbury-Oxford Airport expansion plan and associated infrastructure improvements.
- Complete the new airport master plan and noise abatement studies (ConnDOT).

H. Transportation Enhancements — Walkways, Bikeways, and Greenways

- Establish streetscapes, walkways, bike paths, and greenways in the region, especially connecting downtown areas with train stations, commuter parking facilities, bus stops, schools, high-density residential areas, open spaces, and recreation areas.
- Continue implementing COGCNV's *Regional Bicycle Plan* recommendations, including provision of funds for projects associated with establishing a regional network of pedestrian and bicycle paths (identified in the *Regional Bicycle Plan*).

- Properly maintain and widen road shoulders where bicycle use is heaviest, and install bicycle racks at trip destinations.

I. Freight Planning

- Cooperate with ConnDOT and neighboring regions in addressing issues on freight and freight planning.
- Continue participation in ConnDOT's *Connecticut Statewide Rest Area and Service Plaza Study*.
- Work with ConnDOT and municipalities to address safety concerns with trucks parked along expressways and expressway ramps.

J. Other Recommendations

1. Access Management

- Work to implement the recommendations of the *Route 69 Traffic Operations Study: Access Management* (2002).
- Provide municipalities in the region with current functional classification maps developed by the Department of Transportation.
- Encourage amendments to Plans of Development to reference the Route 69 Traffic Operations Study and other access management resources.
- Encourage consideration of revisions to zoning and subdivision regulations and a strengthening of town road ordinances to reflect need for access management and give specific guidance on how to implement it based on the Route 69 Traffic Operations Study. Such amendments would include sections pertaining to the purpose of the regulation, the definitions, the site plan approval process, a required traffic impact report with developments of a certain size, and other relevant requirements for a complete integration of access management requirements.

2. Intelligent Transportation Systems

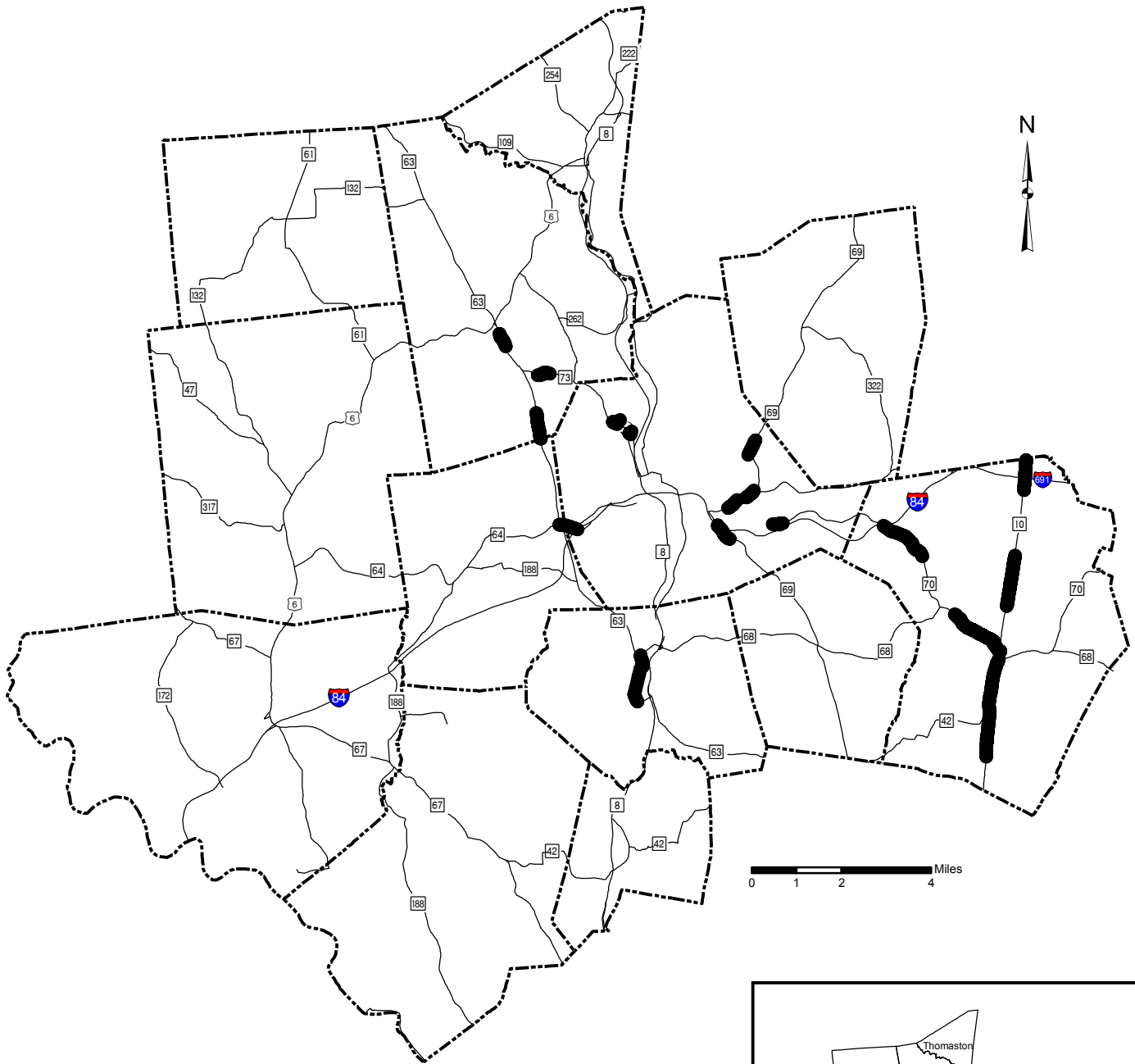
- Identify regional stakeholders for the development of ITS in the region including, federal, state and local officials.
- Identify existing and proposed ITS projects in the region.

- Identify opportunities for new ITS projects in the region.
- Coordinate with stakeholders including the Connecticut Department of Transportation, U.S. Department of Transportation, other Regional Planning Organizations, and local officials in designing and implementing intelligent transportation systems.

3. Transportation Security

- Update transportation infrastructure in the region including highways, airports, and transit with the local emergency management director. Continue working with the Department of Emergency Services and Homeland Security (DEMHS) Region 5 to assess transportation vulnerabilities.
- Include transportation security, as appropriate, in the activities of the Central Naugatuck Valley Emergency Planning Committee, a standing committee of the COGCNV.
- Assist DEMHS in developing evacuation plans in the CNVR region in coordination with local, state, and federal stakeholders.
- Assist in the development of plans for preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery as it relates to transportation emergencies. Coordinate with the Connecticut Department of Transportation, the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Department of Environmental Protection, federal agencies, other regional planning organizations to develop appropriate plans. COGCNV has coordinated the preparation of three adopted (2006) pre-disaster mitigation plans (Oxford, Watertown, and Woodbury) for emergencies from natural disasters (including transportation issues), is in the process of assisting four additional municipalities (Cheshire, Prospect, Waterbury and Wolcott) in their pre-disaster mitigation efforts, and has applied for a grant to plan for the remaining six municipalities.
- Assist in the preparation of Waterbury/Oxford Airport Emergency Plans and revisions.

Figure V-A1. State Highway Priorities in the Central Naugatuck Valley



Regional Highway Priorities

