

INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGIES WORKBOOK

Overview

This booklet has been prepared for the Willington Planning and Zoning Commission to use as part of the formulation of the 2018 Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). This booklet takes the strategies from the current POCD the Natural Resources Inventory, and other local studies and regulations and reorganizes them to create a briefing book for the “Infrastructure Strategies” meeting scheduled for March 7 at the Town Office Building.

Members of the Planning and Zoning Commission should review this booklet before the March 7 meeting so that they can be prepared to receive input from other boards and committees at that meeting.

Feel free to add, delete or edit any of the goals strategies, policies or tasks.

“Strategic investment in infrastructure produces a foundation for long-term growth.”

Roger McNamee
American Businessman

Address Community Facility Issues



Address Community Facility Issues



Address Transportation Issues



Address Utility Issues





ADDRESS COMMUNITY FACILITY NEEDS

POCD Approach

The POCD does not get involved in the day-to-day operations of individual departments.

Rather, the Plan seeks to identify potential community facility needs (buildings and sites) so that they can be anticipated and planned for.

OVERVIEW

Community facilities support functions such as education, public works, public safety, and recreation, all of which are important to supporting local land uses as well as maintaining and enhancing the quality of life in Willington.

POSSIBLE GOAL

Provide for community facilities and services to enhance the quality of life at a level adequate to meet community needs and provide the desired level of service.

KEY FACILITIES / ISSUES

Facilities Not Expected To Be Adequate To 2030

Education

- School enrollments have declined significantly and the inefficiency of maintaining two facilities for grades Pre-K to 8 has been recognized
- Enrollment decline could continue or could stabilize
- Issue is whether to consolidate to one facility (neither facility is perfect for this approach) or build a new facility
- Regionalization was considered but residents did not support
- A new facility would maximize State reimbursement and allow for meeting other needs (gymnasium, auditorium, meeting space, recreation fields, parking, etc.)
- A facility study is currently underway (due in May 2017)

Town Office Building

- Building condition is poor (do “band-aid” fixes but more attention needed to roof, mechanical equipment, etc.)
- Building configuration is poor to meet municipal needs
- Best solution is another location (new or renovated building)
- Needs could be addressed once school facility issue is addressed

Address Community Facility Needs

Major Attention Needed To Meet Community Needs To 2030 / Beyond



Public Works Complex (including Waste Disposal / Animal Control)

- Larger salt shed needed to mix enough salt for storms and buy salt in bulk
- Additional maintenance / storage bays would help preserve equipment / meet needs



Recreation

- A lack of indoor facilities makes it difficult to meet existing needs and offer new programs
- Coordinate with School Department but each has their own needs
- Needs could be met by addressing school facility needs if this would result in new / expanded recreation facilities
- Have outdoor fields and facilities at River Road complex and school sites
- Could use more facilities but first step might be to light River Road facility to extend the number of hours that the facility can be used

Adequate Facilities/Services

The following municipal facilities and services are expected to be generally adequate through to 2030 with typical maintenance and attention to programmatic needs:

- Old Town Hall
- Library
- Police services (by State Police from Troop C in Tolland)

Modest Attention Needed To Meet Community Needs To 2030 / Beyond



Fire / Emergency Medical Response

- Currently have two departments with three stations (have some duplication of equipment)
- One department is staffed (24/7) and provides medical response
- Both departments rely on each other and mutual aid from surrounding towns
- Main station on Route 32 is in process of being expanded / updated
- Maintaining adequate volunteer staff is a challenge
- Past studies have suggested consolidation of departments / stations / operations be considered
- Unclear if community willing / able to financially support two departments
- Redundancy of equipment and inefficiency of operations suggest consolidation of departments and/or regionalization of response over time



Social Services

- There is a lack of space to be able to meet existing needs (client service, food pantry, etc.)
- Needs could be met by addressing Town Office Building needs



Senior Center

- Expansion of senior center may be needed in the future to address changing demographics and anticipated growth in senior population
- Facility is managed by ad-hoc group / not by a municipal department
- Service delivery / quality in an expanded facility may be enhanced by better defining the overall management structure

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES

Strategy	Address current community facility needs.
CF1	

Policies:

A. MOST IMMEDIATE NEEDS - Willington will:

1. Resolve the school facility issue as soon as possible.
2. As the school issue is resolved, address the Town Office Building issue and the need for indoor recreation facilities.
3. Address the need for a salt shed / storage space at the Public Works facility..

B. MAINTENANCE - Willington will:

4. Continue to seek ways to manage / maintain existing facilities as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Town Office Building



Old Town Hall



Center School



Hall Memorial School



Address Community Facility Needs

Strategy

CF2

Prepare for future community facility needs.

Policies:

A. FUTURE FACILITIES - Willington will:

1. Strive to identify future facilities needs as early as possible so that they can be discussed and prioritized relative to the full range of community needs.
2. Evaluate parcels adjacent to existing facilities to determine which parcels might be advantageous to acquire to support possible future expansion of facilities:
 - Active – seek a right-of-first refusal on potentially desirable properties.
 - Passive – evaluate properties that come to market

B. PREPARATION- Willington will:

1. Monitor utilization of the Senior Center to determine if programmatic changes are needed and/or whether expansion is needed to meet needs.
2. Consider adding lights to the River Road Recreation Facility (and other recreational facilities) to meet community needs.
3. Consider ways to be address fire / emergency response issues – either locally or regionally.
4. Make appropriate arrangements for one or more emergency shelters with appropriate facilities.

Fire Station



Public Works



River Road Recreation Facility



Library





ADDRESS TRANSPORTATION ISSUES AND NEEDS

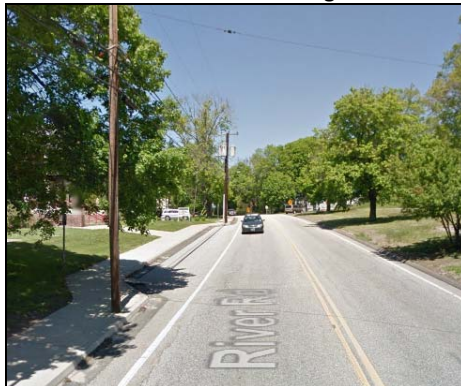
OVERVIEW

The road system in a community like Willington is functionally important to the day-to-day life of community residents, visitors, and businesses as well as being an important component of its character and self-image. This section of the POCD looks at the overall configuration of the vehicular transportation network and other transportation modes (pedestrian, bicycle, bus, etc.).

POSSIBLE GOAL

Provide for safe and efficient transportation systems within Willington for vehicles, pedestrians, bicycles, and transit that balances circulation needs with the Town's character and quality of life.

Arterial Road – Village



Arterial Road - Highway



POSSIBLE ROAD CLASSIFICATIONS

As part of preparing the POCD, the classification of roads in Willington should be revisited (and coordinated with the Zoning Regulation and Subdivision Regulations). These classifications are used to characterize the roads that perform major regional circulation functions and guide possible future improvements.

Interstate / Expressway	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interstate Route 84 	
Arterial Roads	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Route 74 Route 44 Route 32 Route 320 	
Collector Roads	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balazs Road Battye Road Blair Road Cisar Road Daleville Road Daleville School Road Eldredge Road Fermier Road Fisher Hill Road Glass Factory School Road Jared Sparks Road Kollar Road Latham Road Lohse Road Luchon Road Marsh Road Mason Road Mihaliak Road #1 Moose Meadow Road Navratil Road Old Farms Road Parker Road Pinney Hill Road Potter School Road Schofield Road Tinkerville Road Turnpike Road #2 Village Hill Road 	
Local Roads	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All other streets in Willington 	

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES

Strategy	Promote a safe and efficient vehicular transportation network consistent with the overall character of Willington.
TR1	

Policies:

A. SAFETY - Willington will:

1. Continue to work with the State Department of Transportation (DOT) to improve the safety of state roads consistent with the overall character of Willington.
2. Continue efforts to improve the safety of Town roads consistent with the overall character of Willington.
3. Encourage or require the use of shared driveways and other “access management” techniques in commercial areas, especially along major roads.
 - ☐ a. Adopt access management provisions in the Zoning Regulations.

B. CHARACTER - Willington will:

1. Ensure that roadway improvements maintain or enhance the character of Willington to the extent feasible.
2. In village areas as designated in this POCD, strive to ensure that roadways exhibit and employ “context-sensitive” design strategies that reinforce the village character.
3. Revisit roadway standards to ensure that new roads being constructed as parts of new subdivisions will enhance the rural character of Willington.
 - ☐ a. Review the road construction standards in the Subdivision Regulations.
4. Retain (and continue to maintain) dirt roads, where appropriate, as an important part of Willington’s rural character.

C. PARKING - Willington will:

1. Revisit parking regulations to ensure the parking ratios are appropriate and that shared parking is encouraged or required, especially in village areas as designated in this POCD.

D. MAINTENANCE - Willington will:

1. Continue to maintain public roads as cost-effectively as possible using pavement management and other techniques.
2. Seek to provide adequate road maintenance funding to slow the deterioration of pavement quality over time and replace drainage pipes and catch basins that are failing due to age, materials, and crumbling concrete.
3. Inventory and evaluate discontinued/unused roads and explore options to use these R.O.W.’s for trails and/or bikeways.

<p>Strategy</p> <p>TR2</p>	<p>Promote transportation options for residents (including walking, bicycles, transit, and other modes).</p>
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Policies:

A. PEDESTRIANS - Willington will:

1. Promote and support pedestrian sidewalks in village areas as designated in this POCD and on trails in other areas of the community.
2. As opportunities present themselves, seek to have sidewalks and crosswalks (and other “traffic calming” and pedestrian safety measures) installed in village areas as designated in this POCD.
3. Strive to make pedestrian facilities (such as sidewalks) the “primary” condition in village areas as opposed to those intended for vehicles (such as drive-ways).
4. Encourage pedestrian connections between adjacent commercial parcels especially in village areas as designated in this POCD.
5. Encourage the provision of trails within open spaces and other lands to provide for recreational use and enjoyment.

B. BICYCLES - Willington will:

1. Seek to identify and support safe biking routes in the community.
2. Seek to support State-identified biking routes which travel through Willington (see sidebar).
3. Utilize dirt roads and abandoned / unimproved roads to meet this need.

C. TRANSIT - Willington will:

1. Seek to promote the availability of transportation options for residents (for example, park-and-ride lots, ride-sharing programs, bus routes, etc.).

D. RAILROAD - Willington will:

1. Support efforts to retain and improve railroad service and the railroad line through Willington (freight service only at this time).

Bicycle Routes

There are several potential bicycle routes in Willington identified by the Connecticut DOT.



CONNECTICUT
2009 Bicycle Map

Legend

- Park & Ride
- Railroad Stations
- Least Suitable for Bicycling
- Most Suitable for Bicycling
- Cross-State Bicycle Route
- Other Existing Cross State Multi-Use Trail
- East Coast Greenway On-Road
- East Coast Greenway Off-Road
- Limited Access Highways (Bicycling Not Permitted)
- Primary US and State Highways
- Secondary State and County Highways
- Ferry
- Railroad Track
- State Park / Forest
- Municipal Boundary
- State Boundary



ADDRESS UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES AND NEEDS

OVERVIEW

Utility infrastructure influences public health and welfare and can support the overall land use objectives of a community. The POCD looks at the availability of these utilities (both capacity and location) to ensure they are adequate for community needs.

Infrastructure Service	Provider / Status
Water Supply	Properties rely primarily on private wells. No public water services.
Sewage Disposal	Properties rely primarily on private septic systems. No public sewer services.
Natural Gas	Properties may contract for private propane delivery. No natural gas service is available.
Stormwater Drainage	Drainage on public roadways provided by Town and State agencies
Electricity	Properties contract directly with Eversource or other electrical provider/distributor
Wired Communications	Properties contract directly with cable and/or telephone providers.
Wireless Communications	Wireless services are provided by communication providers (coverage varies)

POSSIBLE GOAL

Strive to ensure that adequate utility infrastructure is available to meet community needs.

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES

Strategy UT1	Promote the availability and/or provision of adequate utility services in Willington to meet community needs.
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Policies:

A. WATER / SEWER - Willington will:

1. Strive to ensure that all properties have adequate potable water supply and safe and sanitary sewage disposal.
2. Seek opportunities to extend public water and/or public sewer utilities to serve the village areas as designated in this POCD.

B. STORM DRAINAGE - Willington will:

1. Continue to implement low impact development approaches to stormwater management (also known as “green infrastructure”).
 - ☐ a. Modify the Subdivision Regulations (Section 5.03.13 and 5.09) to add specific standards for low impact design.
2. Implement the Stormwater Management Plan required by the CT-DEEP General Permit for Stormwater.

C. WIRED UTILITIES - Willington will:

1. Require electric, telephone and cable TV utilities to be placed underground in new subdivisions or developments.
2. Future street lights to be energy efficient/ designed to reduce “light pollution” (i.e. unnecessary lighting of the sky).
3. Upgrade telecommunications infrastructure to better attract high-technology facilities.

D. WIRELESS – Willington will:

1. Seek to manage the location of wireless towers and other wireless communication facilities to preserve scenic views and community character.

[illegible]