

Chapter 11: Transportation

Introduction

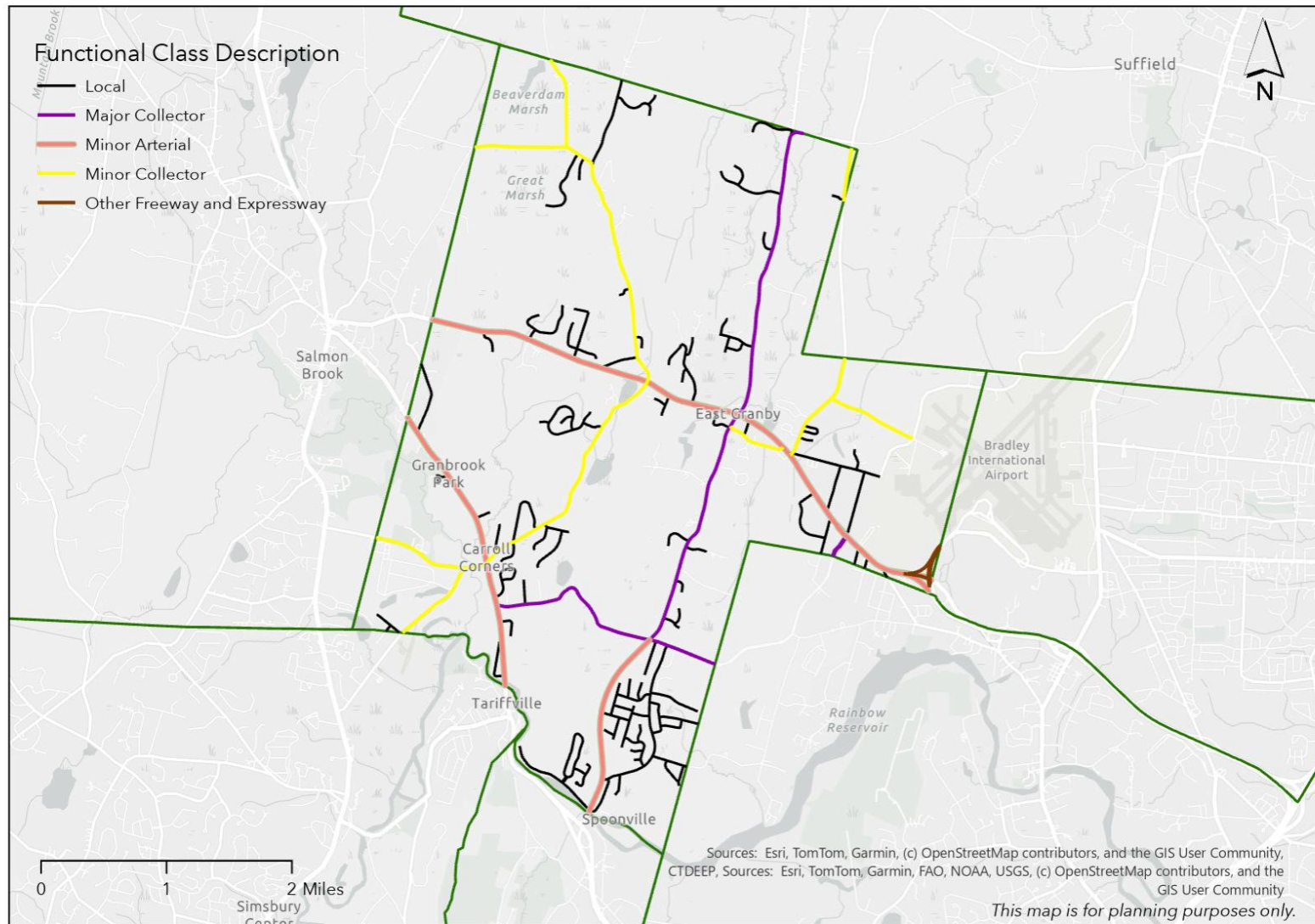
A community's transportation network and connectivity greatly impacts the quality of life of those who live in town and shapes the experience of those who visit, work and patron the area. As East Granby continues to plan for a safe and convenient roadway, a focus on implementing traffic calming measures along Route 20 and furthering sidewalk connections in and around the Village Center is key in the next decade. Specifically, sidewalk improvements recommended in the Village Center Master Plan focus on School Street, Memorial Drive, Center Road, East Street and Church Road (*Source: Village Center Master Plan*). East Granby is located equidistant from both Hartford, CT and Springfield, MA. This location equips the town with connections to multiple major state thoroughfares including Route 187, Route 189, Route 20 and Hatchet Hill Road. Looking ahead, prioritizing increased connections in town infrastructure including transportation, information technology, and sidewalk infrastructure are key efforts in supporting the town's key connectivity initiatives and fulfilling the strategies outlined in the Village Center Master Plan.

Transportation and Roadway Infrastructure

As with most suburban communities in Connecticut, people travelling to and within East Granby rely primarily on personal vehicles for transportation. As noted previously in the Economic Development section, approximately 80% of residents in East Granby commute to work using personal vehicles; approximately 5% of which live and work within town (*Source: American Community Survey 2020-2024 via Advance CT 2026 Town Profile*). Additionally, no residents reported walking or cycling to work, which could be an indication of the limited connections to multimodal transportation options. The Connecticut Department of Transportation (Conn DOT) is primarily responsible for the management of major roadways in East Granby. This includes South Main Street and North Main Street (Route 187), Hartford Avenue (Route 189), Rainbow Road and Turkey Hills Road (Route 20), and Hatchet Hill Road (Route 540). Route 187 (South Main Street and North Main Street) is the main north-south roadway through town and is a two-way Major Collector road. Additionally, the town's Village District is located at the intersection of Route 187 and Route 20, solidifying the importance of the efforts to increase walkability and connections to surrounding areas in this portion of town as outlined in The East Granby Village Center Master Plan. **Collector roads are major and minor roads that connect local roads and streets with higher-capacity arterial roads.** Collector roads typically

support speeds ranging from 35 mph to 55 mph (Source: *US Department of Transportation – Road Function Classifications*). Route 189 (Hartford Avenue) in East Granby is classified as a Minor Arterial Road by the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT), and also runs from north to south, intersecting the southwestern portion of the town, running south towards Bloomfield (Source: *CTDOT Annual Average Daily Traffic*). **Arterials mainly function to connect major urbanized areas, cities and industrial areas** (Source: *US Department of Transportation*). While major arterial roads carry higher volumes and support faster flows of traffic, minor arterial roads support lower traffic volumes and slower speeds (Source: *US Department of Transportation – Road Function Classifications*). Major arterial roads include freeways, multi-lane highways and other roads that support the Interstate System. Route 20 (Rainbow Road and Turkey Hills Road), a Minor Arterial road, is one of two roads which runs from west to east in East Granby. Route 20 serves regional purpose as it is the primary route to Bradley International Airport from northwestern Connecticut. At the eastern border with Windsor and Windsor Locks, Route 20 transitions into a four lane freeway connecting directly to Interstate 91. This connector provides significant regional traffic into East Granby, influencing the development pattern of the eastern portion of the town. Locally, Route 20 serves local traffic to distribute cars to various other local streets and major roadways in town (Source: *CTDOT Roadway Classification and Characteristic Data*). Route 540 (Hatchet Hill Road) is a Major Collector which runs from west to east towards the East Granby-Windsor border.

Roadway Classifications Map



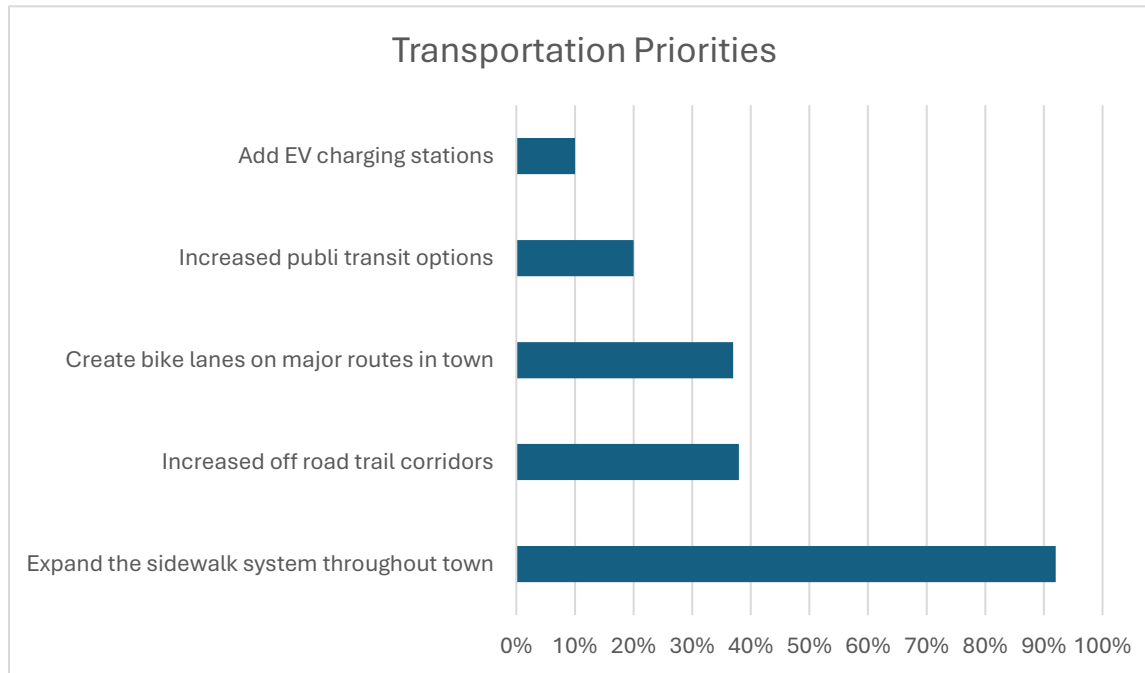
According to Conn DOT's Traffic Monitoring Unit, in 2022, the annual average daily traffic along Route 187 was approximately 6,600 cars at the Suffield town line, decreasing to about 4,700 cars in the central portion of the town, and increasing to an average of 5,200 cars daily near the Simsbury town line. Near the Granby town line, portions of Route 20 support nearly 13,000 cars daily, increasing to about 19,000 cars in the center of town at its junction with Route 187. Portions of Route 20 near the Windsor town line that form connections to major roadways and freeways in the area support over 27,000 cars daily (*Source: Conn DOT AADT*). The portion of Route 189 near the Granby town line supports about 7,000 cars daily. While middle portions of Hartford Avenue can see nearly 8,600 cars daily, annual average daily counts decrease slightly to about 8,300 cars near the Simsbury town line. In 2022, the western portion of Route 540 supported about 3,900 cars daily while the eastern portion towards the Windsor town line saw an increased volume of approximately 5,400 cars each day (*Source: Conn DOT AADT*).

Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure

East Granby has a number of hiking, biking and walking trails in town including the Eastfield Farms Trail, the Great Marsh Trail, the Ian Clark Preserve, the Old Newgate Ridge, the Pond Meadow Trail, and the Tom and Ginnie Howard Educational Preserve Trail, all of which are overseen by the Traprock Ridge Land Conservancy. In addition to these, East Granby contains other multimodal trails which facilitate essential regional connections such as the portion of the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail that intersects the western side of the town, and the Metacomet trail which runs from one end of town to the other and provides a connection between West Suffield and Bloomfield. Other trails that run through the Newgate Recreation Area form connections between the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail and the Metacomet Trail. Looking ahead, the town should continue to work with Conn DOT and the CRCOG (Capitol Region Council of Governments) to support planning initiatives that are aligned with the walkability efforts outlined in the Village Center Master Plan. Namely, the Plan identifies a potential trail connection between the Village Center and the East Granby Farm Recreation Area as a substitute for sidewalks along Route 187. This would connect the Village Center with the town's trail network and encourage walkers and hikers into the main focal point of the community.

Residents in town agree with these recommendations and displayed this in a survey conducted during the process of drafting the POCD, with nearly 47% of respondents voting 'expand the sidewalk system through town' as the top transportation initiative in town. Moreover, 19% of respondents ranked creating bike lanes on major routes and increasing off road trail corridors as the second-most important transportation initiative.

Please rank the following transportation initiatives upon level of priority from 1 (most important) to 5 (least important).



Public Transportation

For the 4% of East Granby residents without access to a private vehicle, transportation options are limited. The extreme eastern portion of East Granby is served by CT Transit Route 34 with a stop at the corner of International Drive and Rainbow Road. Route 34 serves to connect the industrial area in Windsor along Internation Drive with Bradley and Downtown Hartford. There are no other fixed bus route services in East Granby. For those that are mobility challenged, the Greater Hartford Transit District provides paratransit services throughout the region. Riders must be pre-approved, and rides must be scheduled in advance. For East Granby seniors, dial-a-ride services are provided through East Granby Senior Services for medical, dental, and personal care appointments as well as to shopping venues, grocery stores, banks, library, post office, and community events. The Town owns and operates a 12 passenger wheelchair accessible mini-bus for this service.

East Granby should consider working with CTTransit to expand regular bus service into the Village Center area and along Route 20. With the lack of a local grocery stores and other major shopping options, public transit is paramount for those lacking transportation to reach the services they need. Additionally, with the proximity to Bradley International Airport and industrial areas in surrounding towns, public transportation could provide access to surrounding jobs for East Granby residents that are currently out of reach.

Goals

1. Improve pedestrian and cycling facilities in appropriate areas throughout the Town.
2. Improve transportation options for all users, particularly those without access to a car.
3. Increase safety for all users of the transportation network.

Actions

1. Continue to construct and improve sidewalk network in and around the Village Center as identified in the Village Center Master Plan.
2. Investigate additional connections between the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail and East Granby neighborhoods, existing trails, and other open spaces.
3. Work with CT DOT on improving pedestrian safety along all State Routes, especially Route 20 surrounding existing businesses.
4. Investigate potential changes or additions to CTTransit bus network to connect more of East Granby to the region using public transportation.
5. Increase speed enforcement along Route 20 and all other major routes.
6. Investigate bike lanes along major routes.
7. Extend multi-use path along Route 20.