

Chapter 21: Transportation Introduction

INTRODUCTION

Transportation planning has traditionally sought to project the magnitude and pattern of the growing demand and to design expansions in facilities and services which can meet that demand and support economic development.

Transportation systems greatly affect the types, intensity, and location of development. That same development plays an equal role in the operation and effectiveness of those systems.

The systems must provide mobility through the Region while at the same time provide access to local destinations.

Balancing these seemingly conflicting roles is the focus of the *Regional Transportation Plan*.

More recently, recognizing the significant costs - financial, social, and environmental - associated with system expansion, transportation planning has shifted its focus to a more sustainable approach, making the existing system safer and more efficient, and integrating land use concerns.

The Rutland Region has many attributes - an attractive environment, a dedicated, educated workforce and other qualities associated with a desirable place to live, but faces challenges in the condition of its transportation systems.

While the use of transportation systems has increased significantly in recent decades, the supply of transportation facilities - the capacity of the system - has remained essentially fixed.

Movement of goods and people is accomplished primarily by Federal, State and local roads. The Region does not have nearby access to an interstate highway, the closest full-service airport is 70 miles to the north, and rail facilities are

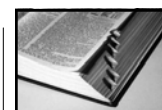
at capacity and in need of repair. The need for vehicular transportation in many communities has increased because of the Region's dispersed population

This *Plan* promotes safe, convenient, economical and energy efficient, transportation systems in and through the Rutland Region, respects local character and the natural environment, serve multiple uses and encourage the land use and activity patterns described in the Future Use of Land chapter of the *Regional Plan*.

Encompassing highways and bridges, air, and rail, public transit, bicycles and pedestrians, an adequate transportation system is essential for the vitality of the Region.



Transportation impacts all aspects of the Rutland Region, from land use and economic development to aesthetics and quality of life. It is a key feature of the landscape and is also influenced by that landscape. Decisions regarding development must consider effects on both transportation infrastructure and the town.



DEFINITIONS

MODES OF TRANSPORTATION:

All of the different types of transportation used for travel in or through an area.



Vermont Railway / Jim Shaughnessy

Transportation systems converge along VT 103 in East Wallingford

Transportation Network

Rutland Region

