

3. Future Trends

There are likely to be changes in the future in the types of traffic flow the Town experiences. With the number of housing permits issued declining in the past several years, peak A.M. and P.M. peak hours of traffic flow anecdotally stabilized after 2000, but have more recently started to rise again. If the economy picks up, will the number of new housing units increase? As more housing units are constructed, there will, however, be increased demand for services and goods to sustain the houses and people in them. In turn, there will be a greater demand in the transportation system.

Almost half of the housing units in the Towns of Southampton and East Hampton are used as second homes by owners who maintain primary residences in other communities. Will changing demographics result in some of these housing units being occupied year-round or for greater periods of time? As baby boomers retire, might they choose to retire to the “country” house, increasing the number of senior citizens in permanent residence and thus placing greater demands on the highway systems in the off-season? Cell phones, computers and other technological changes are already allowing some second homeowners to spend increasing parts of their work week in their second homes.