



RIVERHEAD COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Transportation Subcommittee Meeting - November 2021



Agenda



1. Topic Overview
2. 2003 CMP Update
3. Existing Conditions Assessment
4. Explore Issues and Opportunities
5. Committee Discussion / Community Input
6. Next Steps



Topic Overview: Transportation



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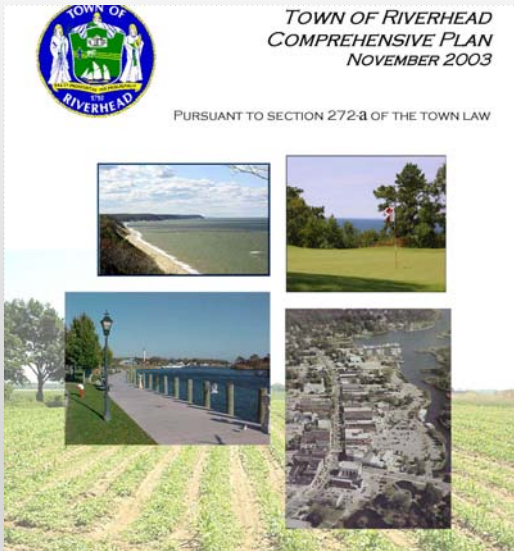
Topic Overview: Transportation

- 2003 Comprehensive Plan Update
- Travel Changes Since 2003
- 2021 Transportation System
- Known Transportation Concerns
- Planned Transportation Improvements
- Significant Factors Affecting Transportation Forecasting
- Discussion



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2003 Comprehensive Plan Vision Statement – Transportation



“Route 25 and Route 58 should remain Riverhead’s primary east-west traffic corridors, while other east-west roads are discouraged from being used as bypass routes. Road improvements throughout Riverhead should be undertaken in a manner that is sensitive to the Town’s residential neighborhoods and its historic, scenic, and natural resources. Downtown and the hamlet centers should be oriented to transit, pedestrians, and bicycles, and commercial sites through Riverhead should be accessible via bus, by bike, and on foot.”

2003 Comprehensive Plan: Transportation Goals

Goals

1. Reduce traffic congestion and improve traffic flows along Route 58, while improving the aesthetic quality of the roadway
2. Discourage use of east-west Town roads as bypasses to Route 58
3. On an ongoing basis, work to reduce traffic congestion on roads throughout Riverhead
4. Provide a Townwide roadway system that ensures the safety of cars, trucks, buses, pedestrians, and bicycles
5. Continue to support and encourage passenger use of the Long Island Railroad and Riverhead Station
6. Support and encourage freight use of the Long Island Rail Road
7. Continue to support and encourage use of Suffolk County Transit buses
8. Encourage use of private vanpool services
9. Encourage walking, biking, and transit use in downtown and the hamlet centers; and ensure that commercial sites Townwide are pedestrian-, bicycle-, and transit-friendly; and ensure that residential neighborhoods are walkable and bikeable.

2003 Comprehensive Plan: Transportation Goals, cont'd.

Goals

10. Encourage biking throughout Riverhead
11. Promote pedestrian and bicycle safety
12. Use traffic-calming techniques to slow down traffic on roads used as bypass routes, in downtown, in hamlet centers, and in residential neighborhoods
13. Systematically regulate property access patterns, in order to reduce traffic friction
14. Better coordinate land use and transportation
15. Preserve the character of the Town's scenic corridors

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Travel Changes Since 2003 – Traffic Growth

NY Route 25

- LIE to Mill Road – 17% Increase 2004 to 2019 (1% per year)
- CR58 to CR105 – 49% Increase 2005 to 2019 (3.5% per year)

CR 58 (Route 58)

- LIE to Osborn Avenue - 31% 2003 to 2019 (1.9% per year)

Sound Avenue

- Philips Avenue to Pier Avenue – 50% Increase 2003 to 2019 (3.5% per year)

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Travel Changes Since 2003 – Public Transportation

LIRR

- Riverhead Station, Weekday Total Passengers Boarding & Alighting (Source: LIRR Origin-Destination Studies)
 - 2006 = 52
 - 2014 = 75*
 - * 54 boarding / 21 alighting

Suffolk County Transit

Suffolk County Transit Ridership, 2003 to 2019:

- Route 8A (almost entirely within Town)—nearly 15% decline
- Other, Longer Routes:
 - S62—Hauppauge to Riverhead—10% increase
 - S58—East Northport to Riverhead—15% decline
 - S92—Orient Point to East Hampton—25% decline



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Travel Changes Since 2003 – Bikes

Bicycles

- EPCAL Bike Trail
- Alternative Transportation Path
- Bike Share



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2021 Existing Conditions Assessment



"Modes" of Transportation

- Motor Vehicle / Highway
- Bus
 - Suffolk County Transit
 - SCAT Service
 - Private Bus Operators
- Rail (LIRR)
 - Commuter
 - Freight
- Air
- Bicycle
- Pedestrian



Existing Town Transportation System

- Roadways
 - 23 miles NY State Highways (not including LIE)
 - 14 miles Suffolk County Roads
 - 178 miles Town Roadways

- Public Transportation
 - One MTA / LIRR Station (Riverhead)
 - Five Suffolk Transit Bus Routes



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Characteristics of Trips Originating in Riverhead Town

- Trip Mode (All Trips)
 - Commute by Car Alone - 83%
 - Commute by Car with Passenger(s) - 12%
 - Transit - 1%
 - Walk / Bike - 3%
 - Other - 1%

- Trip Length (All Modes)
 - 0 to 10 Miles - 49%
 - 10 to 15 Miles - 15%
 - 15 to 20 Miles - 11%
 - Longer than 20 Miles - 25%



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Significant Vehicle Trip Generators

Town - Based Trips

- Tanger / CR58 Retail
- EPCAL
- Splish Splash
- Farms / Agritourism
- Wineries / Vineyards
- Downtown Restaurants, Cafes
- Aquarium
- Medical Center
- Residents

Non Town - Based Trips

- Cross Sound Ferry
- Attractions in Southold
- South Fork Traffic



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Known Transportation Concerns

Highways

- Congestion / Safety Locations
 - Cross River Drive (CR105) at NY25
 - NY25 at Edwards Avenue
 - Wading River Manor Road at NY25A
 - Main Street (NY25) at Peconic Ave / Roanoke Ave
 - Riverside Development
- Seasonal Traffic Congestion – NY 25, CR58, Sound Avenue
 - “Summer” Tourist Season
 - Fall – Apple / Pumpkin Picking / Agri-Tourism
 - December – Holiday Shopping / Christmas Tree Picking
- Town Roadway Flooding – Farm “Runoff”
- EPCAL – Future Development and Effect on Highways

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Known Transportation Concerns, cont'd.

LIRR

- Infrequent Commuter / Off-Peak Service
- Single Track

Suffolk County Transit

- Infrequent Commuter Service on Some Routes
- Suffolk County Accessible Transportation (SCAT) for Disabled Riders



Issues and Opportunities



Planned Transportation System Improvements

NYS DOT

- NY 25 / Edwards Avenue Intersection Improvements 2023-2024
- Roadway Maintenance – Type Improvements on Other State Highways

SCDPW

- No Current Planned Improvements for County Roads

LIRR

- Relocation of Yaphank Station

Town

- New pedestrian/bicycle pathways, improved crosswalks, and lighting and unified signage themes (DRI)
- Public parking garage in the Transportation Oriented Development District (DRI)



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Agency Transportation Planning Efforts Underway

NY Metropolitan Transportation Council

- Plan 2050 – “Moving Forward” – effective 10/01/2021
- Transportation Improvement Program

LIRR

- LIRR is Studying Battery-Powered Electric Trains in “Diesel Territory”

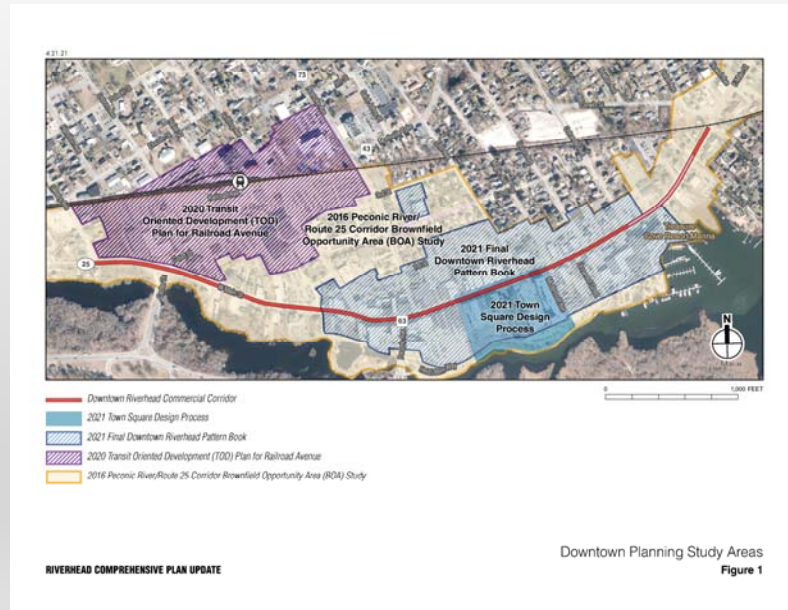
Suffolk County Economic Development & Planning

- “Reimagine Transit” Study – Draft Implementation Plan for Bus Route Changes by the early 2022



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Riverhead Town Planning Efforts



Significant Factors Affecting Transportation Forecasting

- “Permanent” Effects of Pandemic
 - Increased “working from home” / Downsizing of offices
- Redevelopment of Vacant Shopping Centers
- Regional / Town Population Increase
- New Developments over the Next 20 Years
- Electric / Autonomous (self-driving) Vehicles
- Downtown Riverhead / Riverside Redevelopment
- EPCAL / Industrial / Commercial Development



Future Travel Demand Projections

Regional Projections – 2017 to 2050

- 10% Increase in Total Daily Trips (0.3% per year)
- 8% Increase in Daily Auto Trips (0.24% per year)
- 12% Increase in Daily Transit Trips (0.36% per year)

Source: NY Metropolitan Transportation Council, Moving Forward, 2050 Transportation Plan



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Committee and Community Discussion

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Discussion Format

- Please discuss your vision and potential goals and recommendations for the future of transportation in the Town
- Focus on “Unknown” Transportation Concerns ~ Those you have not heard about so far tonight
- Comments and suggestions can also be submitted in writing at www.TownofRiverheadComprehensivePlanUpdate.com
- The committee discussion will be followed by opportunity for community input

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Thank You and Next Steps

- **Fall/Winter 2021:**
 - Analyze Public Survey Results
 - Meet with the Advisory Committee
- **Winter/Spring 2022:**
 - Draft Statement of Community Goals
 - Draft Summary of Issues and Opportunities
 - Meet with community on preliminary findings and recommendations

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