

Existing Conditions

Vision Statement

The Greater Hartford Mobility Study's (GHMS) vision is to improve mobility by planning an integrated, resilient, multi-modal transportation system in the Greater Hartford region, thereby enhancing the quality of life, economic vitality, and opportunity in the region.

Existing Conditions Overview

The first step in implementing the GHMS Vision was to analyze how the transportation system functions now. This is called an existing conditions assessment. Assuming that travel patterns and associated mobility considerations will be back to pre-pandemic conditions, the analysis was conducted using pre-pandemic (2019) data.

However, the study team recognized the potential for variations in transportation behavior, choices and policy to alter the system's needs in the future. Therefore, an analysis is included that discussed the near- and long-term pandemic effects.

The existing conditions assessment looked at the following travel modes and focus areas:

Existing Conditions Report

The Existing Conditions Report is available to view on the GHMS website.

[hartfordmobility.com/
studydocuments](https://hartfordmobility.com/studydocuments)



 Traffic	 Bicycle and pedestrian
 Highway and safety	 Environmental
 Bus	 Land use
 Rail	 Multimodal connectivity

The existing conditions assessment was developed into a report by the study team, which is being used along with stakeholder and public feedback to create a list of potential multi-modal transportation improvements in the Greater Hartford region.

Needs

The Existing Conditions analysis identified a number of **needs** within the study area, based on the existing conditions assessment, feedback from stakeholders and the general public, and recommendations from previous studies. These needs can be broken into three broad categories:



Deficiencies in the multimodal network



Quality of the user experience



Lack of equity in the transportation system



Challenges and Opportunities

The Existing Conditions Analysis also identified **challenges** and **opportunities** associated with each of the travel modes and focus areas described on the previous page. Key examples of each are listed below.

Key Challenges

- ▶ Limited options for vehicles to pass through the congested Study Core, where key bottlenecks cause delays
- ▶ Outdated highway and rail infrastructure limits performance of the system
- ▶ Bus travel times, service frequency, and access to employment are non-competitive in many areas
- ▶ Disconnect between bicycle and pedestrian facilities and demand locations
- ▶ High percentage of single-occupant vehicle trips, dictated by land use and lack of competitiveness in other modes, make it difficult to meet established emissions goals

Key Opportunities

- ▶ Making the highways more efficient and less congested
- ▶ Corridors north, south and east of Hartford could support multi-modal expansion (bus and bike/ped)
- ▶ Transportation equity can be improved by strengthening the bus system's ability to serve areas of need
- ▶ Enhanced bus and rail systems could drive transit oriented development, creating more sustainable land use patterns
- ▶ Bicycle and pedestrian facilities can better connect transit (bus and rail) facilities with employment and population centers