

**VI. Town Transportation
Commission, Town
Transportation
Planning, and Town
Traffic Safety and
Engineering**

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VI. TOWN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND TRAFFIC SAFETY DIVISION AND TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Southampton Town is facing unprecedented growth and the need to better manage and protect its transportation infrastructure. Traffic safety matters and mobility are critical concerns to the community.

It is recommended that the Town reorganize its Intermodal Transportation Division in the Department of Land Management to an Office of the Transportation Commission with an Executive Director to serve as its point person. The Transportation Commission should report directly to the Town Board, and coordinate transportation planning initiatives at the local level and serve as regional liaison.

In addition, the Town should reorganize its Division of Engineering in the Department of Public Works to include responsibilities related to traffic safety. The Office of Engineering and Traffic Safety should provide expertise and guidance to the Department of Land Management and Department of Public Works in the administration of an Access Management Program. The Traffic Engineer or Traffic Safety Director would also provide the Town Board with:

- Guidance in addressing traffic and safety issues brought to its attention by citizens,
- Guidance in formulating Town Vehicle and Traffic law with respect to traffic control and parking regulations,
- Management of the maintenance of traffic signals on County roadways and the maintenance and operation of traffic signals installed on Town roadways, and
- Capability to evaluate, and pursue recommendations for traffic improvements received by the Board. Such recommendations would include those developed by the Southampton Town Advisory Task Force articulated herein as part of this Comprehensive Plan Update.
- There is opportunity to transfer certain duties from the Highway Department pertaining to street lighting, sidewalks and public parking lots to the proposed new office with the Department of Public Works

The proposed office should have a professional staff with traffic engineering experience. The department should be staffed and equipped adequately to gather traffic data when necessary and to be capable for performing typical traffic analysis, such as capacity analysis using Highway Capacity Manual software, or have the ability to contract this work out to competent professions.

In this way, once the Town has reorganized its Department of Public Works Division of Engineering, to include Traffic Engineering and Traffic Safety Matters, the Town can petition the State DOT for the ability of the Town to set its own speed/limits on Town roadways.

Transportation Advisory Committee/Transportation Commission

The Town Board established the Transportation Advisory Task Force in 2001 providing it with a Town-wide charge of duty to consider “the movement of people, goods, and services throughout the Town” in the various transportation modes by land, sea and air.

The Southampton Town Transportation Advisory Task Force has focused most of its energies primarily on the County Road 39 Corridor and Montauk Highway arterial east of the Village of Southampton, as well as, the use of the Long Island Rail Road in an integrated railroad and bus system. This is evidenced by the in-depth analysis and citizen involvement process coordinated through the Land Committee of said Task Force which produced two detailed reports entitled, “Phase I: CR 39” and “Phase II: SR27” both of which are included in their entirety in Appendix D and E.

For implementation guidance, the reorganized Division of Engineering and Traffic Safety should also interface with the Transportation Commission and its coordinator on matters pertaining to transportation and traffic safety in the town.

The Transportation Commission would continue to provide a forum for citizen involvement and input as well as a vehicle to assist with implementation of the goals articulated within this Transportation Element-Comprehensive Plan Update.