

Problem Statement

A number of key transportation and related problems exist within the Nassau Hub Study Area stemming from current and projected roadway congestion; the lack of frequent, direct and convenient transit service; and large-lot dispersed development patterns that encourage auto trips and contribute to environmental degradation. These problems limit the County's ability to grow, capitalize on economic development opportunities and preserve the high quality suburban lifestyle that residents and businesses have come to expect. Four overarching problems have been identified.

1. Traffic congestion is currently pervasive and recurrent at many locations within the Study Area making it difficult to travel to, through and within the Study Area.
 - ✦ Severe congestion currently exists at numerous locations in and around the Study Area.
 - ✦ Major roadway choke points have been expanded to their limit.
 - ✦ Congestion is projected to increase in the future.
 - ✦ Economic development initiatives within the Primary Study Area will likely increase congestion.
 - ✦ Land use patterns and the existing road network layout limits choices for accessing Study Area destinations.
2. Transit service does not adequately serve trips to, from and within the Study Area.
 - ✦ Transit accessibility is limited by the generally uncoordinated nature of the various bus routes and their connection to the LIRR system.
 - ✦ There is a lack of direct LIRR service to many major Study Area destinations.
 - ✦ There is not a fast, coordinated and efficient distribution system to/from the LIRR stations along the Study Area's edges.
 - ✦ Infrequent service during off-peak periods and in the reverse-peak direction limits transit access to major destinations within the Study Area.
 - ✦ Gaps in transit service limit access to the Study Area.
3. Dispersed and disjointed land use patterns limit transit service and increase reliance on auto travel.
 - ✦ Limited transit choices constrain the ability to pursue more transit-friendly economic development opportunities.
 - ✦ Existing transit infrastructure is insufficient to support the Study Area's transition from automobile-dependent to transit-friendly development patterns.
 - ✦ Land use patterns in large areas of the Study Area are not transit-supportive.
 - ✦ Development patterns and inconsistent pedestrian infrastructure discourage walking.

4. The lack of transit choices limits the County's ability to positively affect environmental quality and sustainability and degrades the area's livability.
 - Air quality is currently in non-attainment and impacts livability and public health.
 - The County is within an EPA-designated Sole Source Aquifer and the reliance on auto travel limits the County's ability to meet EPA water quality standards.
 - Severe traffic congestion results in travel delays, degraded air quality, noise and traffic accidents that diminish the quality of life for County residents, businesses and visitors.

These problems will be used to identify the area's transportation needs and the purpose of proposed transit improvements, and serve as the foundation to guide the project through the alternatives development, screening and ultimately the selection of a locally preferred alternative.